BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 30 NOV 1961

Per Noa

DEBATE: OBSERVER MACE PRELIMINARY RND.
"This House does not support civil disobedience."
Council Chamber: 5.15, THURSDAY.

GUILD NEWS

No. 605 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1961 Price 3d.

FILM SOCIETY
'Pather Panchali'
'Tchaikovsky Competition'
Mech.Eng. Lec. Theatre
Thurs., 7.30 p.m.

Government under fire at Margate Conference

COLOUR-BAR BILL TAKES A BEATING

by Guild News Reporter

THE Government's new Immigration Bill came under attack at the National Union of Students' Conference last week when a motion was passed deploring the effect which the Bill might have on the chances of overseas students coming to study in England.

An audience of 400, including 11 delegates and observers from Birmingham, heard the President, Gwyn Morgan, speak passionately against any form of restriction being imposed on students who might want to come to England. "Many people come here to get their 'A' levels in order to go to University," he said, "and they mix day-work with their evening studies."

STOP

People were unable to get the necessary qualifications at home and the Bill might stop them coming here to get them as well.

The motion was passed by an overwhelming majority. A similar motion was moved by Michael Thickett, one of the Birmingham delegates, at Guild Council last night supporting the action of the National Union.

STABILITY

The most important motion affecting the internal workings of the Union was proposed in the early hours of Monday morning.

Southampton moved that N.U.S. be reconstituted on a three-part federal basis under an 'umbrella' council on the grounds that the Union was becoming too large and unwieldy.

After a superb speech from Alan Hale, the Student Secretary, who spoke of his fears if the Union was allowed to disintegrate into constituent bodies, the "Troika" motion was heavily defeated.

SENT DOWN

The severe action of the authorities of St. Hilda's College, Oxford in sending down a girl found with a man in her room at 3 o'clock in the afternoon was to have been criticised in another motion which failed to get inside the time limit.

The movers of this motion were particularly annoyed that the man involved had only been punished by a short period of rustication when the girl had been treated so harshly. They stated that private morality is not a concern of the College authorities and were to have asked Council to share this view.

LODGINGS

A report on coloured students and their lodgings problems was presented. It was pointed out that providing digs for these students was often very difficult because not only were the landladies prejudiced, but often the students themselves wanted privacy to perform religious rites and were shy of strangers. One delegate suggested that white students, too, were often prejudiced.

No final decisions were taken on this topic, it being concluded that the whole problem was but a subdivision of the whole unsatisfactory digs situation.

Speaking after the Conference, Sam Hirons, the leader of the Birmingham delegation, said, "My main impressions were that Council was pretty dead this year. There is certainly some need for a revision of standing orders and I am not too pleased that none of Birmingham's motions were presented. We shall have a lot more motions at next Council."

An international executive. Left to right: Eric Schumacher (England), Aneurin Rhys-Hughes (Wales) and Robert Houston (Northern Ireland).

SOMETHING OF VALUE

A SITE for a University Theatre has been proposed in Pritchatt's Road after discussion with the University architect, Sir Hugh Casson. Money has been set aside for the project, but at present it is not known when the new developments will take place or who will be responsible for the design of the theatre.

The theatre would be open to the whole student body, to departmental societies and visiting companies. Its real object would be to provide something of value for the University as a whole and it would not be merely a departmental affair.

Birmingham is in many ways particularly suited for a Department of Theatre Arts. The city is one of the great homes of repertory theatre and the area abounds in amateur drama. The Royal Shakespeare Memorial Theatre is near by at Stratford-on-Avon and the Shakespeare Institute there is part of the English Department.

TODAY

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Thank you, Dr. Beeching

DESPITE the fact that British Railways lost "Guild News" twice last year, and despite the fact than since then nearly every stage of the production process has been removed from the influence of Dr. Beeching's merry men, they still managed to hold up production last week. Copy was sent to the printers by a train which someone forgot to unload. This accounts for the fact that "Guild News" came out a day late. We apologise to all our readers and to anyone who may have been inconvenienced.

Nailed

ARAB SOC.

THE Arab Society were last week fined £2 by Union Committee for contravention of the Union rules after they held a dance in the Deb. Hall. It was alleged that they failed to remove the decorations after the dance, and that they drove 2½-inch nails into the wooden panelling of the Hall.

Union Committee also discussed the floor of the Debating Hall at their last meeting. It is ten years old, and it seems doubtful whether it can be repaired any longer. The architect's "floor expert" is to prepare a report on it for the next meeting of the Committee.

It is confidently expected that it will stand up to the strain of the next few Hops.

N.U.S. AT WORK

THE N.U.S. is active in all spheres of higher education in this country, and also takes positive lines on student affairs throughout the world.

Its main sphere of action is what has become known as Grants and Welfare. Gradually, NUS has built up a body of policy, which is often sought after by MP's and a reputation for responsibility which is beginning to impress even the Ministry. They have been asked in the past to supply evidence to such bodies as the Anderson Committee and the Robbins Committee.

It has a membership of some 165,000 students of all kinds, many of whom use the world's oldest student travel bureau, at more than reasonable cost and efficiency. NUS organised drama festivals, debating tournaments, provide a hostel in central London for itinerant students, produce interesting and useful publications and above all tries to reflect the sensible wishes of the students it exists to represent.

LATE NEWS

Tuesday 6.30 p.m.—
Guild Council passed motion forbidding "Guild News" to print letter from Bernard Beatty. Carried 39-30; 5 abstentions.

7.30 p.m.—
Glyn Allen elected Carnival Chairman.

STUPENDOUS YULETIDE ATTRACTIONS!

Ents. Comm. present

FRIDAY, DEC. 8th from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m.—
GUILD CHRISTMAS BALL
Double ticket 15/-, including buffet.
Formal dress.

* * *

SATURDAY, DEC. 16th, 8 p.m. to 11.45 p.m.
CHRISTMAS PARTY HOP
Personal appearance of SANTA CLAUS.
Price 2/-

* * *

SATURDAY, DEC. 30th, 8 p.m. to 12 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE
Licensed refreshments.

The Birthday Party by Pinter

G.T.G.
Debating Hall
All this week

GUILD NEWS

The Birmingham University Newspaper

Wake up you lot!

THE revision of the Grants' Means Test came about largely as the result of the efforts of the National Union of Students. Even if it were possible to discount all the other invaluable work which the Union has done and is doing, this one fact alone should be sufficient to make it dear to the hearts of students.

But what do we find? In the Guild hardly one person in twenty knows anything at all of N.U.S., except when it becomes a question of getting a cut-price holiday; at the very National Conference itself delegates were so ill-informed on many matters of importance that motions were passed more by default than any positive act of assent.

This was particularly noticeable in the case of international motions proposed by the Executive. Ignoring the fact that the relevance of some of these motions to student affairs was rather dubious, barely a single member on the floor of Council was competent to speak on the topics brought up.

NO GROUNDS

Among the motions proposed was one congratulating Bolivian students on their campaign against national illiteracy and another criticising the Portugese persecution of Angolan students. Council passed both these with hardly a comment. The only thing demonstrated was that Council have sound hearts and poor judgment, for on what grounds did they find themselves capable of taking such decisions?

If this lamentable state of uninformedness prevails in the very heart of the Union, it is not surprising that there is little interest in its activities in the constituent Guilds. External Affairs staff are overworked and get no recognition for their efforts. Let us, for once, give them their due and add the hope—which we fear will remain unfulfilled—that more members of the Guild will take an ACTIVE interest in their work.

EDITOR - - - - BOB BOOTLE

ASSISTANT EDITOR - TERRY STAPLES

BUSINESS MANAGER - CHRIS MACKIE

TELEPHONE: SELLY OAK 1841

Setting the record straight

SCARS FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

SIR,—The committee of SCARS, whilst refusing to enter into repetitive correspondence through these columns, are forced to set the record straight once and for all. And so that the inaccurate and unfortunate remarks above the signatures of certain prime movers in the Socialist Union and Communist Society may publicly be examined, we wish to make clear:

That S.C.A.R.S. was formed to fight against racial prejudice entirely independent of N.U.S. S.C.A.R.S. has refused, and will refuse affiliation with any organisation which in other guises has political undertones.

ALTERNATIVES

At a special committee meeting, S.C.A.R.S. received delegates from various political societies to consider direct action against segregation. Boiled down, this meant provocative demonstrations in segregated pubs in Handsworth and Smethwick. The committee gave due attention to all that was said, and after discussion suggested that experienced social workers in the areas concerned should be consulted. They stated that should it appear that the proposed demonstrations were likely to incite further ill-feeling between races in Birmingham, they would feel morally bound to discourage them strongly. They made it clear however that they were most willing to take direct, constructive action, and alternatives are being studied.

The "especially charged member" in company with the rest of the committee is rather more than nominally opposed to racialism. He in particular, while not having prepared a thesis on the subject, has had some little experience, having lived in the East during troubled periods, having spent considerable time in South, Central, and East Africa, and having had the disquieting experience of witnessing race riots.

His remark, (not a "silly public allegation," but an experienced comment made in committee) was to the effect that the type of Pakistani working men who were to accompany the demonstrators would contain a percentage who would produce knives were they attacked by "Teds" or others. Having lived and worked with Pakistanis for a period, he may perhaps be allowed his opinion.

As a Muslim himself, he is well aware that the decent Pakistani is forbidden by his religion to enter a pub, and in any case too intelligent and law abiding to allow himself to be drawn into such a risky project. The committee member was of the opinion that the scheme had all the ingredients of a Notting Hill.

Our critics suggest that we have some ulterior motive in inviting prominent racialist speakers to the Union. The refutation is simple. S.C.A.R.S. is a democratic organisation which firmly believes that all sides should be heard, and that our attack on race prejudice must be by legal, apolitical, non-emotional means based on proper knowledge of the subject. Nor shall we allow ourselves to be used as a front for anyone with a political axe to grind.

EFFORTS

We shall continue our efforts to build a strong society within the Guild, to put an end to prejudice within the University, to make racial problems and their causes known to the University population, and to take constructive action outside, whenever we can. In effect, to act in accordance with our Constitution.

We are open to intelligent suggestions of criticism, and new members with a cool headed, intelligent contribution to make are welcome.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK GREEN,
Chairman, S.C.A.R.S.

All together

COSMOP SOC

SIR,—We are very interested in starting a "European Society" in the Union and would be grateful if you could give this idea some publicity.

The aims of such a new society would be firstly to bring European students in the University of Birmingham together, to discuss topics and invite prominent personalities to talk on European issues, and thirdly to promote greater contact between British and Continental students. The society would also extend a welcome to any interested persons from other continents.

EDWARD PINCHESON
(British)
ABRAHAM SERFATY
(Spanish)

(P.S.: Please contact Abraham Serfaty through Union's pigeon-holes.)

PRESS POST

Dissenters dissent

BAD IN MOST PARTS

SIR,—With reference to the article, "Like the curate's egg," by "B.A." in last week's "Guild News," I wish to make the following points.

Firstly, "B.A." devoted nearly three-quarters of his criticism of "Dissent" to one article on "Soviet tests" one page in length. "B.A." states that this article was "dreary double-talk" etc. and proceeds to devote the majority of this criticism to dreary platitudes. However, let us be factual.

The article on "Soviet tests" was inserted because the reasons given by the Soviet Government for commencing their tests had hardly been given a cursory hearing in our Press, radio, and TV. It was, therefore, considered necessary to give the views of the Soviet Government (as issued by their Embassy in London) so that all Socialists can get a more balanced opinion on this vital issue.

Secondly, it seems that only the Communists (according to "B.A.") display "considerable paucity of the qualities of intelligence."

Such an attitude clearly reflects the prejudice of "B.A.": it is quite respectable to be anti-colour bar, but hardly decent to be pro-Communist.

In this attitude, "B.A." shows how he completely fails to understand the world in which we live, which accounts for such sweeping statements as "2,000,000,000 people have been given independence by the West." Is "B.A." so politically immature that he fails to recognise the difference between political and economic independence—a difference that most of our former colonial countries are finding to their own cost?

Thirdly, what does "pocket Communism" mean? Someone who upset "B.A.'s" sense of the "respectable," no doubt.

In conclusion, this article by "B.A." has further emphasised the need for "Dissent" to give an alternative to the low level of political and social understanding shown by "Guild News."

Yours fraternally,
BRIAN LEONARD,
Sec., Communist Party.

Nero says

Boxed out

IT has been announced that by next April, a British tobacco firm will be mass-producing self-lighting cigarettes, prototypes of which have recently been lit in Switzerland.

Obviously the firm concerned has not considered the enormous economic repercussions which will follow such a move, especially with regard to the British match industry.

Crisis in the boardroom:—

"Gentlemen, things have come to a head. Gone is the prosperity and phosphority of days of old. The lights are going out over the match-making industry . . . I wish, in conclusion, to tinder my resignation."

Meanwhile, outside, in the gathering mists of an April evening a small, bedraggled column of men, the wood-splitters and match-dippers of a lost heritage, walk slowly, painfully, in a dwindling procession, bearing before them placards boldly inscribed with two words: "STRIKE" and underneath, "please".

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BUNNY REED SENT DOWN

IT is with regret and dismay that we learn of the sending down of Mr. Bunny Reed for "unsatisfactory application, work and progress."

Many people have written to "Guild News" in protest and it is evident that the Guild prized his membership highly. In his just under three years in the Guild, Bunny Reed has worked hard and long for many Guild organisations, and notably for G.T.G., 'Guild News' and, of course, the Debating Society.

MISSED

He has, in short, given more of himself to furthering those activities which form an integral part of University life than perhaps anyone else in this generation of students.

Whatever the reasons of the Arts Faculty Board for their action, we cannot but say that here was someone whom the Guild, and the University, will sadly miss, not only for his personal charm, but for his initiative, drive and all-round ability, none of which was ever in doubt, to us at least.

'GUILD NEWS' STAFF.

Danish molecules dance an English jig

New landmarks are appearing on Copenhagen's waterfront. Soon after Christmas a valve will be opened in a pipeline from the Maersk refinery, which supplies the city with most of its gas, and a stream of ethylene will begin the intricate journey through compressors and reaction vessels that will transform it into one of the world's most versatile plastics: polythene.

The high-pressure process that persuades the invisible molecules of an invisible gas to choose partners, link up in long chains and form a tough, resilient plastic, was discovered by I.C.I., Britain's leading chemical company; and today it is used to make most of the one million tons of polythene produced every year throughout the world. In Britain, Australia, Canada and India, I.C.I. and its subsidiary companies operate plants making 'Alkathene' polythene for everything from squeeze-bottles and nailbrushes to packaging film and cable insulation. In seven other countries, 14 manufacturers are licensed by I.C.I. to make polythene, and to build the new polythene plant in Copenhagen, I.C.I. has joined forces with the A. P. Moller Shipping Companies. Once again, I.C.I.'s mastery of mammoth pressures and capricious temperatures will make the molecules dance.

The influence of I.C.I. research and production is felt today in every corner of the globe

ICI

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Not The Only Ones

Colleges and Ghosts

PLANS for St. Aidan's, DURHAM UNIVERSITY'S new college, have been announced. The architect is Sir Basil Spence who will also design the interior fixtures and supervise the furnishing of the college. The cost will be about £350,000 and building will commence next Autumn. It is hoped that St. Aidan's will be able to admit students for the academic year 1964.

MEMBERS of Nottingham University Society for Psychical Research were unsuccessful in their recent attempts to tape-record ghostly sounds reported emanating from an upper room of a half-demolished vicarage in Calverton. The noise of the tape-recorder motor drowned the supernatural sounds. But, as the leader of the expedition said, "The experiment must not be regarded as a waste of time, in spite of its lack of positive results."

SWANSEA students complain that they cannot become bookworms because there are no first-class bookshops in that area. The "bookshop" at College House deals exclusively in sweets and cigarettes.

SCHISM

A SCHISM has appeared in **Cambridge** student circles between those who wish to discontinue wearing gowns after dark and those who do not. An anti-gown petition is to be drawn up and a march was organised.

One hundred and fifty demonstrators were met by a sprinkling of counter-marchers and ended under a deluge of bucketsful of water which soaked several onlookers at St. Catherine's.

WAY IN

SIR,—Perhaps someone could inform me as to when and how the Guild allocates tickets for the Saturday-night Hops to outside members of the fair sex. Having attended three such functions this term, may I suggest that throwing the doors open to all females of the area would change the stupid two-to one preponderance (3½ to one after 10 p.m.) of men to women, and give a better selection (if I may use that word) of faces and figures (Brummie accent or no Brummie accent)?

Yours desperately,
A FRUSTRATED COMMERCE FRESHER.

MOCK TRIAL

MEMBERS of the Holdsworth Club, i.e. the Faculty of Law, are to stage a mock trial (in the Council Chamber today at 4.30 p.m.), the "brainchild" of Don McConville doing post-graduate law.

A story is presented of a heinous student crime committed at Lloyd's Bank at the corner of Edgbaston Park Road and Bristol Road, in which three rather mercenary undergraduates blast a hole in the safe, remove a large sum of money, and are later apprehended by the police.

Their fate is to be determined at this trial, with the aid of some rather peculiar witnesses, and witty legal elucidation by Mr. Justice Bate. All members of the University are welcome.

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM

SIR,—I have not previously replied to the aricle "Engineers' Folly," as I felt the best answer was to ignore it. However, recently-heard arguments along similar lines to those of Mr. Gough's have tempted me to write.

Briefly, Mr. Gough feels scientists (not "technologists" please, it savours of the technician with his spanner) should be controlled for the public benfit, by Arts graduates who have a more balanced view of life.

Some Arts students, when asked of the future, reply: "I'll teach." The majority don't know. Are these people, who can't organise even themselves, fitted to be in control of the creative minds of scientists such as those working on nuclear power projects?

I wonder if Mr. Gough is trying to establish for himself a last worthwhile position in life. He would be better occupied training himself to be of real use to mankind; in short, becoming a scientist.

Remember, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

Yours etc.,
AN IRATE ENGINEER.

EMERGENCY DEBATE

This house deplores the sending down of undergraduates during term except for moral offences.
5.15 p.m. Thursday, Council Chamber.

I'M SO VERY SORRY

SIR.—My attack on "Good Without God" has stung the firm of Elwin & Butler into another series of unsupported pronouncements — this time against me. But I suppose I was uncharitable and horrified at the invasion of my Ivory Tower. I am deeply sorry that my "formal logic" upset them so much.

Nevertheless, our friends did set out to justify their moral views, and they falsely pretended they had done so. I do not think that morality can be ultimately rationalised; and it was just this that the article so badly attempted to do. Though Elwin & Butler might have a correct moral viewpoint, I object to their claiming that they can **prove** its validity.

My article entitled "Is There a Second Law of Thermodynamics?" will appear shortly.

Yours, etc.,
EDWARD ASH.

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A talk with JONATHAN MILLER

WORDS . . . AND THINGS

By Fforbes

JONATHAN Miller sat on a small couch, clutching an empty soup bowl and watching us ascend the stairs. After the usual preliminaries of introduction—there were three of us, Arthur the photographer, Ingrid, an interested spectator, and myself—the atmosphere became cordial when Miller realised we were fellow sufferers from University.

"All of us get very tired," he said. "Tonight we do two shows besides each of us having other jobs during the day." He automatically spoke for the three missing members of the cast. The whole theatre was very small and the dressing-rooms scattered around the building. "The others are around somewhere but we hardly ever see each other off stage," Miller continued. We had had a vague glimpse of Dudley Moore disappearing down some stairs as we waited by the stage-door.

Jonathan Miller is tall with sandy hair, and he uses his size on stage to effect a sort of gauche gadding as though unaware of the word "joints." At 27 he has combined a career as a doctor with success on the stage. Off stage he assumes a quietly-interested and intelligent air in contrast to the slightly arrogant, analytical and brilliantly-funny outpourings of his stage monologues.

Tea cups for four. Left to right: Dudley Moore, Alan Bennet, Peter Cook, Jonathan Miller.

"We were not really surprised at the reception we had here," said Miller "after the reaction at the Edinburgh Festival, where the show was first seen but it is what we had hoped for, of course." All of us were by now seated in the incredibly small dressing-room, Arthur on a chair, Ingrid, myself and Jonathan Miller on a small couch. The room was crammed. Ties hung up in one corner, the remains of a salad lay beneath the mirror and a copy of "The Foxglove Saga" was open on a small table. There was no sign of a wardrobe.

An agent, William Donaldson, brought the show to London after spotting it, and helped it to success. The ultimate glory to be bestowed on an English production takes place later next year when the entire show is exported lock, stock and barrel to New York. It remains to be seen how the Americans will take the English pulling their own legs.

"I started 10 years ago in 'Footlights' at Cambridge," said Miller. The programme says that he dislikes spinach and is frightened by the idea of being tortured for information which he never had in the first place.

As time drew short before the next performance, Miller bounded off to round up the rest of the cast for a photogarph. Peter Cook, Alan Bennet and Dudley Moore arrived one by one, looking as if they had just emerged from a Union coffee bar instead of entertaining a publicity-minded audience. There was certainly no room in the five-foot square dressing room for a photograph so they crowded on to the stairs outside the open door.

"I can't see the gentleman at the back," complained Arthur. "The usual trouble" cracked Dudley Moore who was dwarfed by the others. This small, dark man composed or arranged all the music for the show, including a brilliantly-authentic setting of the tune "Little Miss Muffet" to Britten's music entitled "Little Miss Britten," and a skit on obscure late-night B.B.C. recitals called "Deutscher Chansons."

As the cast dispersed, Miller explained, "Peter Cook owns the Establishment, Dudley Moore is a musician, and Alan Bennet does nothing as far as we know." Miller himself is doing research at Columbia University when the show moves to New York. Success has not superseded sheer hard work, though undoubtedly the big pile of money accumulating somewhere is going to make life easier for all of them.

The lack of wardrobe in Miller's dressing room was explained when later during the show I realised the cast used no props except a multitude of hats during the Shakespeare skit. "So That's the Way You Like It." This was a wickedly individual mocking of the Shakespeare industry, in which the evil brother dies after a sword fight to the pronouncement, "Now is steel twixt gut and bladder interposed."

Miller has an aptitude for putting people at their ease. By the time the interview was over, he knew as much about us as we did about him. We left his dressing-room relaxed and expectantly awaiting the show.

"Beyond The Fringe" lives up to its rave notices, the only show which I have seen which does. The opening sketches were marred by forced laughter, but, after ten minutes, it continued spontaneously. "I hope you enjoy the show," said Jonathan Miller. We did.

While few of us wish to know the future, many hope—reasonably—to have a hand in shaping it; and this requires acquaintance with what may lie ahead. But traditional methods of probing the future are no longer in favour. Crystal-gazing has obvious limitations. Witches are prophets only of ultimate doom. So today one turns, in the first instance, to the appointments officer for the pathways to the future. We, for our part, would like to elaborate what lies along one of them—Unilever Research.

THE FUTURE

AND YOU

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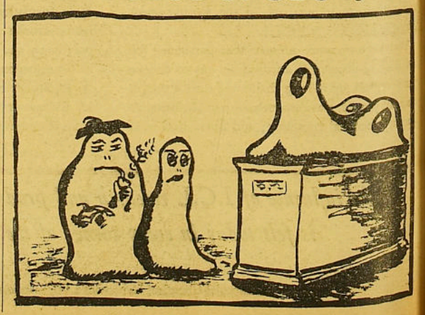
THE PSEUDOPODS by 292



Well, I think it's OBSCENE!

GTG

PARTY TRICKS

SINCE "The Birthday Party" was first produced in 1958 it has become evident that the author, Harold Pinter, is either one of the finest dramatists or one of the most successful jugglers that the theatre has seen so far this century. The current GTG production, visible and audible in the Debating Hall every evening this week, seems to be based on the first of these two views and seeks to realise the play as a coherent, organic whole.

So the opening scene between Petey and Meg, which can be played as something like a music-hall burlesque of the trivialities of domestic breakfast-time conversation, is injected by the producer, Peter James, with a sort of pathos and an attempt at a naturalistic characterisation. The trouble with this approach, however, is that with Petey portrayed as long-suffering and woman-tired, and Meg as a 60-year-old child bride, their husband and wife status is a marriage in text only.

Apart from inconsistency of this nature, the main lapses in one's enjoyment of the production spring from the intractability of the material; that is to say, the arbitrary climaxes and confessional monologues which would be exciting and dramatic in the extreme if they had any reference to a world of people beyond the stage. As it is, they are isolated pockets of theatricality.

LIMITATIONS

Within these limitations, however, the play is produced and acted in the best GTG traditions of general competence, with individual brilliance here and there. The set is easily the best that has been seen on the Debating Hall stage for several years, with exactly the right sort of tattiness and tastelessness in the wallpaper, and with a good solid ceiling that really looks as if it could support a bedroom on top.

Thoug Meg and Petey and Goldberg are all meant to be over fifty, only Jenny Thomas as Meg makes any real attempt to assume the quiverings and quaverings of old age, and she carries it off very well. In the part of Stanley, the persecuted one, Paul Harman arouses such compassion that one almost refrains from asking why he does not bolt as soon as he sees the organisation men come.

A play and a production full of inconsistencies and tricks, but nonetheless an arresting and stimulating theatrical entertainment. It should do well in the N.U.S. Drama Competition.

T.A.S.

Lulu (Jenny Gitsham) and Goldberg (Stuart Saunders) get to know each other. A scene from "The Birthday Party."

(Photo: Mike Webber).

FILMS

CHANCY

"BACK STREET" (Odeon, New Street) is maybe a reaction against the reaction against glossy Hollywood dramas.

Anyway, it's clear enough that someone over there isn't ready to abandon the formula of a love-story set in the most sumptuous apartments, restaurants, beach houses and gown-shops that Paris, Rome and New York have to offer.

Marine Corps Captain Paul Saxon (John Gavin) of Saxon Chain Stores, is returning home after World War II and by chance meets Rae Smith (Susan Hayward) who has big ideas about her dress-designing. Only when they've fallen in love does Rae discover she's "the other woman." Neither of them has reckoned with the debauched Mrs. Liz Saxon (Vera Miles), who won't agree to divorce.

Innumerable meetings, partings, phone-calls, letters and telegrams follow, giving rise to as many minor tragedies. Chance and coincidence go a long way to making the plot contrived but such criticism is offset by a good attempt to avoid the cliché-ridden love-talk with which this sort of film is associated.

"Back Street" is highly reminiscent of "Butterfield 8," in which Elizabeth Taylor won an Oscar earlier this year. Susan Hayward's performance bears favourable comparison with Miss Taylor's. John Gavin meets the demands of a rather less rewarding part and Reginald Gardiner deserves a mention for his polished appearance as Dalian, the English Dior of New York.

An excellent Edgar Wallace thriller completes a worthwhile programme.

HARVEY JERVIS

JAZZ

BRUBECK PACKS 'EM IN

THE most serious of all the anomalies which surround the Dave Brubeck Quartet is that of their tremendous popularity, evident in the fact that two capacity audiences awaited Brubeck in the Town Hall last Wednesday. I would suggest that Brubeck's success lies in the fact that he has managed to sell jazz as something which, as presented by his quartet, is socially acceptable.

The overtones of "legitimate" music which Brubeck gives to his performance has convinced the general public that the pianist himself, as his music, now falls within the limits of social convention, a fact seemingly borne out by the remark of an elderly man, sitting behind me, made to his (equally elderly) wife during the interval of the first house:—

"Why, my dear, it seems that Mr. Brubeck has been to Birmingham before."

INTERESTING

As for the concert itself, I have rarely attended such an interesting jazz concert. The Quartet's main interest currently is without doubt the development of modern jazz, using original tunes which are written (mostly by Brubeck himself) in unusual time signatures. Although I admit to failing to take my pocket metronome along, I can report that the most popular, and perhaps most successful, piece was written in Waltz time. An engaging piece of writing, Brubeck named it "Raggy Waltz."

It is somewhat difficult for me to comment on the greater part of the concert, as it consisted of material not yet issued on disc in this country, but it was clear from its nature that the experiments with time are going on. As a pianist, Brubeck himself has changed very little in style. His double-handed chords still form a great part of his style, and these he uses to create tremendous tension, rocking forwards and backwards on his piano stool until you imagine that his hooked nose will hit the keyboard. Then, at the height of the tension, when the ultimate has been reached with the support of one of the greatest rhythm sections in jazz today, the liquid sound of Paul Desmond's alto cascades through, like the clear waters of a mountain stream.

I have it on the respected authority of a friend that the second house was less of a success musically speaking. Referring to the content of Brubeck's performance, my friend eloquently termed it: "A load of rubbish." All that I can say is that, remembering the capacity audiences, Brubeck is certainly packing them in, but whether his success is social or purely musical, time alone will tell.

ANTHONY SUTTON.

Dave Brubeck.

BOOKS

THE ART IS LONG

THE layman is always irresistibly fascinated by the medical world. One wondered, therefore, whether "Medicine Today" by David Margerson published by Penguins at 5/- and on sale in Hudson's University Bookshop, had been written for the wrong reason. But reading it soon dispelled such a jaundiced view of the publishers and author.

The book indeed seems to be an honest attempt to explain simply the rationale behind various medical advances in current use or development. As such it can do nothing but good.

First reading of the book tended in places to make one say "old hat." The development of X-rays, for instance, is dealt with in some detail, but their modern uses like angiography are dealt with very shortly. Similarly, the discovery of Penicillin by Fleming in 1928 is described in full; but the recent break-through in the discovery of the penicillin "nucleus"—which offers great hope for dealing with drug-resistant bacteria—is not mentioned.

EXCITING

Again two of the most exciting developments in modern medicine receive scant mention—the recent progress in chemotherapy of mental disorders, and the really fascinating field of electronic medicine.

But these are minor criticisms. The book is lucidly written—it was tried out on one or two laymen who declared themselves satisfied. It manages to avoid the pitfalls of sensationalism which often lie in the path of authors of this type of book. I especially liked the chapter on modern anæsthesia, probably the best in the book. The diagrams, too, are lucid, clear, and helpful.

Anyone who wants to see a little of the picture of modern medicine is invited to look in this book; perhaps, since it took me only an hour to read its 110 pages, he may object to paying 5/-, but it is probably worth it.

M.S.C.

PERIODICAL

A MOMENT

"A MARXIST attitude to Christianity," is one of the thought-provoking articles which appear in the autumn edition of 'Moment.'

This magazine was originally planned to provide articles from a Christian viewpoint, which would, nevertheless, be of interest to students generally, and among the articles included in this edition are "Technological Man," "The All Christian Peace Assembly," and "Are Science and Christianity necessarily incompatible?" The edition also includes reviews of some recent books by members of the University Staff.

C.L.L.

DEBATING

BEYOND THE PALE

IT is a pity that the Debating Society's attempt to provide an interesting evening with their International Debate was an almost complete failure—largely due to a sudden reshuffling and to the poor quality of the imported speakers.

Miss Pendlebury was labouring under the difficulty of speaking first and at short notice and therefore did very well to give us a tightly-argued witty five minutes. Her wistful innocence was very intriguing and enabled her to persuade us that this House would not kiss the Blarney Stone—at least, temporarily.

She said that Irish speakers would be "superstitious, boastful, enticing and vaguely erratic." But the first Irishman proved that he could be aggressive as well—the second was just vaguely.

IMPASSIONED

Mr. Peter Warwick of Trinity College, Dublin opposed the motion. However, he chose to speak little of the immediate subject and amused the House with an impassioned attack on English imperialism in Ireland. If he intended to be amusing, then he certainly was; if he meant to be serious he made a complete ass of himself. He disproved his own argument that contact with Irish culture would give one kindness, charity, and gentleness, as he bludgeoned the House with Henry VIII, Cromwell, the Pale, and the Black and Tans.

At this point, **Mr. McVeagh,** speaking third, attempted to inject the meeting with some humour by moving a motion that would make the opposition's remarks irrelevant (though this seemed hardly needed). Suddenly the Debate woke up as procedural motions fired by the Honourable President ricocheted round the Chamber, culminating in an unsuccessful attempt to unseat the Chairman, Mr. Bernard Beatty.

NO FIRE

Mr. Reilly of Queens University, Belfast, lacked the fire of his compatriot. He took his text from the Book of Guiness and after bewailing the sad state of Ireland invited us all to it. Most of his speech was scrappy with some vague humour lurking in it; he had the annoying habit of mentioning a good topic and then saying "I won't go into that."

Speeches from the floor seemed to reflect the general trend of the opposition's failings. Mr. Evans vied with Mr. Warwick in bad taste; a Gael spoke in terse Erse and roundabout English. A pregnancy substitute was offered by Mr. Mirza and Mr. Campion quoted Webster, waved his knife and welcomed us to Wales. Probably a fitting end to an uninspiring debate.

TIM BETTS.

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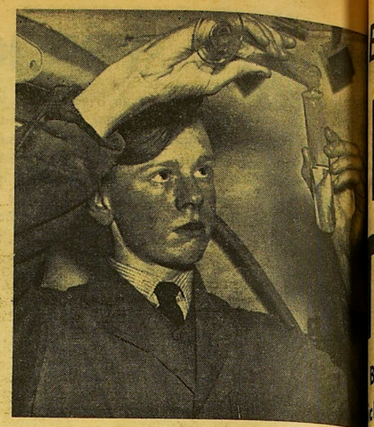


The most common operation carried out in any chemical laboratory—pouring coloured fluids from one container into another. This is a purely mechanical operation. Is the science teaching in our schools equally mechanical and uninspiring?

(Photo: Arthur Burgess)

Talking point No. 5

ALL THAT GLISTERS

Peter Ealey

THE monarchy is not a charming anachronism, but, you know, "oh, so British." Its function is little different of the bottle of Airwick used in the kitchen; it serves to cover, emanating from the putrefaction of real values in society today. In Osborne put it, "the gold filling in a mouth of decay."

If its function is suspect, the reasons for its existence certainly are. In an age when Right-wing is left of centre, there is no justification for the continued pre-eminence in society of one particular family, membership of which is only, after all, an accident of birth. And, why should others whose only qualification is that they can afford to own thoroughbred racehorses, or have blimped their way to a generalship, why should these profit from this anomalous situation? What a source of inspiration the William Hickeys of this world would find in this "Society," the contemporary counterpart to King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table!

Again, a society that makes its Mecca the Royal Garden Party is surely verging on senescence. Not only is the importance laid on the "Royal handshake" misplaced—what possible inspiration could anyone derive from this jejune event except perhaps a feeling of anti-climax?

A screen

The Monarchy is used by the Church as a screen behind which it progresses in its retrograde way to an understanding of the problems which face itself and the individuals it claims to guide. A Royal visit to St. Paul's Cathedral or the parish church of Littlehampton-in-the-Marsh gives the Archbishop and his colleagues nothing less than a carte-blanche to continue their platitudes and unrealistic course of action. If the Church was truly concerned for the spiritual life of its members, it would bar its doors to the Royal Family. For in their presence numbers of the money-men whom Christ threw out of the Temple become nothing, compared with their gaping, gaping modern-day equivalents.

The Government, too, uses monarchy to cover up its shortcomings and inadequacies. It is a cult to arrange a Royal visit to those whose affairs have been handled or to whom promises have been made. The people accept the sop; for a reason once they have seen the Queen or even have been touched by her, life seems once more worth living.

Equating

Relying entirely upon associations that the idea of monarchy has for most men, Government feels justified in equating "good" with "useful" and carries through its greatest deception, the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Here it is rewarding services to the community that are rewarded but services to Government. More than once the Prime Minister has been accused of equate "good" with "hostile" when he has sought to remove a colleague to the House of Lords.

Aldous Huxley has suggested in his book "Heaven and Hell" that "for most of us most of the time the world of everyday experience seems rather dim and dreary. We need in our world some mitigating, vision-inducing element to escape from its greyness and monotony. Some men like Blake and Van Gogh had no need of artificial, they were naturally visionaries. But most of us, like Dostoievsky's Kirilov, can be inspired by such a thing as the greenness of a mere leaf. I require what Huxley calls "the secondary arts"—fireworks, pageantry and theatrical spectacle.

There would be perhaps a justification for the existence of monarchy if its primary function

Breakdown in Education

NO TIME TO LEARN

By Doctor Michael Bassey of Sheffield University

"ANGRY Young Man of Science" was the description the Press gave me after I had read a paper to the British Association meeting at Norwich this summer. I had been attacking the teaching of science in English schools and I concluded:

"We are angry because the education of the coming generation is endangered by the poor terms of service of science teachers; we are angry because the coming generation is wasting some of its time in school on out-dated overloaded and unimaginative science syllabuses.

We are angry because the science education of today is so little geared to the needs of the citizens of tomorrow."

It is not possible to give much of the evidence for such a conclusion in a short article, for this is based on studies of syllabuses and textbooks, and on opinions collected from past pupils. Arts undergraduates at University College, London, who have passed 'O' Level science examinations but have not studied 'A' Level science, sometimes spoke in strong terms in reply to a questionnaire:—

"School science was interesting but not very instructive up to the age of 14. Between 14 and 16 years of age it tended to become mechanical learning by heart of definitions, experiments and examination topics so that I gained distinctions at 'O' Level, without understanding what I was writing."

"I found that the worst thing about school science was the mystery in which everything was wrapped—we did not know the reason for meddling around with bottles of acid and bunsen burners, and it seemed to lead nowhere."

"Looking back, chemistry seems to me to have been much more of a game with beakers and bunsen burners than a utilitarian proposition. Atomic structure was simply out for non-specialists. I have learnt far more since from two or three television programmes."

Critical

More than a third of the 241 questionnaire replies were highly critical of school science teaching that they had received.

Among several questions was, "Are there atoms in the following: air, water, clay, wood?" One in five could not answer correctly. Clearly this sample will not be representative of all the successful candidates at O Level because it is taken from the more intelligent end of the spectrum, because many of the people in it were already biased to arts subjects, and because it is too small a sample for trustworthy extrapolation.

Nevertheless, provided these points are borne in mind, I think the results of the survey form an interesting commentary on present day science teaching. In particular we realise that many of the arts undergraduates of today will be administrative leaders tomorrow, and so their knowledge of, and attitude to science, may be of considerable importance.

Three objectives of a general education in science can be identified: a simple understanding of:

the nature of the physical world
the scientific method
the significance and achievements of science.

Overplayed

I find that the first objective tends to be overplayed in depth, and neglected in breadth, i.e. one may learn of phlogiston, of the law of multiple proportions, and how to measure the focal length of a concave mirror, while remaining quite ignorant of the size of the universe or of the length of geological time.

The scientific method is often ignored; half the text books used for teaching O Level chemistry make no mention of it and most of the others devote a stilted paragraph to ideas of "hypothesis leading to theory leading to law." Likewise the significance and achievements of science tend to be neglected.

These are reasons why science at school is something so distant from everyday life and they can be traced to unchanging examination syllabuses and unimaginative teachers. The boy or girl who calls the subject "stinks" is perhaps thinking of more than hydrogen sulphide.

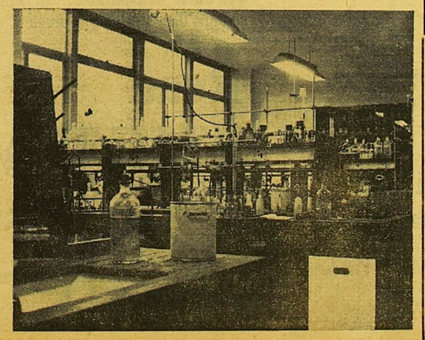
Science teaching should give the people of tomorrow the knowledge to enable them to act as responsible citizens. Without the three Rs, our present democracy would collapse—a well-planned "S" is needed as well for the democracy of tomorrow.

What is needed in science teaching? New teachers, new syllabuses, new thinking.

By new teachers, I mean not only new entrants, but revitalised teachers, who with better terms of service and periods of refresher training would be more able to stimulate the young in science and scientific thinking. New syllabuses must become a regular procedure, not a once-and-for-all phenomenon. Probably the best way is to run them parallel to the old for a while so that the older teachers have time to catch up.

New thinking. If our science teaching is to be really effective it must be assaulted on all sides by new ideas. New thinking is needed not only on the detail of syllabuses and on how individual aspects can also best be taught, but on some quite fundamental points; is the division of school science into chemistry, physics and biology desirable? At present there are a few hermits in caves in various parts of the kingdom engaged on these problems. I would like to see some of them gathered together in a research and teaching centre concerned with technical education.

The present state of science teaching is certainly something to be angry about.



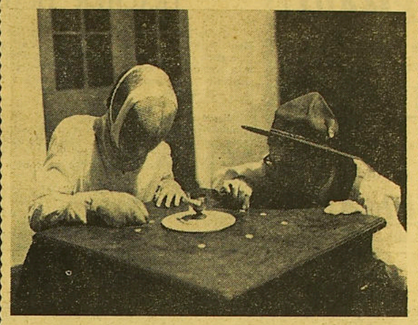
The cluttered lab of the Arts Faculty's nightmares.

Superficial

Men said that the Royal Family is the best diplomats that money possesses. Superficially it would appear so. We read proper headlines like this: "Alexandra—a hit in Melbourne" "Paris loves Liz." But these phrases do not fundamentally alter the real interests of a country. If the Government feels that entry into the European Common Market will damage their interests, however many smiles Margaret flashes on the men and hospital patients of Sidney, not one of them will see an iota of difference to them. Such a Royal visit only serves to delude people of this country into believing that their relations have never been better, when in point of fact the governments of the two countries are doggerheads.

Jeremy Bentham who said that the greatest good is for the greatest number of people, using this criterion, the Royal family is a highly creditable institution. But must the welfare of the individuals depend on the elaborate structure of what is, in fact, worthless values? Is it worth to be a Royal smokescreen to conceal "the freshness of things"?

TIPPING THE WINK



The winning team at practice.

(Photo: Arthur Burgess)

LAST Sunday morning, at Sheffield, the Inter-Varsity Tiddlywinks Championships were played off. To the accompaniment of massed kazoos and resounding ecclesiastical and obscene cheers, Birmingham's 'Kudu A' team carried all before them.

This week in The Listener

Issue dated 30th November

CHRISTMAS BOOK NUMBER

New books reviewed by distinguished critics, including—

Geoffrey Barraclough, Sir Anthony Blunt, Peter Fleming, Michael Futrell, Geoffrey Gorer, Hugh Lloyd-Jones, C. L. Mowatt, Raymond Williams.

BBC Talks to be printed include—

"THE WHITE COLLAR REVOLT?"

Dr. V. L. Allen, Lecturer in Industrial Economics at Leeds University, comments on the recent growth of white-collar militancy. Is it a major revolt? Does it indicate that these workers are moving leftward politically?

REITH LECTURE NUMBER 3

Margery Perham, Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, discussed the evolution of British policy towards colonial self-government . . . difficulties encountered in the transference of power.

"THE PLAIN MAN—INSTITUTIONS AND MEN"

Creative minorities, internal conflicts and the layman . . . "A study which fails to take them into account can have little but ideological significance," says John Rex, Lecturer in Social Studies at the Leeds University.

and other features

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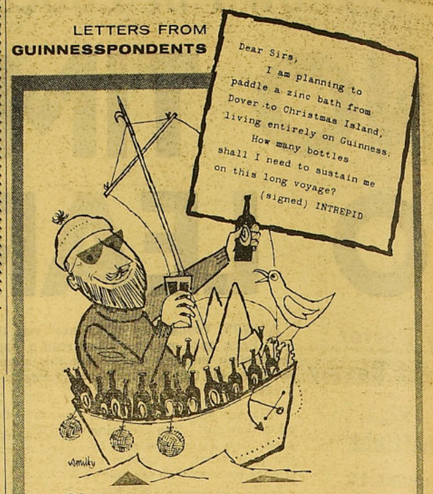

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RADIATION HAZARD

Here Will We Sit

By Bruce Abrahams

THE public image projected by the Press on the CND movement, and indeed by the movement itself, often obscures the personalities that compose it. Those who oppose CND too often take refuge behind epithets of "beatniks" or "weirdies" . . . "hysterical," "left-wing dupes," and more tolerant than the others, "misguided."

But what can we find if we go behind the epithets, and even the admiration that some hold for people who are prepared to sit and march in extreme discomfort and, indeed, go to prison for what means most to them? How far is C.N.D. an emotional reaction, or the instrument of Communism? How far is it composed of young people who are just looking for something to rebel against? Is there a particular type of personality that is attracted to C.N.D.? These questions cannot be answered in one short article, but in an attempt to isolate some of these factors from the public image, and bring them on to a more personal plane, "Guild News" asked two members of C.N.D. to come along and answer questions put to them by the Political Editor.

Questions

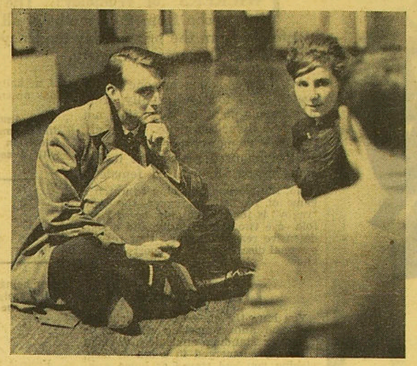
Miss Anne Petter, a committee member of the Birmingham branch, and Mr. Rodney Cooper, an "ordinary member" agreed to do this.

The first question that came to mind was why these two people joined the movement in the first place. Ann Petter is a veteran, who joined at the beginning of the movement, and took part in the first Aldermaston picket. Although her father encouraged her interest, she firstly gained a horror of war from reading war novels, and was finally persuaded to join C.N.D. by the conscience-pricking film "Children of Hiroshima." She made no bones about the fact that her original motives were emotional, but later discussions and reading only served to confirm her in her opinions.

Intellectual

Rodney Cooper on the other hand, did not join until after his first year at the University. Having spoken against C.N.D. at a meeting of the New Thinkers, he found that the intellectual arguments of C.N.D. were more convincing. Indeed, he still finds the purely moral objections unsatisfactory, and sees C.N.D. as a definite political movement designed to pushing Britain into neutralism, rather than as exerting moral pressures on the rest of the world as Ann Petter does.

They disagreed too on certain aspects of civil disobedience. Both approved, but Ann was more reserved as to its uses and felt that it should be resorted to only in extreme conditions; it was an important way of keeping in the public eye, and in gaining new members.



John Cooper and Anne Petter interviewed while in training.
(Photo: Arthur Burgess).

The next most interesting point was the question of the alliance of C.N.D. to the left. Was it simply because of the Conservative policy on nuclear weapons, or did it go deeper. Evidently the latter. Both were firmly oriented to the left-wing in matters outside C.N.D. This orientation was, however, concerned mainly with questions of social welfare and education, but although Ann Petter admitted to preoccupation with domestic issues, Rodney Cooper was against the Common Market, but for the reason that it would water down Socialism in general, and, more important, the cause of C.N.D.

On the other hand, both were decidedly anti-Communist. Both considered that there was little to choose between Russia and America, and Rodney declared that he thought the Communists were perhaps more of an embarrassment to C.N.D. than the Fascists were to the Tories. Nonetheless, in his opinion, C.N.D. had to grow through the left-wing of the Labour Party, although the danger of a split was not one to be ignored.

Not clear

In many ways, the picture has been left only a little clearer. It would seem that most members, whilst sharing an abhorrence of nuclear warfare, disagree to a certain extent on the functions and aims of C.N.D. in getting Britain to abolish it. For some, it is an emotional reaction, for others it involves a carefully-organised political pressure group. But it is evident, that the leftist tendencies of the members go further than the bomb. They are coupled with many other "utopian socialist ideals" . . . indeed, this idealism emerged as the strongest characteristic.

This pacifism expresses itself in a number of attitudes, chief among them being the refusal to consider one side better than the other. Not that this is essentially reprehensible, but it implies a mental "opting out" of the world situation.

Certainly, most members of C.N.D. are normal, intelligent people, marked out only by their idealism. They are facing a critical situation in the best way they know, and who is to say that they are not as sane, or responsible as the politicians whose policies they deplore? On the other hand, this naive idealism, and I use the word naive, to imply uncynical, is the very thing which is both their greatest strength and their greatest weakness.

Juggling

If the campaign grows enough to be a serious political force, then many members might well become disillusioned, with the political juggling that ensues. I say this because it seems to me that the socialism of not a few of the members is the socialism of the twenties, an emotional reaction to the horrors of the Great War . . . and we know what happened to the idealism of those years.

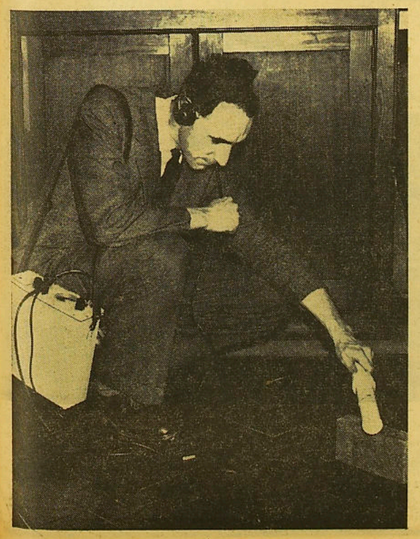
One can only have respect for the people involved, who in a way, represent the bewildered "common man" of the world. But it is difficult to see how these Davids can have any real effect on the Goliath of International Politics, lacking as they do the political skills necessary to change a process that has, after all, been continuing since the Second World War.

All Under Control

by Dr. D. Bracher

THE rate at which radioactive materials are bought or made by the University is increasing, and at present some 15 departments, all in the Faculties of Science and Medicine, are using them.

Eight departments have X-ray sets (in most cases more than one set each), and there are several other pieces of equipment which produce ionising radiation; some by design, and others as a by-product. The Senate Committee for the Control of Radiation Exposure, under the chairmanship of Professor W. E. Burcham, exercises general control of all safety measures necessary where work involving radiation is carried on, and an officer of the committee, the University Radiation Protection Officer, is in touch with all departments using radioactive substances or radiation-producing equipment. In addition, each such department has a Departmental Radiation Supervisor.



Dr. Bracher demonstrating the use of a Geiger counter.

Dose

One of the tasks of a Departmental Radiation Supervisor is to keep a watchful eye on the amounts of radiation which those under his care receive.

The "dose"—as it is called—which a person gets in, say, a week or a fortnight is usually measured by means of a piece of photographic film worn on the lapel of the coat; the amount of blackening found on developing the film is a measure of the dose received. About 150 people in the University wear these films.

There are many other less obvious aspects of radiation protection arising from the moral and legal obligations which workers with radiation have towards other people—some of them not within the University at all.

Thus the University realises that it must not appreciably irradiate its Undergraduates or visitors, who walk about in or near buildings containing sources of radiation; hence, for example, the thick screening walls to be seen outside the Physics department, and the warning notices to be found on doors.

If we wish to transport radioactive substances by road, rail or air—or even on the local canal—there are regulations to be observed which have to be drawn up with the possibilities of accidents in view.

Having done an experiment with a strongly radioactive substance, how do you dispose of it? It may not be safe to tip it down the drain; you may contaminate workers in the sewers, or pollute a river from which a town draws drinking water. It may be too strong to put in the dustbin; you may cause a radioactive dust hazard at the City Salvage Department's incinerating plant. You may certainly not tip it on waste land when no-one is looking; small boys have a habit of exploring such places.

It may be best to keep the material until radioactivity has decayed to a safer level; but if it is in a dead rat (as is not infrequently the case in the Medical School), the rat will begin to decay too, and it may win the race. Fortunately not all these objections usually apply, so that we have little difficulty in getting rid of most of our radio-active waste.

DISPOSAL

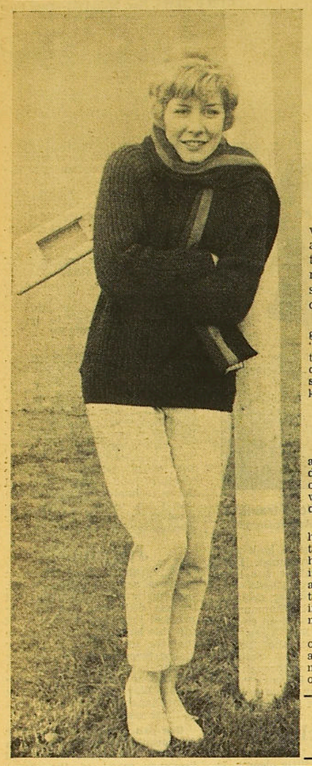
One of the difficulties of radiation protection in a University is that there is little routine work being done; everyone doing research is, of course, trying to be different from everyone else, and it is almost true to say that each person's radiation protection is unique. Safety depends as much on the individual as it does on the general protection arrangements. Fortunately, most people realise this and act accordingly.

MILKED DRY

The prospect of becoming Strontium 90 impregnated has not deterred any of Birmingham University students from consuming as much, if not more milk than ever before. The vending machines in the Refectory, the Arts Block, the Med. School and the Phys. Ed. Department, sold 9,478 cartons of milk during the last month.

Woman on the touchline

BIRD'S EYE VIEW



"TWICKERS" or Wembley? The famiilar cries of "but my dear chap, it's the wrong-shaped ball" echo from the mouths of all ardent status-seekers. It would seem that sport, too, has suffered from the present-day tendency of classifying anything and everything under a myth called the Categorised Society.

by **WENDY BURROW**

It all depends on what one goes to watch sport for, and usually, from a woman's point of view, it is not to learn about the game. After all, no sane woman braves hordes of sport-hypnotised males just to become a sport-hypnotised female.

No, the reasons for going to watch a game of football or rugger—the word "rugby" is for laymen only, or so I am told—are twofold: curiosity and a self-defensive reaction against that regular seasonal disease which all sports widows know.

The choice

You have the choice between staying at home and wondering what he is doing, or standing ankle-deep in mud or totally submerged in a sea of men, wishing you had stayed at home wondering what he was doing.

Any football match I have attended has been rather marred by the fact that, on such occasions, all the men have been taller than I am. The result is that I become so exhausted craning and stretching in an attempt to follow the ball that the finer points—and men insist that there are finer points—are missed.

Personally, I would rather watch it on television if I had to watch it at all, but, provided that one does not mind not appreciating the mechanics of the game, the over-riding advantage of actually being present is that nebulous abstraction, atmosphere.

No amount of skilful photography and commentary can bring this over on television, and for a potential producer with a sense of humour, the sight of men being rounded up by police horses will surely start a new phase in the era of the Western.

"Standing frozen in swirling fog"

The Bar

From a woman's point of view rugger is a better game because it offers a social life as some sort of compensation to standing frozen on the touchline in swirling fog!

Whatever the outcome, the bar is a refuge where either victory is celebrated or sorrows drowned. The stronghold of drink will tempt men into the most ingenious excuses to obtain it.

I was brought up on repeated warnings from my father about the evil menaces of rugger "beer-ups," and I am loath to describe his reaction when, at the tender age of fifteen, I asked permission to attend the annual dinner of a rugger club.

He succumbed, eventually, on the grounds that it would be "good experience for the girl." And so, ignoring the stifled protests of my mother, I went.

The whole thing turned out to be very tame compared with the ominous warnings I had received. No doubt I was lucky/unlucky on this occasion. (The modesty attributed to the fair sex forbids me deleting one word or the other in the true Civil Service manner.)

To those of you who think this account unduly prejudiced against sport I may say that I am still thawing out from approximately three and a half hours spent watching a seven-a-side tournament a fortnight ago. Perhaps I harbour some resentment yet.

If nothing else, it was a chance to try and ape those "Vogue" illustrations of women who actually remain superior and elegant in wellingtons, whilst trying not to make not too outrageous comments on the progress of the game.

I felt somewhat cheered when a woman of six years' rugger-watching experience confessed to knowing practically nothing at all about the game. The only difference it made was that appropriate comments now co-ordinated with the appropriate actions on the field.

Suffers

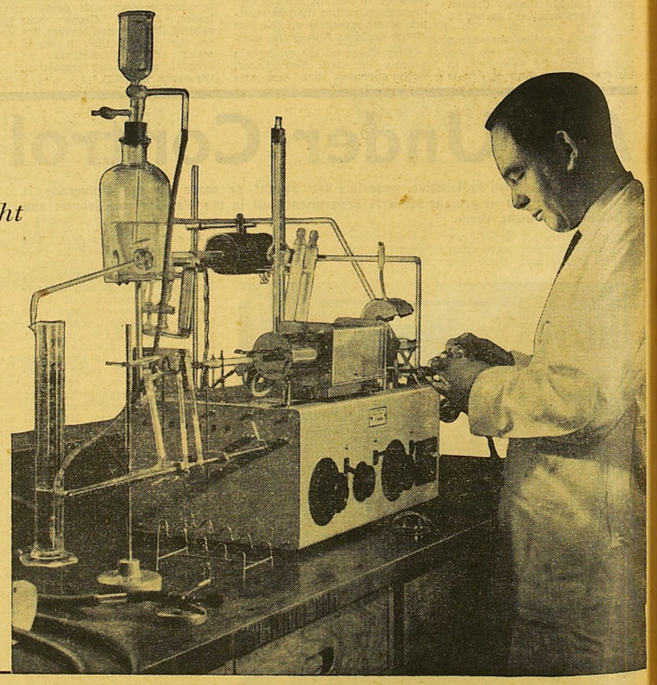
Rugger, of course, suffers from the subdivision of League and Union, which only serves to confuse a woman who tries to take an intelligent interest in the game.

For those who doubt the social distinctions attached to the two sports, football and rugger, can you imagine Andy Capp playing rugger? Having experienced Wembley, I now eagerly await my first "Twickers" next year, if only to say, "I've been."

(N.B.: There is no reference to "soccer", since I confess to knowing even less about that than rugger.)

"I hold that man is in the right who is most closely in league with the future."

HENRIK IBSEN.



For Hedley the future begins with research. The work our scientists are doing today may very well decide what the Company is doing ten years from now.

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SPORT

RUGBY

SOCCER

BADMINTON

IN TOP GEAR

THE Golf Club is now running into top gear, and last week, following their fine win over Cardiff, they travelled to Gay Hill with high hopes of another victory.

The whole team played well, except the first pair of John Sweet and Bob Weston, who were unable to strike their best form against very powerful opponents. Nevertheless, in the second match, Brian Jones and Roy Swain did well to win a very hard-fought tussle, and Brian Gatward continued his successful season by chalking up another victory.

With the third and fourth pairs halving their matches, Birmingham came away with one more good win to their credit.

Six out of seven MANCHESTER FOILED

THE Manchester University fencing team came to Birmingham on Saturday, saw the opposition, but were conquered by 20 fights to 7, bringing the total number of victories for Birmingham to six out of seven this term.

The foil was won 8-1, with Martin Warner and David Baldwin on top form, each winning three fights. Ping Lee seemed to suffer from the three week's interval since the Club's last match, but still managed two successes.

Birmingham won the sabre event 7-2. As usual Warner was supreme. After losing his first match on a dubious decision, Dave Sayers went on to slaughter his other opponents. Baldwin won two contests by quieter and more conventional methods.

The epee was more closely duelled, Birmingham eventually coming out on top 5-4. Warner won his three fights on the last hit in each case, a demonstration of his fighting ability, which carries him through even when not on top form.

Sayers again lost his first fight, this time fencing badly, but improved sufficiently to demolish his next two adversaries 4-0 in both instances.

It only remains for the Club to beat Nottingham next week—a probable occurrence—to round off a most satisfactory term, and ensure a place in the U.A.U. team finals.

THE SECONDS

Backing up the first team, the seconds have also lost only one match—and that was a first-team fixture which the first team could not manage to play because of another match that day.

NOT AT HOME

SO far this season, the Rifle Club has not been at its best at home on the range. The first two matches, both home, resulted in defeat, although against Nottingham the first firing squad lost by only twenty points. Against Manchester both first and second ladies' teams lost.

The climate away from Birmingham seems to suit them better. At Loughborough on Saturday the first VIII had a welcome win by the narrow margin of 754 points to 744, D. Kidd made the highest score of 98.

AWAY CONDITIONS

Perhaps the forthcoming Midlands Indoor Bisley at Bingley Hall, with favourable away conditions and personal prize incentives, will fire the Rifle Club to greater things.

Thrilling game

RUGBY CLUB IN PHOTO FINISH

BIRMINGHAM 6, BRISTOL 6

THIS tough, thrilling game at Bournbrook last Wednesday exploded into life in the final twenty minutes, when all the points were scored. Earlier, the match had been a tale of missed penalties, with three failures on each side, but, ironically, both teams landed a penalty goal in injury time to bring the struggle to a storming climax.

The first half was fairly even, with the heavier Bristol crush-proof pack a little superior in the set scrums and lineouts. It was a stirring, no-holds-barred battle amongst the forwards, and there were several punches flung in the loose mauls.

Behind the scrum, both sets of three - quarters tackled and covered valiantly, and only the ever alert Bryn Jenkins looked capable of making a break to disrupt the defensive deadlock. Marrs was again a sound full-back, while wing-forward Atherton, in spite of an injury which later slowed him down, was an inspiration in his tackling and backing up.

After half-time, with the light failing rapidly, both defences continued to look virtually impregnable, but after 66 minutes, Birmingham went ahead following a strong rush downfield, when Davies feigned a pass to winger Jarvis, cut inside his man and went over near the corner for an unconverted try.

LEVEL

Stoppages for injuries and infringements became more and more frequent as the forward battle continued to rage, but Bristol drew level after 74 minutes when, following a spell of heavy pressure near the Birmingham line, the full-back moved up to drop a splendid goal from the 25-yard line.

In gathering dusk and with the crowd clamouring for the floodlights to be switched on, the match passed into injury time, after two minutes of which Birmingham again took the lead with Davies' first successful kick of the afternoon, a great penalty from near the touchline.

But Birmingham's glory was short-lived, for just over a minute later, Bristol were awarded a penalty, which was sent between the posts from thirty yards. With a draw a fair reflection, the teams walked off happily into the night.

"It's mine! I saw it first." An incident in last Wednesday's match.

(Photo: Andrew Hornig).

WEST BROM MADE TO FIGHT

Continuous pressure

BIRMINGHAM 1, WEST BROMWICH ALBION 3

ALTHOUGH not fielding such a formidable side as last year, when several members of the first team took part, West Bromwich nevertheless brought a strong team, including five Central League players, to Bournbrook last Wednesday.

The visitors attacked from the start and forcibly demonstrated that they were prepared to shoot whenever the opportunity arose. They switched the ball around with such ease and accuracy, and shot with such power and precision, that a host of goals looked certain.

That West Bromwich had to be content with three speaks well for the University defence, which never wilted even under the continuous pressure to which it was subjected.

Despite the one-way traffic, the Albion had to wait for half-an-hour before they could go ahead. The reason they did not score until then was Woods in the home goal. Time and again he thwarted what looked like certain goals with his feline quality and instantaneous reflexes.

NO CHANCE

Woods stood no chance at all with the first goal. He had the ball covered, but Randall unluckily deflected it wide of the goalkeeper's groping hands.

Albion's second shortly before half-time was scored by Lovett, a centre-forward with First-Division experience, who fastened on to a made-to-measure pass from his right-half. Soon after the interval West Bromwich went three ahead.

For long periods, Birmingham's attacks were reduced to hopeful long balls down the middle, which the effervescent Davies had little chance of turning to advantage.

But after 65 minutes, the University cut the lead, when Flindall intercepted a goal-kick, and his pass was pushed into goal by Brett. From then onwards, Birmingham began to see more of the ball and went close on several occasions.

Anything but a West Bromwich win would, however, have been unjust, but the Football Club can take more credit from this defeat than they can from the previous week's victories.

High Note:—

While the first eleven were learning a footballing lesson from West Brom., the third team were busy giving one to their opponents, Shrivenham, whom they defeated by the mighty margin of 22-0.

Badminton

MISS PARISH RETAINS TITLE

IN the U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B. Individual Badminton Championships, held on Friday and Saturday in the Great Hall, the highlights, as far as Birmingham was concerned, were the performances of the ladies in both the Singles and Doubles tournaments.

The men's sections of the Championships, on the other hand, were both dominated by London. However, the Birmingham pair of Ting and Essex did extremely well to beat the Cambridge University first pair, thus reaching the semi-final where they lost to London's eventual winning couple, Parmar and Finbow.

COME-BACK

One of the finest feats of the tournament was achieved by Heather Blaine, who fought her way tenaciously to the Ladies' Singles final. In her semi-final she came back magnificently to triumph over London's Miss Hanson. After being 0-9 down in the deciding set, she eventually won 12-10.

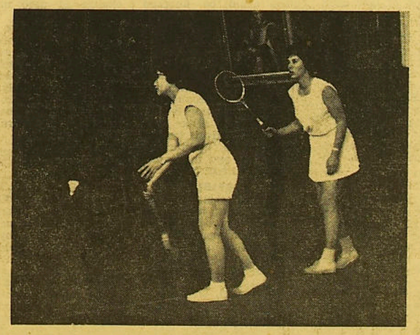
But in the final, Miss Blaine was unable to hold team-mate Barbara Parish, who retained her title by winning 11-5, 11-6.

Barbara Parish and Chi Chan performed excellently in the Ladies' Doubles competition, and in the final the Birmingham pair beat the London couple of Miss Turner and Miss Hanson 15-13, 15-11.

TRIALS

On Sunday the U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B. team trials took place, and several of the Birmingham players were selected.

As a prelude to this memorable week, the Men's Badminton Club had inflicted a crushing defeat upon Sheffield University by nine rubbers to nil.



Chi Chan (left) and Barbara Parish, the winners of the Ladies' Doubles Final.

(Photo: Geoff Butlin).

OUT NOW!

KUDU

The National Scout and Guide Magazine

from MARY GUEST (Circulation Manager).

Handsworth racialist speaks in Union

Claims immigrants are diseased and lecherous

MR. T. M. JONES, founder of the "Vigilant Immigration Control Association" and Miss E. Tomkins, a community development officer working in Sparkbrook, addressed a SCARS meeting last Tuesday.

Mr. Jones spoke effectively, from personal experience in Handsworth where he is a resident, and complained passionately about the immigrants in this area. He said they were litter louts, holders of sex orgies under the guise of parties, infested with venereal disease and leprosy and quoted dubious statistics to support his contentions.

He also claimed that immigrants weakened the bargaining power of the Trade Unions, were a drag on the economic status of the nursing profession and restricted the progress of our schoolchildren.

Mr. Jones's answer to the problem was virtually to prohibit immigration by a mass of health and crime checks and he made a plea for helping underdeveloped people in their own countries since "no one would bring a shire horse into the kitchen to treat it, but would attend to it in the stable."

REPLY

In her reply, Miss Tomkins acknowledged that many of Mr. Jones's remarks on social squalor in Handsworth were true, but essentially the problems were social ones such as housing, and more houses are simply not built by controlling immigration.

This proposed solution of what was obviously a problem had in fact no relation to the problem concerned.

RACIALIST

Mr. Jones was asked a number of provocative questions after the talks especially directed at his remarks on the evil biological and cultural effects of mixed marriages, but he evaded these with the same irrational techniques that were employed in his speech.

The meeting was vigorous and lively, but the University audience found Mr. Jones's generalisations from the particular, his constant and open contradiction of himself while being questioned, and his layman's attempt at rationalisation more than a little frustrating.

M.T.

From the inside

EXECUTIVE are to try to introduce a "liberal education" into the Guild. A plan has been formed to supplement the present system of Open Lectures by additional lectures of general interest to be given by members of the University staff.

The Guild Relations Officer, who is organising the new scheme, explained that Exec. had no complaints about the present Open Lectures, which were of a very high standard and well-attended. Exec. felt, however, that they ignored the talent within the University itself. It is planned to hold the new lectures at 1.30 p.m. on alternate Thursdays next term and three members of staff have already been approached and invited to speak on aspects of their subject which will appeal to an inter-Faculty audience.

If the first few lectures are successful the scheme will be expanded to a weekly basis.

Flics

ENTERTAINMENTS Committee's plans for the future will follow the general outline of last year's events. Last week a succesful Jazz Hop was held to combat the usual mid-term fall in numbers. The idea of a hop with a difference sprang from the Carnival Committee's Pyjama Hop, and it is hoped to hold another unusual hop in the middle of next term.

The standard of Sunday Flics should improve in the New Year. By then the new Projection Room should be in use, with the advantage of different equipment.

THEY DISAGREE

FOLLOWING a meeting of the Non-Professorial Staff Executive last Thursday, a committee has been set up to discuss with the Bursar possible alternatives for parking.

This is the result of a special meeting of the Non-Professorial Staff Committee three weeks ago, when a resolution was passed unanimously rejecting the principle of paying for parking.

Feeling that the present plans would be expensive and inconvenient, the 75 members present instructed their executive to forward their resolution to the University authorities with some constructive suggestions.

"LATIN should be taught in every Catholic school; at the moment Catholics make far too heavy weather of the language," maintained the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Grimshaw during his annual visit to the Chaplaincy. The theme of his talk, delivered to members of the Newman Society, was that the use of the vernacular in church services was not absolutely necessary, as those who are trying to introduce it maintain.

His Grace stressed the universality of the Latin tongue and entertained his audience with tales of his experiences while attending lectures in Latin with students of many nations during his studies in Rome.

The Archbishop concluded his visit by meeting most of the members of the society, both old hands and freshers, over coffee.

COLD WAR

"EVEN if we do not have a military war with Russia, we shall have an economic battle," said Mr. M. N. Shaw, J.P., M.P., when speaking on "Economic Affairs" to the Conservative Association.

Mr. Shaw began by sketching in the historical background to the present economic situation. He stressed that Free Trade should mean competitive, free-trading with countries whose capabilities were equal to our own. It should not mean, as it did under the Liberals in the 19th century, non-tariff trading with countries from whom we feared little or no competition because of our industrial advance over the rest of the world.

ANSWER

Mr. Shaw thought the answer to present economic problems was threefold. We should seek more trade with under-developed countries, thus involving the competitive spending of untied loans.

This means abandoning industries which are static or on the decline and concentrating on new industries supplying new goods and using new ideas, equipment and techniques. Thirdly, Mr. Shaw said we must all be prepared to work harder and more effectively than other nations.

ARMS AND THE MEN

Chances of peace

PROFESSOR P. M. S. BLACKETT'S Open Lecture on "Prospects of Disarmament" was marked by the application of a sane intelligence to factual knowledge.

At present both sides believed in disarmament only on their own terms, he said. This approach was impossible. Progress to peace, without war, viewed historically, could only be made by a true appreciation of how one's opponents viewed onself. Too many of the unliked actions of the U.S.S.R. had been ascribed to the innate wickedness of communism, rather than to a real need for defence felt by the U.S.S.R. The West must come to a new way of thinking. In the U.S.A. some hold that even to think oneself into the opponents' position was subversive.

TRAGIC

The history of disarmament, best traced in Philip Noel Baker's book, has so far been "a tragic game of musical chairs." Proposals had been withdrawn immediately a sign of acceptance by the other side appeared. The "postures," after the conferences of June 27, 1961, were broadly that the U.S.S.R. wanted disarmament without control, and the U.S.A., control without disarmament.

The Russians thought a stable balance could be maintained if the U.S.A. realised that New York, and a handful of other cities could be knocked out at one blow. They relied on fewer weapons, and their space propaganda, to convince the Americans of this.

Up to 1958, there were many advocates in America, eminent people, who advocated "getting it over with" by first strike. President Kennedy is waging war on the uninformed, unrealistic and uncompromising factions.

POSSIBLE

Prof. Blackett thought that if indeed, he had the correct facts, a solution to the disarmament problem was possible, if the initial steps maintain a balance so that no side could gain advantage.

The C.N.D. was invaluable in shocking the public into realisation of the horrors of nuclear war.

A.H.

Money in thy purse

NEW regulations concerning the "Birmingham Post" prize for English poetry are to come into force this session. Entries will only be accepted from students who are under 23 on the last date of submission, 2nd May, 1962.

The Committee are reluctant to exclude any full-time student from entering, but on two or three occasions the prize of £25 has been won by students in their late twenties who had returned to the University to take higher degrees or post-graduate courses. It is felt that maturity and experience give older students an unfair advantage over undergraduate poets.

The first student to win the prize is now Associate Professor of English in the University of Toronto. Though the prize was first suggested by members of the Arts Faculty, in past years it has been won by students from a variety of departments.

Carnival takings down £6,000

"GOOD IN THE EVENT," SAYS CHAIRMAN

CARNIVAL last year made £3,846 for Birmingham Charities, in contrast to the previous year's total of £10,057. The Committee had to work against unique and difficult conditions since it was the University's first ever Summer Carnival, the date being changed from October to June by the University Senate.

Mr. Pat Whitehead, the Carnival Chairman, states that his aims this year were to prove that Carnival was possible in June despite the difficulties associated with the date when the student population was at its lowest, and the fact that he had to work against student opinion which considered the change of date undesirable.

He attempted to organise it in order to collect as much money as possible, although realising that it could not hope to compete financially with October Carnivals, and also to ensure the continuance of Carnival.

SUCCESS

The entertainments organised during Carnival Week—Hops, Balls, a Midnight Matinee and a Baby Show — made £350, although in the past they had been notoriously unprofitable. The Baby Show, the first to be held in a University Rag anywhere, was astonishingly successful. Although it ran at a slight loss the publicity it got from Press and Television was invaluable.

Publicity gimmicks in the form of stunts suffered a serious setback, when, on the Monday of Carnival Week, the Superintendent of Police officially banned all stunts from the city centre.

The Carnival Chairman stated: "Our experience this year has simply amplified the disadvantages, which the Guild were well aware of, in holding the Carnival in the Summer Term. However, now that the change has been made we feel that the University Carnival can look forward to increasingly successful years. A figure of £7,000 to £8,000 is not unduly optimistic now that next year's committee has our experience on which to build."

At this week's meeting of Council elections for the post of Carnival Chairman were held. (See Late News for results).

BAR ON?

THE Executive is trying to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement to equip the Union with a lounge bar. Tenders have been invited from two firms.

It has been decided that the only room which is suitable, and available for everyday use, is the Men's Old Lounge, now the Television Room. Where the television set would be moved to has to be decided.

If the estimates are commensurate with the sum the Guild is prepared to pay for such a bar, the matter will go before the Union Committee and the Guild Council. Until this is done no definite decision will be made.

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