

GUILD NEWS

Thursday, Feb. 18,
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3^D

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham.

DOUBLE VISIT OF HAROLD WILSON ...

LAST Friday, Socialist Union welcomed the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, M.P., when he discussed the effects of the new Russian technology in the industrial field, upon the U.S. and the U.K.

The confused and blinkered attitudes of the American and British Governments had been shown to be ill-based in the light of such examples of the high level of Soviet technology as Sputnik, Lunik and the ring around the moon.

Both in quantity and quality Russian industrial production had reached such a high level that some rethinking of our policies was called for.

In the '60's Mr. Wilson predicted that the products of Russian industry would enter world markets, to compete with the exports of the West. To achieve a degree of equilibrium in this new situation called for a vast increase in the purchasing power of world markets, via the stabilisation of primary product prices and the extension of aid to underdeveloped countries. The need was even greater, said Mr. Wilson, in view of the potential of Chinese industrialisation. However, these international changes would only be possible if we put our economy in order; an economy in which there was lack of investment in scientific research and education, in which consumer industries and advertising received far more than equitable share of investment, was not in a fit state to meet the changing conditions.

So far the adjustments made by the present Government did not please Mr. Wilson; the appointment of Viscount Hallam as Minister for Science sent "a deep chill round the Kremlin," to quote Nye Bevan. More money was spent of packaging than on education, more was spent on advertising than on scientific research. Training Colleges and Universities came too low in the list of national priorities for the challenge to be faced squarely.

It is rare that a member of the Shadow Cabinet visits Birmingham, and the occasion was marked by a full St. Francis Hall for a well-phrased pointed and witty address. K.R.C.



ad lib
the magazine
exec. would
not back
out: march first

National day of prayer for S.A.

ON Friday, February 19, students throughout the country will be joining in prayer to pray for the needs of the people of South Africa. Although this is an S.C.M. project all the Christian societies in the University are co-operating in maintaining a 12-hour vigil, a chain of prayer throughout the day, from 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Timetables have been posted in the Union and in Guild Club (with quarter-hour periods), and we hope as many people as possible will join in this act, an act of intercession on behalf of that fear-ridden country, whether you are a member of the Christian societies or not.

and David Kossoff

JEWISH SOCIETY entertained their President, Mr. David Kossoff last Sunday. Talking to a full-capacity Mixed Lounge, he spoke on a subject which he said was very close to his heart and which he had read up copiously—"Me."

Mr. Kossoff held his audience enthralled for well over an hour. Obviously believing in audience participation, he admonished late-comers with a charm that is essentially his own. He described his entry into the world of bright lights which he revealed to be a little more murky than most of us imagined.

Starting out as a "dog-eared Spencer Tracy," he has reached the top of his profession without losing his sense of the ridiculous. Being in films has one consolation, apart from the money, "it makes you feel good."

He summed up aspects of the film industry with several pointed quips. Premieres: "You go to the pictures in the West End for nothing." Of the remuneration he received for his work: "You've heard of manna, kid, this is it!" Of the technical side and prop men: "They even had a stand-in for a dove."

Asked his opinion on the value of University education, he replied: "You may not remember anything you learn, but it is a blessing to have three years to associate with cultivated minds—something must rub off!"

As he gyrated round the Mixed Lounge, convulsing his audience with stories of his nerve-racking first film test, "Arry the prop man, and the many characters, famous and otherwise, whom he has met in his career, all his listeners were completely won over by his charm, humour and above all his common sense, a quality which, as he pointed out, is not to be found very often in the fantastic world of film-making.

R.H.J.
M.J.

N.U.R.K.S. FOR THE FINAL

LAST Wednesday before a crowd of 900 students, 10 from Birmingham, the N.U.R.K.S., another six, won the South-Western quarter-final of the Inter-Varsity Jazz Contest, to qualify for the final in London on March 2. This is the first time a Birmingham band has qualified to compete in the final. The eight bands in this final are drawn from Oxford, Bristol, Leicester, Southampton and Birmingham and they represented all jazz styles from New Orleans Traditional to Big Band Modern. In previous years Traditional and Modern have been in separate sections.

Originally there was only one contest and this was for Traditional Bands. The number of bands interested in competing increased until last year there were four events: two traditional semi-finals and a final and a modern contest in which 14 bands were heard in one night. This year it was expected that even more bands would want to compete and this meant that six separate events would have to be arranged. The organisation had to be simplified. The I.U.J.F. Committee decided that if the separate classes of jazz were abolished, leaving only the sections good jazz and bad jazz, then it would eliminate the possibility of one band playing two fairly similar styles from entering and winning the two competitions and it would provide more flexibility and avoid one class being crowded whilst the other was relatively empty. It would tend to cut down the distances travelled by bands as it would be possible to hold regional quarter-finals. The committee also decided there should be one judge for all contests, aided by a local judge, thus ensuring the continuity in judging standards. Declassification discourages universities from entering poorer bands and tends to keep the contest to a reasonable size.

This year the regional quarter-finals were held in Bristol, Newcastle, Liverpool and Reading. The Birmingham band competed in Bristol. The judges were jazz critic and writer Alun Morgan and Derek Moore, a Bristol lecturer and ex-I.U.J.F. musician of the evening.

The Birmingham Band: Don Cambell (cornet), Geoff Prosser (trombone), Mike Kemp (clarinet), Cearic Abbott (bass), Clive Miles (drums) and Mr. R. A. Verwill (banjo) played in the style which might be described as revivalist-traditional. The numbers played were better arranged than most of the other bands and Don Cambell's solos were particularly good. The audience, originally somewhat hostile, quickly snowed their appreciation once the band had played the first few choruses. The judges specially mentioned Don Cambell, Geoff Prosser and Cearic Abbott in their brief summing up. Only two musicians from other bands were mentioned.

The second band, Bristol's John Ingle Twelve, played a suite composed by guitarist Mike Forke. In the suite he portrayed the main styles of jazz-traditional, mainstream and modern. The themes were based on standard 12 bar and 32 bar chord sequences.

The Oxford University Band were placed third.

The final of the competition will be held at London University Union and the judges will be Sandy Brown, Benny Green and Alun Morgan.

It is interesting to note that in spite of apathy and open hostility the N.U.R.K.S. managed to beat other universities where jazz is tolerated and even encouraged.

Next Week:

"From Lager to Ouzo"

A series of articles exclusive
to "Guild News" by Pete Moss



Exciting "Tartuffe"

The Cercle Français production of "Le Tartuffe" which drew large audiences to the Debating Hall for three nights of last week was a surprisingly refreshing experience for anyone who has suffered amateur productions of Moliere in the past.

So often such students' attempts fail, or reach only a mediocre standard because it seems that, in casting, more attention has been given to those whose spoken French is faultless than to those who can deliver a speech with the necessary verve.

This, however, was without doubt an actor's "Tartuffe"; a fact which is soon explained when we see that Geoff Hutchings was in charge of the

production. Mr. Hutchings, who recently won the distinction of being selected as the best actor in the N.U.S. Drama Festival, also took the leading part of Tartuffe and added to his collection of roles with an entirely delightful study of the "faux devout."

He was ably supported by Paul Harman, whose Orgon was an excellently sustained piece of characterisation. Although at times Mr. Harman's acting is slightly exaggerated, in general his performance was a memorable one, full of style.

The other characters, although perhaps somewhat eclipsed by this double display of histrionic fireworks were uniformly competent, but special mention must be made of Miss Anne Wilson who played Dorine in a most vivacious manner with very good timing.

Altogether, apart from a set which could have been a little more stable, a very exciting and pleasing "Tartuffe." Let us hope that Cercle Français productions will maintain this high standard.

MYRA A. BARRS.

SOCIETY ROUND-UP

"ALTHOUGH Christians are a small minority, the Christian work there is one of the moulding forces of the Ceylon of to-morrow," said the Rev. Dr. Maldwyn Edwards at the Annual Dinner of the Methodist Society last week. Dr. Edwards, who replied to the toast "The Methodist Church," told the Society something of a recent journey he had made to India, Australia and the West Indies. He also referred to a scheme of one year's voluntary service which has been introduced by Methodist youth in New Zealand. Earlier Dr. G. G. Gowenlock had reminded the Society that as Christians they had a vital contribution to make to University life.

SOMETHING new happened at English Club last week when the speaker, Gareth Lloyd Evans, did not give tongue to a eulogy of his subject—R. S. Thomas. Mr. Lloyd Evans said that before he agreed to give the talk he had read only two of Thomas's poems; on reading the rest he found that although Thomas was a compatriot of his he was unable to discern in them any of the qualities which caused Kingsley Amis to hold forth with a blurb about Thomas being "one of the best half dozen poets now writing in the English language." His chief objection was that Thomas, in common with most other modern poets, gave no impression of going through "the agony of creation"; as a result his verse seemed to him slick, casual, convenient. The meeting ended with the usual "apathetic enthusiasm."

THE high-spot of the Motor Club year was the Annual Welsh Rally last week-end. The Rally took enthusiasts from the University and outside on a 300-mile trip to North Wales starting from Bagley on Saturday evening.

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EDITOR Mark Seaward

Press Post

Guild elections— a new approach

SIR,—Why does one come to a University? Apart from the obvious attractions of getting a better job, etc., the fundamental reason might reasonably be defined as to be "trained in responsible citizenship." As such, University graduates should be leaders of thought on contemporary affairs, and should thus be able to voice opinions on a wide range of topics.

Yet, Sir, I ask you to look at the position in the University at present. Apathy is still rampant despite the respective impassioned appeals last year in *Guild News*, and the University itself seems to offer little to the student who might be interested in extra-mural activities.

Thus the burden falls on the Guild, but it is widely accepted that less than 20 per cent of the members take an active interest in Guild and society affairs. Indeed, in the last elections for Guild Council, 11 constituencies out of 22 were not contested, and in the remainder the average percentage poll was 23.8 per cent.

This, I submit Sir, is a deplorable situation, and although some would argue that it reflects satisfaction with the way in which Guild affairs are being run, it is too much to ask that members should confirm this satisfaction by voting once or twice a year in Guild Elections. Thus, Sir, I would advocate the adoption of the system used in Australia and some other countries, namely that of compulsory voting.

Although this would be a drastic measure, it is, as far as I can see, the only way of encouraging interest in Guild affairs and of ascertaining the views of the student body as a whole. Special General Meetings, such as we have recently witnessed, which are not necessarily truly representative, could be followed by referendums on important matters of policy, and thus the individual student, "the ordinary member of the Guild," could play a decisive part in the affairs of this body.

In practical terms the system would work thus: members of the Guild who did not vote at elections of all types (in which more than one candidate were nominated) would have to forfeit their Guild cards for a period of a fortnight or so. Provision would also have to be made for those wishing to record an abstention in the elections. I would imagine that such a system might also lead to an increase in the number of candidates nominated in the various constituencies.

Finally, Sir, we must point out that this proposal is submitted as a con-

tribution to discussion, and we hope that it will stimulate others to voice an opinion on this subject. If significant support is forthcoming, it is our intention to proceed with the idea through the appropriate channels.

Yours, etc.,

IAN R. T. ELLIS.
COLIN BEARNE.

Motorway enquiry

SIR,—I should be much obliged if you would allow me to ask, through the courtesy of your columns, whether any undergraduates have recently attempted to go to London by the new Motorway Express Services of the Midland 'Red' Company, and have failed to obtain a seat, either altogether or for the particular journey for which they applied.

I would appreciate it if anyone who had this experience would get in touch with me (c/o Faculty of Commerce, Edgbaston), as soon as possible, particularly if they would be willing to give evidence at the hearing of an application before the Transport Commissioners' next month.

I am assured that this would materially help in securing the extension of a service which has proved valuable to that sector of the travelling public which has limited means and cannot charge fares to an expense account.

Yours, etc.,

D. E. C. Eversley.

Critical critics criticised

SIR,—I was very surprised to read Miss Christina Chaudoir's letter criticising the "Guild News" film critic. To dismiss K.R.C. as "narrow-minded, bigoted and insensitive" shows that Miss Chaudoir has little or no idea of the function of journalistic criticism. A film criticism intended to be read by undergraduates should be intelligent, thought-provoking and highly individualistic if it is to be at all worth reading.

In my opinion K.R.C.'s criticisms fulfil these requirements. What sort of criticism would Miss Chaudoir prefer, I wonder? Presumably, a brief resume of the plot and some highly edifying comment like "a jolly good film—do go and see it." The majority of undergraduates, however, require something a little more intelligent and, at least, K.R.C. provides that. Doubtless, people can and do disagree with his opinions on films, but, instead of dismissing them as "narrow-minded" simply

because she disagrees with them, let Miss Chaudoir offer equally intelligent counter-criticism. It is not until then that she will be showing that broadmindedness, which she so arbitrarily accuses others of lacking.

Yours, etc.,

L. Brown.

Union boors

SIR,—The disappearance of Ed. Street will show a decrease in good manners and intellectualism. Bad manners abound in the Union. Little things tend to give one this idea. The way people tread on you; the digs in one's stomach; the number of coffees knocked over without an apology; loud-mouthed individuals who push through a group on their way to a "terribly, terribly, you've no idea how terribly important it is" play rehearsal. It may seem that Ed. Streeters are apathetic. Don't you believe it. They are pushed out of the way by ill-mannered, petty ideapushers.

Discussions in Ed. Street are more interesting, more interesting than lectures on how many plants one can safely drink or lists of girls taken out in a week. An Arts course is infinitely more refined than a Science one, because problems arise in literature that cannot arise in a chemico-mechanical world of gases and fluids. I would be the last to suggest that a Science course has no value but it tends to blunt the individual. I hate to think that girls now in Ed. Street will have to endure three years of being manhandled at Edgbaston three years of a cattle market atmosphere.

More than a crumbling, filthy old building will go when Ed. Street disappears.

Yours, etc.,

Ed. Streeter.

Return of J. J. Psmith

SIR,—J. J. Psmith has succeeded in provoking, at last, a letter from me. I have the honour of being one of the beatnikiest "pseudo-intellectuals" at Ed. Street, and since the Beats have the reputation of being most apathetic about what others think of them, J. J. Psmith has achieved the almost impossible.

It is a pity that his letter was ambiguous. He attacks vigorously the letter, entitled "Guild Club, Goodbye," a letter by a student who looks forward sincerely to leaving Ed. Street. Then he proceeds to say such things as wanting all his women "queerly garbed" and "to sit in the Founders' Room all day and talk about things I don't understand." Whose side is he on anyway? When one comes to think of it, why have sides? J. J. Psmith has written a provocative letter. I will admit. Yet it is to such phrasing and implications (C.B. is equally guilty) that we owe some of the insidious undercurrent of resentment which lies between the Arts and Science student.

I feel that it is time that certain people ceased to continue the harmful myth that Arts students are stuck-up and egotistical cultural snobs, and that the average "Science fellow" is a gauche and soul-less moron.

So you will note, Sir, that despite my "artistic" leanings I take the stand of Peacemaker. Much as I personally will regret leaving Ed. Street, "for purely aesthetic reasons, of course," I think that it is for the good of everyone concerned that we come.

Yours, etc.,

Icarus.

J. J. Psmith replies: Provoked you may have been, but you cannot accuse me of encouraging the resentment which exists between Arts and Science students—this resentment is entirely

reciprocal and is hardly a novel feature of this University. Until we are allowed to behave otherwise than like glorified technical students this contrast is desirable. I want character in this University.

Join us on London march

SIR,—Plans are in the air for Easter. A quiet rest at home, even Easter in Paris, or perhaps walking which is very popular just now. Many people will be walking from Aldermaston to London as a protest against nuclear weapons to ensure that we live to enjoy future Easters.

The march is even more important this year with Summit talks fixed for May, the Geneva conference dragging on and the French going forward with their tests, despite African protests. A genuine moral lead would help too set the right atmosphere to make the Summit talks a success. Mr. Macmillan is in the position to give that lead.

We believe that Britain should take the sane course by unilaterally abolishing her nuclear weapons. Such an action for the good of mankind would be recognised and acclaimed by the whole world, giving peace talks that impetus that they have never had before.

We first have to show Mr. Macmillan that we care about the future. We wish to stop this suicidal arms race which is ever gaining momentum. The latest American has nuclear weapons. Next it will be Eastern Germany. Where will it all end other than in the destruction of mankind?

The more people that have these weapons the more chance there is of an accidental start to a nuclear war. Also more tests mean more fallout.

March with us to London, all the way if possible, but at least the day. Let us have the biggest march yet from Birmingham. Our target is one hundred students. Send me your name. We need every person to make this year's march an even bigger success to show our Government that we believe that now is the time to act and show the way to a sane and peaceful world.

Yours, etc.,

Barbara K. Allen,
Secretary

The case for University Apartheid

SIR,—Our concern with South Africa is not just to provide funds for a stop-gap programme to give non-white students the type of university education that the South African Government refuses to give but eventually to convince the white South Africans that it is both right and in their enlightened self-interest to accept white and non-white students on merit alone. Such a goal requires in addition to factual information a comprehension of the problem and what justifications they present for their solution.

The Presidents' South Africa Society has invited the South African Government to explain its reasons for establishing University Apartheid; their representative, Mr. A. W. Steward, Director of Information at South Africa House, will speak on Thursday, February 18 (at 5.15 p.m. in Lesser Hall). At this meeting, which is open to all, Mr. Steward has agreed to answer questions from the audience.

Yours, etc.,

A. M. Conning

G.T.G. EXPANSION

THE only way to ensure a constant flow of actors and producers of efficiency in a University, where there is a complete turnover of personnel every three years, is to train them.

One cannot win trophies without producers of original and exceptional talent but neither can one rely upon such talent arriving out of the blue regularly in time to take over from the previous genius. When they do arrive, however, their work will be made easier if there already exists a reasonable standard of competence in the Group. What applies to producers applies equally to actors, stage staff, wardrobe and every other branch of production.

Much of this is common sense but in view of the rising standards of University drama, especially with the creation of more and more Drama departments in universities throughout the country, a more professional approach is essential. We must also bear in mind that actors will in the future be drawn increasingly from the universities into the profession. As the "Times" Ed. Sup said of the Leeds' farce at this year's Festival, unbridled vitality and amateurish irresponsibility are no substitute for efficiency. Theatre is a craft and spontaneity plays only a small part in it. A University should train responsibility towards all things and theatre is one of the best disciplines I know. If you can't come to terms with this, become a politician or a "Ted."

Accordingly the committee has decided to start a course of Production Exercises—short scenes in widely varied styles to give experience to new producers and actors in some of the basic elements of movement and timing.

Coffee Talk

It's been an interesting week with plenty of high spots not the least of which was the debate with two speakers from the Cambridge Union last Thursday. But the Cambridge men in spite of their excellent debating technique showed a distressing tendency to play the game currently popular among top people, called variously U. and Non-U. and In and Out.

This pastime, which consists of dragging the Out In before the Out people realise it, and adopt it in order to be In so that it becomes Out again in my opinion a futile waste of time. I would refer the Cambridge speakers to Vogue which told us in January that the kipper was In. Conformity or rather the pose of amused conformity is apparently joining the kipper. But we who do not have our finger on the upper-class pulse are less concerned with the fashionable-ness of our views.

We have every cause to look back in anger: on the vacillations of inept politicians in the thirties, on the useless slaughter in Germany during the war, on the shame of Hungary and on the indeterminate squabbling over Nuclear Disarmament. Whether we can look forward in hope, a phrase bandied about on several occasions depends on whether we are satisfied with what has happened in the past.

"Mermaid" is out and criticism is rife. The cover promised well but the contributions are on the whole disappointing. The approach is not genuine enough, the work smacks of conscious attempts at contemporaneity. Three lines which sum up the whole thing can be quoted from one poem:

"We are the cripples of thought
Bent beneath the burden
Of our sophistication."

—M.A.B.

'MERMAID' GOES UNDER

LAST term's "Mermaid" for all its faults, was encouraging. It provided a model upon which future editors might successfully establish the magazine, and if possible, improve. The most disappointing feature about the present "Mermaid" is that the editor has not done this, and the result is a very inferior publication.

If one judges the magazine by the standards expressed in its editorial, one can admittedly find little fault. It does, I suppose, give "an opportunity for ideas to gain coherence and permanence." But this quality is so fundamental to writing that I might apply it equally well to my rough note-book which I do not presume to sell each term at 1s. per copy. If "Mermaid" is to be successful, the Editor must set his sights higher than this. He must give coherence and permanence to material which is attractively, if not movingly or humorously expressed.

Several of the articles published this term have no place in the magazine at all. The Editor seems to have forgotten that "Mermaid" is the literary magazine of the University. I would suggest that the most suitable contributions to "Mermaid" are creative pieces of poetry and prose and one or two critical articles, distinguished by a widely appealing subject matter and a pleasing style. "Mermaid" is not the place for a prosaic discussion of University admissions presenting as the author tells us "in the simplest terms... the vaguest generalisations." If he thinks this achievement is worth the trouble, anyway he should do it through the pages of some more factual medium. Nor is it the place for a discussion of the modern German lyric which can only appeal to a very limited number of readers. I suspect that the majority of students are unacquainted with this specimen quoted at the end of this article they are likely to be unacquainted by choice.

Of the remaining contributions, few are really worth reading. Most worthwhile is Mr. Ken Carter's article on "The British Film." He displays a thorough and adaptable knowledge of the cinema and a sensitive appreciation of the outstanding characteristics of the film as an art form. He reaches the right conclusions and expresses them with quiet emphasis and subtle humour. "Tiamat" is sensible and competently written, but not in any way outstanding.

Of the poetry, I liked Miss Neale's poem best. The meaning is clear—always a good sign, the imagery has a clever unity and the rhythm and versification enhanced the nostalgic subject. Miss Pullin's poem, too, is not altogether unsuccessful, but the rest are unimpressive and the reader is consoled in having no idea as to what they mean by a conviction that his ignorance is shared by the poets.

The one redeeming feature is the illustrations. These show a big improvement on the last edition—cleverly designed, well-executed and pleasing in every way.

In future "Mermaids" let us have less soul-searching, less obscurity and more articles which deal practically and attractively with the ordinary life with which the student is concerned.

T. ROBERTS.



Photo: Dolphin

His interest in the Film Society is dictated by the fact that he thinks that it is one which the Union greatly needs. As for his position in the Conservative Association: "Stacey came along and asked me if I wanted to take it and when I was elected at the A.G.M. somebody shouted, 'Good God, a bloody Socialist!'" He is older than the average student, having been in the Army for two years before coming to Birmingham, and believes that he came to University primarily to broaden his outlook and acquire a more perceptive judgment. "I don't know if my mind's been broadened—it might have got a bit more obscure." He thinks that his subject—Commerce—has enabled him to adopt a more logical outlook and has enforced his critical abilities and although it is not particularly encouraging to artistic tendencies he is a wide reader and likes especially Rabelais and the Russian novelists. In retrospect, Geoff. thinks he may have done too many things, he has collected posts, in fact, like some people collect postage stamps, and although he has got to know a lot of people here he is not sure if he knows enough of them well enough. In reply to the stock question on what he thinks about University women, he said that he doesn't think about them, but that, in general, they are too tall. Guild politics don't much interest him and he is of the opinion that the best thing that Executive ever did was to change the beer in the bar to Flowers Keg.

The most difficult thing about writing a profile is to convey to the reader something of the essential character of the person, to show what underlies the public face. Geoff. Harrison is definitely a "character" in every sense of the word, but he is also a very genuine and well-liked person. Or as Julian Levy said, "a good lad."

M.A.B.

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This week in The Listener

(ISSUE DATED FEBRUARY 18)

A LOOK AT 'PANORAMA'

Michael Wall

THE UNSOLVED PROBLEM OF ALGERIA

Germaine Tillon

PAINTING OF THE MONTH

II—"Ascanius Shooting the Stag of Sylvia"
by Claude

Ellis Waterhouse

TELEVISION IN AUSTRALIA—II

G. J. Munster

THE LANGUAGE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Donald Mitchell

THE APOCALYPTICAL SIXTIES

Czeslaw Milosz

ANTIBIOTICS AND RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCI

Mary Barber

THE AFTERMATH OF THE ALGERIAN CRISIS

Thomas Cadett

and other features

A BBC PUBLICATION

EVERY THURSDAY

FROM NEWSAGENTS & BOOKSELLERS

6

MED. SCHOOL COLUMN

Spring is here tra la la. A crocus has been found beneath the snow on Med. School lawn.
So squelch on and be of good cheer,
For Summer time will soon be here,
—and then we shall have warm rain.

AS I sat in contemplation the other day, scraping the carbon from a Med. School hot-dog, my thoughts turned towards the canteen of old and I began to wonder of the fate of "Worthington," that jolly ever-smiling cardboard chappie that graced the walls of Ye Olde Tea Shoppe. Has he mouldered away? Has he been pensioned off in some rural canteen? Or does he form part of the decoration of some unworthy flat? Whatever his fate, I wish him well, and on March 3 we hope to see his brothers who live in Burton.

In continuation of the Medical School food theme, there is good news with regard to the legendary coffee machine, pipes and cables have now been laid and the machine itself is due to be installed at any minute. Vive la progress!!

However, more and more people are taking to the idea of buying their mid-day sandwiches elsewhere and buying nothing but a drink in the Med. School. This is to be deplored as Med. School Canteen depends on its custom to keep its prices down, so rally round Mrs. Tandy lads, buy home produced food and let us eat within our means. After all Lucy and Co. do a good job with the facilities provided for them.

Fourth year is about to undergo yet another division and some of its members are to be posted far afield to continue their vocational activities. Whether this is due to a fear on the part of our honoured governors of the year en masse, or merely to mismanagement has yet to be seen, for never before has a dispersion as far as Coventry or Warwick been envisaged.

I should like to congratulate a

certain four Medics upon passing the rigorous entrance test of the fabulous "Golden Club" and may I wish the club all success in its cultural activities.

NEB.

Press Post—continued

Spasmodic support

SIR—Why is it that the University Rhythm Club receives such a varied amount of support from the Guild?

When the Rhythm Club invited Mr. Acker Blik to play at their Jazz Ball, the response was tremendous. Extra tickets had to be printed by the hundreds.

It is a different story when it comes to the N.U.R.K. (the Rhythm Club's own band). They have been debarred from performing regularly at the hops. The band that replaces them is not as good and is probably more expensive.

When the University travelled to Bristol last week to win the semi-final of the I.U.J.F. competition, only

This week's debating: Laughter unlimited

LAST Thursday saw what was probably the most memorable debate, so far this session; when Debating Society debated against a team from the Cambridge Union. The motion was: "That This House Has No Cause To Look Back In Anger." This debate, I feel, will be remembered first of all for the fact that over 200 people were crammed into the Mixed Lounge, and secondly for the scintillating wit of the Cambridge team (Mr. L. A. C. F. Giovane Di Girasole and Mr. Saunders); and the not in the least, inferior wit of the Birmingham team (Messrs. Wreford and Large).

Mr. Giovane opening the debate mentioned (en passant) and then proceeded to what was probably the wittiest speech heard at Debating Society for a very long time; full of a fund of anecdotes and satirical humour from first to last.

Mr. Wreford in the same vein (i.e. ignoring the motion) and was followed by a somewhat cruder speech, which appealed to the "ladies" of the House being none the less quite amusing. Mr. Large came back to the motion and made the second funniest speech of the evening being up to the high standard that we expect from the tournament winner.

There then followed a host of excellent floor speeches (and well-timed interruptions from Mr. Stacey); Mr. Harrison mentioned his past life and the sole act in it of which he was proud; Mr. Plant just clowned; Messrs. Faulkner and Osborne were intellectual and witty in spite of it; and Mr. Blader made a heart-rendering plea for the married man.

After a brief summing up from both sides the motion was narrowly defeated by 72 votes to 65 with 18 abstentions. No one spoke to the motion; but then who cares when one is splitting one's sides with laughter. We hope that the Cambridge team left with the thought that Birmingham's debating was not so bad after all.

Yours, etc.,
D. R. Allum.

'Mermaid' slips

SIR—I would like to apologise to Miss Faith Pullin for a mistake, which is entirely my fault, in the latest number of "Mermaid." In her poem, the first and the last two stanzas were reversed in the paste-up!

If readers will look at this poem again, they will see that connected, it reads much better.

Yours, etc.,
Editor of "Mermaid."

RADIO CRIT. GALILEO GALILEI

by Bertolt Brecht

THE few short tastes of Brecht in the shape of smaller plays, that we have been vouchsafed by the B.B.C. in the past suggest that this full-scale work might be rewarding; we were not disappointed. This translation of "Galileo Galilei" by Charles Laughton survived as radio drama very well.

The historical setting was taken too seriously, for this is essentially a modern play, foreshadowing even the atomic age at points. The music of Hanns Eisler may have had a 17th century note, but this is intended as satire, and Brompton Oratory choir intelligently achieved a mocking note in their rendering.

The characterisation was satisfying. Mr. Galilei (Edward Chapman) was benign and human, yet gave his weightier lines their full value—was left with many eminently quotable passages such as "He who does not know the truth is an ass, but he who, knowing it, denies it, is a criminal." His daughter Virginia (Pauline Jameson), developed smoothly from a gay young thing to a tight-laced religious fanatic, and the clerical and commercial intrigues and confusion was well suggested.

The alterations necessitated by the radio adaptation were well blended into the whole and may even have added to it.

Brecht's political views have been widely discussed elsewhere; it is enough to say that this production lent support to the thesis that he was often at variance with true Marxism; here he appears more on the side of knowledge and progress than on that of the bowdlerising mob.

Perhaps the play flagged a little in the latter stages; yet the overall verdict must be of approval both of Brecht in this medium, and of this production as a whole.

R.A.W.

What's the answer? In the first place, half-hearted warnings are no good; if a man commits a foul send him off at once—he's not fit to play with decent people! Then the committees and officials of rugby football should not nominate players who are known to "play dirty." In doing so they condone their stupid activities. And why was a pugilist ever given the honour of representing the U.A.U.?

The kind of play I have mentioned is becoming more prevalent. It is about time that someone spoke out. Some of us are just sick of seeing it happen.

J. H. Gunn

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UNIVERSITY



Rugby Football—U.A.U. semi-final

LEEDS PACK WINS DAY

★ Game spoilt by rough tactics ★

Leeds University 13 pts., Birmingham University 3 pts.

HAVING lost to Nottingham University last Wednesday, the rugby team travelled to Leeds for the U.A.U. semi-final game, knowing full well that they needed good fortune to win. Two evenly matched sides took the field in a flurry of snow which lay in a cold, wet sheet over what was otherwise an excellent pitch.

It was obvious from the first whistle that each team had its own peculiar style of play. Leeds were keeping the ball close and gaining ground with determined forward rushes, whilst Birmingham tried to feed their backs who were at full strength apart from the loss of Wilkinson at full-back.

As it was, Wilson, substituting in that position, played a safe game and scored Birmingham's only points.

The much heavier Leeds pack gained possession in our "25" and

Tolley made a beautiful break in the centre, planting the ball firmly over Birmingham's line. Dovey's kick did not fail to add a further two points and the home team's pack continued to dominate in the loose. However, Heitzman and Roberts were once again jumping like stags in the line-out.

After the interval Birmingham regained some of the initiative in spite of the strong arm methods of the Leeds pack, which cost us the services of worthy Joe Quinn, our fatherly pack leader—and cost him a

front tooth into the bargain. Playing with only seven forwards and giving away scores in what the Birmingham pack rallied magnificently although they could not stop Nash from crashing over for two more tries, one of which was converted. Meanwhile, our threequarters were continually attempting to run through a stone-wall defence. In the end they had to resort to the high kick ahead which began to have more effect as Leeds tired under the pressure of such open tactics. Wilson kicked a penalty goal for Birmingham late in the second half, but nothing else came our way before full-time.

Leeds played the same sort of game that has enabled them to get through to the final. They have a fine, workmanlike pack, superbly marshalled by Wrench. This is what beat us, but I cannot help thinking that the score might have been closer if Quinn had not had to leave the field. On the day, however, Leeds earned a truly deserved win.

Weight-lifting

Skipper married—team loses

MAYBE these two facts have no bearing on each other, it is not for us to say.

But at the start of last week members of the weight-lifting club were rejoicing because Howard Payne, our captain, had at last become a lawfully wedded person. Then, on Saturday, the Olympic team suffered its first defeat. Howard, however, produced one of his best totals (70lbs) so perhaps marriage is good for a young lad after all! Both Peter Staples and Bill Forshaw increased their totals, the former by 20lbs, and the latter by 40lbs. Unfortunately Sheffield University, our opponents, had improved even more than our team and although the actual total lifted by the team was larger than that of Sheffield, they received an allowance for lighter body-weight. We hope to gain our revenge in the near future.

It seems that the threat of marriage looms heavily over the club. In addition to Howard taking the "fatal" step, Tony Miller became engaged last week-end. Everyone in the club wishes them both every happiness in the years ahead, and we are hoping that a few weight-lifters will be produced in the not too distant future. I raise my tankard to them, being myself.

THE BARMAN.

Inter-Faculty sport

● BASKETBALL ●

Inter-faculty basketball continues to flourish with 41 matches played in the first five weeks of term.

Chem. Eng. moved to the top of Division 1 with a 41-38 victory over Staff, their American pivot, Keith Smith, scoring most of the points. Maths, unbeaten last term, lost their record to the polished Iranians after five minutes of extra time in a 46-45 thriller.

Chem. II lead in the 2nd Division and are due to meet keen newcomers Pre-Clin. (also undefeated) in what may be the decisive game in this Division. Elec. Eng. are still without a victory but this team of Freshers play good basketball and should progress well during the next two seasons.

1st DIVISION				
	P	W	L	Pts.
Chem. Eng.	5	4	1	8
Iranians	5	4	1	8
Maths	5	3	2	6
Phys. Ed.	5	3	2	6
Chem. I	5	2	3	4
Metallurgy	5	2	3	4
Staff	5	2	3	4
Civ. Eng.	5	1	4	2

2nd DIVISION				
	P	W	L	Pts.
Chem. II	5	5	—	10
Pre-Clin.	4	4	—	8
Chad Hill	5	3	1	7
Commerce	5	3	2	6
Miners	5	3	2	6
Biology	5	1	3	2
Physics	4	1	3	2
Geology	4	—	4	—
Elec. Eng.	5	—	5	—

Against Bristol University, our fencing team of Warner, Sayers and Naylor started off very successfully in the foil, losing only one fight out of the nine. Sayers, once again won all his fights. However, for the rest of the match things were not so easy and although the team won both the epee and sabre it was by a very narrow margin. In both cases the scores were 5-4 for Birmingham. The total result was an overall victory by 18-9. Warner fended well throughout, and at the end of the day remained undefeated in all three weapons.

Association Football

Sandford and Fay liven up the attack

After defeating Bristol University 1-0 on Wednesday, the First XI served out a 4-0 beating to Cresconians, the Birmingham A.F.A. First Division leaders, at Bournbrook, on Saturday. A three-inch layer of snow prevented Cresconians' clever ball players from showing their real paces, and a fitter and stronger University side ran out worthy winners.

After a farcical start in deplorable conditions, play gradually improved and a hard entertaining match resulted. The University kept the ball moving and eliminated any frills from their play and thus had the Cresconians constantly at full stretch. Youles, Gray and Johnson formed a strong and tenacious half-back line and, behind them Tipples once more had a very sound game in goal.

At half-time the score was 2-0, through goals by Fay and Fleming. Fay prodded home a shot from Sandford which had been palmed out by the 'keeper, and Fleming put in a low drive which the unfortunate goalkeeper allowed to pass under his body. Cresconians got on top for a while but they were unable to turn it to any advantage and midway through the second half the University went further ahead, Boddy being the scorer. A little later a Sandford shot was blocked and the ball flew into the air for Fay to outleap the defence and nod it into the corner.

The attack displayed much more punch than for some time and Roper once again gave an excellent display on the right wing. Star of a sound defence was Fresher Johnson whose strength in the tackle and use of the balls marks him out as a great future prospect.

Men's Squash Rackets

NO STRENGTH IN DEPTH

Taking stock halfway through the season, results show that the University is doing slightly better than at this time last year.

U.A.U. semi-final triumph

DURHAM CRASH

THE University Table Tennis team, playing in the U.A.U. semi-final at Newcastle over the week-end, decisively beat Durham University 11-4, to enter the final for the second year in succession, and thus avenged their 10-5 defeat by Durham in last year's final.

Much of the credit for this great win goes to Fresher M. Arkell, who showed no mercy in his thrashing of both Hunter and Oughton, Durham's county players. Backhouse was as cool and calm as ever, and won his three games quite comfortably. Arkell and Backhouse certainly have good claims for inclusion in the U.A.U. representative side.

O. Forsythe, the captain, also played exceptionally well, winning his three matches as well. Bolton and Lumb, another Fresher, gave fair performances but could only win one game each.

Birmingham can now go forward to the final against Bristol or Cardiff, with some considerable measure of confidence.

G.F.

The Spring Term began with defeats of Handsworth, Abbeydale, and Duffield (all by 5-0). Old Silhillians and Four Oaks (both by 4-1), and one defeat, by Malvern (3-2).

The team were due to play the semi-final of the U.A.U. on February 6, but as no information was forthcoming about opponents, the match had to be postponed.

The 2nd team are having rather disappointing results, due mainly to lack of match practice. Although one or two "A" team matches were changed to 2nd team matches, the results showed that the 2nd team is far too weak—even after fairly lengthy coaching from 1st team members. Perhaps it is worth noting now that with only two of this year's team available next year, competition for places should be keen. Among those who show promise are J. Davis and G. Pearce, but even they will need to improve considerably before they come up to the standard of the first team.

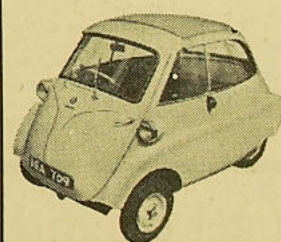
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THEY WENT Thataway

HERE it is, "The Horse Soldiers," yet another delightful clump through the greenery and brownery.

A Union cavalry brigade rides 300 miles behind the Confederates to cut the railway supply line at Newton Station. At the head rides John Wayne, John Ford's well-used hero, with a face as hard and wrinkled as his saddle. With him rides William Holden, suave in a surgeon's white coat.

Accompanying them are Constance Towers, a Southern belle and Althea Gibson, her maid. And along with the protagonists ride Ford's cavalry—a couple of hundred of rollicking, rumbustious individualists dressed in Union blue, riding chestnut mounts. Let not the presence of the protagonists distract you—the spirit and purpose of battle are caught, and the recriminations which come after are expressed by the cavalymen.

The clamour and confusion of battle are well shown in the scenes at Newton Station, the ridiculousness and horror which are realised afterwards Ford shows off in the carefully contrived destruction of the railway.

The anti-war theme played contrapuntally with the goodness of men theme is a simple device, but this critic was impressed and carried along by the power of the enthralling images Ford creates, by the beauty of the line of cavalry moving through the morning mist, by the hysteria of the battle scene and the claustrophobic horror of the scenes of destruction. Thankfully the plot, though effete and contrived, moves at a swift enough pace to carry the audience along without disturbance. Memories of the colour and movement will last for a long time. K.R.C.

The Intimate Opera Group 'THE COOPER' Thomas Arne

SOME happy spasm of imaginative thought interrupted the solidly "Daily Telegraph" character of open lectures and made possible a delightful afternoon's entertainment which, more successfully than the usual "broaden-their-minds" lecture, showed that "culture" and pretentiousness are not co-extensive.

Arne's short opera presents the resolution of an improbable rivalry between a decrepit cooper and his thoroughly eligible assistant for the hand of the cooper's erstwhile ward. The resolution is the expected happy ending voiced in a lively trio. A packed Deb. Hall was roused to appreciation, and one spectator at least, finds it difficult to enthuse with sufficient gratitude to the Intimate Opera Company for their performance, and the appropriate authorities for the idea.

B. G. BEATTY.

CONCERT DIARY

THE visit of a new conductor is always an event, but when it produces music of the calibre heard last Sunday at the Town Hall it must rank as a major event. Certainly Gunnar Staern, in a quiet, unshowmanlike way, produced from the C.B.S.O. playing such as I have rarely heard during the last five seasons. It is rather unfortunate that the sparse audience did little justice to all this merit.

The programme began with Berwald's Overture to his opera "Estrella di Soria," an exciting novelty for English audiences. Though a contemporary of Rossini, Berwald's music seems rather to herald the lush outpourings of a Tchaikovsky, without the latter's exaggeration. Thus Nielsen's "Little Suite for Strings" came as a complete contrast. It was delightfully handled by the conductor who gave an extra impetus to the 3/4 tempo of the Intermezzo by discarding his baton and doubling the movement with broad sweeps of both arms. This neglected work by an equally neglected composer deserves more outings. In Sibelius's "En Saga," however, there was a drop. It seemed that Mr. Staern was not really sure what the music was about. As a result he rushed the initial climaxes and destroyed the atmosphere of legend intrinsic to the piece. Perhaps, without intending to draw comparisons from inferior sources, Sibelius is a little too "cool" for this essentially warm-blooded interpreter.

The warmth really showed in his magnificent... there is no other word for it... interpretation of Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique," which inspired the orchestra to heights undreamed of in the abyss of the usual C.B.S.O. "throw-out" standards. This was music, Tchaikovsky, as it should be played. Not one section could be faulted, and the conductor, clear as a bell, had all his wishes fulfilled. Particularly outstanding was the march in which, to one's amazement, the climax was hit straight away and continued to rise. It is a long time since an audience was so stirred. The final

movement was beautifully voiced, the very last ounce of meaning being extracted from the full score. It is to be hoped that the orchestra will be continually inspired in this way, and that conductors of Gunnar Staern's quality continue to flourish.

KANDI.

HERE AND THERE

Bereft this week of the wisdom of Solomon, we leave the cold impersonal mechanics of Guild politics to those qualified to deal with them (a case for the sanitary engineer, perhaps?) and return to the vivid characters who give Coffee and Founders' Rooms, their charm. Though we might have a word for the more insipid inmates who occasionally intrude on our consciousness against our wishes.

Take the poets for instance, clad in their motley of curdure (not the female of the species with plaits and Rossetti). Our first poet, for instance, resplendent in plum-coloured jacket, emerges from the depths of Chem. Eng... gazes into his coffee and talks... and talks... of the red sun and the sea of black men and Apartheid... using his freedom of expression to deny them theirs... and talks and talks... of his cousin John whom he so earnestly wishes, with retrospective anger, to imitate.

The other poet, having abandoned the seclusion of the Med. School for the vicious jungle of the English Dept., also talks... of Proust, Sartre, Kant and Kierkegaard... and other paperbacks which have somehow eluded the net of the Obscene Publications Act... and talks... of mermaids emerging from a sea of chaos.

These poets are not the only ones ruminating in our midst—in fact last week's literary manifestation revealed the prevalence of a disease common amongst precocious fifteen-year-old-artistic inebriation. We were vastly entertained by the diversity of their ways of saying nothing. This is one Mermaid into which Neptune would gladly have sunk his trident. But have courage, our literary friends—back to Enid Blyton and by graduation you may yet comprehend Walter de la Mare; but leave the poetic Muse to the competent amateur or else submit your contributions to your old school magazine. You haven't put the cat on the mat but rather let it out of the bag.

A parting word on the other Colossi of the Guild—the actors—and the drama which incessantly surrounds the upper strata of G.T.G. (stage staff naturally excluded). We admire their efforts on the stage but we find it a little tedious seeing a five-act classical tragedy enacted daily over Mary's coffee or a one-act farce over Arthur's bitter. Why didn't you stay in Oxford? You should have gone there in the first place! (Bum isn't really you—is it darling?—raises little finger—disappears into the Burlington chorus follows, i.e., camp followers). Exeunt left. J.&J.

Personal Column

P.S. to last week's "Profile"...
"THE DOLLS DON'T TRY
'COS THE GUYS AIN'T
WORTH IT." Signed, Battle
ships Inc.

John Archer will celebrate his engagement to Ruth at the Founders' Dinner Dance. Friends in Social Studies or Methodist Society who will not be there are invited to a party on Saturday, 8 p.m., at 245, Quinton Road, Harborne.

"Ad Lib"—the new, original magazine of "Libsoc." First edition to be published, March 1, price 1s.

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare will hold its Annual Easter Conference at Saitley College from April 8 to 12. Reduced fee for students £2. Details from M. R. D. Seward, via Pigeon Holes.

WHETHER YOU'RE SHORT OR WHETHER YOU'RE TALL—DON'T FORGET GUILD DINNER AND BALL.

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LAW SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH MORALITY—Debate to-day in Mixed Common Room at 5.15 p.m.

WHAT'S ON

February 18, Thursday. Debate. Mixed Lounge Union, 5.15 p.m. "Law should not interfere with morality."

February 19, Friday. Founders' Dinner-Dance.

February 21, Monday. Founders' Day.

February 22, Tuesday. Open Lecture. Deb. Hall, 1.45 p.m. Sir George Mullaby. "Representing Britain with the Commonwealth." Barnes Institute. 8 p.m. Stross Quartet.

CINEMA COLUMN

FORUM (New Street): February 18 for seven days, "Summer Place" with Richard Egan and Sandra Dee.

FUTURIST (John Bright Street): February 21 until further notice, "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" with James Mason and Paul Boone.

SCALA (Smallbrook Street): February 14 until further notice, "North by North West" with Cary Grant and Eve-Marie Saint.

ODEON (New Street): February 18 for seven days, "The Horse Soldiers" with John Wayne, William Holden and Constance Towers.

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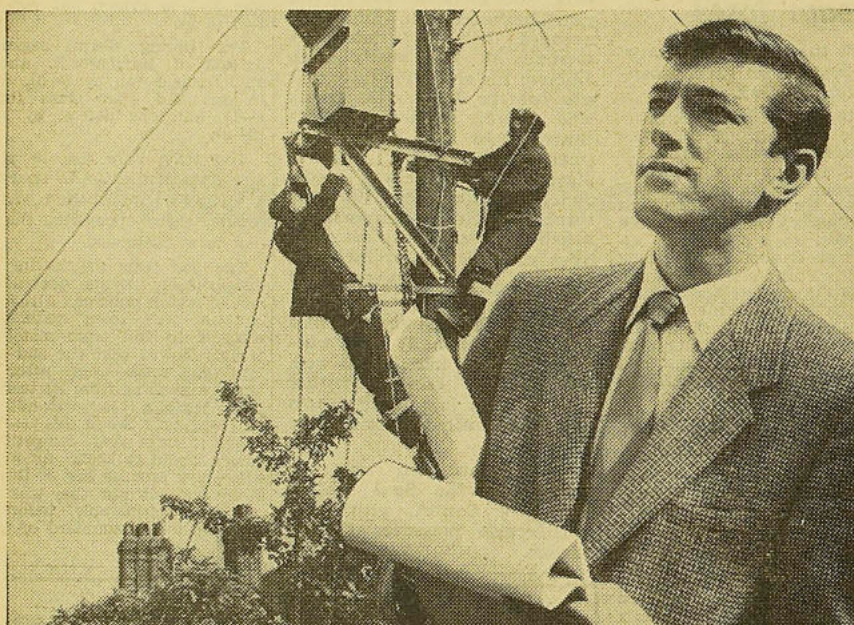
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