



4 IN PRESIDENT BATTLE

Sam Hirons

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 Hirons 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

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.

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

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.

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 Laundrette 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.

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 Deitch (English)
Gillian Sibley (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!

Sadru Jivani

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.

Sadru Jivani came from Uganda to this University to study Medicine five years ago, but soon displayed evidence of wider interests by his election to Council.

Subsequently he was awarded the prize for Fresher of the Year. After a year as Union Secretary he was re-elected to the Executive, on which he has served with distinction and has gained experience of every Guild committee.

A President must have the ability to mingle with people of all types and Jivani has the savoir-faire to do this well. Above all a President must be versatile, which is why we are proposing him for the post.

John O'Connor (Bio-Chem.)
John H. Gunn (Maths-Phys.)

MANIFESTO

FIRST of all I think that it is morally wrong for a candidate to make any phoney promises. This Guild is run by you and your representatives on Guild Council. The President must not be a dictator, but a mediator and an ambassador.

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.

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 canby 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

stated clearly and is considered by the University authorities.

The Spirit of the Guild will take a hard jolt when the Halls of Residence come into use. Members' affections will be split, but strength of spirit comes from unity of purpose and student purpose is divided amongst the Societies of the Guild.

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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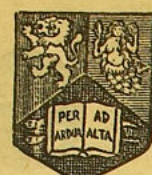
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PAPER VICTORY

"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

entries were made. The new Manchester paper, "Independent," was founded too late to enter for the Cup but its editorial staff were very much in evidence at the conference.

In their final summing up, "Guild News" came last on the judges' list, "but far from last in terms of excellence," they said. "The editors have done a first class job in mixing the news of the week with some first class feature ideas. On the whole, here is a clean looking and highly promising paper in the top ranks."

One outcome of the conference is the opening of diplomatic relations with the staff of "Sun," the Birmingham College of Advanced Technology's fortnightly paper, and it is hoped that this will lead to greater co-operation between student journalists in Birmingham.



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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.

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 society, which has sent an explanatory pamphlet to all S.U. members, is at present headed by three stalwarts of the old S.U., Brian Leonard, Tony Wakefield and Dr. Vir.

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 emphasise," 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 belligerent 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.

HIGH TIME



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 girl'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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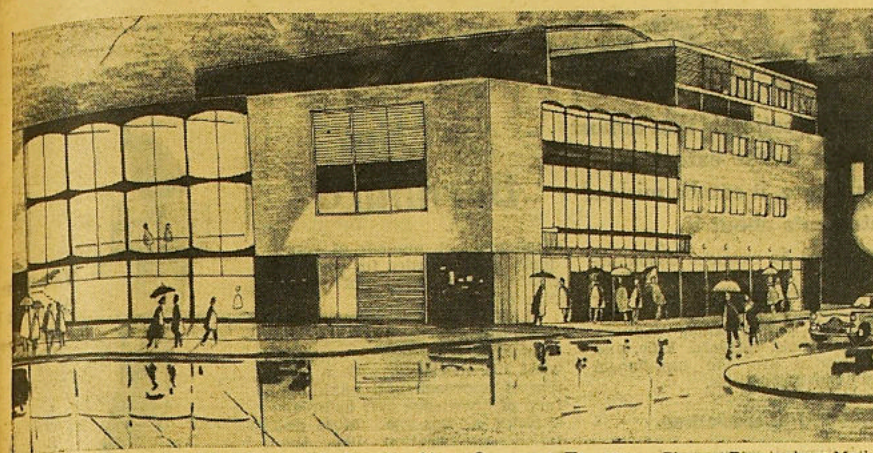
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NEW-STYLE THEATRE FOR BIRMINGHAM



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

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 Burgess, Director of the Crescent Theatre Players, in their present building 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.

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.

Once derelict

Since 1932 the group, once consisting of local government employees—now open to anyone in the Birmingham area—has had its home in an elegant row of Georgian houses built shortly before the Napoleonic Wars. When taken over, the building was derelict. A shell of crumbling plaster, leaking roofs and rotten floors, was by hard work converted into offices, paint shops and wardrobes. The adjacent Baskerville Hall, meeting place of Birmingham Free Thinkers, named after the famous eighteenth century printer and publisher whose home was close by, was converted into a theatre, furnished with old tram seats and held together by tram lines.

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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 £200 per annum, tax free.

These Fellowships have been sponsored by five of the leading poultry-breeding organisations in this country in order to encourage and extend the scientific study of the fowl.

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

tenure of the Fellowship. 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.

LIFE HAS HIDDEN DEPTHS



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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 6-3-3 (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.

'Credits' 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

of a sufficient number of "credits," units awarded for the successful completion of each course.

This four-year, comprehensive course is designed to provide the student, no matter what his speciality, 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.

Two per cent.

One thing it does achieve is university experience for larger numbers of people. About two per cent. of the U.S. population are at present enrolled in colleges or universities, while the figure for Britain is two-tenths of one per cent. American educators anticipate that better minds will take opportunities of augmenting the basic core of studies through extra assignments and graduate-level work. Apart from racial segregation in the schools—which, despite occasional trouble spots, is being eliminated reasonably quickly, in the light of centuries-old prejudices—a major problem of U.S. education is to provide parity among the locally-administered schools and universities.

Jealous

The individual states are jealous of their authority and often resent or refuse federal assistance, fearing that it will lead to centralised control of their educational policies. The national government, however, is equally concerned that while there may be strength in diversity, there may also be incompetence through inequality.

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

system as a whole ensured that the given material in each course was well known to the student at the end of the semester.

by Sheila Lemon

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

I returned from the United States with most of my preconceived ideas radically altered, and with many criticisms which I could not have imagined without living in that country. One point 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.

It takes some time to realise that America is, in spite of the similarity in language, a completely different country.



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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 scholar could stay either in a university hall of residence, or in a student

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.

The language barrier seemed impenetrable when I wanted a "drawing-pin" instead of a "thumb-tack." Have you ever tried to describe a drawing-pin to someone who can't understand your accent anyway?

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.

Not childish

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.

Valueless

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

And—from our man in the States

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 handsome rest and to exercise the vocal chords of the crowd.

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

Cheer leaders

Everyone obeys the cheer-leader, stands when he says "Stand," shouts "Wahoo, Wahoo" when he says "Wahoo, Wahoo" (Wahoo being a pet name for the team). Fortunately, we were spared much of this, being on the 'Ginia side of the stadium. We had little to cheer about. As soon as it became obvious that the University was losing once again, people started to leave, having come only to see their team win.

Expensive

The cost of viewing (unless one has a student's ticket) is 25/- each, and since to all intents the game is professional (great complaint being made that Virginia doesn't give enough and big enough football scholarships) the student body in general can't play the game, only watch.

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.

1. RESEARCH METHOD

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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.

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G.T.G. IN REP OUR NEW SCHOOL OF POETS

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 335-seat Playhouse Theatre from July 10th-30th, revives an old Birmingham tradition. For several years after the war G.T.G. did productions in Cheltenham during the summer vac.

"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 Ditch, who has done "The Hole," "The Proposal," and "The Dumb Waiter" for G.T.G.

ALL-STAR CAST

The company is expected to include many of the University's leading players of the past two years: Geoffrey Hutchings, Rosemary Kernan, 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 but for the rain. 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'

OF course all University poets are terribly pre-occupied with their emotions—almost to the exclusion of everything else." The glib, middle-aged London journalist 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.

gination 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 uncritical 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

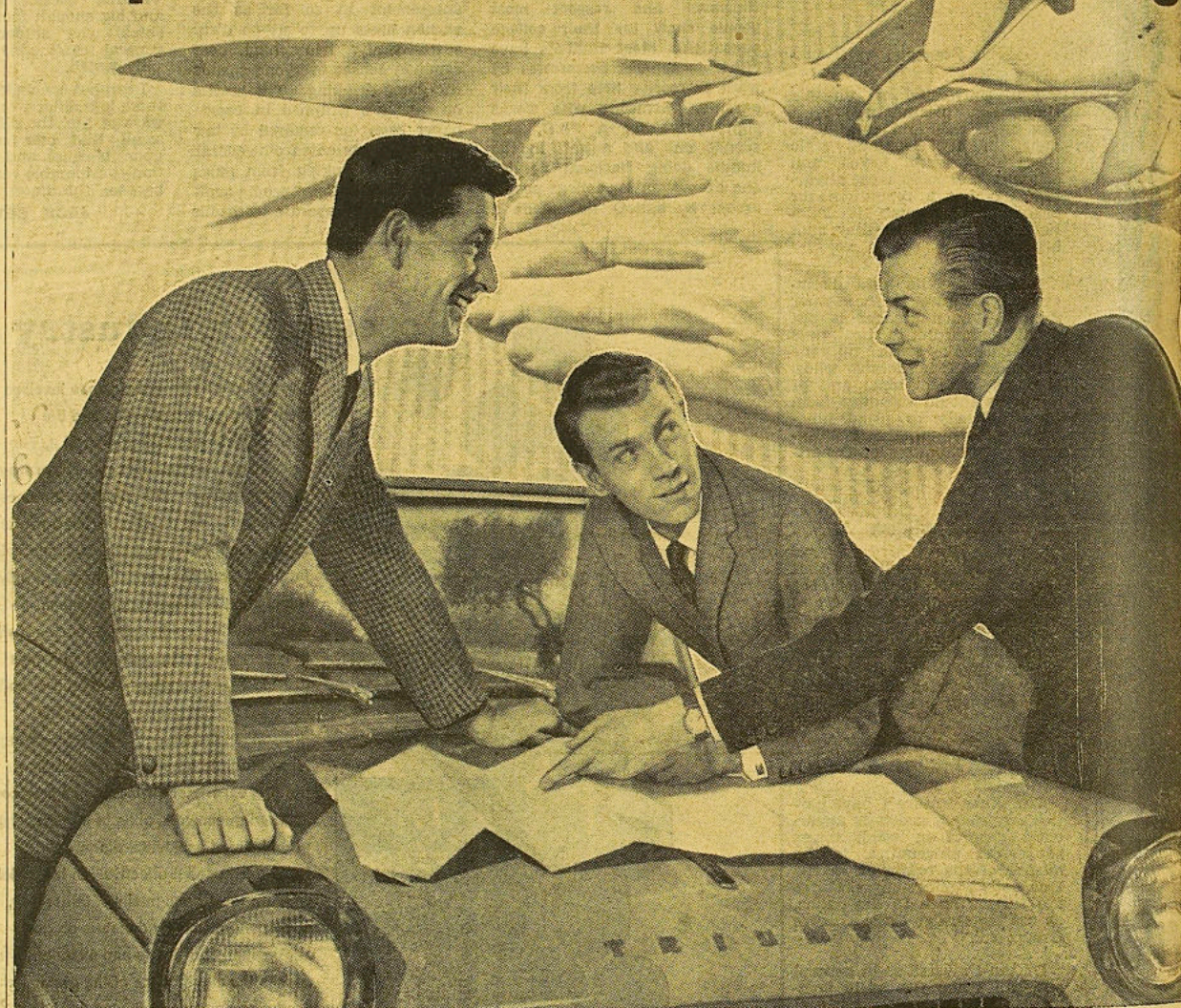
Once upon a time, ten students were interviewed by a man from "The Times." This was the first

time they had ever met together as a self-conscious group of writers. In the course of a desultory conversation, someone said that free verse might still have possibilities, and the man suggested, as his contribution, that from a wide reading of poems produced by other Universities, it was clear that Birmingham University writers all believed in a 19th-century doctrine of poetic inspiration. Thus were the Birmingham Parnassians initiated!

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

Bernard Beatty.

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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 exam 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

THE true strength of the Birmingham Cricket XI was not tested in beating a weak North Staffs. University team at Bournbrook in the first match of the season. North Staffs, batting first on a very soft and slow wicket, crumbled to 56 for seven against a keen Birmingham attack. Only an eighth-wicket stand of 46—a combination of judicious hitting and salutary luck—enabled them to reach a three-figure score.

The North Staffs, attack was as weak as the batting, and a brisk opening partnership of 82 by Winslow and Lillis paved the way for a seven-wicket victory. Winslow, after a season's absence from University cricket, played a forceful innings, completing a fine half-century in just over an hour.

Last Wednesday, Loughborough were made of sterner stuff and fought grimly to knock Birmingham out of the U.A.U. Championship. In a 50-over-innings match, Loughborough won the decisive toss and elected to bat, but at lunch they had progressed slowly to 35 for 3 in 18 overs. From 45 for 5, a magnificent sixth-wicket stand carried them to 115 for 6, and after some lusty hitting from the tail, they were dismissed for a formidable 162. The bowling

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

We're the tops

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, Cardiff 20, Leeds 19.

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:

1-Delft (Netherlands) ...	82
2-Brussels	57
3-Birmingham	40
4-Bonn	24

The standard was so high that the Basketball Club, from whom great things had been expected, were just not in the same class as the two top teams. The Swimming team put up the best performance by finishing second in its part of the competition. All praise to Brussels for their very successful venture.

EASTER SPORTS TOUR

A WEAK athletic, but strong social side established a firm link 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.

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.

the 2nd twelve

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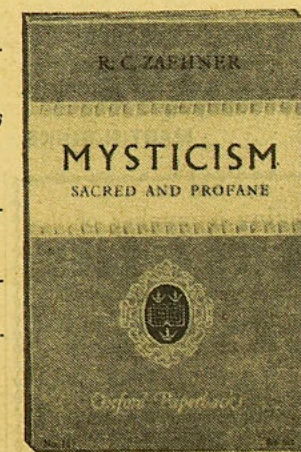
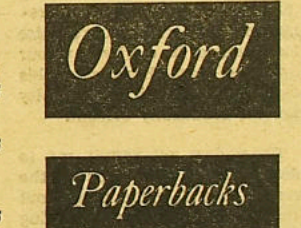
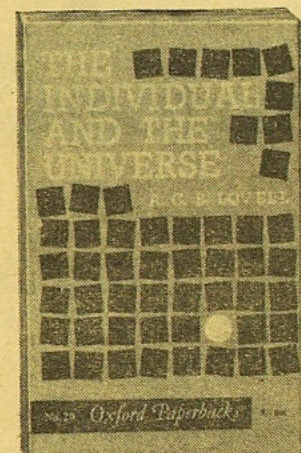
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★ ENTERTAINMENTS PAGE ★

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.

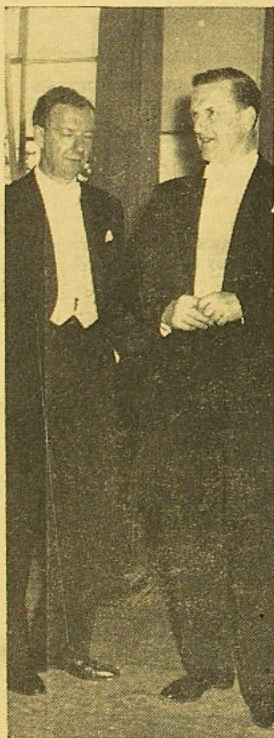
An example of this is the clever placing of the Rodin head above the stairs; another is to be seen in the position of the Chinese and Egyptian heads on either side of the concert hall.

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.

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.

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 surrealist 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.

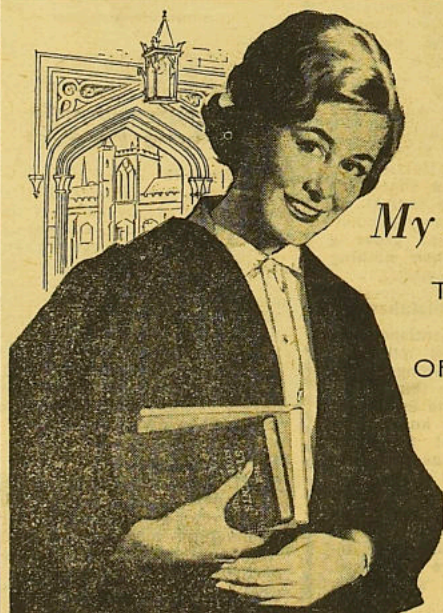
I WONDER

—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 regiments would descend on the University; only medics save you from the "Nuffield Nightingales."



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