

Guild News

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 549

Thursday, February 26, 1959

Threepence

TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE

THE evening meal service was transferred from the Union to the Refectory on January 5, after discussion by Guild Council. In order to state enlightened and informed discussion so that a decision may be reached, I like to present the following facts.

The move was made because the Union had made it impracticable to carry on the service of the Union. Members of the Guild had protested at the overcrowding and circumstances necessitated action being taken. Since then the position has not changed, but new facts have shown the position to be more serious, thus making it imperative to remain there now. These are the arguments which have been aired for and against.

Arguments against

It is more convenient to eat at the Union, though not necessarily for all. At present members do not like walking from the Union to the Refectory; but there are those in the science blocks who are right next door to it. Again it is argued that the standard of meals and service is not very high at the Refectory, but the way that members can hope to better the existing service is by taking any faults to the manager or to their representative on the University Refectory Committee. We have asked for a meeting of this committee before March 9.

To try and improve facilities, complaints have been taken up with the manager; enquiries have been made with a view to improving the hot-plate, and we have an assurance that the Refectory will be redecorated during the long vacation.

The Refectory has provided 2,300 to 2,500 hot meals per week since the new system began, which shows that it is well patronised and has eliminated the overcrowding.

Arguments for

The real crux of the matter rests on the following facts now at our disposal:

WHY WAS THIS MOVE NECESSARY?

Numbers at the University have been increasing each year, and with the coming into being of the Ashby Scheme the demand for evening meals has increased still more. This has created many problems. Up till now one dining hall has been used for evening meals, and the other for society functions. The point has now been reached where the demand has saturated the dining hall, making it overcrowded. The alternatives are:

Use the Refectory as at present, bearing in mind that the evening meals are the University's responsibility, or open the other dining hall.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE UNION AS A CENTRE FOR SOCIETY LIFE?

Our University has approximately 80 societies who wish to use the Priestley Hall, which is in use nearly every night of the week. How highly

by
BRIAN E. LUBY
Guild Treasurer

do we value participation in sporting, cultural, political and religious activities? This leads one to ask, is the Union needed for the activities of societies rather than for general catering arrangements? Even if two halls were used for catering, to the exclusion of the societies, who presumably would have to find facilities in the city or elsewhere, then the catering problem would not ease due to the future increase in numbers.

The future position

The Registrar has furnished us with figures which show the estimated number of students next session at 4,120, an increase of 214 over this session, of which a high percentage are at Edgbaston. The following session, Edmund Street will be moving to Edgbaston, bringing approximately another 900 students. The University have planned a new Refectory which will be built before session 1961-62, but no more facilities are contemplated in the Union extension.

Before a decision on remaining or returning can be made it will be necessary to discuss the matter with the University authorities and on Guild Council. If a decision is made to return to the Union, and overcrowding forces us to ask to return to the Refectory, what is the impression created with the University authorities? Are we going to be viewed as having given the problem adult appraisal, or that we have acted in a responsible manner? I urge members of the Guild not to be carried away by sentiment, but to study the problem looking at the needs of the societies, the function of the Union, and the present, and even more, the future overcrowding. The problem cannot be discussed without some reference to the financial aspect.

WHY IS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO OPEN BOTH THE REFECTORY AND THE UNION? If there is a demand for approximately 600 meals per evening, then this number could be divided between the two places in any ratio. The possibility of not covering costs is too great. One catering department may only receive 200 per evening, and costs may exceed the amount of money taken. Both departments need large staff in face of large numbers (a fixed cost, which would have to be paid regardless of receipts).

If the service is moved backwards and forwards, it is impossible to spend money on necessary items of equipment, and then find the service has been transferred.

INTERNATIONAL SELECTION

Birmingham student honoured

THE All-England Women's Hockey team was announced after the last of this year's territorial matches on Saturday. It included the University player Rita Thompson, as left back, who is thus emulating her sister Monica, who has already played for England.

Rita first played hockey for her school, Westwood's G.S., North-leigh, from where she progressed to the Gloucestershire Junior team, followed by the West Juniors; with this team she visited Holland during Easter, 1955. The following season she played for the Senior County team and the West. During the 1956-7 season, she again played for the West, and both she and another sister, Heather, were selected for the England "B" team.

In October, 1957, she came up to Birmingham to read History and played as centre-half for the University, being awarded her full colours; while continuing to play for Gloucestershire and the West as left-back, she was selected as left-half for the Combined English Universities, and was an England further reserve. This season she has played centre-half for the University.



Rita Thompson

city, left-inner for W.I.V.A.B. and the Combined Universities and left-back for the West, in which position she is to play for England against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 7.

Although a defence player by inclination — she plays left-back for her county and territory. Her talent and ability are such that when selected as left-inner in order to strengthen the Combined Universities forward line, she proceeded to score two of the three goals in Saturday's match between W.I.V.A.B. and the Scottish Universities.

W.U.S.—Why are we concerned?

SPECIAL EVENING MEAL SERVICE

HOT evening meals are being provided at the Refectory, the coffee room caters for lighter snacks, and the bar for beer and sandwiches. But now we have widened our scope and we are providing a special evening meal service.

This experiment is being made to see if members of the Guild want something better than the ordinary evening meal, and the results obtained will be very useful for future planning. For members who have not tried the Waitress Service Meals, I would like to inform them of the following facts.

Costs

Nobody is going to pretend the service is cheap, but these points must be remembered:

The following items are inclusive in the cost:

1. Payment made to waitresses.
2. Laundry charges.
3. Charge made for overheads.
4. Cost of food and preparation.

Prices charged here are cheaper than in any restaurant for identical meals.

Booking

MEALS need not be booked in advance. Your order will be taken when you arrive.

TABLES can be booked in advance for any number.

Menus

Menus are provided each morning on the main Catering notice-board and on the doors of the dining-halls. The number of items on the menu has been increased and will include a good range (from mixed grill to chicken). Menus will also be on all tables.

Service

To make the service more attractive, the chef will be on duty each evening to supervise arrangements and also to cook grills, etc. to order.

I hope members of the Guild will try the service and I think they will be satisfied by the results.

BRIAN LUBY.

JULIET HUMPHRIES,
W.U.S. Secretary.

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Midweek Residential Conference

STUDENTS are invited to attend the Barnes Close Residential Conference, to be held at Barnes Close near Bromsgrove on March 10 and 11. The cost of this conference will be 18s.

It is being organised by members of the Faculties of Science and Arts, to discuss the proposed non-residential halls and the influence of Science and Art upon literature, and should be of great interest to all students, first year students being particularly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

The closing date for the receipt of names for people interested in attending this conference is February 28.



EDITORIAL

Guild News

Number
549



THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER,
THE UNION,
EDGBASTON

Selly Oak
1841

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THE phoenix escaped last week from Christopher Fry's play and came to rest over the tables of Council Room as the Guild Council sat in session. The meeting was not particularly well attended, and we could well believe that another fruitless four hours were to be spent debating undebatable points and quibbling for the sake of self-identification. But how wrong we were. The phoenix of Council has indeed risen from the ashes, and matters really began to take on a prophetic note of happiness.

Can it be that Council has at last seen the light? Have they finally realised where their responsibility lies? Are they coming round to the realisation that they are not representing Bill Bloggs, would-be petty dictator, but a constituency of fellow human beings, eagerly waiting to be informed of Guild matters, and in their turn made to realise that they too, in some sort of a way, are able to make an active contribution to the Guild of Undergraduates?

At this portentous meeting of Guild Council a decision was made not to discuss the Retortory Question because the facts were not available. THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST SENSIBLE DECISIONS YET REACHED BY COUNCIL. But more; one councillor, D. J. Cleal (History) suggested that those facts, when available, should be published for the Guild to see, not as an insignificant notice, but either in "Guild News" or a duplicated handout for each member. This meant something at last. At least every member would be in a position to decide for himself what stand he ought to take, for while this position may be distasteful to many in regards to their present evening meals, they should at least try to make the best of it, and help with CONSTRUCTIVE criticism. We can fully expect that our Executive is democratic enough to realise that, should the present system continue to fail with regards to members' needs and wishes, it will be changed. Second-hand reports have been the undoing of many Council opinions, and a step in the right direction is at last being taken.

WE have accused Council of being hasty, uninformed, and even apathetic to proceedings in the Guild. They have been content to allow the same handful of stalwarts to do the talking each week, only opening their own mouths to betray their own ignorance. But the new improvement must not only be maintained, but furthered. Perhaps Council should learn to take its responsibility more seriously. One way this could be achieved would be to improve the atmosphere that prevails among the fag of Council Room. For instance, councillors should all wear gowns, and not merely leave it to Exec., thereby emphasising the differences between them and Council. Let there also be a continual flow of information along the lines, thereby improving Exec.-Guild relations. If there is accord at the top, then it is bound to spread. Members must be encouraged but not urged, to participate in Guild activities as a necessary adjunct to their University careers. The work is falling on the shoulders of too few, whose aim, far from self-aggrandisement, is to lighten the onus from their already over-burdened shoulders. "Why the Guild?" is a question of our time. Is the Guild an eating, drinking and dancing house, or has it a vital purpose in student life? "Guild News" is willing to sponsor a conference on this important topic, and asks anyone at all interested in it to contact them. In the meantime, Council must keep up their new-found attitude, and we shall all be better off for it.

The Middle East

Dear Sir,
MR. SHEIKHULESLAMI would like us to believe that the Aryan race is incapable of imperialist projects. The facts clearly point to the contrary. Persia's oil industry, before it was nationalised by Mussadeq, was solely monopolised by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, an imperialist concern, which subjected the country to an economic dependence, and which caused severe hardship to the Persian people. During Mussadeq's period of power the Shah and his reactionary feudal party, with the support of their Western allies, were constantly conspiring to overthrow the popular government. Unfortunately for the people of Persia, these intrigues resulted in the fall of Mussadeq. The present Persian Government has resorted to violent repressive measures. Freedom of speech, Trade Unions, proper representation in parliament and political reform are practically non-existent.

In spite of Western "Aid" the standard of living of the people of this country, so rich in natural resources, is on the decline. Is it surprising then that there is "instability" in the Middle East?

Yours, etc.,
TARIK AL-IRHAYIM.

The little teams

Dear Sir,
AT the commencement of this session you claimed that it was to be the policy of your paper to represent Society and Departmental functions as far as possible in its columns. May I then take up the cudgels for Departmental sport? Looking back over this term's issues, I find that the only mention this has received so far has consisted of two short reports in the first issue on Medics. Rugger. One of the games reported on was played in the vacation anyway. You may, of course, choose to argue that you cannot publish reports that you do not receive; I only ask that occasionally you publish some of those you do, I, at least, have regularly sent in results and, occasionally, reports on matches, yet never once during this term have you seen fit to publish so much as one result. This is particularly regrettable in the case of last Saturday's match, when Chancellor's Hall went to Oxford to play Keble College at rugby football; the outcome of a fine game was that Hall, playing almost throughout a man short, lost narrowly 6-3, which in all honesty was not a bad performance. Yet, once again, from the report submitted to you, not so much as the result receives your notice. May I remind you of your stated policy, sir, and ask that the little teams receive a fair deal at your hands in future?

Yours, etc.,

ROBERT J. WREFORD.

Gordon Jacob taped

Dear Sir,

I HAVE a musical problem which I should like to put before your readers in the hope that my present state of being at a loss may be remedied. Basically, it is this: Where can I find a number of people (singers and instrumentalists) who would be willing to get together with the object of performing music by Gordon Jacob?

I am a great admirer of Dr. Jacob's music (for the less-informed, he is one of our leading British composers) and possess a good deal of it, in the form of choral music, concertos, etc. Unfortunately, Jacob is unrepresented on gramophone records except for orchestral arrangements of other people's music. Luckily, the B.B.C. broadcast much, and my tape-recorder sees to my personal satisfaction by supplying me with a number of works. However, I wish to record some of the other works, and the easiest way, it seems to me, is to gather a suitable collection of musicians and perform them. If anyone would like to play the Trombone Concerto, for example, I should be very happy to oblige with the piano reduction of the orchestral part, and even happier if someone else would do so, as my fingers are prone to hitting wrong notes. Also, as I have mentioned, I have plenty of choral music (four parts).

If anyone is interested, I would be very glad to arrange a session. I promise one thing—that those unfamiliar with Gordon Jacob's music will no doubt enjoy it when they perform it.

Yours, etc.,

G. R. OGRAM.

Unpopular and unnecessary

Dear Sir,

DURING the present session, the chief problem which has been at the forefront of student affairs has been that of catering. Without doubt, Mr. Williams' article, in last week's Guild News was one of the most sober attempts at an analysis of the situation which has appeared so far. But, Mr. Williams has ignored several aspects of the situation and has given undue emphasis to certain points of view.

The question is one of vital importance, as the decision where to eat next term will have to be made soon. The main criticism which can be made is that the whole catering issue has arisen due to the impetuous and ill-considered decisions which were taken last term. Many unfortunate consequences could have been avoided by a little foresight, and the matter should have been postponed

PRESS POST

for a few weeks, considering that it has been postponed for years without any decision having been reached.

Complaints that the Guild and even Council were not kept informed of the situation are justified. It is good to see, that, following a suggestion at the last Council meeting, this situation is to be avoided before a further decision is taken. Unfortunately, there seems to have been a policy of deliberately hoodwinking the members of the Guild and Council into accepting a situation which was not only unpopular, but unnecessary.

One of the reasons why there are shorter queues in the Refec. than there were in the Union is that fewer people are eating. Students are changing their habits, taking a coffee-room snack in the evening and their big meal at midday. For many students, the Union has ceased to exist, becoming the preserve of a minority in the evenings. The Special Meals Service

Ordinary degree society

Dear Sir,

STUDENTS reading for an ordinary degree often feel their department society caters too much for the specialist, with the result that they soon lose interest.

For this reason, it has been decided to form the O.D. Society which give its members a wider and more general series of functions in which members can take a keen and active part. Obviously the society will people from different departments to mix a great deal, the advantage which cannot be denied in a provincial University.

The first meeting of the Society will be held in the Committee Room, at 5 p.m., on Friday, February 27, in order to elect officers and to discuss future policy. It is hoped that many G.D. students will attend and give support. We need YOUR help.

Yours, etc.,

D. EVANS (Gen.)



This week in The Listener

(ISSUE DATED FEBRUARY 26)

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE SUN

Patrick Moore

THE DIFFICULTIES OF SPACE NAVIGATION

Kenneth Glyn Jones

DIVIDED COUNCILS

(on the Government's plan for reshaping local Government)

J. H. Grainger

THEATRICAL TOURING IN EDWARDIAN TIMES

Beatrice Forbes-Robertson

THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Sir Walter Puckey

WARY WELCOME IN CYPRUS

Patrick Smith (B.B.C. Rome Correspondent)

THE LAW AND THE RESCUER

A. G. Guest

ON TRANSLATING FROM THE RUSSIAN

Manya Harari

and other features

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EVERY THURSDAY

FROM NEWSAGENTS & BOOKSELLERS

6



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FAIRY SNOW · FLASH · MIRRO · CAMAY · SYLVAN · DRENE · INDUSTRIAL DETERGENTS · COOKING FATS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS

These arguments are misguided and misleading

I HAVE just re-read the articles in the last three editions of "Guild News" concerned with South Africa. Only one of them is subjective towards the situation confronting students of higher education in South Africa.

What a pity that students sufficiently interested in South Africa should cloud the issue in generalities so much that the interests of native African students are lost in the mass of "uninformed criticism" on both sides.

We are able to do something infinitely more useful than argue. We can act and I hope will act, all of us, in two ways.

(1) We can make sure that the government and people of South Africa know how we feel about the restrictions endangering the autonomy of the "open" universities.

In case you are not sure of the facts I quote two paragraphs from the Extension of Un-Education Bill.

"31. As from a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by proclamation in the Gazette, no non-white person who was not registered as a student of a university establishment by Act of Parliament other than the University of South Africa (mainly a correspondent University—F.B.B.), on or before the said date, shall register with or attend any such University as a student without the written consent of the Minister (probably the Minister of Native Affairs—F.B.B.). Provided that this section shall not apply to non-white persons in respect of their registration and attendance as students at the Medical School. (This is the Medical School for Non-Europeans of the University of Natal).

"32. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 31, as from a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by proclamation in the Gazette, no non-white person shall register with or attend any university establishment other than the University of South Africa, as a

student provided that the provisions of this subsection shall not be construed as preventing any non-white person who is registered as a student at a university of South Africa, on the said date, from completing at that university the course of study or training for the degree, diploma or certificate for which he is or was so registered; provided further that this section shall not apply to non-white persons in respect of their registration and attendance as students at the Medical School."

The result of these two clauses is to refuse the Open Universities the right to accept non-white students.

It is our abhorrence of this that we must make known. We must support those fighting against the Bill and advertise to those who are for it the climate of student opinion in this country.

A chance to help in this way will be given in the N.U.S. campaign.

(2) These two clauses show that it is still possible for non-Europeans to enter the open universities. The only limitation at present is the lack of funds.

The dance held recently in this University raised a little money—thanks mainly to outside sales. What are we inside doing to justify our being fellow students with South Africans.

The target here has been set at £1500. This is enough to finance one student through a complete university course. Soon the committee will be asking for donations perhaps from you. I remind you that the cost of one evening at the

SOUTH AFRICA

pictures or of one pint of beer, received from every student would raise in the region of £400. This is enough to ensure entrance to a university of at least two non-Europeans who may otherwise not have this chance.

Donations may now be made out to the President's South Africa Fund and given to any member of S.A.S.S.I.C.

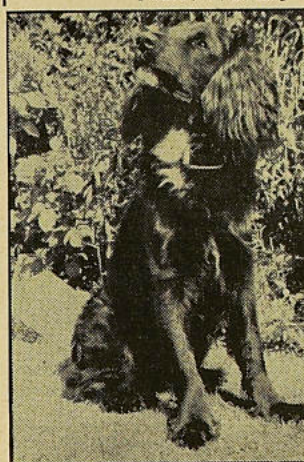
These two methods of action are not for those students who wish to make a name for themselves or are too interested in their own comfort to leave the sphere of argument for that action.

I hope on this matter you will agree that actions speak louder than words.

F. B. BLADER.

Oh, yes, my dear, I wouldn't miss G.T.G.'s "Penny for a Song," for worlds.

Photo: P. J. Roy



EXPEDITION TO LAPLAND

LAPLAND is a land of mountains and fiords in the west, and in the east it is hilly and undulating with many rivers and lakes. The main occupation is the grazing of sheep, cattle and reindeer. Snow covers the area for at least half the year, but the great thaw heralds the short mild summer, which brings forth a rich and flourishing tundra vegetation.

This summer, an expedition from the Birmingham University Biological Society will spend three weeks in Lapland making plant and insect collections for research work in this and other universities. The expedition party, under the leadership of P. D. Neale, will consist of three women and five men; six will be newly graduated botanists, one a geneticist and one is a mycology research student.

The party leaves Newcastle on July 13, to travel by sea to Bergen and then by road for 1,200 miles to Kiruna in Swedish Lapland. After working in this area, the expedition will travel north again for a further 400 miles to work on an area of the Norwegian Finnmark Plateau. The return journey will be via the Norwegian coast and Bergen once more, arriving in Britain on August 16.

The expedition has purchased an ex-Navy ambulance, which the makers are generously overhauling. Such a vehicle, capable of tackling the

roughest terrain, will be invaluable in the area where the only identifiable roads are mere tracks.

Lapland is very sparsely populated and advantage will be taken of the towns of Kiruna and Kautokelino for stocking up provisions and petrol. The party will live under canvas for a month; equipment is being lent by the Geology Department and Dr. J. G. Hawkes, recently returned from his Central American Expedition.

The project is being financed partly by a grant from the University Field Research and Expedition Fund. Assistance is also being requested from other academic bodies and from local industrial concerns. By turning their hand to tree-felling, members of the Biological Society recently earned £30 for the expedition's funds.

Specimens of flowering plants and mosses will be collected in Lapland for the University herbarium and for research work. Photographs will be taken of plants in their natural habitats. Soil fungi will be collected for research on the control of crop pests, and specimens of terrestrial and aquatic insects which will be collected for the Geology Department will assist in the identification of comparable fossil material from British glacial deposits.

This is the first student expedition of its kind from Birmingham for many years. It is hoped that three weeks intensive work in the field will produce some valuable material and justify the confidence placed in the expedition's organisers by the staff members and the University authorities.

C. YARDLEY.

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WORLD FESTIVAL FOR PEACE

THE World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship has been held every two years since 1947. They offer a unique opportunity for young people from virtually every country in the world to meet in one place. At the Festival such artificial barriers as territorial frontiers and cold war tensions are broken down and religious or political differences are secondary to the common desire for mutual understanding and world peace.

The Festival is a noble ideal, but it is the victim in Western Europe of much unfavourable criticism. Too often the only interest shown in the Festival is to denigrate it, whilst its aims—the promotion of international friendship and understanding—are either misconceived or totally ignored.

Last week's "Guild News" carried an extract from an article by the Austrian National Union of Students attacking the Vienna Youth Festival. There was much unjustified criticism and distortion of the facts, but the nature and aims of the Festival were not mentioned.

The 7th Festival takes place in Vienna from July 26 to August 4 this year, and is the first to be held outside a Communist country since the original Festival in 1947. The decision to hold it in Vienna was made at the International Preparatory Conference held in Stockholm in March, 1958. Alternative sites offered for the Festival were the capitals of Ceylon and Czechoslovakia.

The participants in the Conference constituted themselves as the International Preparatory Committee (I.P.C.) with a Festival preparatory organisation in Vienna.

At the Stockholm Conference, 42 out of 130 participants were representatives of Communist youth organisations. This proportion is enough to bring from many quarters the cry of "Communist dominated." However, if Western youth organisations took up the invitation of the I.P.C. to play a full part in the Festival and its preparations, the proportion of Communist representation would become much smaller. Many Western national youth organisations, including national unions of students, held the untenable position of refusing to participate either in the Preparatory Conference or in any Festival committees, and yet they criticise the administration for not representing their views.

The Austrian students' article, in listing only three international youth organisations as represented at the Stockholm Conference, failed to mention the World Union of Jewish Students, the Y.M.C.A. and the two federations of African students. Twenty-five national student organisations took part; 10 members of I.U.S., six of I.S.C., C.O.S.E.C., five unions with common membership, and four affiliated unions.

In speaking of the representation of Britain at the Stockholm Conference as consisting solely of "an accordion player," last week's article is deliberately misquoting. In fact there was a representative of the National Accordion Organisation, which will take part in the musical events of the Festival, and a representative of the British Youth Festival Committee, which organises Festival publicity in this country. It is a pity that more national youth organisations did not accept the invitation to take part.

The student affairs of the Festival are administered by the Students' Commission, which was elected at Stockholm, and is composed of representatives of the National Unions of the Argentine, Brazil, France, Japan, Poland, China, Sudan, Colombia and Chile, the Students' Confederation of North Africa, and the Federation of Black Students in France. In addition, there is one representative of the I.U.S. and places are reserved for I.S.C./C.O.S.E.C. and Austria.

The Austrian Students have so far refused to take their place on the Students' Commission, and the Swiss N.U.S., which was originally elected to the Commission, has withdrawn on week and largely undefined grounds. In fact, the only bias the Festival has is towards mutual understanding and tolerance, and the only politics at the Festival are those brought by the participants.

NO POLITICAL BIAS

A POPULAR misconception is that the Festival passes political resolutions. In fact, no resolutions are passed. Delegations of all countries are free to put their point of view in discussion, and there is generally a united appeal for world peace, but with no political qualification.

One of the conditions of acceptance of the Festival by the Austrian Government was a pledge to allow no political propaganda or bias. Nevertheless, some of the Austrian youth organisations, principally the students, socialist and Catholic youth, still remain aloof and aggressive on spurious ideological grounds. Chancellor Kaab, of Austria, who is also the leader of the Catholic Party, welcomed the Festival, and in a speech invited young Austrian Catholics, rather than to withdraw within themselves to prepare for the reception of the young people of the world.

BIRMINGHAM INTEREST

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (C.N.D.) in this University is supporting the Vienna Festival. The Campaign feels that it must, whenever possible, support international gatherings convened for the purpose of promoting understanding and peace. For this reason we sent a delegate to the Congress for Disarmament and International Co-operation last year, and we are sending representatives to the Vienna Youth Festival to put the views of British students who are concerned for Nuclear Disarmament and Peaceful Co-existence.

Students activities at the Festival will consist of seminars on educational and students problems, and at the seminar on the "Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy" the C.N.D. will present a paper. There will be many informal discussions and the C.N.D. hopes for exchanges with youth and student organisations from other countries on problems of nuclear disarmament, European disengagement and all roads to peace. Besides international faculty and scientific meetings, there is a Students' Carnival Night, an international students' concert, and many cultural and sporting competitions. At the Festival's International Film Festival, we hope to enter the film of the Aldermaston Anti-H-Bomb march.

The programme of the Festival has much to offer British Youth, irrespective of their religious or political viewpoint. We hope that several students will attend from this University, and that the British delegation will be as large and as representative as possible. Most people in this trouble-torn world desire a stable peace through negotiation and without force. One way of ensuring the agreement of governments is by the strengthening of mutual tolerance, understanding, and friendship of the ordinary people of all nations.

Perhaps our ideas can be summed up by quoting "Gaudie," the journal of Aberdeen University: "What is the future of co-existence if we refuse to co-exist? . . . We ourselves last year had four Russian students in Aberdeen, and we were very friendly. Most of us who had any thing to do with them had a special friend among them, but all relations were cordial . . . This is not to say that because we can get on with them personally, international peace will follow, but at any rate, if we have no personal contact peace will never come."

"We say: Go to Vienna, and co-exist!"

COMMITTEE UNIVERSITY CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Stereo Review

RAVEL: Bolero, La Valse, Rapsodie Espagnole.
DEBUSSY: Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun.
Munch, Boston Symphony Orchestra.
Victor Stereo SB 2019.
Performance: Authoritative.
Recording: Very good.

The B.S.O. excels in the Ravel works. Drummer Harold Farberman and the rest of the "kitchen" propel "Bolero" in fine style, and the harp and wind are beautifully caught by the engineers. My only complaint is an apparent tape splice about seven minutes after the start, after which the tempi quickens. "La Valse" is given a driving rendering, with especially thrilling final pages. If I prefer Reiner's "Rapsodie Espagnole" for its subtler nuances and clarity, nevertheless I admire Munch's vigour. Debussy's "Faun" has a pleasant afternoon, with fine flute playing by Miss Dwyer. There is very good sound throughout and natural, unexaggerated stereo effects.

FAVOURITE OVERTURES.

Barbirolli, Halle Orchestra.
Pte Stereo CSDL 70005.
Performance: Good.
Recording: Excellent.

This is by far the most satisfactory Barbirolli stereo yet issued. Especially good are Wagner's "Tannhauser" and "Meistersinger." Toscanini still leads the pack for "La Forza del Destino" of Verdi, and Barbirolli takes a back seat to Beecham on Mendelssohn's "Hebrides." But these performances are good. Some of the best stereo sound yet available graces the disc, with fine clarity, balance, directionality. Notably for the Wagner, this is a highly recommended disc.

MORE BRIEFLY NOTED

Kenneth Alwyn elicits fine playing from the L.S.O.L. in Tchaikovsky's

"Overture 1812," "Capriccio Italien," and "Marche Slave" (Decca-SXL 2001). More excitement might have been generated, but the performances are unusually "musical," the recording excellent, with superb stereo effects. Klemperer's Handel Concerto Grosso in A minor, Op. 6, no. 4, and Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" suffer from distant, muddy acoustics, but the antiphonal violins are wonderful. The number is Columbia SBC 2751. Josef Krips' reading of Schubert's "Great" Symphony (Decca SXL 2045), although well-played and recorded, is bloodless and not in the same class as monophonic records by Szell or Toscanini. Neither the Ravel Piano Concerto nor the Rachmaninov Fourth Piano Concerto is a top-flight work, but the performances of Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli are splendid, and H.M.V.'s fidelity is excellent, with an unusually wide tapestry of stereo sound. The number is H.M.V. ASD 255. —R.R.J.

AS the Air France Viscount touched down at Orly Airport in Paris a few weeks ago, I was met by one of the world's greatest conductors, who is destined to become well-known in this country, Luigi Zuiteri.

I had previously met Signor Zuiteri, the Director of the Accademia Santa Barbara, Palermo, during one of his rare visits to this country, although already familiar with some of his works from American records. The twelve-tone Partita in F is a particularly attractive work.

I was welcomed into the Zuiteri Paris home on the Boulevard de Tour Maubourg. The living room, especially, with its art treasures, the rare taste of the maestro and his talented wife, Anna Masson.

Signor Zuiteri is particularly interested in British music and conductors, though he once again commented unfavourably on Sir Malcolm Sargent's showmanship.

The "raison d'être" of the trip was to play in a concert at Chatelet, the programme of which was the Verdi Requiem, and Zuiteri's Te Deum. After hearing the latter, one Paris critic raved, "Da presenza, je me croyais devant un Beethoven modern!"

We hope to include fuller descriptions of a number of Zuiteri's works, at a later date.



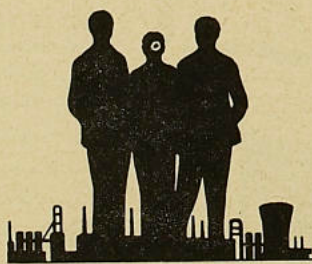
Signor Zuiteri with correspondent in Paris

Luigi Zuiteri

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A LIABILITY AND NOT AN ASSET

The German Problem

THE Four-Power occupation of Berlin rests not on the 1945 Potsdam agreement but on the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 1, 1945, following agreement among the Allies on September 12, 1944. This was confirmed in June, 1949, and July, 1955, when the Four Powers reaffirmed their common responsibility for the settlement of the German question, including Berlin. None of these agreements are open to unilateral repudiation—they may be terminated only by mutual consent and be replaced by other negotiated agreements.

The question of Berlin must be considered as part of the German problem. That there is a problem is largely the fault of the United States which was instrumental in bringing about the rearmament of West Germany. This was the biggest mistake since the war for already the Nazis are creeping back into power, and Adenauer is looking greedily across at East Germany. The next war will not be started by Russia or by the United States (in spite of the efforts of Mr. Dulles) but by Germany. Britain, France and the United States must act now, disarm West Germany, take over Krupp's establishments and maintain strong forces there at Germany's expense.

West Berlin is more of a liability than an asset. Although it is "an island of freedom surviving in a sea of Communist dictatorship," it is not worth the trouble and expense of keeping. Dulles says we must be prepared to go to war over Berlin. This country was fighting Germany, the country which had committed the worst atrocities in the history of the world. Are we now to be asked to take up arms to protect some two and a quarter million of our former enemies?

It is the German people, not the Kaiser or Hitler, who must take most of the blame for causing two world wars. In the Second World War German forces occupied France, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Channel Islands, Austria, Poland, Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Greece, Czechoslovakia, and Russia. The population of West Berlin represents a very small proportion of those who suffered under the Germans. To cause more suffering to prevent them falling under Russian rule would be sheer folly.

West Berlin has become a pawn in the international game and sometimes pawns must be sacrificed. It is a strong bargaining point in favour of the Western Powers. For the Russians want West Berlin and we don't particularly want it, so why not come to terms? Allow the Russians to occupy West Berlin in return for such concessions as the withdrawal of Russian troops from Hungary or a trade or disarmament pact.

The Berlin problem and the whole German question must be settled by negotiation between Britain, France, Russia and the United States. But the three Western Powers must remain firm on one point—that Germany must not be reunited. Let them remember that just fourteen years ago they and Russia were united in a common cause, the destruction of the monster of German militarism. Now, while they are quibbling among themselves, the monster is reappearing behind their backs. If action is taken now against Germany can never again become a world power one of the most likely causes of a future war will be removed.

BRIAN STACEY,
Chairman, Conservative Association.

A HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Mr. M. J. Stanley was voted Diary Secretary for next year, and he welcomed any future suggestions of Council as regards the format (or changing of it) of next year's Guild Diary.

Much of the evening was taken up with a consideration of the motions for the N.U.S. Council at Hull in April, but first our delegates were elected. Messrs. Snowden, Rastall and Williams are to go by virtue of their positions, and Council elected Messrs. Blake, Luby and Levy to join them. They also elected Miss Righton and Messrs. Thompson and Ramsey to go as observers. There was not a great deal of discussion on mandates and only a handful of the mandates suggested by Mr. Snowden's Committee were changed. Details of these will be issued at a later date.

Under A.O.B. Mr. Cleal suggested that details for Refec. discussion should be published before the next

This, the second of three articles about the N.U.S., is intended to summarise the policies which represent British student opinion. Their formulation is the direct result of motions passed at previous meetings of N.U.S. Council, and have been determined by the student bodies which constitute the N.U.S.

INTERESTED COUNCIL

Waking up to its responsibilities

COUNCIL is undoubtedly waking up to its responsibilities, and more informed opinion, added to clear thinking made for an excellent session last Thursday. The meetings, in two halves, went on till 9.30 p.m., largely due to the long considerations of motions before the next N.U.S. Council, but it never failed to be interesting and it is a great pity that it was not an open meeting, for it had more to offer than the previous two. A great pity too, that several councillors did not see fit to attend at all, while others contented themselves by staying for the first half only.

The Refec. discussion was postponed, pending fuller information, and Exec. promised to ensure full publicity for the benefit of councillors and general members of the Guild. The Chairman also communicated that as yet no speaker had been found for Guild Dinner and Ball (members are reminded that tickets are now on sale from Mr. R. T. Jones at the Union). He was pleased to note that, while no details are available there had been a profit made from the Bachelor of Hearts Ball in aid of South African students. In this connection, the President is about to open a South African Appeal Fund with a £1,500 target. Contributions will be gratefully accepted at once.

DEMO CRITAS.

Question time provided few queries. In answer to Mr. Sutton, Mr. Heseltine said that it was the responsibility of the steward himself and, or house members to enforce rules on card playing in Guild Club. Mr. Wood asked for an enquiry into the keeping open of parts of the Union in future during Founder's Dinner and Ball.

Elections' galore

Publications Committee elections were held for the Editors of *Guild News* and *Merridale* for next Session. These elections take place early so the editors may have a chance to learn something of the workings of their publications. All elections were very closely contested and the new editor for *Merridale* will be D. J. Andrew, a third year Medic, while *Guild News* will be in the hands of M. R. D. Seaward, at present a final year botanist.

No details are yet known of next year's Carnival or whether it will be possible to hold one, but in case there will be one, elections for the Chairman of Carnival Committee took place, and Roger Sutton, this year's street collection organiser was elected. It should be stressed that for key posts on the committee it is essential to have people with some knowledge of its workings. Mr. M. J. Stanley was voted Diary Secretary for next year, and he welcomed any future suggestions of Council as regards the format (or changing of it) of next year's Guild Diary.

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YOU AND N.U.S.

BY
Ken Williams

SOUTH AFRICA. The Union has for over two years been actively opposed to the policies of segregation, as applied to universities or institutions of higher education, which the South African Government has been putting into practice. In all probability, a national campaign will be launched in the near future to aid non-European South Africans to enter and complete a university training.

GRANTS. This has been excellently dealt with by Grants and Welfare secretary in two extracts from the Memorandum published already in *Guild News*.

HALLS OF RESIDENCE. The needs for these is strongly felt, and N.U.S. is pressing the recommendation from the University Grants Committee, which indicates this need to the Government, to be implemented at the earliest possible date.

COMPOSITION OF COURSES. N.U.S. Council is "concerned at reports that certain academic courses are over-loaded, thus preventing students from taking part in non-academic activities which are essential to the obtaining of full benefit of higher education. Council urges that the relevant authorities examine where and how this situation

can be remedied, and to act accordingly." INSURANCE. Many students do not realise that, if they do not pay National Insurance contributions during their academic career, they have to make up for this when they start work in order to benefit fully. As students they are not covered by insurance. N.U.S. is pressing that contributions be dealt with as an integral part of the grant to ensure that students do not suffer later, and that they are covered while studying.

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES. There is still much trouble caused by anomalies in grants, due to the multiplicity of regulations imposed by the L.E.A.s. Also, even after ministerial recommendations, thirteen L.E.A.s are not paying vacation allowance. N.U.S. has suggested that a central grant awarding authority be set up to deal with grants—regulations and distribution. It would take administrative work off local authorities, and provide students with a national system so that each student would receive equal treatment. With regard to the award of a grant, N.U.S. feels "that the sole qualification for receipt of a university grant should be admission to a university, and calls upon national and local authorities to pay full maintenance." The present policy as regards the means test is that all should receive the same grant regardless of parental income. The principle involved is: can a student be regarded as a person capable enough to be no longer dependent on his parents? Many parents have suffered hardships to keep us at school; why should this continue into university life?

In general, the film suggests that man, when conditioned by his society finds these full experiences beyond him. However, they are there for him, if he is strong enough and capable enough to reach them, and if he can visualise them. This is the fisherman's hero.

The plot of "The Old Man and the Sea" is a perfect setting for this drama. Via James Wong Howe's mature glorious photography we have a Cuban fisherman desecrated by age, refined of all extraneous feelings, chasing a big fish out in the Caribbean, in the Gulf Stream. And the experience of catching the fish, which pushes the man beyond his physical capabilities, to the limit of his endeavours, and thus synthesises his basic philosophy for him, is beautifully timed, with well selected episodes by John Stringers and the other directors who took part.

Credit must be given to Spencer Tracy as the humble fisherman, often Hollywood-type reactions creep in, but not too often to ruin the film. Despite poor cutting techniques in the killing of the fish sequences, never have I seen a more beautiful fish. A film deserving of praise most certainly. A film with an aim, a didactic purpose, and an exquisite methods which are not often met with to-day in the cinema, and as such deserving of your viewing.

K.R.C.

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Background to Basie

"The Count can't see anyone—he's sick," announced his manager, Henry. "I want to take him straight back to London after the show," added tour manager Doug Tobout.

I've heard that excuse before, I thought, every notable American jazzman who visits this town seems to be suffering from some mysterious ailment.

But this time it happened to be true.

For at that moment the Count emerged from his dressing room, a slight figure of a man, intent upon his business with a look of pain in his eyes and his face swollen to the size of a football, he moved on to the stage and the Basie machine roared into action.

But the Count made many trips off stage, for when in pain he crept to the wings, clutching his face and uttering pathetic cries.

It was during one of these trips that he was introduced to pop singer, Dennis Lotis; he had popped in to catch the last half of the concert after his nightly prancings in "Puss in Boots." Clad in a tangerine mohair sweater, the teenage idol was completely engrossed in the singing of Joe Williams, following every vocal manoeuvre with rapt attention.

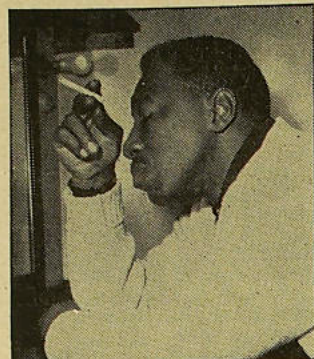
A little later I had a chance to have a chat with Joe Williams. I found him in a thoughtful mood. He remarked that this had been a good day, he had had a chance to do some reading, about 400 pages of *Dr. Zhivago*, which he couldn't wait to finish, and had known little pain. I thought this a strange remark from such a usually regarded happy person,

Basie in Brum

IN contrast with George Lewis's band, the second American jazz group to tour this year has been the Count Basie Orchestra which gave two concerts at the Odeon on Tuesday, February 17. This is the Count's third British tour in the last two years and appears to be as successful as its predecessors, the second of which incidentally included an appearance at the Royal Variety Performance.

Basie is still the best big band in this country according to the popularity polls, although his monopoly over British audiences was broken by Duke Ellington tour last October, but it has been of interest to compare these two bands now that both have been heard "in the flesh."

After a late start to the second concert, the band soon showed that the basic style had not changed despite new material and a few changes within the band. The scores were disappointingly similar and unadventurous both in sound and scoring, the band too often resorted to rowdiness to whip up excitement, and the soloists were given little room or opportunity for improvisation. Billy Mitchell, the newcomer on tenor, proved he could honk like Gonsalves, and the trombone section have caught on to the modern trombone school's trick of sliding up to very high notes. However, the rhythm section provided a crisp, neat and steady beat throughout, and Basie took more solos than usual, instead of limiting himself to



Joe Williams in a
Thoughtful mood

He crept to the wings
uttering pathetic cries

and pressed for the reason why he was so pleased about just living pain-free day. It seemed that he had had a pain in his shoulder and he was worried as to whether it was just the result of an old basket ball injury or the first signs of some dreadful heart disease.

Now it was interval time, and the boys had wandered off the stage, drinking scotch from bottles, munching enormous sandwiches or reading, they lolled around the dressing rooms.

As usual my camera equipment caused comment and it wasn't long before I was engrossed in a discussion with saxist and ardent photographer, Frank Foster, on the merits of various cameras and gadgets.

All too soon it was time for the second half to start and I went on front to hear it with the feeling that musicians, even world famous ones, are just as liable to the pains and pleasures of life as any of us ordinary mortals.

introductions. The best numbers by far were the medium tempo blues when the band played quietly and with a delicate swing.

The first half woke up when Joe Newman (muted trumpet) and Frank Wess (flute) played their feature "The Midgits," both soloing well, and Eddie Jones (bass) took a bright solo including in it the usual quotes. Previously the three trombones had played a feature which ended as a cutting contest, and the two tenors, Frank Wess and Foster, squeaked a good deal in their duet. The second half began well with numbers such as the standard "April in Paris," but degenerated into the inevitable drum feature; this suited Sonny Payne's exhibitionist style and oddly enough he played the tune "Old Man River" throughout. Inevitably, too, came the vocal spot, Joe Williams sang well as big band singers go, but overstayed his welcome and became monotonous. How can one take three choruses of "Well, Oh well, Oh well..."?

The show ended as something of an anti-climax; the band played one number and an encore after Williams finished before Marshall Royal surprised the audience by leading into the National Anthem. The time waste and the crush outside the Odeon showed poor management, but this was more than compensated by a well-planned and written programme, and good amplification system (even Freddie Greene's guitar could be heard).

Ellington is a better showman than Basie, and he enjoys better composers, but Basie's band plays with a natural swing which the Duke's can rarely equal. Furthermore, Basie has greater resources such as the Edison-inspired Thad Jones (fortunately he has no one to match Cat Anderson's squeals), the trombones of Henry Coker and Benny Howell, Frank Wess' flute, and, of course, his perfect rhythm. In brief, when they were good they were superb, but when they were poor they were poor. One can only await with interest the tours by Woody Herman, Buck Clayton and Errol Garner later this year. M.E.B.

G.T.G. Productions: 'Alive—O' and 'A Phoenix Too Frequent'

The prophecy, made last week in *Guild News* that "Alive—O" would provide lively and controversial entertainment was certainly realised. The gist of the plot was that Harold Wintercott (Mike Freeman) was dispatched by Mr. Veign to seduce Mrs. Veign (Della Horobin) in order to provide grounds for divorce.

Mike Freeman gave a spirited performance, his facial expressions and his mannerisms being well suited to the part. The change in his character was very effectively carried out, not only by his actions, but also in so far as he succeeded in giving the audience the impression that he was living the part.

Della Horobin, in the part of Mrs. Veign had a more difficult task. At first we were not sure whether she was really objecting to Mr. Wintercott's intentions—she was emphatic in her denials, yes, but these denials appeared a little superficial. Later on, however, once she had attained the upper hand, there was no denying Miss Horobin's acting ability. Her's may be classed as a promising performance.

With regard to the play as a whole, although Mr. Osborne's dialogue and plot are by now rather well worn, I

THEATRE

do not believe that they were of primary importance in the play, except in so far as they threw light on the characters. It was this character searching that Mr. Osborne concentrated on, and for the most part he was successful. Through the actions and partly through the words we saw how characters reacted, and how they were affected under great stress, also we saw the depths of despair that one can be reduced to. Perhaps most clearly we saw their reactions to circumstances. It was a pity that the end of the play was such an anti-climax; this was the weakest part.

'A Phoenix Too Frequent.'

'A Phoenix Too Frequent,' by C. Fry, was set in the tomb of Virgilus near Ephesus, where his wife, Dyanemene (Margaret Oates) and her servant, Doto (Gill Stribley) were to die on account of Dyanemene's grief at her husband's death. The arrival of Tegeus, a soldier (Alan Kennedy) culminated in him and Dyanemene's falling in love.

On the whole I was rather disappointed with the play; certainly parts of it were amusing, but for the average layman the long passages in verse proved a little obscure, and this detracted from the comedy. The video interesting entertainment

of play, and partly with the fact they did not put enough life in their parts. They seemed to still too much, and they did not interest to the play. This was especially true of Alan Kennedy, who appeared for the most part to be lifeless; he just recited the words. Gill Stribley was successful in bringing forth the comedy in part, but her broad adopted manner, although it certainly accentuated the difference between her and mistress, proved in parts difficult to understand.

Margaret Oates' performance of a high standard. She made use of her acting abilities when with a dramatic conflict between duty and desire. She expressed realistic anguish when she heard from dying honourably.

Perhaps the moral of *Christie's* Fry's play was expressed in the second half we gained the lead, but in the last five minutes Loughborough came through to win by eight points. Unfortunately, we were held a full side for nearly all the performance against Dalobran. Match result: Loughborough 89, Birmingham 51 points.

FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION BASKETBALL CLUB'S BIG IMPROVEMENT

THE Basketball team have been very active recently, and have recorded very creditable wins over national club finalists Dalobran, the B.A.I., and Sheffield University, and lost very narrowly to both Loughborough and Cambridge.

The match against Dalobran was outstanding, as our team had to play with only four of the first team members against a side which included a British international. The match was a close one throughout and the result reflects the University's tremendous improvement, as, last term, we lost to this side by 80-46. Match result: Birmingham 47, Dalobran 42.

The match at Loughborough was similar throughout to that played last term. Soon after the start of the second half we gained the lead, but in the last five minutes Loughborough came through to win by eight points. Unfortunately, we were held a full side for nearly all the performance against Dalobran. Match result: Loughborough 89, Birmingham 51 points.

Narrower margin in Cambridge match

Last term, when we visited Cambridge, we were beaten by the tremendous score of 100-28, but Saturday 14th saw a full-strength Birmingham side lose narrowly by 50 to 46 points after being in the lead for nearly all the match. At half-time we were three points up with J. Sovka and Bob Mettlan both playing exceptionally well. Umit Imre had an off-day and missed several baskets he would normally have got. Towards the end of the third quarter, Cambridge managed to take a slight lead and we were not able to close the gap. This was a game that was enjoyed by a large number of supporters, being both fast and exciting throughout.

Further victories

The B.A.I., who had beaten us last term, were well and truly thrashed in a return fixture last week. The Birmingham team were prominent in all departments of the game and took a lead from the beginning of the game, which they held quite comfortably throughout. At half-time the score was 34-12, due mainly to J. Sovka, who had scored 14 points, and by the end of the second half we had amassed a 40 points lead, due to accurate shooting by both Kempson and Imre. Final score: B.A.I. 31, University 71 points.

On Saturday, only eight members of the club were able to travel for our fixture with Sheffield. We were welcomed to a small gymnasium, which with its low ceiling and dim lights looked like an oriental bazaar. After the start, it was obvious that our side would have a hard task to adjust itself, whereas the Sheffield team felt very comfortable in these strange surroundings. At half-time Sheffield were leading by 34-28, and so we started the second half playing a tight man to a man defence, and managed to break into the lead just before the end of the match. Umit Imre had one of his best games and scored 28 out of our total of 58; also noticeable were Bob Kempson, who scored 12 points for the first team and Trevor Bertie and P. Shahideh, who played in both first and second team games. Final score: Sheffield 54, Birmingham 58 points.

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LONG AWAITED VICTORY

ON Wednesday last Bristol University were the victims in an unprecedented performance by the swimming team. On odd occasions in the past year, the men's swimming team have won University fixtures, and quite frequently we have gained combined victories with the ladies' team, but never before this year has the water polo team managed to beat another university side. On Wednesday, however, a full strength team recorded a 3-2 victory over our Bristol visitors.

The swimming team also won, by larger margins than usual, Birmingham swimmers coming first in every event. For the men, H. King won the free style in 6:07 secs., B. Sarimpton the backstroke and P. Coultas the butterfly and preastroke. Even so the most encouraging result was the free style relay win in 67.2 secs., an average of 16.8 secs. per man. If the team spirit and form shown in this match is maintained the teams might manage to win the rest of their fixtures.

As usual, the ladies won by a large margin, Birmingham competitors again taking first places in all races. Jane Spencer won the back stroke and free style races and was ably supported by Pauline Barton and Anthea Andrews in these events. Sheila Lowe won the breast stroke race in a very creditable time and Anthea Andrews took the butterfly event.

The final result was: Birmingham 72 points, Bristol 45 points.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CHAMPION

Last Saturday the British Universities' Cross-Country Championships were held at Wythenshawe Park, Manchester, in cold, blustery weather. A hundred and eighty four runners from twenty three Universities started over a flat 7 1/2 mile course with a few stretches of mud. The field was exceptionally strong this year as the low placings of many runners of representative class showed.

After 2 1/2 miles, four runners, J. Eales (Oxford), A. S. Jackson (Edinburgh), R. Hill (Manchester) and Dave Shaw, were about 15 yards clear of the field. After 5 miles, Shaw and Jackson had dropped the others, and the race was between these two old school mates from now on.

With 300 yards to go there was only 3 yards in it, but then Dave, still moving easily, got away and won by about 30 yards. This is the first time that Birmingham has provided the individual winner since the event started in 1930.

The failure of the team to be in the first three or four was very surprising, considering the club's record this year; the 10th position that we occupied in the team placings being far below the capabilities of the side.

Women's Hockey Club

WITH yet another 2nd XI match being cancelled only the first XI travelled to Keele on Wednesday to play N. Staffs. U.C., and, although the half-time score was 1-1 the final result was 5-2 in Birmingham's favour.

The first goal came in the first minute of the game as a result of a fine passing movement which ended when Anne Edgington scored a well-taken goal from the edge of the circle. N. Staffs, reloaded and were rather fortunate to score the equaliser after a muddle in the goalmouth. Up to half-time Birmingham remained on the offensive, but despite the award of several corners, could not further increase their score.

After the interval Birmingham continued to attack but seemed content to relinquish the ball in the face of the wild and sometimes dangerous tackles executed by the N. Staffs defence. Verona Bolan scored to regain the lead for Birmingham but some minutes later N. Staffs again equalised. However, during the last 15 minutes, further goals were scored for Birmingham by Anne Edgington, Jean Roberts and Verona Bolan. Outstanding in the defence was Rita Thompson who did much to maintain the Birmingham attacks.

SPORTS SHORTS

Squash rackets—Men

The University reached the final of the U.A.A.U. Championship by beating Southampton University 4-1 on Saturday, February 14. The final against Manchester University is being held at Birmingham on March 7.

In recent weeks, the University completed the double over Wolverhampton when they beat them 3-2, away. This is the first time that the University have beaten Wolverhampton twice in one season for many years. Priory defeated the University 4-1, the only win being that of John White, who beat R. M. Powell 3-2 after saving two match points in the fourth game.

Golfers overwhelmed University 1, Sutton Coldfield 7 1/2

The golfers were up against it last Saturday at Streteley, when heavy losses were sustained. Roy Duff played well to halve with P. W. Tait after a great battle and Tony Jowle also did well to be only one down to J. L. Morgan, the famous Walker Cup player.

Table Tennis

In an eventful trip to London on Saturday, some somewhat sensational "domestic difficulties" the Table Tennis team suffered a 6-4 defeat. Our team was minus Saeed and Blackhouse and to gain four sets against the strong London side was no mean achievement.

Cleal, Bolton and Forestry each won one of their singles sets, and Forestry and Brown won their doubles match. Some indication of the closeness of the match was the large number of games which went to the third set.

The U.A.U. final for 1959, in which Birmingham are meeting Durham, has been fixed for March 7.

Hat-trick for Sood

On Wednesday, the Men's Hockey XI beat a weakened Staffordshire XI by 4-1. The standard of the Staffs. team was lower than had been expected and the University were always on top. Sood scored three times for Birmingham, the first being a short corner shot which just crossed the line before being pushed out again; the second came after a fine run down the middle past a couple of defenders, and he completed his hat-trick with a fine short corner shot. Hurst completed the score for Birmingham and also noticeable was Drayney who played a much improved game. The defence was not so steady as it could have been and speed and intelligent use of the ball will have to be developed for the matches to come.

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COFFEE TALK

ONE of those still Sunday mornings that hang about the outskirts of any city: children and mothers returning home from church; "I'll just bring the car round; 'What is that? Oh, not another thermos flask lid?"; and into it all crunch milk bottle crates and a milkman whistling, milkmen whistling the aria, "None Shall Sleep."

Of all things on a Sunday morning, a milkman whistling Puccini. The tender melody rises, like a great tide backed by the wind, but without noise — all that strength and no noise — hangs for a moment, towering, then dissipates itself in idle repetition.

For a milkman to whistle this nostalgic melody seemed strangely moving. Had this been Italy, no wonder would be found in it. Perhaps here we have our own tragi-comedy. The whistling milkman who would be an operatic tenor, blowing the boomerang of his voice high through the galleries of Covent Garden and catching it tenderly by the last echo, to send it winging again about his winsome soprano.

Was it money that prevented his career? Somewhere, nearer to the city, is there a cruel father? King of Milkmen. "Ah've worked this round, man and boy, and Ah know every nook and cranny. Ah'm not a boastful man, but Ah can tell from the very look of Mrs. Witterworth's front step, if she wants one pint or two. Ah'm known throughout the district and, let me tell thee Albert, Ah'll have none o' this singing tomfoolery and such like. What were good enough for my father'll be good enough for thee."

Or is it a consumptive sister? coughing in some sanatorium, little knowing that she takes every ha'penny that might be used for singing lessons. I

hope it is a consumptive sister. That might satisfy his soul.

Then on a Saturday night, the yearning of it all. Again Italy would show a different picture. The young aspirant singing and echoing the heroes of La Scala, praised with discernment by his fellow wine bibbers. But here? "Eh, come on Albert, give us that one Max Bygraves sings. Give 'im a 'alf Jack to wet his tonsils."

And so throughout the week he goes on his milk round and whistles, as he did this morning. None shall sleep.

Of course Puccini's lovely melody may now be the setting for some pop song

Ah leave no love
For me unending.
This message
To her sending . . .

or some such. And I not know it.

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A RUSSIAN EDUCATION

RUSSIAN CLUB was pleased to welcome Mr. Matveyev, official at the Soviet Embassy and correspondent of Izvestia on Tuesday, February 17, to speak on Education in the U.S.S.R.

Mr. Matveyev gave us a comprehensive account of education in modern Russia, illustrating his facts by referring to figures; one of the most important facts was that concerning the great increase in education in Russia, an increase which began after the 1917 Revolution. In 1913 there were only 200,000 children who received Secondary education, whereas now the number has increased to over 7,000,000. In 1957, 300,000 boys and girls graduated from Soviet High Schools, 19,000 of whom were Engineers. The speaker emphasised that education in Russia to-day is being extended to Siberia, the far Eastern parts of the U.S.S.R., and the remote Republics, where, prior to the Revolution, education was completely unknown.

He attributed especially the recent successes in the sphere of Sputniks and Space Travel to the great increase in Education. Russia to-day is seeing the fulfillment of Lenin's aims, as her industry grows and her culture widens. Mr. Matveyev was convinced that if Russia was to expand industrially and agriculturally she needed educated people to work her machines. No part of the U.S.S.R. is excluded in this comprehensive plan for the expansion of Education, and this is proved by the fact that already there are Universities in all 15 Republics of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Matveyev explained the details of Soviet Education. Up to the age of 8 the children do not go to school at all; some are placed in nurseries if their parents wish it, for the rest it is for the parents to teach them if they have the desire to do so. But the real education begins after the children are 8, when they are placed in Primary Schools for 7 years. Then they proceed to Grammar Schools for 3 years, after which they may go on to University for 4, 5 or 6 years. Hence most children receive 15 or more years of uninterrupted education. They do not need to pass any exam to enter Grammar Schools, all they need is the wish to go. As in England the education they receive in Grammar Schools is just common knowledge; they do not specialise for any specific job. In the Technical Schools, however, to which thousands of Soviet children go, they do specialise and go straight into a job on leaving school. Another difference is that Grammar School children do not receive a grant whereas Technical School students do receive one.

Before proceeding to Universities, the Grammar School children must gain a diploma and also pass 4 or 5 exams. At the Universities the students receive grants equivalent to the wage of a low-paid worker. As in England, the lazy undergraduate, who fails his exams, twice, is expelled. However, he may then enter another faculty if he passes the appropriate exams. If a Russian undergraduate feels he is in the wrong faculty he is able to change his course with ease.

With regard to religion, this is not taught in Russian schools, but according to the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. every citizen has the right to believe or not to believe as he wishes.

The Universities in the U.S.S.R. have their own newspapers as in England, but apparently they concen-

trate on discussing curricula, academic topics and World Politics, rather than Sport and Social events.

Thus by means of an interesting and enlightening talk, Mr. Matveyev left us with two impressions. First, that Russia today attaches very importance to Education through her lands. But it appears that knowledge is not sought after for the sake of knowledge, but rather the material rewards that it brings. In fact, the progress of Soviet Union depends very largely on Education. Secondly, the Russian student seems to take life much more seriously than the English student. Whether this is a good or bad depends on your own interpretation of what an educational system should aim to achieve.

Ed. Street column

AS I sipped my little something at the Union last Friday evening, was pointed out to me that an occasion warranted a little luxury. A carpet had been imported to the stone floor of the foyer, having observed this aristocratic covering not felt its plush beneath my feet, I looked down in inspect. Gradually I perceived design—or what there was left—and a familiar feeling crept me. Hence, the morning after, I templated a Founder's Room of its inmates (has the plan to it open on Saturday's proved successful after all?) and stripped of its furnishings. Ah, Ed. Streeters, rejoice! Who is what distinguished personage have stepped on your carpet's stains or ash-burned holes.

I am informed by the Streets that the whole place is likely to be under water within a few days. (After the fire, it was inevitable. Owing to a slight fault in the maintenance of the billiard radiators—in fact the pipes rotting away—players are finding necessary to acquire diving equipment before venturing to put black into the end pocket, Alf, like the Dutch boy and the valiantly stands with a finger the leak for the sake of the sport. We understand that Mr. John Beardsmore and Derek man, determined not to lose daily game, are busy building a Many are at the moment of this serious state of affairs, ing abandoned the ship for domestic comforts or explorations of the and Dolgelly. (Did Mike Rep and Dave Pritchard really Snowdon, or did they bribe the man there to send cards from office as proof?) Contributions towards repair will be grate received—after all you cannot the authorities to do anything us: we shall put up with the until we move out in eight month time—but help is especially by Alf.

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Designed and produced by Industrial News Service, 192, Corporation Street, Birmingham 4, Central 5154, for the Guild of Undergraduates, Birmingham University. Printed by Nuneaton Newspapers Ltd., Bond Gate, Nuneaton