

Per Roan

GUILD

NEWS 3D



THURSDAY, MAY 11th, 1961 No. 593

4 IN PRESIDENT BATTLE

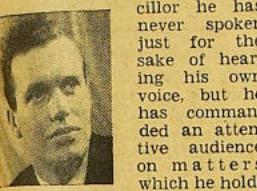
Sam Hiron

THE task of electing a President requires an effort which can be easily underestimated. It is easy to pick out flamboyant extroverts who have made an obvious mark on Guild affairs, but we must not ignore those whose influence on Guild affairs has been just as pronounced though less public. Sam Hiron has played an active part in Guild affairs without basking in the limelight. As a Guild Councillor he has never spoken just for the sake of hearing his own voice, but he has commanded an attentive audience on matters which he holds to be of importance. Respect

MANIFESTO

NEXT session, with the move of the Arts and Laws faculties to Edgbaston completed and the Union extensions in full use, provides the Guild with an opportunity to get down to work on fundamental problems involved in the expansion of the student numbers. I would make some of these my particular concern if elected.

Dave Mallion (Education)
Martin Woods (Mech. Eng.)



for his views has also been shown whenever he has spoken on behalf of Birmingham at the National Union of Students. He has backed up his public pronouncements with a phenomenal administrative efficiency and has developed his ability to mix easily with people. Those who have worked with Sam have been impressed by his relaxed confidence in negotiations and his calm handling of all points of view. The Guild would do well to elect him.

MANIFESTO

I believe the President should be prepared to lead Guild opinion as well as to implement it, and to this end I shall make sure that the ties of day-to-day administration do not make me lose contact with the members of the Guild.

Peter Delich (English)
Gillian Stribley (Soc. Sci.)

Sadru Jivani

MANIFESTO

BEHIND the dark eyes of the Guild Secretary lies a shrewd and immensely-practical brain of one who, by his interest, energy and enthusiasm for Guild affairs, has shown himself to be the outstanding candidate for the Presidency.

He must not try to dictate his policies to you people.

The Guild has now reached a turning-point in its history. The long-fought-for extensions are at last coming to completion. We must now determine what the Guild and the Union should be. Is the Union to be a Students' Club caring for the many needs of its Members, or is it to remain an adjunct to University Refectory? As soon as the new Refectory is open we must consider reorganising ourselves and allowing the Union to serve its, in my opinion, rightful function of a Club. Those who tackle this problem must do so from the point of view of the majority of Members.

I place the internal affairs of the Guild as most important, but I am not saying that N.U.S. and other outside bodies are inconsequential. Though I don't play games I have mixed enough with students to know the difficulties which the Athletic Union is facing, and, if elected, I will strive to obtain better sporting facilities for them.



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The accommodation situation will need particular attention. Not only must we push ahead to get the new Halls of Residence completed as quickly as possible, but we must also ensure that our existing halls are being used to the best advantage. The lodging situation could be eased firstly by relaxing the restriction on undergraduates who wish to take flats and secondly by the introduction of some scheme such as property bought by the University and converted into student flats.

More lockers, supervised cloak-rooms, extra parking facilities and more cycle-racks are small things which would greatly improve the Union. The provision of a Launderette is worth serious consideration. To provide for a social life, we must encourage greater activity and wider appeal of Guild societies, particularly national, political and religious societies.

I believe the President should be prepared to lead Guild opinion as well as to implement it, and to this end I shall make sure that the ties of day-to-day administration do not make me lose contact with the members of the Guild.

Arthur Large

MOST people in the Guild must have had their attention arrested by the volatile aspect of Mr. Arthur Large. The inner man, however, is infinitely more complex than the open, friendly manner would lead one to expect.

Though a Chemical Engineer he repudiates the Arts Block parody of that genus in his fundamentally creative response to life. He has shown himself to be a master of public speaking and this year Deb. Soc., under his firm but unobtrusive aegis, has attained its greatest success.

He has never pushed himself beyond his abilities; with him achievement has always preceded ambition. He has earned the affection and respect of many different species of undergraduates. Unlike the other can by his unique capacities. He is the best President we have.

Bunny Reed (Comb. Subj.)
Bernard Beatty (English)

MANIFESTO

LET me make it plain at the outset that I like the Union the way it is. I dare say there are irritations, like Hop regulations, insufficient space in the Coffee Rooms, not enough parking space; but basically I like what the Union contains, the billiards and the Bar, the Lounges and the Library, the Coffee Rooms and the Grill.

It is this affection for the Union which makes me wish these irritations removed. No doubt every President strives to make the Union run more efficiently, but the only real way of running it to the satisfaction of members is to keep the channels for complaint and suggestion alike clear and unchoked. This particularly would be my aim.

However, the University is expanding in numbers, halls of residence are being built, and the new Refectory is promised in the near future. It will be the task of next year's President, not to supervise radical changes as our present President has done, but to ensure that the Union's attitude towards future changes is

Rodney Klevan

MANY past Presidents have been men of strong character enough, but lacking in the one quality essential for effective leadership: inspiration. We believe Rodney Klevan possesses this elusive attribute.



As you will read in his Manifesto, he is determined that each individual member of the Guild shall have a real voice in its running. If elected, we believe that he will bridge the gap between the student and his elected representatives.

His eloquence and wit won for him the Freshmen's Debating Prize and he is one of the most mature members of Deb. Soc., his opinions being respected by all who know him.

Rodney has been an active Guild Councillor on behalf of the individual constituent, and has taken a more than active part in Faculty affairs.

There rarely comes along a fellow like Rodney Klevan, and we hope that you will vote with us and make it "Klevan for President!"

Peter Delich (English)
Gillian Stribley (Soc. Sci.)

MANIFESTO

MY policies are simply put, for I am concerned here only in mentioning the problems which I know the Guild can solve as long as it maintains an energetic and spirited approach. Much has been done under past Presidents, yet still more must be accomplished to make the University truly progressive.

The general disinterest with regard to Guild Council activities is not so much the fault of the individual Guild member, but is due to the construction of Guild Council and the election system. Most students are thwarted in their desire to make their voice heard, feeling that Council and Executive are but a mutual admiration society.

I would ensure that Executive answered questions put to them by members in open debate, and would deem it my duty to explain regularly Council decisions and invite your criticism and comment. Matters of policy, e.g., Exec. expenses, and finance concern us all, and if such reforms were effected no-one's voice need go unheeded.

Present catering facilities need to be expanded in a practical and efficient way, and I contend that bar facilities should be made available in the Vernon, Priestley, etc. Other social amenities needing immediate consideration are TV and Wireless rooms, etc. (as well as closer liaison with the City), and all these can be easily achieved.

Bureaucracy cannot thrive in the way of Progress!

THE "PEN"ANCE OF SAMUEL

There in Great Hall for his final exam,
Sat a young chemist whose name it was Sam
In acid-stained coat, he had worked very hard,
But in that exam, our Sam was off guard.
He'd forgot that his pen leaked like a pipette
And all over his papers it started to jet—
Great spurts of blue ink—like the fountains at Zen!
With alchemic oaths, how Sam cursed that pen!
It made his thoughts falter—his mind went as blank
As the papers before him—how Sammy's heart
sank!

"Too late!" boomed old Joe like a prophet of doom
And, degree-less, old Sam, with a sob, left the room.
So when your exam comes in May or in June,
Make sure that yourself and your pen are in tune
If your pen's temperamental—don't be like old
Sam

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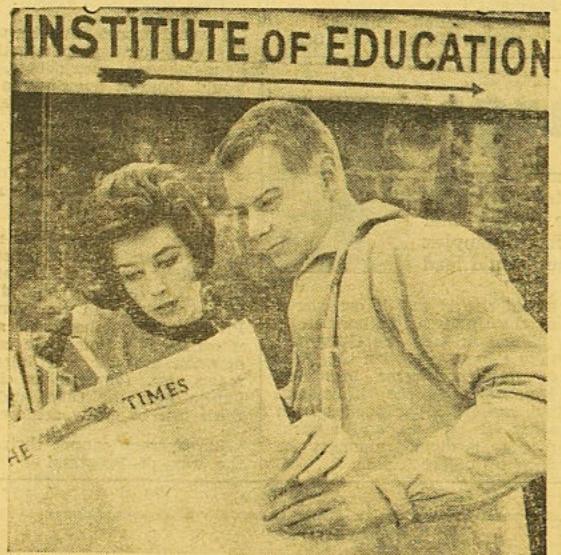
PAPER VICTORY

"Guild News" commended

"GUILD NEWS" is a highly promising paper in the top ranks," said the judges of the "Daily Mirror" Cup competition for student newspapers at a conference for students journalists during the vac.

The conference run by N.U.S. was attended by the Editor and Assistant Editor of "Guild News" and three consecutive editions of the paper were entered for the competition. The "Daily Mirror" Cup was awarded, for the second year in succession, to "Varsity" of Cambridge which, the judges said, is a model for every other student paper.

Runners up were "Nonesuch News," of Bristol, and "News Bulletin," the Manchester University paper which was banned the week after the competition



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BRUM AT BELFAST

Teachers oppose means test

AN abundance of Guinness, an Irish welcome with the information that there were one-and-a-half buses for 400 of us (top or bottom half, one wonders), a driver who cheerfully took his load of disconcerted students well past their destination, cyclists in fancy dress—this was Belfast, scene of the National Union of Student's April Conference.

Delegates from Birmingham were R. Hiron, A. Bennett, M. Thickett, J. Petherbridge and V. Powell-Smith, headed by Dave Mallion, chairman of External Affairs Committee.

He rose in Council to refute warmly the suggestion that high academic standards at Training Colleges do not necessarily make for good teaching; other particular interests of the delegation covered the standards of student lodgings, colour prejudice, the recommendations of the Anderson report, introductory courses for overseas students, university and college expansion and the services of the N.U.S. such as travel and publications.

In an interview with our reporter, Dr. Vir said that the new society already had the 20 members necessary for formal recognition by the Guild. "I would like to emphasize," he said, "that we are not setting up as rivals to the Socialist Union, but will form a complementary organisation."

The first meeting of ComSoc will be held as soon as possible.

FAIR PLAY FOR FIDEL

AMERICA should learn from Britain's mistake over Suez, and build on the remaining foundations for the future." This was Professor Fearn's advice to the bellicose American administration with respect to Cuba. The Professor, who spoke on Friday to the Socialist Union, was received by an audience of 85 consisting of an assortment of students, politically speaking.

Having admitted to not knowing much about Cuba, Professor Fearn proceeded to give an account of the history of this and other Latin American countries, tracing their progress through the Spanish colonial rule, and the various dictatorships, punctuated by their frequent revolutions.

Castro's rise to power seemed to be a deviation from the usual type in that previous dictators had sprung from the army. Castro was without, and his forces were joined by parts of the army and police, who began to see which way the ball was rolling.

America must face the fact that Castro has won the trick and now must build in the remains; she must learn from Britain's mistake, and let the trouble blow over. Cuba was America's Suez.

VANDALS

AS a result of damage caused during the College of Technology Easter Ball, all dances organised by the Guild of Students have been suspended until the matter has been investigated. There also appears to be increasing dissatisfaction with the way the "establishment" are running the Guild, and this looks like having great effect on their coming Presidential election.

REDS IN THE OPEN

MEMBERS of the Socialist Union were surprised on returning to "Brum" for the summer term to find that in their absence a new Communist Society had been formed.



The motor-bike in the above picture was originally intended as the second prize in the Carnival Car Competition. However, as it failed to pass the 10-year test, we have obtained instead a brand new B.S.A. Dandy Scooter.

This is just one of the many prizes which will be offered for the price of only one shilling. Apart from first and second prizes there will be a large number of others ranging from a brand new gent's silk dressing gown, to eight dozen tins of baked beans.

ELECTIONS

THE following Birmingham graduates are offering themselves for election in the Birmingham City Council elections:—

John Silk, Conservative, who is standing for Acocks Green, is a solicitor.

Brian King, Liberal, is standing for Moseley and King's Heath.

Lionel King is standing as Liberal candidate for Selly Oak.



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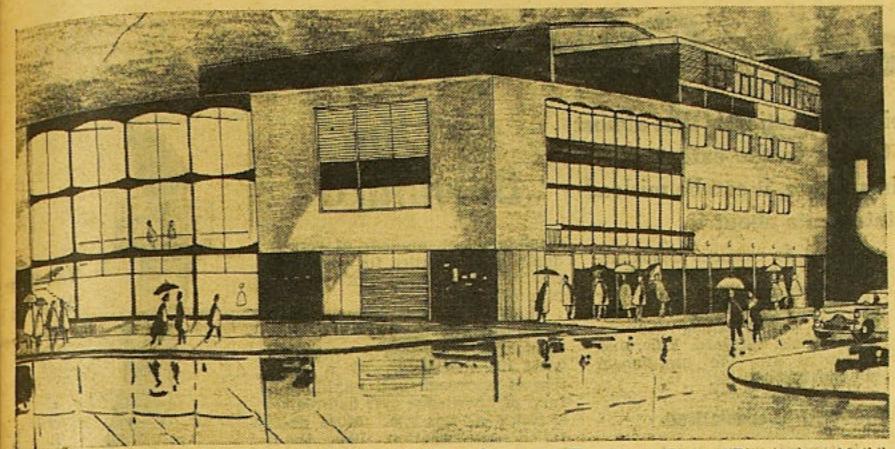
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BIRMINGHAM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

NEW-STYLE THEATRE FOR BIRMINGHAM



Architect's sketch for the New Crescent Theatre. —Photo: "Birmingham Mail."

Not subservient

A NEW theatre, unique in design and function, costing £80,000 and to be completed by June, 1963, is the aim of Birmingham's Crescent Theatre Players. Work on it will start next January on a site in Cumberland Street, off Broad Street.

Unique theatre

Details of the enterprise were recently released by Austin Burritt, Director of the Crescent Theatre Players, in their present holding behind Birmingham's Council House. The new theatre will be unique in Britain, possibly the world. The stage and about half the 286 seats will be mounted on a revolving platform, so that plays can be presented either on the traditional picture-frame type stage or "in the round"—with the stage in the centre and the two blocks of seats facing each other across the acting area.

Means Test

The Council's 32 motioning agenda also ranged over such topics as further Halls of Residence, College Affairs, concessions, extension of library hours, sport and the N.U.S. hotel. Two erstwhile Birmingham students were responsible for Executive reports on some of these—Fred Blader and Mike Stanley displaying his customary dry wit even when harassed by penetrating questions from Birmingham delegates.

Once derelict

The design incorporates a restaurant, film projection room, orchestra pit and bar. Facilities are also provided for a rehearsal theatre, offices, dressing rooms, and a wardrobe for over 3,000 costumes and properties amassed over the years and now hired out to local dramatic societies.

LAST May Day, traditionally a day of left-wing connotations, saw a major step forward in the development of right-wing institutions in this country: to wit, the startling announcement that from that date the New Conservative Party, in existence for only a year, is to join forces with the "True Tory Group" to form the "True Conservative Party."

Long-term policy

The press statement accompanying this announcement outlined the history and aims of this new body. Whilst it lamented the "recent disruption of the brotherhood of the British Commonwealth," it later mentioned its long-term policy as being to "re-fashion the British Empire" so that the British people... would be able to guide such States to a better way of life."

It hardly need be added that the True Conservative Party has nothing whatsoever to do with the real Conservative Party.

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Zoological Awards

FOWL RESEARCH

ALL undergraduates who expect, within the next few months, to become either a First or Second Class Honours Graduate in Zoology, Physiology, Agriculture or Veterinary Science take heed.

Those who wish to study for higher degrees in the special subjects of Genetics and Animal Breeding, or Physiology and Endocrinology, or Biochemistry and Nutrition or related fields of Veterinary Studies, will be glad to know that there are available for the right people, five post-graduate Fellowships, in Biology and Agriculture, worth £500 per annum, tax free.

Anyone who is, or thinks he may become, eligible for one of these Fellowships should apply before May 22nd to Dr. J. H. Sang, Fellowships Committee, British Poultry Breeders' Round Table, Poultry Research Centre, King's Buildings, Edinburgh, 9.

CHAPLAINS

A SPECIAL advisory committee, known as the Recognised Chaplains Committee is to be appointed by the Senate. The Committee is to be asked to recommend to the Senate on all matters concerning University Services, and to be given the general responsibility of encouraging the work of the recognised Chaplains for the University.

FACILITIES

Facilities are being made available in Research Institutes and University Departments where this can be done. There will be no other restriction on the type of problem studied during the

There's more to life than meets the landsman's eye: much more, for three-quarters of the world is covered by ocean—challenging, capricious, and a hard taskmaster for those who make their living by it. But science gives the sailor powerful help. At I.C.I.'s Brixham research station, scientists study the effects of sea air and salt water on ships and their gear. Specially tough marine paints are one result; another, ingenious anti-fouling compositions, which slowly release a chemical compound to repel the barnacles that are always seeking lodgings below the water-line. To trawlermen, I.C.I. means 'Terylene'—the polyester fibre that's made into nets that stand up magnificently to the rough-and-tumble of the sea-bottom. When the sea is the enemy, I.C.I. scientists are staunch allies.

TORY SPLIT

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A 'GUILD NEWS' SURVEY

A Coat of Many Colours—

NOT surprisingly, the most obvious fact about American education is that almost any assertion you may make about it is true. Owing to the extent of the country and to its highly decentralised education administration, it can be misleading to make any but the most rudimentary over-all statements about it.

Schools literally range from one-room rural huts, where perhaps 50 pupils from ages 7 to 18 are taught by one teacher, to sleek, slick glass-and-aluminium learning factories. There are, of course, numerous schools in between more suited to the purposes of education.

Constitutionally, the responsibility for education is a function of each of the 50 states, not the national government. Within each state, authority is further divided among the various counties, cities, or boroughs, each with an elected school board in charge of education below the university level.

Diversities

These diversities are susceptible of little generalisation, but it is safe to say that in most places free, compulsory education is offered in the state schools from the age of seven to 16. There are normally 12 years, on the basis of 8-4 (eight

years' elementary school, four years' high school) or 6-3 (six years' elementary school, three years' junior high, and three years' high school).

Common curriculum

For the first six to eight years there is a common curriculum for all students, but in high school, some specialisation is provided. A core of compulsory studies for all students—English, science, maths, social studies—is augmented by "elective" courses, which depend on whether the student plans to seek university entrance.

Varying standards

University practices and standards vary just as widely. This is understandable, considering that there are about 1,500 colleges, universities, and professional schools (law, medicine, etc.) in the United States. They are of two main types: state-operated, which are free of tuition charges for all school graduates of the state, and privately-endowed universities,

operated by religious denominations or private trusts. Well-known examples of state universities are California, Ohio State, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Illinois. Harvard, Yale, and Princeton are the best-known private universities.

Not specialised

A typical university is composed of a number of "schools" or "colleges"—arts, science, engineering, architecture, law, medicine, and physical education, for example. The usual course is four years, leading to a B.A. or B.Sc. degree. For the first two years, all students undergo roughly the same course—15 to 18 hours of lectures per week, in six courses chosen from English, history, political science, maths, philosophy, chemistry, physics, biology, and foreign languages.

Arts students are naturally more weighted with arts courses but are required to study at least two or three sciences each for a full year. Science-engineering students are also required to maintain two or three selected arts courses.

Frequent exams

Not until the end of the second year is the student ordinarily required to decide definitely and specifically on his major subject. During his final two years he will have perhaps eight courses in his major field and four subsidiaries, probably in related fields.

Credit system

Final examinations are given in each course at the end of each year, and the degree is granted upon the achievement

by Jim Bernhard



'News from the Universities'

A first for The Observer

THE OBSERVER is running a new feature—a whole page every week devoted to news and views from twenty-seven Universities in the British Isles. The Observer is the first National Newspaper to devote a feature of such size and scope to University matters.

Stories will be chosen for "the interest they would arouse equally in the Department of Eastern Religions at Oxford and in the Department of Building Science at Liverpool and at All Souls and among graduates everywhere". An exacting standard.

The page reports up-to-date news of University happenings of all kinds—advances in learning, domestic and financial affairs, relations between universities, and student doings (but another chamber-pot on top of the Radcliffe will not qualify). It may not support the campaign for a multipartite boat race on the Welsh Harp; it might easily advocate passionately (and more seriously) a standardization of university entrance qualifications. What is certain is that it will go far towards breaking down University insularity—both extra and intramural. Above all this feature will provide a national forum for University opinions, problems and news.

One more good reason for reading
THE OBSERVER

THE INNOCENT ABROAD

I HAVE, with only very few limitations, nothing but praise for all the arrangements at Kansas concerning hospitality for all foreign students at the University which I attended last year on an exchange scholarship.

Social activities in the University were rather oriented around the fraternity and sorority system, of course, but the International Club, of some 300 members, both American and "foreign" was a thriving organisation which ran a dance every Friday evening, as well as many other functions.

The English I found, and was delighted to find, were always well received, and though we often had to correct the strangest notions about the English way of life, we were very fortunate, of course, in having a closer contact with Americans, not solely because of an absence of language barrier.

peculiar system I am presuming I have no need to explain the peculiar system of credit hours—peculiar I hasten to say to the American University. The usual minimum number of hours for a graduate student is, I believe, 15 (including thesis research), though for some reason we were given a minimum of 10.

We seemed to be beset by rather fatuous examinations every few weeks, which I thought rather unnecessary, though the

by Sheila Lemon

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

I returned from the United States with most of my pre-conceived ideas radically altered, and with many criticisms which I could not have imagined without living in that country. One must, on no account, however, spend all one's time in comparison of English and American institutions—particularly in regard to University systems. This so many English people do out there, and they are not only extremely boring and narrow-minded, but are making themselves unnecessarily unhappy.

This sum would be sufficient to provide comfortable living accommodation; the school could stay either in a university hall of residence, or in a stu-

DO YOU WANT TO VISIT AMERICA?

ARE you expecting to graduate at the end of this session? And would you like to spend a year in Kansas? If so, you will be interested to learn that a post-graduate scholarship tenable for one session from October, 1961 and in any Faculty, is offered by the University of Kansas to a graduate of this University. The scholarship is worth 1,000 dollars, payable in eight monthly instalments from mid-October onwards.

This sum would be sufficient to provide comfortable living accommodation; the school could stay either in a university hall of residence, or in a stu-

MY COUNTRY IS OF THEE

And—from our man in the States

ANY use of the term "American" is misleading. For me to say what life in America is like is rather like a Scots crofter talking about the English way of life.

The language barrier seemed impenetrable when I wanted his specialty, with a system of approach and minimum fund of knowledge over as broad a range as possible. More detailed specialisation, like the British honours course, is generally reserved for graduate work. Such a system obviously has advantages and disadvantages.

I have seen but one University and since it is a good one have not noted the low standard usually associated with the U.S. universities. I will discuss this one and then comment in general.

Pleasant

The University of Virginia shows how pleasant red brick can be if well laid out. It is done in a Georgian style throughout, with lawns and columns and looks most attractive. It has a reputation for drunkenness, though it is a hundred years since they shot a professor.

But perhaps its most distinguishing feature is the Honor System. Each student is put on his honour not to cheat, pass bad cheques, break up the Union, etc. If he does so fellow students charge him, and if guilty he should withdraw from the University or plead innocence before, in the last instance, a Committee of Department Heads.

The practical results are that exams are not supervised, the whole of the Union is kept in good repair, as only the Women's Common Room is at Birmingham, and you can cash cheques at any shop. So though in many ways it seems childish, it does have excellent practical effects.

Mixing

The other feature I have particularly noted, and it is apparently general in small towns supporting universities, is the mixing of the townsfolk in the University's goings-on. Lectures are thrown open to the public, as are the Bridge Club, Theatre Group, etc.

Of the Universities in general one can make two valid comments: there are no national standards and the emphasis is on "teaching" and "quizzing" rather than "reading". The lack of any national standards all the way along makes life very difficult for an American. He can spend years at college and emerge with a Bachelor's degree only to find it worthless a few miles from the college. Out of the State in which he got the degree, unless he went to a really good college, he would have even more difficulty. So we may be thankful for G.C.E. and an inter-penetrating system of external examiners.

Hence, generalisations about American standards are valueless, since the same system can produce the highest and the lowest. Much of the trouble is started at the High School

LIFE IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES

where grades are set by the school and where a bright child is encouraged to hold back to keep with the rest. Some of the people coming up to college can be in pretty bad shape.

considerable financial sacrifice when one considers the industrial inducements.

Football

It is felt by many that I chose a bad university to come to. It has not won a game of football for two years, the longest losing streak on record. And there is little doubt that a successful football team brings prestige and cash to a college. The whole proceedings gave me much amusement. The game is something put on to give the bandmen rest and to exercise the vocal chords of the crowd.

Credit side

On the credit side is the enthusiasm and respect most people show for their college education. Most students have either to support themselves by work or receive help from their parents. Someone who works eight years for a Ph.D. and spends one and a half in the middle doing National Service (no exemption for college people except by ballot) has made a

The spectators, as everywhere, are a source of entertainment. Here they provide additional amusement in so far as the women dress up to sit on dirty seats, vanity triumphing over common sense; everyone spends the game drinking. The bottles or cans are wrapped in brown paper bags (as required by law to hide the contents from general view), but drinking from mugs marked "Pepsi-Cola" people quaff Bourbon or elaborate cocktails

I can but conclude that though there is a difference between our ways of life, the difference is so small that one cannot agree upon its cause, and that in addition considerable variations exist between the States themselves.

JACK BETTERIDGE.

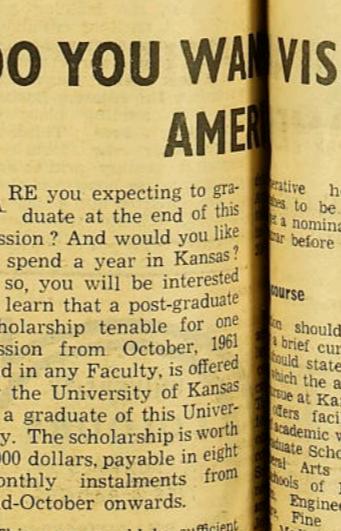
Research in Industry

Research in its broadest sense involves both an original discovery, and the development and exploitation of it. The discovery may come by accident, or from probing experiments; but when it comes the original problem may be broken down to smaller, more compact problems, complete in themselves but wholly significant only in the context of the original problem.

Although the accidental approach—of which polymers, penicillin and medical X-rays provide neat examples—is attractive, and has the right sort of public glamour, the probability of accident is not high enough for all research to be so approached. The probing experiment, which some may consider inspired guesswork, aims to increase the probability of accidental discovery.

Rutherford used it effectively in his initial work on the atomic nucleus. Either way, successful discovery depends on good background knowledge and experience to assess the significance of the evidence. So the embryo research worker—full of knowledge but lacking experience—is presented initially with a compact problem, a chip off a larger problem; for which he may retire to the library and search the literature diligently, hoping thus to determine a useful experimental approach. It may give him cause at first to think this the whole method of research, but curiosity will lead him—sooner or later—to recognise the limited nature of his own problem and relate it to the larger problem of which it is part.

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Summer Season

SHAKESPEARE'S "As You Like It," Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," and a third modern play will be produced by the Birmingham Guild Theatre Group during a three-week season in Cheltenham in July.

This repertory season, which will be in the 235-seat, Playhouse Theatre from July 10th-30th, receives an old Birmingham tradition. For several years after the war G.T.G. did productions in Cheltenham during the summer vacation.

"As You Like It" and "Godot" will be produced by Dr. John Russell Brown, English lecturer, who has produced "Hamlet" and "The Duchess of Malfi." The third play, yet to be chosen, will be produced by Peter Deitch, who has done "The Hole," "The Proposal," and "The Dumb Waiter."

ALL-STAR CAST

The company is expected to include many of the University's leading players of the past two years — Geoffrey Hutchings, Rosemary Kerman, Terry Hands, Paul Harman, Clare Jenkins, Josephine Barstow, Peter James, Ken Huddleston, David Elboz, and Bunny Reed—as well as many newer names, including a large number of freshmen.

Dr. Brown has chosen "As You Like It" because it will be produced almost simultaneously at the Stratford Royal Shakespeare Theatre. "Much can be learnt," he says, "by seeing another production of the same play immediately afterward."

"Waiting for Godot" he calls "the outstanding play of the last ten years."

Dr. Brown says "it is a dramatic presentation of a twentieth-century state of mind—a psychological and religious play which is not muddling, not esoteric, but exciting to watch."

I wonder where dem boidies is

ONCE again "Brum was glum" during the vac. Not even the shy unfoldings of Spring round Winterbourne could compensate for the vacuum in which we lived; the Union abandoned its air of teeming lewdness and became a weary convenience.

Ugh!

The bees, fumbling with the young flowers, evoked no response in us. It was a time of infinite ennui of wild and impossible parties where nothing really happened, of speculation, of taking stock of oneself (Ugh!).

Pell mell, ladies

But what a change in the Union now! The Ladies have returned! How clean they look, how refreshing and yes, even beautiful! Spring is really here—or at least it would be for the men. Soon summer dresses will be out and the blank vac. nothing but an unpleasant memory. To it ladies, pell mell!

This last line reminds your correspondent that "Once bitten," either a disillusioned dog-farmer or, more likely a nurse has written to the press post complaining of certain things that were said of nurses last time in this column.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Spirit of 'The Times'

OUR NEW SCHOOL OF POETS

OF course all University poets are terribly preoccupied with their emotions—almost to the exclusion of everything else." The glib, middle-aged London journalists with the vulgar cuff-links sagged back ignoring contradiction, and indeed it was a great temptation to ignore him.

Such an introduction stands in the same elusive relation to the reality of a scattered and unsuccessful conversation, as that which heads the "Times Literary Supplement" article (April 28th) "From Birmingham to Keele," which must be classed as a work of the creative imagination quite unaffected by distressing concern with accuracy.

Flattering picture

Three impressions of Birmingham writing emerge: that there is a school of University writers, that this school is united by a passionate belief in precision within free verse, and by an un-critical belief in a 19th-century doctrine of poetic inspiration. Fascinating, indeed flattering as this picture is, it is not one which any writer within this University would provide as a self-portrait. How then did it arise?

His idea

Once upon a time, ten students were interviewed by a man from "The Times." This was the first

Bernard Beatty.

Grateful as the Birmingham school now is to its founder—the man from "The Times" we must acknowledge that it was all his idea.

WANTED: SCOOTER DRIVERS

Will any scooter drivers interested in taking a part in Carnival please contact J. T. Spann in Carnival Office as soon as possible.

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Avoidable loss or damage of badminton and tennis racquets will also be charged for.

SPORT

Sports Day Farce

ONE usually associates a Sports Day with a large scale Track and Field Athletics meeting. What is happening this year? The spectators, including many notable visitors, are going to be treated this afternoon to what can only be described as a second-class show.

With all due respect to those competing, it hardly seems right that what is the main core of any sports day celebration should be a few inter-departmental events, from which all members of the University Athletics team are debarred from competing, and in which one cannot be sure until the start of the event whether those entered are actually going to compete. For instance, at the heats, last Friday night, only half those entered turned up, if that. In several events there was no need for any heats.

Far from it

All Sports Day advertisements tell us that there is going to be an Athletics Match against the Midland Police and the R.A.F. Far from it! The Athletics Club had its most important and attractive fixture of the season last night against Birchfield and Lozells Harriers. Now why could the Birchfield match not have been held on the Wednesday night instead? The Athletics Club would have been perfectly willing to do this. Several International athletes were competing and it would have proved a fitting climax to the day.

It could have been made even more attractive by the inclusion of an invitation track event, for instance over two miles. Being a mid-week fixture, many star athletes could have been attracted, including the new World ten-mile record-holder Basil Heatley. I have spoken to several prominent local athletes and they all agreed that such an event in so central an area would be very popular. If this did not prove a crowd-puller, then nothing would!

Blatant mistakes

The above-mentioned advertisement also tells that there is a Swimming Match. Well, up to the time of going to press, the Swimming Club Secretary knew nothing about this! Such blatant mistakes as this cannot be allowed to pass by unmentioned. Every year there is grumbling and much controversy about Sports Day. Every year improvements are discussed, every year the "show" is a flop.

Admittedly, this year Sports Day comes before everyone has gone down, and there may well be a better attendance if examination pressure does not take too heavy a toll. But few people are going to turn up to see the second best. Much hard thinking is needed if the Sports Day is ever going to be a real success. Better to scrap Sports Day altogether than continue the present, short-sighted muddling policy.

Great seven-wicket victory A Winning Beginning

honours went to Williamson (4-17) and Maraj, a West-Indian who has played with his national team bowled a spell for 4-43.

High-class fielding

If the Birmingham fielding had been of a reasonable standard, Loughborough soon proved that high-class fielding wins matches. A brilliant throw from mid-wicket dismissed Winslow, and thereafter Birmingham's

regular fall of wickets was halted only by a dogged 24 from Maraj, and an aggressive 46 from Tipples.

When the last wicket fell at 138, Birmingham could do no more than lament the injury to their opening bowler, R. Davies, who twisted a knee just before lunch after bowling seven overs for 4 runs.

"RICHIE."

A WEAK athletic, but strong social side established a firm line with Trinity College, Dublin, and Queen's College, Belfast towards the end of the vacation. Both matches resulted in heavy defeats, but in the light of the fact that only ten men were available, no disgrace was involved.

EASTER SPORTS TOUR

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EXCELLENT TIMES

Jarvis excelled himself by winning the 100 yards and 220 yards in excellent times of 10 seconds and 22.5 seconds in both matches. The advent of Dave Spence to the track was made memorable by a convincing win in the three miles at Dublin, and Roy and Davies (capt.) ran sterling races on both days.

Following a promising trial match, the Club easily beat Bristol and Exeter Universities at Bristol on Saturday. The rain-sodden state of the track made times very slow, but Birmingham won all the track events except the half-mile. Dale achieved a good high jump and javelin in the field events.

We're the tops

A

At the last "count-down," Birmingham was leading in this year's competition for the Kerslake Aggregate Trophy. The competition involves all the recognised University sports, and the winning University

can fairly claim to be the unofficial sports champions.

Positions at the moment: Birmingham 44, Manchester 41, Bristol 35, Reading 27, Liverpool 24, Sheffield 20, Cardiff 20, Leeds 19.

HIGH STANDARD MET

THE composite Basketball, Judo, Swimming, Volleyball and Water Polo teams which represented the University in the Brussels Sports Tournament at the end of last term met the expected strong opposition.

The University eventually finished third in the four-sided contest. The overall result was:

FENCING

THE Fencing Club finished a very successful season by defeating a strong team from the London School of Economics. Out of thirteen matches played, only four have been lost, and these against the toughest opposition—Oxford University, Loughborough Colleges, Birmingham Fencing Club and London University.

Throughout the season, the team has been ably led by its captain C. M. Warner, who has usually managed to win most of his fights. He has been well supported in the Foil by the fast-improving Naylor and an impressive newcomer, Lee, Sayers, in the Sabre. Sayers, has consistently done well, but in the Epee the Club's record was not so good.

It could have been made even more attractive by the inclusion of an invitation track event, for instance over two miles. Being a mid-week fixture, many star athletes could have been attracted, including the new World ten-mile record-holder Basil Heatley. I have spoken to several prominent local athletes and they all agreed that such an event in so central an area would be very popular. If this did not prove a crowd-puller, then nothing would!

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Hire Scheme

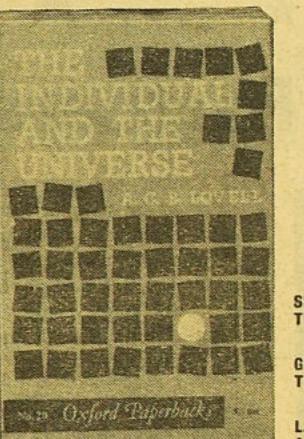
THE Physical Education Department now has a small supply of racquets and balls for hire. These may be obtained from the steward at the department. Prices are as follows:

SOUSAH (per half-hour)
Racquet 2/-
Ball 3d.
N.B.—Broken frames or shafts, maximum liability 15/-.

BADMINTON (per hour)
Racquet 2/-
Shuttles (sale only) 2/10 or 2/2

TENNIS (per hour)
Racquet 2/-
Three Balls 6d.
N.B.—Lost balls—cost 1/- each.

Avoidable loss or damage of badminton and tennis racquets will also be charged for.



the 2nd twelve

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Politics and Economics in
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R. C. ZAEHNER
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A. C. B. LOVELL
The Individual and
the Universe 5/-

Chosen by ANNE RIDLER
Charles Williams: Selected
Writings 8/6

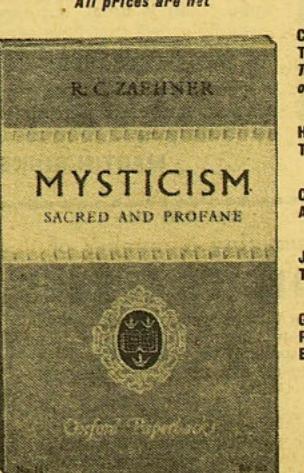
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The Listener's Guide to Music
With a Concert-Goer's
Glossary 4pp of plates 5/-

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Essay in Psychology 6/-

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the 1st twelve

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J. MIDDLETON MURRY
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Portrait of an Age: Victorian
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ENTERTAINMENTS PAGE

THE ULTIMATE EPIC

WHILE the cult of pseudo-artists swells and swarms around us like so many flies in a false paradise, blind to their sticky ends on the fly paper, the scrolled yardstick of enjoyment for those below, it is refreshing to find someone in the film industry who refuses to abandon those of us who still place some value on entertainment. "Spartacus" (West End for a season) is a consummation of all epics, the quintessence of cinema production, twelve million dollars well spent and worth every cent. The screen, as high and as wide as the West End itself, was covered with the breathtaking results of the process called Technirama 70.

The story, originally taken from Roman history during the first century B.C., is of Spartacus the gladiator, who seizes the opportunity for a revolt which rapidly spreads to such proportions that it can reasonably contemplate the freedom of all slaves throughout Italy.

The cast

Kirk Douglas as Spartacus and executive producer, increases the stature he achieved as director and star of "The Vikings." Jean Simmons as Varinia gives another enjoyable performance. Tony Curtis, John Gavin and John Ireland are adequate. The trio of old hands, Laurence Olivier, Charles Laughton and Peter Ustinov make the most of their opportunities for easy money. Charles McGraw merits a sentence for his performance as the trainer of the gladiator school.

Crowd scenes

Highlights of the film were the opening scenes of slaves working on a mountain face, the death of Draba, a giant negro gladiator, the escape of Spartacus and the gladiators, and the final battle scenes. The crowd scenes generally were skilfully handled and I was particularly impressed by the dovetailing of the speeches of the two leaders before the battle.

Throughout, the film ran deeper than surface characterisation, stock situations, inevitable outcomes, and simple conflicts of good and evil. I shouldn't think Spartacus, as he hung crucified, forgave them for what they had done. They knew what they were doing. Perhaps Varinia could comfort herself that he died to save them all. Perhaps he did.

HARVEY JERVIS.



Spartacus (Kirk Douglas) addresses the nucleus of his slave army.

PROFESSOR THOMAS BODKIN

IT was with deep regret that we learnt during the vacation of the death of Professor Thomas Bodkin, whose connections with the University lay in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts.

Bodkin's career started in the legal profession, changing to the arts during the twenties with the first of many appointments to art institutions and committees in his home country, Ireland, and later in England. In 1936, when the Barber Trust was formed, Professor Bodkin, by now the holder of many awards and honorary professorships, was appointed Director of the Institute.

Formidable task

The formidable task of building up "a living centre of humanistic culture" as envisaged by Lady Barber, fell to him. The fantastic success he achieved in a very short time and under very difficult conditions can be seen by walking around the institute and seeing works by such artists as Turner, Rembrandt, Degas, Manet and many others.

Bodkin's genius lay in a flair for beautiful things rather than in a wide academic knowledge of them. This genius is reflected in the careful placing of the works in the institute, which he helped to design.

An example of this is the clever placing of the Rodin head above the stairs; another is to be seen in the position of the Chinese and Egyptian heads on either side of the concert hall.

Professor Bodkin was a colourful and forceful person, and he was much in demand from student bodies for society addresses and after-dinner speeches. His prowess in the field of oratory won him a gold medal; he has also appeared with Sir Mortimer Wheeler in the television programme, "Animal, Vegetable and Mineral."

The art world must greatly mourn the loss of such a personality from its ranks.

G.T.G. 'WORKSHOP'

UNFORTUNATELY your drama critic was told that the dress rehearsal started at six o'clock. G.T.G.'s latest "Workshop" productions were on, however, at three. I was dragged into the Deb. Hall to review them.

Having been assured that these are not full-scale performances and requested not to "shoot them down," I felt prepared for the worst. On the contrary I was both entertained and impressed.

N. F. Simpson is known for his surrealistic plays. They rely on a process of mechanical humour which depends for its effect on ordinary people saying extraordinary things as if they were perfectly natural. In "Resounding Tinkle," we meet a social realist family involved in trouble with their pets; their elephant is too large, their friends snake too small.

A one-acter is the best medium for this sort of humour which draws liberally on all the effects of Ionesco without his meaning and tends to become unbearably boring in a full-length play. It was acted with speed and understanding. With the single exception that the set was unsatisfactory, I found this a very amusing production.

The second play was Shaw, another verbalist. Although it is called "Man of Destiny," it might just as well be called "Low-Down on Napoleon"—yet another play in which we find that the great men of history are just like you and me. The plot, of the stolen despatches variety, allows Shaw to discuss fear, power, the English and woman. The wit of his dialogue and the rapidity of the action make it continually entertaining. Shaw is difficult for amateurs for he needs confidence.

I WONDER

—continued from Page Six

Observe the railings of this nursing moralist; skipping over these descriptions of nurses she knows she cannot answer, she accuses medics of being interested in only one theory. She therefore arraigns not only medics, but such eminent gentlemen as Chaucer, Shakespeare and Rabelais. Take heart!

She fails to point out just who it is that originally perverts the fresh and eager medic from his state of innocence. But she need worry: very soon the experienced medic realises that nurses either break his heart, his pocket or his reputation and leaves him.

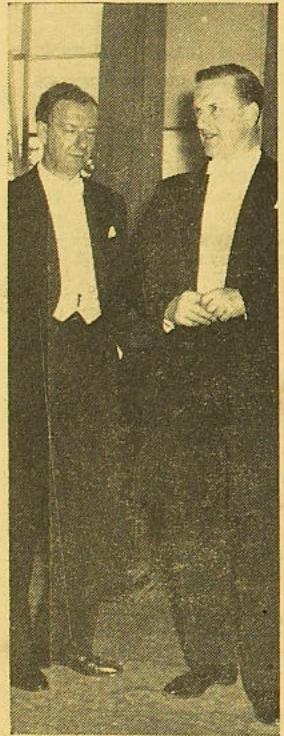
Were it not for the fresh material entering the wards each spring the monstrous regulations would descend on the University; only medics save you from the "Nuffield Nightingales."

speed and great vitality. This production has speed and by the time the play gets moving, confidence. It could do with more vitality.

The third play, O'Casey's "The End of the Beginning," is the sort of farce that made the Abbey theatre famous and will make G.T.G. infamous if they're not careful. Its major vice is inaudibility, which could be pardoned, but it is aggravated by bad lighting and a poor set. It does however have all the vitality that the Shaw lacked, which may carry it through.

D.J.A.

Perfect Partners



ON Friday, the first concert of the summer term brought Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears to give a song recital, a recital of widely differing contents, ranging from Purcell to Britten himself.

It is difficult to say something new about these two performers. One can only stress the complete unity of the partnership, and this unity was certainly displayed in the concert. It is remarkable that Mr. Pears' voice loses none of its clarity or vigour over the years. His diction, his dynamic range, his sensitivity are all beautifully evident.

Space does not permit me to deal with all the items of the recital, but I would single out the five Purcell songs as being the most satisfying of the evening. Most of the songs were taken slower than is usual, but they certainly gained that little extra in details of nuance and phrase.

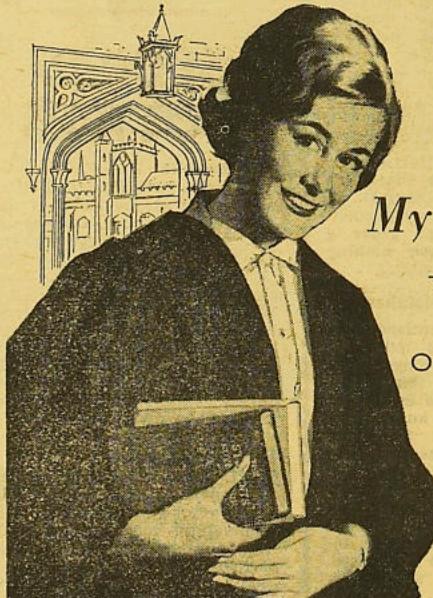
A packed hall gave Mr. Britten and Mr. Pears a reception deservedly earned.

MARTIN BINKS.

GRANADA TV is recruiting a number of PRODUCTION TRAINEES

this year in the hope of finding talented young people who will make television directors and producers of the future. The training course will cover all aspects of television and will take approximately one year to complete and will start in July 1961 at Granada's Manchester TV Centre.

Do not apply unless you have already shown some evidence of talent for writing, drama, revue, painting or music, hot, straight or square. A University degree would be an advantage. Write to: Norman Price, Granada TV Network Limited, Manchester 3.



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