

Guild News

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 539

Thursday, November 13, 1958

Threepence

THIS CONCERNS STUDENTS

More drinking time

Exec. takes many hard knocks, yet it seems that they are destined never to receive praise. Last week, on a spot check, it was discovered that three out of seven students had no idea that the Union had extended its opening hours . . . and they were standing only a few feet away from the notice! Red tape may well be anathema to the student, but why should he ignore important notices which may well benefit him. We can hardly accuse Exec. of crying "Wolf!" as often as that.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that the Union is now open until 10.30 p.m. on week-nights, and the bar, in accordance with civic regulations, is in operation until 10 p.m. There are two reasons for this; one is that many members have complained that the reason why the Union was empty at night was that it closed early; the second reason concerns the increased demands of the Ashby scheme; and, thirdly, as a matter of principle. The president likes his beer as much as the next man, and there is no reason why, he, as much as the next man again, should have to go to an outside hostelry in order to obtain it.

Other facilities have also been kept up, of course on an experimental basis. The Coffee Room is now open until 7.30 p.m., though its later clientele has boasted little more than a handful of people. As can be readily seen, if members wish this particular facility to function properly, then it must pay its way. The bar, on the other hand, is already showing a considerable increase in takings as a result of the longer

opening hours, and the Rugby Club, especially, should be mentioned for their sterling support in this direction. Admittedly, they are only following a long, instinctive tradition, yet they are at least aware of the new regulations.

Last Saturday, the Catering Committee tried the experiment of keeping both Vernon and Priestley Halls open, and they are to be congratulated on solving the staffing problem. On this occasion, the extra opening was hardly justified, since a large section of the student population seem to have gone away for the weekend. Yet, since all augurs well in this direction, and staff has been found, it would be as well to pursue the matter, provided that it is given sufficient publicity.

All these progressive steps in Guild facilities are, as has already been stated, intended to benefit its members, in particular, with reference to the Ashby scheme. This session, numerous additional students are having their meals in the Union and staying there for the evening; Exec. is doing its level best to cope with the situation. Also societies will doubtless appreciate that their meetings may now be extended to the further hour.

SPORT IN BRIEF

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

2nd XI v. Grenlin's 1st XI, lost 7-1.

2nd XI v. Cambridge Univ. 2nd XI, lost 3-2.

1st XI v. Oulton Ladies 1st XI, won 2-0.

MEN'S HOCKEY

2nd XI v. Kidderminster 2nd XI, drew 1-1.

3rd XI v. Kidderminster 3rd XI, lost 2-1.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

2nd XI v. North Staffs. 2nd XI, won 6-0.

3rd XI v. North Staffs 3rd XI, won 11-0.

2nd XI v. Parkfield, won 1-0.

SWIMMING

Men's Team v. Sheffield, lost 25½-27½pts.

POLO

2nd VII v. Sheffield, won 2-1.

BASKETBALL

2nd Team v. Cambridge 2nd, won 28-21.

RUGGER

2nd XV v. Old Centralians, won 36-6pts.

SOCCER

We would like to congratulate the football captain, Tony Fay, on his selection for an F.A. Amateur side to play Cambridge University on Thursday.

These advances may only be maintained if you, the members, are aware of them and make use of them. Read your notice boards with an eye to something to your profit, instead of pessimistically expecting some restriction.

JAK HAS AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FRANKIE VAUGHAN

The last I saw of their idol was as he pushed his way through this crowd assisted by six sturdy policemen. He was going to the Hippodrome to see his pupil, an ex-secretary, Joyce Shock, who just by the merest chance also happens to be a sister-in-law. Yes, the appearance of this pop-singing idol did set Birmingham alight.

FIRE IN CITY CENTRE

Three fire engines attended a fire in Paradise Street on Saturday night. A neon sign on a shop had caught fire. It is not thought that this was caused by the appearance of Frankie Vaughan at the Town Hall.

RAGS TO RICHES

Frankie Vaughan staggered through the door of his dressing room, his coat torn from lapel to hem, slumped into a chair and panted, "The Fans . . . God Bless 'em."

I looked at the coat and inquired if he lost many that way. "No," he mused, "only four this week," and then he added that if it wasn't for these dear sweet kids he would be walking around without any coat at all.

I asked the now revived Frankie if he had any plans for the future, and not surprisingly he had. The first was the purchase of a new coat and the second was his attendance on Thursday of a private showing of his recently completed film "The Lady is a Square." Frankie has an amusing story to tell concerning the making of this film. In one sequence he is called upon to ride a horse and as he had never ridden an animal of this type before, the only way for him to appear as a veteran horseman was for his feet to be tied underneath a carefully chosen and trustworthy creature.

During this month the untiring Mr. Vaughan is making a tour of the Continent to appear in cabaret and concert halls. After this he hopes to take a trip to the States to appear on the Perry Como TV Show and to make several personal appearances.

Another amusing story he had to tell concerned a well-known journalist from this city whom he bumped into at Paddington Station, when he was about to catch a train to appear on the A.B.C. TV Show "Picture Talk." This poor unfortunate reporter had left his wallet at home and had no visible means of returning to this city of smoke and sin. Needless to say, the benevolent Mr. Vaughan lent him a fiver and needless to say, he did get it back.

The show on Saturday night was the first of a series of five, and Frankie's first concert appearance since last Easter. He commented that he liked concerts as they kept him in touch with his public, and judging by the mass of coat-tearing, hair-pulling females at the stage door the audience liked them too, as they kept them in touch with Frankie Vaughan.

HERE AND THERE

Whilst not agreeing with many of the views held by Mr. Bill Moore, President of the Sheffield Union, on the N.U.S., one must agree with some of the opinions which he recently expressed in the Sheffield paper *Darts*. He urges greater activity by the N.U.S. in publicising the views of its members and criticises many N.U.S. debates for wordiness, for being "the red brick Oxford Union, the sandwagon for aspiring politicians, socialites, and glamour-boy debates. An obsession for procedure, for getting easy laughs; this marks our Council."

We are pleased to note a report in *Sennet* that King's College, London, are considering re-affiliation to the National Union of Students. King's was one of several colleges to disaffiliate from N.U.S. some years ago. The issues which lead to disaffiliation were complex but it is probably safe to say that politics was at the heart of the problem, and it may be reckoned a sign of the improved political atmosphere in N.U.S. that King's should now wish to rejoin the fold.

Pi (University College, London), reports that anti-polio vaccine injections are to be available to all U.C.L. students through the College Health Association.

During discussion of recent proposals to include a television room in the Union extensions, one important point seems to have been overlooked. This is brought into focus by a recent report in *Crefet* (Swansea), that "in order to avoid lengthy arguments over which channel was to be seen on any particular occasion, it was decided that a vote be taken in the Television Lounge prior to the start of the programmes for the evening, and that all should abide by the majority decision."

Union News also reports that coffee parties are all the rage at Leeds. Probably makes a change from the usual type of student party.

Union News has undertaken the Herculean task of introducing a little culture to the Leeds masses. The first step in this direction is the serialisation of "The Brothers Karamazov" in a simplified version, to coincide with its run at a local cinema.

The Editor of *Sennet* (U.L.U.), has made himself unpopular with London veterinary students by criticising their vocal efforts and bar manners. They first attempted to capture and violate the person of this unhappy gentleman, but after their hot blood had been cooled somewhat by an hour's chasing round the Union building, they finished up discussing the officiousness.

We may often quarrel with our landlords if we or they are hard to get on with, but the situation has not yet got so bad that we need to follow the Swansea example of issuing a booklet containing 21 rulings and 31 paragraphs of well meaning advice for both landlords and their guests. Typical of these rules would appear to be the one that "Women students are normally expected to be in their lodgings at 10.30 p.m." As the Editor of *Crefet* points out, even the Swansea cinemas do not end their last showing until after 10 p.m. If we assume, as surely we may, that both students and landlords are reasonable human beings, it should not be necessary to issue this type of document, which snacks of red tape and officiousness.

B.J.B.W.

HOW FAR WILL THEY GO?

The Soviet news agency, "Tass," has told of another incredible facet of the totalitarian way of life. A University of Atheism has opened in Ashkabad, the capital of Soviet Turkmenistan, near the Russian-Iranian border.

The purpose of the University is to spread "scientific-atheist knowledge," and it offers a six-month course of 60 lectures on "Godlessness." The opening lecture was "Marxism-Leninism on Religion and Ways of Overcoming It." Graduates from this new University will be expected

to further the anti-religious campaign which has been an integral part of the Russian way of life since the Revolution in 1917. Nevertheless, even "Tass" has to admit that belief in a supreme being (not necessarily Krushchev) is still prevalent in their country.

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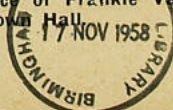
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EDITORIAL

Guild News

Number
539



Selly Oak
1841

THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER,
THE UNION,
EDGBASTON

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Danny Bragg, Pat Doughty

Are we sufficiently mature? A question which is often asked, and generally leads to yet another attack on so-called student apathy. On this occasion it is prompted by recent reports that Russian students are to be encouraged to spend a year or so in industry, probably between high school and university. Several national newspapers have seen in this move an attempt to solve the chronic manpower shortage in Soviet industry. It is hard to believe that Russian economic planners are so misguided as to believe that a student spending a year or two in industry will have any positive effect on output, indeed experience teaches that the total effect may be negative since a substantial portion of even two years will be spent in learning the necessary techniques, even if the dire consequences foretold in a recent cartoon by Giles are not borne out in practice. We would prefer to see in this move an intelligent approach to the problem of immaturity in students.

In essence the problem is that of the transfer from the controlled and regulated environment of school to the relative freedom of university. It is very easy to spend the major part of one's life at a university simply in effecting the necessary changes in one's mental attitudes. Some break between school and university is most beneficial to the student, even if it be only the change in imposed discipline produced by national service. Look around you and compare those students who have spent two years in industry or the forces with others of similar age who have spent their whole lives in the artificial and protected greenhouse air of university and school. It is remarkable how they stand out; when they work they work hard; when they play they play hard.

It is difficult to assess anything so nebulous as "immaturity," which is at best a relative thing, but it is generally agreed that such things as ragging and heckling, which to be successful require a cool approach combined with a lively imagination have all too often been replaced by schoolboy exhibitions of rowdiness and bad manners. Thus Midnight Matinee has had to be discontinued for these very reasons.

What of work? As the proportion of students with national service behind them has declined, so we are reliably informed, the attitude to work has undergone a subtle change, and it is being increasingly found necessary to apply such distasteful sanctions as attendance registers before students can be relied upon to attend lectures and practical classes; a procedure which lowers the dignity of both students and staff, and furthermore reduces the freedom and intimacy of contacts between the two groups.

The solution to this problem? Opinions as to possible solutions are varied and "Guild News" would welcome comments from both students and members of staff, and will permit the use of a nom de plume by any writer who desires to use one. For our part, we would like to see an extension of schemes at present operating in some engineering departments, whereby a student, after leaving school, spends one or two years working for a firm, who then will employ him in the long vacation during his time at the university.

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Catering—a reply

Dear Sir,

Irritation very rarely goes hand in hand with reason, and unfortunately this applies to last week's letter on Guild Club catering from "Three Irate Eaters."

The question of the price rise has been investigated and a satisfactory explanation given. Future enquiries of this nature should be taken directly to Mr. Verdegem who is only too happy to deal with them.

Comments on the employment of the new catering managers by Catering Committee were entirely uninformed and irrelevant. Many members of the Guild will readily appreciate that the appointment has been made to fill a far-too-long outstanding vacancy.

No doubt, Sir, the "Three Irate Eaters" will have already resolved their further doubts on the Guild being a non-profit making body by a careful study of the Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Balances and the Catering Department, now displayed in the Union and Guild Club.

Yours, etc.,
MICHAEL J. HESELTINE,
Guild Club Secretary.

C.B.S.O.

Dear Sir,

Having read every entry in the Guild News Concert Diary this term, I am very puzzled as to why your music critic ever attends a C.B.S.O. concert. If he considers the orchestra to lack spirit, the conductor to be little more than a mannered exhibitionist, the pieces they play to be hackneyed if old, and plagiarised if new, performed often by poor famous soloists who all too often lack that "je ne sais quoi" which Birmingham expects, I consider that he would be better occupied turning up a hem at home than his nose in the Town Hall.

Perhaps he hopes to emulate the great Puccinante who, by steadfastly refusing to be impressed, wrung from the simple "Candide the tribute," "Quelle génie, nothing is able to please him." When his friend remonstrated, Candide said, "Surely, is there not pleasure in criticising everything, and seeing faults where other men think they see beauty."

Yours, etc.,
A. N. MORTON.

Our Music Critic Replies:

Mr. Morton seems to be under the impression that my visits to the Town Hall are undertaken for the purpose of finding faults in the City Orchestra. May I say here and now that he is dead right. Of course the Orchestra lacks spirit. It also lacks a number of other faculties which one should take for granted in a professional body of musicians, i.e. the ability of the players to play their instruments.

When Sir, the C.B.S.O. reaches an acceptable standard of performance matched with a conductor's interpretation which extends beyond the routine, I shall be pleased to write a glowing account of their efforts. Until this happens honesty demands that I should write what I feel, nay, know to be the truth. Only a twisted sense of loyalty could imagine beauty where there are so obviously faults.

I am not, Sir a musical masochist. My heart longs for the day when the current ill wind blows something good, or something away. Until that happens the position is unchanged, but rest assured I will tell you of it when it comes.

As regards the other points contained in your letter, I cannot recall ever having written that a work was hackneyed, though I was probably right. I also find Panufnik an unbearable composer. That too may change.

PRESS POST

'Vanguard'

Dear Sir,

In the present edition of "Vanguard," the Socialist Union's Journal, it is stated that "the editorial committee is the committee of Socialist Union" and that "only those articles which bear no name may be taken to represent the opinion of the committee." In fact this is the future policy of the Society. The present edition was compiled by the Editor who is responsible for the selection of articles and editorials. Further copies of Volume I, No. 3, should bear the signature of the Editor following the editorial, "Socialism and Colonisation."

In addition may I make clear that any views expressed in the Journal are not necessarily the opinions of the Society.

Yours, etc.,
DAVID S. LANE,
(Secretary, Socialist Union).

Are we stagnant?

Dear Sir,

One result of the recent controversies is the noticeable "bleating" of the Union "Sheep" at the prospect of losing some privilege connected with themselves only; when the Union as a whole stands to lose so much. It amazes me, Sir, that so many people are prepared to spend three years or more at the University,

using the Union daily without much as raising a finger to assist in running of the place; instead, sitting back and moaning whenever any new idea is tried which may be of benefit to us all. Why is it that even though they think that Guild Council and the Guild Executive are not performing their proper functions they will not do anything about it? The Guild constitution is sufficient democratic to allow anyone who has any worthwhile proposition coming with any facet of Union life to bring it forward for consideration but no, many of these flowers "born to bluish unseen and waste their sweetness on the desert air" the Coffee Room or Founders Room without ever percolating, to the higher realms of Guild governance. What is the reason for this lack of interest in the running of our Society?—Is it because Guild life is so comfortable that there is no room for improvement? I doubt in the present conditions of overcrowding, with the catering facilities being stretched to bursting point there is even more reason for people here to take an interest in the running of the place in an attempt to improve our lot.

Whatever the causes of the problem, it is evident that something must be done, some interest created in the affairs of the Guild, if we are not to descend into a state of stagnation in which no new and progressive ideas bear fruit. Perhaps the widespread publicity of the Annual General Meeting of the Guild to create this interest. It remains to be seen...

Yours, etc.,
J. H. GUN

This week in The Listener

(ISSUE DATED NOVEMBER 13)

THE REITH LECTURES
by Professor A. C. B. Lovell, on
"THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE UNIVERSE"
1—"ASTRONOMY BREAKS FREE"

THE AMERICAN VOTE
H. G. Nicholas
THE FUTURE OF BRITISH RAILWAYS
Alan Day

SERVANT OF THE LORD
(on Oliver Cromwell) C. V. Wedgwood
COLLECTING EARLY ENGLISH DRAWINGS
Iolo Williams

BRAZIL'S NEW CAPITAL CITY
J. M. Richards

WITHOUT MERCY OR METAPHOR
(on Robot Detectives in Science Fiction)
Reynier Banham

OUTLAY, INPUT AND UPKEEP OF YOUR CAR (II)
J. B. Boothroyd

OVER AND UNDER THE POLE
Kenneth Glyn Jones

BEGINNING TO BE A NOVELIST
John Bowen

ANSWERS TO LISTENERS' BRIDGE PROBLEMS
Harold Franklin and Terence Reese

and other features

A BBC PUBLICATION

EVERY THURSDAY

FROM NEWSAGENTS & BOOKSELLERS

6p

NYBDA'S DIARY

University House Dance last Friday proved to be an even greater success than previously, and MRS. FRIEND is rapidly enhancing her reputation as a hostess. As might be expected, the world and his wife was there, though the usual madly-gay society set was not in its pre-eminent position. It is even rumoured that the President, JOHN JARVIS, was only there because he missed the train to London... what d'you expect if you go to catch it in the wee small hours? All the same he was seen to dance... a slow fox-trot... with the hostess herself. Support came from MIKE GLEDHILL, who complained that MISS WRIGHTON'S golden tresses were disturbing his line of vision. The lady complied and moved the locks to an appropriately unobtrusive position. Discarding his Brunhilde for the night, RON WARD danced gleefully with JUNE HEARN. A poet, passing Bourville in the moonlight, remarked the dolent figure of ROBERT WREDFORD ESQUIRE, marching despondently towards Manor House pond. Back at the dance we took time out to find Deb, Soccer, NORMAN FISHER, 'for saking the muse and sitting out in the fiction library, either gleaming more speech material or opening ploys for small-talk during the next waltz.

An Adverts Manager's lot is a busy one, and Miss ENID BURROWS this week found herself on a mission which ended up in the Queen's Hotel thanks to the offices of a kindly advertiser. She was most bucked about this visit: "I've got to catch up on Jarvis some-how... he's always in there."

English Department lecturer, John Brown, is enthusiastically plunging into his production of "Sweeney Agonistes," a parody of Milton, by T. S. Eliot. Leaping from radiator to radiator in House,

Someone has been inspired to write "cancelled" across the notices for women's hockey. This could reflect some suppressed emotion with psychological interest. Have we actually a misogynist amongst us?—or is this some masculine ego frustrated by inability to get into the women's hockey team?

The inclination in Guild Club dining room is to refrain from specification (apart from the case of chips which are still fairly recognisable) but to say, "Some of that, please." When one does reconcile the menu to the dishes, difficulties still remain.

Aren't you charging me too much? asked one hopeful.

No. According to the menu you are. Menu must be wrong.

Checking of menu? Exit through door to left. Voices clanging, silence. Enter five minutes later.

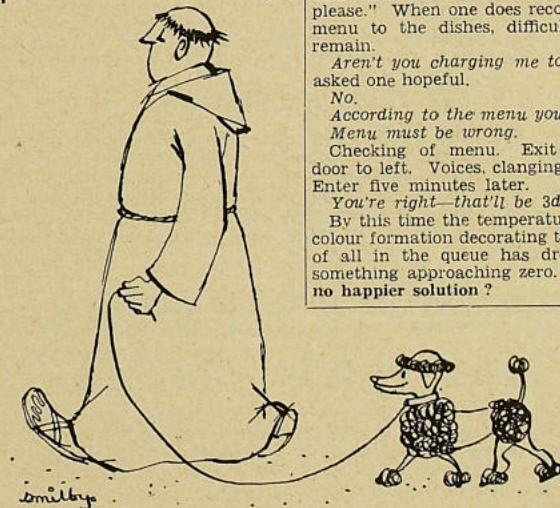
You're right—that'll be 3d. less. By this time the temperature of the colour formation decorating the plates of all in the queue has dropped to something approaching zero. Is there no happier solution?

KRAM: Meet you this Tuesday in Coffee Room, 7.29.—MARG.

REDUNDANT PLAYING CARDS given in exchange for Snakes and Ladders. Apply—No Bid.

ADVERTISE
IN
'GUILD NEWS'

Without comment



Pocket production course

Once again Bob German's go-ahead Guild Theatre Group have achieved something in the nature of a theatrical scoop. On Wednesday, November 19, Patrick Wymark, the Shakespearean actor, will be coming to demonstrate production in a nutshell. Mr. Wymark is currently appearing at Stratford and is playing such parts as Toby Belch in "Twelfth Night."

A group of older G.T.G. members, including Bob German, Denis Reid

for this is a joint G.T.G. House production, he has infused life into the verse play to the extent of three production numbers to date—entailing guitar and living music. I can well see "Oklahoma" for the next opera.

Former "Guild News" Editor, Miss PAT JONES (1953-58), has just married Mr. BRIAN OWENS, her News Editor for that year. Your present Editor is now anxiously eyeing his female staff when he remembers that Miss Jones is keeping up a tradition whereby the Editor usually marries one of his/her helpers.

Continuing friendly relations with our sister universities, M. J. Stanley this week went to Manchester to attend their Union Dinner and Ball as Birmingham representative. I feel sure that his architectural insight was suitably impressed by the new Union buildings there. It is only very recently that a mixed Union has been allowed.

In answer to many requests from members, Mr. Verdegem, the Catering Manager, has delighted wine enthusiasts by announcing his proposed restocking of the cellars. Now at last we shall be able to best hocks that our limited resources can buy. Societies please note! A brief resume reveals that the Moselles have come out of this particularly well: in future one can try one's unpractised tongue over Bernhasteler Ley, Graacher, Zeltinger, and the irrepressible Piesporters. The Rhine will be well represented by Hochheimer Domdechane and Neuburg; (I am assured that for all fans, there will be the usual quantity of Liebfraumilch available). There will be a descent into the Palatinate where the Johanns-bergers will vie with the Hessian Niersteiner Rehbach. One must regret indeed that the Alsace wines are not popular with students, though the French Dept. might remedy that one. (What about it, Miss Thompson?) Finally, if you want to leave the barman gasping altogether, why not try him with a Deidesheimer Langenmorgen? You have to be far gone before you can even say it.

WHAT DOES GO ON AT THE Q.E.?

During the last week the United Birmingham Hospitals have been holding their annual art exhibition at Nuffield House. Oil paintings, sketches, photographs and sculptures were exhibited. The standard of the subjects was high but the quantity was low.

Of the 500 medical students in Birmingham, only two had exhibits; Joseph Freund, a Hungarian in the fifth year, showed some of his line figure drawings at which he is particularly adept. It is a pity that more students did not enter sketches or paintings as there are more than a few who draw and paint as a hobby, and there are many more who are keen photographers and who could have exhibited their work. Next year let's see a few more.

This year I am trying to keep Med. School Col. of general interest to other people in the University beside the Medics, as so few people seem to have much idea about what goes on in the big building on the hill. It may interest you others to know that Birmingham Medical School is now one of the leading

MED. SCHOOL COLUMN

medical schools in the country, if not the leading medical school. We have a higher standard than most, with none higher. It is not uncommon for Americans to know of Birmingham because of the Q.E.; naturally such people tend to be members of the medical profession but here in Birmingham there is much advanced research which is leading the world in some fields. An idea of the number of research graduates in Birmingham may be obtained when it is realised that there are as many as there are doctors actually working on the Q.E. wards. The Q.E. is the most advanced hospital in the Midlands and the newest hospital in Britain. True, we haven't the age and tradition of the London Hospitals, but the latter is growing, and a large percentage of consultants in Birmingham graduated here in days gone by. With the decentralisation policy which is now operative the Medics are bound to grow farther apart from the University and in so doing must develop as a body much more closely united than at present.

Ed. Street column

THE LETTER "I" happens to be next to the letter "O" on the typewriter. This mechanical fact gave rise to an unfortunate misrepresentation in last week's sartorial reflections. The title "How to Dress Well in Practically Nothing" should, of course, have read "How to Dress Well on Practically Nothing." I should like to apologise in case there are any sensitive minds which may have been embarrassed. Few people seem to have remarked on this highly immoral suggestion—food for thought there.

Someone has been inspired to write "cancelled" across the notices for women's hockey. This could reflect some suppressed emotion with psychological interest. Have we actually a misogynist amongst us?—or is this some masculine ego frustrated by inability to get into the women's hockey team?

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NEW SOCIETY

Enterprising members of Chemistry, Course III, have decided to form a club devoted to angling. The initiates are P. Hill, J. E. Green, A. Robinson and R. Bentley. All interested in angling should come to a constitutional meeting on Friday, November 14, at 5.15 p.m. in the Lesser Hall, or contact the above. It is essential that at least twenty members should join in order that the society may be constitutionally recognised.

COFFEE TALK ON MATRIMONY

The advice of "Punch" to those about to marry—"don't"—has achieved wide fame among the sons of men, and yet, has it been heeded? I cannot quote statistics, but the impression I have is that people still marry. They did so in 1850 and they do so to-day. I do not wish to labour the point, but it seems to me that the whole question of the influence of the Press is herein contained.

"Advice to those about to marry—don't." Look at the phrase. It has simplicity, vigour, wit, and the elan of impeccable sincerity. Even so, its effect has been small. Can you, Sir, or you, Madam, give me one instance when this staccato warning has been heeded? Can you tell me of one bestayed bosom in which it has lodged, of one Norfolk jacket it has penetrated, as it winged its way through the last hundred years? Will no one whisper to my discreet confessor ear, that Miss Harriet heard and heeded? Will no one tell me of such a scene as this?—

Servant: Miss Harriet, Ma'am (exit).

Mama: Well, Miss? So you are about to marry Sir Eustace, Miss? Eh, Miss?

Miss H. Why yes, mama. And with your blessing I hope, and the blessing of dear papa.

Mama: It is then as I feared. Yet, dear child, there are things you should know before you enter the blessed state of matrimony.

Miss H. (expectantly): Yes, mama?

Mama: But these things are not for the mouths of gentle women.

Miss H. (dashed): No, mama.

Mama: One piece of advice, however, I will give you. Dear Mr. Punch has these words: to those about to marry—"don't."

Miss H. Oh, dear mama! I am convinced. The sagacity of those words, their propriety and inoffensive true feeling have won my heart. I must write to Sir Eustace. (Exit).

Mama: Dear child!!

(Curtain. Tableau. Curtain).

Has ever such a scene been played? I fear not. What chance have our ephemeral words, then? May we influence you towards goodness and wisdom such as these have failed? Our hope is small and it is very sad.

SCIATICUS.

INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor T. J. B. Spencer, Professor of English Language and Literature, will give an Inaugural Lecture entitled "From Gibbon to Darwin" at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 1958, in the Concert Hall of the Barber Institute.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE



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W.I.V.A.B. RALLY SUCCESS

The W.I.V.A.B. Rally was held at Exeter last Saturday, November 8. Our 1st VII spent five hours travelling to Exeter in the morning, and were consequently tired and stiff on arrival. The matches were played in very pleasant surroundings at Hopes Hall of Residence.

BASKETBALL

CAMBRIDGE 100, BIRMINGHAM 28

The University team went to Cambridge last Saturday hoping to avenge last year's defeat, but were faced with a team far superior in every department of the game.

In spite of the exceptionally small gymnasium, the all American Cambridge squad gave a superb exhibition of long shooting, also playing with distinction under the basket.

Next Saturday's game will be against Loughborough in a U.A.U. match at home. Any support will be welcomed.

What is wrong with the polo team?

On Saturday last, the water polo team suffered a defeat by 13-0; the sort of score that has been all too frequent in recent years. By the time this has been published they will no doubt have been soundly beaten by a Manchester side which cannot compare with any of the teams the University has produced in the past few years. Why then should Birmingham always have such a weak polo team? The swimming team has maintained a reasonable standard for as long as the writer can remember, but it is four years since the polo team won more than one or two matches in a season.

Saturday's matches showed well the reason for Birmingham's repeated failures. Of the seven players in the first team only three emerged with any credit. Of these, Powell and King fought hard throughout the match and deserved better support than they got, and Williams tried for most of the match, his weight standing him in good stead. These three should be the nucleus of a good team, all have enthusiasm, all are triers and all realise that polo is not a soft game and although King and Williams sometimes exhibit misdirected energy, at least these players have energy. The rest of the team suffered from a timidity which is wholly out of place in a polo match. The analogy between polo and rugby is obvious and our Polo team would do well to watch the 1st XV whenever they can, the experience should shame them. That one of the players should moan at great length after the match about rough play without having attempted to harden up his own game during the match is symptomatic of the malaise which afflicts them. King, Powell and Williams in the first team, and Richardson and Coultas in the second team showed well how best to deal with rough players.

The namby-pamby attitude to polo has gone on long enough. It can do no good and already over a period of years has created an attitude to the game that would shame the most apathetic Tiddleywinks team.

(From our own Correspondent)

We immediately noticed that the standard of umpiring was far from high, and hence the scores were evened out by this factor. Our first matches against Southampton and Cardiff were spoiled by poor umpiring and we won 7-3 and 10-2 respectively. We were rather dissatisfied with our standard of play. Our game against Bristol resulted in a draw, six goals scored by each side and making a very fair conclusion to the most enjoyable match of the rally. The team played extremely well and although three goals down in the opening minutes, soon pulled back to a draw.

Our fourth match against Reading resulted in a loss by five goals to ten. Reading played a much faster game than Birmingham. Our final match was against Exeter and resulted in a win for us by eight goals to two.

The result of the rally was very pleasing for the Birmingham team, as we gained second position to the Reading team, and beating Bristol into third position on goal average.

The whole team, as a result, have been invited to attend the Southern Universities team trials at Birmingham on Wednesday, November 19. This indicates the high standard of the team this season, and it is to be hoped that we shall once again be able to win the W.I.V.A.B. Trophy.

Rally team

G.S.: Christine Dunn; A.: Margaret Sucock; C.A.: Rita Death; C.: Glenys Duckham; C.D.: Gillian Ogburn; D.: Maureen Mannall; G.K.: Jean Farquhar.

CROSS-COUNTRY'S FIRST DEFEAT

The cross-country team entertained four London colleges and Manchester and Leicester Universities on Saturday. The weather was ideal but ankle-deep mud made the going rather heavy.

Dave Shaw won his best race of the season so far, and had an easy victory, winning by over 200 yards. The rest of the team could not make use of this advantage, however, and we were beaten by a strong team from Imperial College. Dave Spence, Brian Spilby and Fresher Glyn Jones did themselves credit by coming 11th, 12th and 13th respectively in a very good field.

A narrow win over Manchester for second place decided by the last counter in each team was more heartening. Revenge is hoped for when we travel down to London in a fortnight.

RESULTS

	Pts.
1. Imperial College	72
2. Birmingham "A"	83
3. Manchester "A"	83
4. King's College	197
5. University College	197
6. London School of Economics	217
7. Leicester University	246
8. Manchester "B"	249
9. Birmingham "B"	271

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Lacrosse Club

On Wednesday the Lacrosse team travelled to Malvern. The superior stick work of the Malvern Girls College team resulted in their winning by 17 goals to 4.

The match was not as one-sided as the score indicates, but the Birmingham attacks still have to acquire the knack of shooting in a crowded goal area.

The W.I.V.A.B. Southern Universities Lacrosse Rally was held on Saturday at Southampton's new sports ground. Six universities sent teams, and each team played the others in five 12-minute matches. Short matches require entirely different team tactics, and Birmingham did very well to come third.

Oxford University was placed first, having won all their five matches; Southampton was second, losing only to Oxford; and Birmingham was third, losing to both Oxford and Southampton.

The goals were shot by S. Andrews (4), S. Ward (2), G. Griffiths (1), R. Hillier (1), R. Allness (1) and A. Staddon (1), while our valiant goalkeeper E. Jones let in only three goals.

The muddy conditions resulted in several minor injuries, but on the whole all the teams thoroughly enjoyed the rally and felt that they had benefited by the experience.

MEN'S HOCKEY

The first U.A.U. game scheduled to be played at North Staffs, on Wednesday, November 5, was rained off. The only match, therefore, was on Saturday, when the University 1st XI played a much improved and faster game, and beat Kidderminster.

The University were far quicker on the ball and did not give their opponents much scope. Play was quite even in the first half and the University goal had some narrow shaves. Near half-time Hurst got the ball off a free hit outside the circle. He put in a shot which the opposing goalkeeper stopped, but Soud tackled hard and the ball rolled to Draysey who put it into an empty goal. However, a little later Draysey missed a very easy chance when he lost control of the ball with only the goalkeeper to beat. The University forwards played on their wingers quite well and the second half saw some fine centres put across by Gray and Eltringham. Draysey got the second University goal when he snatched up the ball from a scrimmage in front of the goal and scored.

The defence which till now had played well were unfortunate in that Coleman was hit on the ankle and could only limp along for the remainder of the game.

Kidderminster replied when their centre-forward broke through and put the ball past the advancing James.

However, University soon went further ahead when a good pass sent Eltringham racing down the left wing. He got past two men and sent it to Soud who cracked in a fine shot. Kidderminster got their second goal when Jennings tried to clear a ball but was off balance and put it into his own goal. If the team plays like this in the coming U.A.U. games they should do very well.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Birmingham 5, North Staffs 1

In their second U.A.U. game of this season the University easily defeated North Staffs, by five goals to one in a poor game. In patches the University played well, but the opposition did not provide a very stiff test. The first goal was scored by right winger W. Roper, and a few minutes later an own goal by one of the North Staffs players increased the lead. This was all the scoring before half-time.

Only for a short period after half-time did North Staffs play anything like a team, and were lucky to manage a scrambled goal. Their rally did not last, however, and University's superior fitness and skill enabled them to score three more goals through K. Davies, C. Openshaw and W. Roper.

University 2, B.Y.O.B. 0

On Saturday the University entertained the Birmingham Youth and Old Boys F.A. XI. This was the only representative side to record a win against University last season, and so a keen struggle was anticipated. The visitors started on top and the University defence found itself hard-pressed. D. F. Gray, playing his first

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL SPORT

RESULTS IN BRIEF

BADMINTON

Chancellor's Hall 2, Biochemistry 1.

Metallurgy 0, Chemistry 2.

BASKETBALL

Biology 22, Physics 4.

Civil Eng. 9, Chem. "A" 40.

Chem. "A" 44, Iranians 39.

Maths. 38, Chem. "B" 15.

TABLE TENNIS

Biology 6, Maths. "A" 4.

RUGBY

Commerce 0, Chemistry 23.

Chemistry 24, Physics 0.

NETBALL

Chemistry 12, Biology 2.

SOCCER

Physics 9, Maths. 1.

Physics 2, Metallurgy 7.

Commerce 4, Miners 0.

Chemistry 8, Medics 0.

MED. SCHOOL RUGBY

Medics, 20pts.

G.E.C. Whitton 2nd XV nil

This game was a walk-over for the Medics. Again the Medics, worked as a team, the forwards were good in both set and loose scrums, heeling well to the three. The three handled the ball well and made useful and successful moves. The standard of tackling was higher than in previous games although little was needed. The opposing three, when they had the ball handled badly and never passed the Medic three. The score was obtained by six touch-downs and a conversion.

RUGBY

Nuneaton 12pts. Birmingham U. 23pts.

This win by a goal, three penalty goals, and three tries to a try, is mainly the result of the University pack gaining control over the heavier Nuneaton eight in all departments, and the backs making good use of the service obtained.

An early break through split Nuneaton defence and resulted in Heyward going over for an unconverted try. Nuneaton, however, levelled the score soon afterwards with a penalty goal. The University pinned the home team into the own half for long periods, and to a good link between the pack and the backs in the person of Mark the backs saw plenty of the ball. Rawson particularly was prominent with penetrating runs down the wing, one of these followed by a try resulting in Reynolds going over for a second unconverted try. Nuneaton equalised again with another penalty goal but Robson gave the University a half-time lead with a penalty goal.

In the second half the University gained control after a short lapse and Ranson had a good run on the wing before giving Reynolds the ball for a third try. Soon after Reynolds ran through the complete Nuneaton defence from inside his own half. Ball, following up Reynolds' kick, beat the full-back, was awarded a penalty try, which Robson converted, as he also did two penalty goals later on in the second half. This half Nuneaton scored a try and a dropped goal.

Throughout the game the University showed great keenness, keeping the ball off the ground, handling and backing up in the game also showed great improvement on that in previous matches. Quinn and Ball were prominent in the loose attacks and the whole back row covered well in defence. Saunders at full-back was very reliable in his first game for the 1st XI.

Women's Hockey

Cambridge beaten 5-2

The 1st XI played a spirited game at Cambridge, to win convincingly despite being a player short for most of the match. The game was fast and open throughout. With a score at one all, Elizabeth Robb was taken off with a knee injury, but it only seemed to increase the determination of the remaining 10 players. The Birmingham defence combined well to check the dangerous attacks of the Cambridge forwards, and in spite of the majority of the play being in the Birmingham half, a better co-ordination of our team attack resulted in our win. Goals were scored by Rita Thompson (2) and Verona Bolan (2).

Rally at Bristol

The Southern University Hockey Rally took place at Bristol on Saturday, November 8, in spite of the absence of two members of the team who were taking part in county matches, namely Annabel Thompson (Warwickshire) and Rita Thompson (Gloucestershire).

The 1st XI managed to remain undefeated, although in general the standard of the play was not high. The team started well by beating Cardiff 2-0, but then went on to draw 0-0 with Exeter and Bristol. In the last two matches Birmingham beat Reading 2-1 and drew with Southampton 0-0, Verona Bolan scored all four Birmingham goals.

The final result, taking goal average into account, was that Birmingham tied for first place with Exeter, at Bristol. As there was no play-off this was rather an unsatisfactory result to the tournament.

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