

CORNISH BROS.

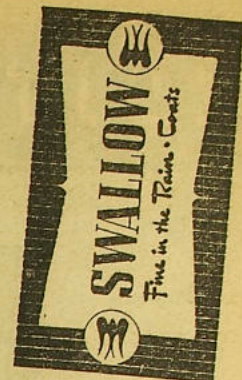
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Guild News



Thursday, April 30, 1959

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 552

Threepence

ROOM AT THE TOP

POLICY STATEMENT ... BY M. ENGLAND

CANDIDATES for the Presidency are expected to present a manifesto to the electorate. This is almost impossible to do by the nature of the position. Cliff Peartree's letter shows clearly that the President is not a dictator! I should aim to be a mediator, always seeking justice for the members of the Guild. It would be my intention at all times to keep in close contact with the opinions of members and also to see that they were aware of all important matters. If ever a President loses sight of the wishes of Guild members, he is not doing his job well.

It has often been said that the Guild is the University. I will agree that the Guild is a very important part of the University, thus its views must be made clearly and concisely upon all issues... this would be my desire if elected to serve you.

The year ahead will be a very important one in which we shall see the completion of the Union extensions with all its natural problems. Negotiations with the University will continue, and I would try to ensure that the already very strong University-Guild relations are not hampered, but improved (if there is any room for improvement). Preparations will be necessary to meet the ever-increasing numbers, especially with a view to the move from Edmund Street to Edgbaston. I immediately see one outstanding problem here... that of catering.... a problem concerning facilities, efficiency and the general standard of food, which on occasions falls below what we expect. In this the University has been the offender sometimes. Although the evening meal service is improving we are still not satisfied. However, the University has promised action and it would be my aim, if elected, to see that this action was carried out, with no ill will, to our satisfaction.

More income must be found for the Guild from some source as one large section of our community is starved of everyday necessities. I speak of the Athletic Union, who have to run on a shoe string budget. During the last two years the Guild has tried to meet the needs of the Athletic Union, but numbers taking part in sport are such that the task has been too great, but it must be faced with renewed vigour.

I am appalled to see that one great venture has been allowed to fade into oblivion, the Guild Arts Festival. We have been told in the past that plans for this were nearly complete and yet it is still not with us. Such a festival would considerably raise the cultural standing of the Guild.

It is appalling that only thirty per cent. of the members of this Guild voted last year. Only when everyone votes will everyone have the right to grumble if the president does not do his job satisfactorily.

For lack of space there are many other problems which face us that I have not been able to mention. The job is a big one... but then who is bigger than I?

MATTHEW ENGLAND.

Continued from next column

and as Secretary of the National Union of Students an office which I relinquish at the end of the year. I place internal relationships so high because of the stage of development of the Union and the University both in organisation and buildings—which requires the greatest attention on the part of Guild Officers.

If you like my ideas and attitudes, I ask you to vote for me. If you don't, vote for someone else—but, either way, register your opinion by voting, so that your elected officers can carry out their office with the maximum backing which will ensure respect for the opinions which they express.

M. J. STANLEY.



Policy statement

by
M. J. Stanley

ANYONE who presents himself to the Guild as a candidate for the Presidency must have two things in mind—firstly, an interest in all the activities and ramifications of the Guild, and secondly, a belief in his own ability to do the job. These I have—a pompous attitude, perhaps.

For the last two years I have been a member of your Executive—firstly responsible for its External Affairs and secondly, as Guild Secretary for much of its organisation.

I believe that my experience gives me two qualifications: A knowledge of what the Guild wants and experience of how to go about getting it. Service on the Executive makes one realise that it is both wise and necessary always to take one's instructions from the Committees of the Guild and from Council.

The Guild has reached an important stage in its development. The physical extensions to its building must provide opportunity for new development and not merely room to stretch. As a social group we must expand our activities in additional ways.

Freshmen's Conference must have a new theory, or at least we must be clear on the old one. This is the introduction to the University and the Guild, and we must strive to make it as good as possible. I organised the last one, so I know its weaknesses. Following this introduction, it will be necessary to organise the Societies of the Guild into a corporate whole—my interest in this has led me to take an active part in the preliminary discussions on the possibility of an Association of Societies with an integrated programme. This is but one aspect of what I believe to be the great need and duty of the Guild to use its limited resources in the most effective way.

My interests would be devoted mainly to internal Guild-University affairs and relationships. External Affairs I believe to be important—I think this is amply demonstrated by my work both on behalf of the Guild and on behalf of the University.

Continued in previous column

Policy statement

by
J. Snowdon

THE President is elected to represent the Guild both internally with the University authorities and with outside bodies.

In Birmingham we are lucky in that we have close co-operation with the University and our opinions are constantly being solicited by its administrators. The President, therefore, must assimilate the views of the Guild Council and its committees and put their views forward to the University both forcibly and tactfully.

Too often in the past have decisions been made on matters which have not had enough publicity and discussion within the Guild. This is the fault of both Councillors and Officers and I have always regretted the lack of intercourse between the administrators and the people they are working for. I realise that this is largely a social problem, but, if elected, I should try to solve it.

The expansion of the University is creating more and more problems. This has been apparent this session with regard to evening meals.

Freshers' Conference will have to be examined very carefully if we are to deal with the increased numbers. I have helped to organise two conferences in the past and hope that this experience would be valuable.

The Union extensions will be completed before the end of the next session. I have always taken an interest in them—and would find it both enjoyable and satisfying to be able to direct their fruition.

Detailed arrangements will have to be made for the move of the Ed. St. students. I should like to see Guild Club replaced in town by a new club to give students a "Home" there.

Athletic Union is one of the most important bodies in the Guild and I feel that all major policy decisions should come from it to the President, rather than vice versa.

Much discussion has taken place this session on the University's proposal that Carnival be moved to June. If this were done the whole



CARNIVAL BADGE COMPETITION

It is thought that a badge or symbol is needed to represent the activities of the Universal Carnival. It can take any form, but a suggestion would be for it to comprehend the charity collecting aspect with that of student rag.

Ideas and suggestions, frivolous or serious, are invited from members of the Guild on this subject; they should be simple and distinctive, and should be placed in the Carnival pigeon-hole at the Union.

atmosphere could be lost and I would be opposed to any change unless much more discussion took place on this very important matter.

My career in External Affairs has, I think, provided me with a knowledge to deal with all Grants and Welfare problems. It is quite probable that the lodgings and flats problem will be intensified in the near future due to the influx of both workers and students into the city; regulations with regard to flats may have to be re-examined.

Many criticisms have been made about N.U.S. but it is the only national student organisation. I consider it to be sound and effective and believe that Birmingham has all to gain by increased activity within it.

The extensions to the Union will create many financial problems, and I estimate that one of the main duties of next year's President will be to negotiate with the University for an increased subscription rate. This must be done if the facilities the Guild offers are not to be reduced. Our Guild and University are held in high repute in university and other circles. It would be my aim, if elected, to maintain and improve our reputation by all means available to the President of the Guild.

Whatever the weather, you'll need an UMBRELLA this summer for lively reading from the Midlands. UMBRELLA quarterly summer number, price 2s. post free from 97, Little Park Street, Coventry.



for UNIVERSITY COLOURS
THE MAN'S SHOP OF THE MIDLANDS
TEMPLE ST., BIRMINGHAM and at LEAMINGTON SPA

EDITORIAL

Guild News

Number
552



Selly Oak
1841

THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER,
THE UNION,
EDGBASTON

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OUT of all the trite remarks that various parties will be forced to make during this week that contains the Presidential elections, we can but pick out one that is worthwhile. The President must be in touch with the feelings of the Guild as individual members. Fortunately all three candidates this year will fill that requirement, and therefore the electorate will have its choice complicated even further. To the active members of the Guild the problem will be lessened. They will be able to express their opinion in terms of the knowledge they already have. But for the average member, who is too lazy to interest himself in what is happening, the difficulty looms large.

First, we urge you to vote, whether you know the candidates or not. How many know their candidates in a Parliamentary or Municipal election? What is essential is for every member of the Guild to use his vote so that when some controversy arises for which he has no sympathy, he will at least take upon himself the responsibility of having put the man in office there himself. It is useless to say that you have no need to enter into controversies. How many found themselves in the unexpected position of having to take an interest in the catering problems this year?

The candidate elected must be a personality (if need be, with a capital P). He should have the power to project himself on others, and the humility to be prepared to carry out or defend the opinion of the majority where it is in the Guild's interest, even when he is opposed to it. He should have a complete knowledge of student affairs, both within and without the University, and with respect to the latter, he must have some social standing and have gained respect from other universities. He, to all intents and purposes, is Birmingham Guild of Undergraduates, and he must be worthy of us.

To the electorate at large, these must be the prime considerations. You have two days in which to record your vote: use it properly and to the best of your ability.

It had been our intention to publish a report of the last N.U.S. Council Meeting held at Hull during the vacation, but we regret that, due to lack of space this week, we are unable to publish the details. A report will therefore appear in our next edition.

MOTOR CLUB

notice board.

Film Show (Tuesday, May 5, at 5.15 p.m.): We are fortunate to obtain the film "Coupe des Alpes" for the A.G.M. A second film, "Time to Stop" will also be shown.

June Week Die: Watch the notice board for details of this annual event, and other events. A coach will leave the Union at 8 a.m. The fare of 15s. John Hazledine, who gained second place in the recent Cradley Heath Motor Club Rally.

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M. J. STANLEY - BY HIS PROPOSER

WE regret that this is not the traditional eulogy, since Mike Stanley is different from past candidates. He has faults.

He is an eclectic academic (2A in Geography and now first year Ph.D.) who reads voraciously the better literature, a self-made critic and authority on music and architecture of a cosmopolitan nature. He argues keenly, destructively and always wittily, either with a scintillating flow of phrases and logic or with a few choice words, which squelch a shoddy argument. This latter method has offended many, who conceived Mike as being rude and self opinionated. But, in fact, he is a very rational being, and one can reply to his arguments as fiercely, knowing that a good debate will ensue and at the end there will be no rancour whatsoever.

He has much energy which combines with his intellect to give a great organising ability. His leadership is unquestionable. So this year he has successfully been both Guild Secretary and Student Secretary of the N.U.S. This latter post to us seems nebulous but we find that it means that as an N.U.S. executive officer he has been responsible for the South African demonstration in Trafalgar Square, the N.U.S. hostel and Sport and Culture in the Universities and Colleges affiliated to the National Union.

An anglican background is responsible for a loyalty and integrity, which, combined with lack of rancour, has made it a pleasure to serve on the Executive with him. If it has been his task to present to Council a majority decision of Executive, with which he disagrees, he has put the case fairly and successfully.

He has a great personal charm, a fancie and a narrative ability, we suggest, not excelled in the University.

He is well-known at other Universities, whose representatives usually ask after him and speak in reverent terms of the three-hour train journeys with him. But we are more concerned with his ability in this University.

University committees work in a ponderous and peculiar way. Reformers and reformers have a distressing habit of becoming entangled in their intricacies with the result that at the end of the year they remain unsettled and forgotten. But Mike Stanley has already served on three important University committees, and knows their personnel and idiosyncrasies. On the lodgings committee for two years (Chairman of External Affairs last year) it was he, who by a brilliant flat day obtained the reform of the flat situation. He has been actively concerned with the plans of the Union Extension since their inception and serves on the University Planning Committee.

As Guild Secretary, he serves on 22 Guild committees (which shall be nameless), the President serves on 23. So only these two have the complete picture of the state of the Guild at any given time.

Committees, receptions, meetings with the Vice-Chancellor and distinguished guests are time consuming. As a research worker in the Bristol Road Shanty Town, he is (a) on the spot all the time, and (b) able to arrange his academic timetable to suit his Presidential commitments.

To sum up, we propose a well dressed, read and spoken lad, who, as Guild Secretary, has the knowledge and ability to do the job, whose knowledge of the Constitution has frequently baffled brains, who is a proven Chairman, whose charm and integrity have made and kept many friends, and, above all, who is already accepted as a Guild spokesman by this University and others.

JACK BETTERIDGE,
G. D. LUNN.

This is not the traditional eulogy—
he has faults....

PRESS POST

Last Friday, in the Debating Hall, Mr. Stonehouse gave his views on Central African question, and I think all who heard him valued his hand opinion on the politics of federation.

However, he spoke about racial discrimination against Africans in employment in S. Rhodesia, and said that this was being done away in N. Rhodesia. Now it is a fact that a new level of jobs (in the mine) has been recently opened to Africans, but it is also a fact that it has been difficult to find Africans of sufficient competence to fill them, some of which Mr. Stonehouse failed to point out. This fact does, of course, a fallacy of some of his arguments, and indicates why there is no adult suffrage of only eight per cent.

I bring this up because there are a number of members of the Socialist Union in this University who will follow Mr. Stonehouse's lead and cry scandal to this very low African suffrage, showing that they do not fully understand the situation. All who dare to express an opinion on this African question should attempt to appreciate the great educational barrier which prevents most Africans in the area making a responsible contribution to the government of the country through their vote.

Yours, etc.,

R. T. WENDOVER.

Editor's comment: We would suggest, Sir, that it is the outdated colonialist views of the Whites which are responsible for this. Perhaps you yourself could turn your pen to better account by pointing to their error, rather than the lack of education of Africans who are victims of the misguided sort of civilisation for which you stand.)

Old and new magazine

Dear Sir,

What happens to the new, and editions of the magazines that put in the Union common room. Last term, for instance, I saw one copy of "Punch," and even was tattered and beer-stained.

We wish to make it quite clear that these statements have no foundation whatsoever. After the Revolution on July 14, 1958, the Iraqi Government recognised the Iraqi Students' Society in the United Kingdom, whose members have reached 530 and they also made a grant of £500 to this society.

"It was found that a small number of students, whose families used to enjoy special privileges in the feudal conditions existing before the Revolution were trying to undermine the sovereignty of the Republic. The Minister of Education, in a letter, asked the students to unite in one society in which ALL OPINIONS WOULD BE RESPECTED. The great majority of the students agreed to the wording of the Minister and only a small group still persisted in its subversive activities."

"The Minister of Economics asked us to send a circular to all students holding scholarships from the Ministry enquiring whether any student had joined the Iraqi Republic Students' Society in the U.K. Students attached to the Ministry of Economics Scheme Number 247. By April 16, 230 had replied that they had not joined the Iraqi Republic Students' Society and did not wish to do so and more replies are still coming in. In addition, five have resigned from I.R.S.S. and so there remain only two or three."

"We wish to confirm that the Government has not suspended the allowance of any student nor prevented money being sent to them from Iraq, nor has it compelled anyone to join the Iraqi Students' Society."

Yours, etc.,

MARTIN R. WOODS (Mech. Eng.)

This week in The Listener

(ISSUE DATED APRIL 30)

G. E. MOORE, A DISTINGUISHED PHILOSOPHER

Bertrand Russell, O.M.
Leonard Woolf
Professor Morton White, of Harvard University
John Wisdom, Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT. 1: THE PLANNING

J. B. Boothroyd

THE NORTHERN ARCHIPELAGOS

Eric Linklater

DEFENCE IN THE NUCLEAR AGE

Leonard Beaton

WHAT IS HISTORY ABOUT?

R. W. K. Hinton

FORCES AND PRESSURES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Stanley Mayes

IRAQ—A COUNTRY OF UNCERTAINTIES

Erik de Maunay

SIR THOMAS BEECHAM—AN APPRECIATION

Philip Hope-Wallace

and other features

A BBC PUBLICATION

EVERY THURSDAY

FROM NEWSAGENTS & BOOKSELLERS

6

Threats to Iraqi students' grants

INCREASING alarm has been felt in England concerning recent rumours that the grants of Iraqi students belonging to the Iraqi Republic Student Society have been threatened.

This Society supports the ideal of the United Arab Republic as opposed to the Iraqi Students' Society (I.S.S.), which supports the present pro-Communist regime of Kassem. There has been much confusion concerning the facts, and as yet the true position is far from clear.

Mr. Farik Al Irhayim, Secretary of the I.S.S. in Birmingham, sent the following statement, issued on April 18, by the Cultural Attaché at the Iraq Embassy.

"We have read with concern the information given to the newspapers in London, by the 'Iraqi Republic Students' Society in the United Kingdom' concerning the suspension of the scholarships of some Iraqi students, and stating that the money sent by the families of some students staying in this country will no longer be allowed to reach them. It also refers to a campaign of intimidation by the Iraqi Government to compel them to join the 'Iraqi Students' Society in the United Kingdom and so forth. We wish to make it quite clear that these statements have no foundation whatsoever. After the Revolution on July 14, 1958, the Iraqi Government recognised the Iraqi Students' Society in the United Kingdom, whose members have reached 530 and they also made a grant of £500 to this society."

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IRAQI PLEA FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

Despite the issue of the Embassy statement, widespread alarm has been felt among the non-Communist section of Iraqi students. Mr. Kais Al Wahabi voiced the opinions of supporters of the I.R.S.S. in the following letter:

"Two weeks ago the British Press gave front page attention to the plight of more than 200 Iraqi students faced with the threat of losing their government grants unless they withdrew from the I.R.S.S. The news appeared on April 16, the day the ultimatum expired. Behind this incident lies the story of a struggle between two student groups, one believing in democracy and freedom of speech within their society, the other following a particular ideology alien to the ideals and traditions of their own people, and often contrary to human rights and values. To follow such a narrow laid-out track, the second group found it essential to suppress the freedom of criticism and even constructive speech. Thus a large body of Iraqi students, among them many from the I.S.S., founded the I.R.S.S. in opposition to the I.S.S. The students in the I.R.S.S. are now being subjected to threats and blackmail. Though the I.R.S.S. supports the Republic in Iraq, any criticism of the old I.S.S. is interpreted as being directed against the new Iraqi régime, which itself supports the I.S.S."

"The I.S.S. claims to be the only victims of the former régime of Nuri al-Said, since they were alone in voicing disapproval of it. In fact, that régime was opposed by every section of the people, especially students, since it was based on terror and suppression of democracy, and the freedom rightful to every individual, ideals which have been the basic incentive for the formation of the new I.R.S.S. Furthermore, the opposition of the I.S.S. was not the selfless struggle for freedom and democracy which they took up as slogans, but it was due to the régime's own opposition to that particular ideology which the Society wished to promulgate amongst students. Hence, now their champion of freedom and democracy during the Nuri régime is being denounced as a dictator and described with the same terms as used against the hated Nuri."

The ultimatum

"The new Society soon acquired more members than the old, drawing many members from the I.S.S. itself. The Government also saw this as a challenge, and issued the ultimatum to members, in the form of a circular, dated April 8:

"Every student holding the Ministry of Economics Scholarship is requested to withdraw from the I.R.S.S."

UNIVERSITY APARTHEID

Bill passed on second reading

THE situation which has been feared by staffs and students throughout the world is rapidly coming to South African universities. One more reading of the Bill will, without doubt, see its terrible implications put into operation. Once again we of the committee in Birmingham find ourselves fighting against time, the time to raise the money needed to give the unfortunate non-Europeans chance for an education unbiased by governmental dictatorship.

Once again we are asking for your financial assistance, but this time in a rather different manner. We are launching a society to support the cause of the non-European student in South Africa. It is to be called:

The Presidents' South Africa Society

It is hoped that there will be many branches of this society started through the Birmingham area at institutions of higher education. (This explains the 's' of the Presidents').

All the money received as subscriptions will be channelled through the World University Service to South Africa.

You may be asking "why start a Society for this?" The answer is simple. Much money has already been lost, which could have been collected at the beginning of this year, due to a discontinuity in the organisation. We could have had £300 instead of the £100 now collected.

Although financial support is of the utmost importance now, some £98,000 will be necessary to ensure that each student completes his or her course of study. This will have to be collected over a period of about five years. We can not afford to risk further discontinuity in our methods of raising money.

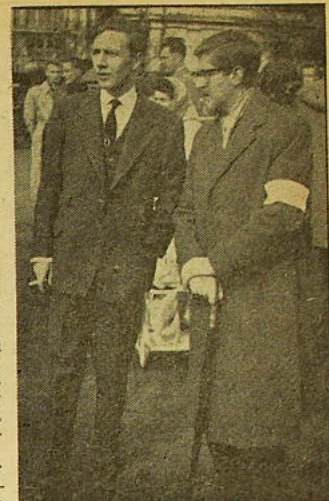
The sum of £98,000 quoted means approximately 2s. 6d. each year for five years from every student in the

country. So the figure quoted is not so great as might at first be thought so long as every student is willing to give this small sum.

On Friday, society chairmen will be meeting to discuss methods of asking you to join the society. Stalls will be erected in the Union also for this purpose, and it is hoped that a bookstall containing relevant information will be available.

If you value your own chance for higher education, then I ask you personally to support this society to give others the same chance.

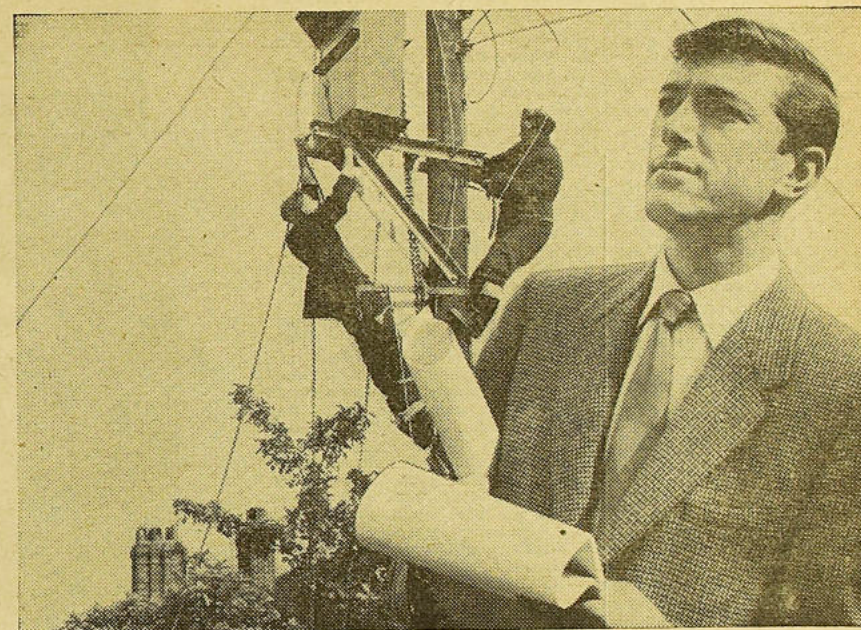
F. B. Blader.



Mike Stanley and secretary of the National Executive of N.U.S. watch proceedings (Photos by Roger Sutton)



Birmingham banners temporarily stolen



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FORGOTTEN COMPOSERS

IT is interesting to consider composers who became famous in their lifetime, but who are now practically forgotten.

One such composer is Ludwig Spohr (1784-1859). In his day he was the greatest violinist in Germany, and many regarded him as a great composer. He wrote ten operas, four oratorios, nine symphonies, 15 violin concertos, and a large number of chamber works.

He made a name as a violin virtuoso while still in his early twenties, and between 1812 and 1815 he led the orchestra at the Theatre an die Wien. During this time he met Beethoven and played in the first performance of the Seventh Symphony. Though liking Beethoven's earlier works, he found the music of his later period incomprehensible.

After visits to England and Italy, Spohr became famous all over Europe. From 1822 to 1857 he was musical director at Cassel. In his later years he supported Wagner, and produced "The Flying Dutchman" and "Tannhäuser" at Cassel. Wagner respected Spohr and acknowledged his contribution to the development of German opera, particularly with "Jessonda" (1823), which was very popular in the 19th century and is still occasionally played in Germany.

Spohr's style is similar to that of Weber and Mendelssohn, but owes little to Beethoven. His harmony is luscious, and he has a fund of sweet lyrical melody.

Unfortunately, he was known for a long time in England by his oratorios, "The Last Judgment" and "Calvary," in which his weaknesses are particularly obvious. He had no real depth of feeling or dramatic sense, and his religious music is often sentimental. Yet these oratorios have some impressive moments and abound with beautiful melodies. In "The Last Judgment," the chorus "Destroyed is Babylon the Mighty," begins with a powerful unison, but as it develops the melodies are weakened by the sweetness of the harmonisation. But there is a strong effect in his setting of "Now Tremble Before Him." When there was a reaction to the 1920's he became one of the chief objects of the critics' scorn.

The two main works of his which are still sometimes heard are the Eight Violin Concerto and the Nonet. The Concerto in A minor in the form of an operatic scene, is in one movement, consisting of recitative, aria, and rondo. It was written for his Italian tour in 1816. I think that it is one of the best short violin concertos there is, and is worthy of comparison with those of Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Bruch—in fact the form of Bruch's concerto is based on it. It opens with a stern orchestral prelude in march rhythm, leading into a recitative for the violin, which alternates between defiance and gentle appeal. This leads into a beautiful slow movement in which the violin "sings" with wonderful soaring phrases. There is a quick, contrasting, middle section with a gay tune, and after a varied repeat of the slow section, we come to another short recitative leading to the finale. The main theme of the finale is strong and majestic, but it is offset by two light-hearted tunes which alternate with it. The recording by Heifetz, backed by the exciting Rozsa concerto and Tchaikovsky's "Serenade Melancholique," is thoroughly recommended.

The Nonet for strings, clarinet, oboe, flute, horn, and bassoon is similar in character to Beethoven's Septet and Schubert's Octet. It is skillfully written for this combination and is full of melody, with a delightfully humorous finale. The Octet for strings, clarinet, and two horns has been recorded recently, and is a charming work.

One of his movements is a set of variations on Handel's "Har-

NUMBER 1
IN A NEW SERIES

monious Blacksmith."

Though Spohr was not one of the very great composers, nevertheless anyone who enjoys Mozart, Weber and Mendelssohn will find his music interesting and profitable.

DISCOGRAPHY
VIOLIN CONCERTO No. 8 (+ Rozsa and Tchaikovsky) Heifetz—R.C.A. R.B. 16009.
NONET in F. Vienna Octet.—Decca LXT 2782.
OCTET in E (+Poot's Octet). Vienna Octet.—Decca LXT 5294.
ARIA: "ROSE SOFTLY BLOOMING." Joan Sutherland, Belcanto. (+arias by Donizetti and Rossini).
EXCERPT FROM "JESSONDA." (H.M.V. "History of Music in Sound." Volume 8, "Age of Beethoven").

C. H. TUTT.

Concert Diary

MEREDITH DAVIES conducted the C.B.S.O. and the Birmingham Choir last Thursday in a performance of Beethoven's Choral Symphony, which in its last pages was very impressive.

The orchestra lacked a good deal of weight, so that Beethoven's portentous message was only half-thundered out in the first movement. In the second Mr. Parsons sent his sticks cannoning down on the tympani to point the dynamic qualities, a little too pointed one thought. The third movement was "nicely" done, it succeeded in being really adagio and pathos-filled, rather than lento and lugubrious. But the whole work only sprang to life in the last movement. The chorus was virile and accurate, and conveyed more than the inadvisable English words could ever do. Thanks must especially go to the ladies in this respect. Of the soloists, only Jennifer Vyvyan seemed able to make herself felt, and this from right behind the orchestra, hard by the organ. Owen Brannigan was a fruity bass, though there was too much of the "T" comes down from Tyneside about his part. "O friends, no more these sounds continue" is the price one has to pay for English translation. This was not a great Ninth, but it was passable. —K.T.

CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY —

A SPECIAL General Meeting of the Society was held on April 23, to which Presbyterians in the University were invited. Rev. Philip Lee-Woolf and Rev. Stanley Ross, University chaplains to these denominations also attended. The result of the meeting was the formation of a joint Congregational-Presbyterian Society, out of the old Congregational Society.

As a result of this decision, new officials were elected to include Presbyterians. The positions of President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer remain unchanged; the Vice-President will be the Rev. Stanley Ross, and the committee elected were Hugh Bodie, Helen Parker and Rita Perry.

THE KIDDERS (Birmingham Rep.)

I have said before, I think, that the American theatre of to-day is in much the same position as was the English theatre in Marlowe's day. Miller and Tennessee Williams are uncertain of their strength, or at least uncertain of the direction in which it would move most strongly. Coming on a scene barren except for the Ibsen-inspired O'Neill, they find that they have too much to do: they must create language and imagery, character and situation, in fact a familiar order of events and assumptions. They are not there to hand, no more than they were for Marlowe and his fellow University Wits, but they were there for Shakespeare, concepts as unpromising as revenge and fortitude. He had no need to make his own bricks. His task was to build mightily. In the contemporary American theatre the straw is there and one or two shapes are emerging. Principally it is a myth which emerges. Death of Salesman, All My Sons, and now The Kidders have behind them a scheme of reference: the vast cosmology of business, fatally indifferent; in contrast the War (against Japan and fought in the Pacific) was young and virile; concepts of home, security and mother. It is easy enough to laugh at these ideas, but that is only because the language so far found for their expression is banal and debased before its currency by a bilge slop of film scripts. A Spanish Tragedy and The Jew of Malta are embarrassing, but they precede The Kidders.

The myth is taking shape. Without its pre-conceptions and its shorthand assumptions, The Kidders could not have been written. As it is the play is far from great: its situations are melodramatic or cumbrous and the characters lack the essential taste which gives humanity to caricatures. But we are writing of this play as if it had been written by Eliot, or Anouilh or Brecht, making no compromise with the most exacting of critical demands, and this unconsciously. If this position can be adopted to a play whose author is not in the top rank of American authors his theatre justly claim that it has but a little further to go.

Bernard Hepton's production maintains a unity and fidelity of playing, which this company found in Eliot's Elder Statesman and which makes one regret that the programme is so near its end. Even if the season has not been outstanding in enterprise and interest, it has turned some very raw actors into a company, as flexible and as sure footed as any Rep. cast could wish to be.

THEATRE

for that indefinite period, the date before yesterday, the date after which detective stories are applied so, for this is a fairy story or rather a folk tale, with the herent awareness of evil and malignancy, which lies behind many of Grimm's records. One with sophistication and badinage, it resembles nothing much as Grimm anticipated Perault.

Guthrie's production therefore an appropriate mood but it is a little effort to disguise the fact that this is an atrocious play. As terminable first act, in which Edith Evans is dull and Cyril Cusack hardworking, is followed by some well aimed custard pie ham turning the Florentine Army into ITV best-seller or a Whitehall. Then the last act returns to the abysmal dullness of the first, and Angela Baddeley's girl dolling vulgarity.

Having taken his title and the of the book from Shakespeare, wondered if this was Guthrie's attempt to put over Shakespeare at his young contemporaries. It he mean this to be taken as a attempt to put over Shakespeare play, or is it an elongated and very erudite comment on the of recent Vic and Stratford practices, wherein director's decorum and illumination, co-ordination, symmetry which are the product of Guthrie's aim is the latter: use him far too many happy product to damn this one as it deserves.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (Stratford Memorial Theatre)

The last time I reviewed this play, Stratford vintage, I made some remark, I think, to the effect that anything one might do with it is justified. That ALL'S WELL was dressed in the ugly trimmings of the Caroline court, this one is costumed

ENTERPRISE PAYS

Sailing Association dinghy is launched

THE University Sailing Association have now completed their latest Enterprise dinghy. This boat is to be called "Faith," a suitable title, since only the faith of some of the members have enabled us to purchase this boat. The money was raised by a "boat loan" scheme in which members lent the club a small sum for a period of at least one year.

With the large membership of the club, "Faith" will be an invaluable asset, and should ensure good prospects for summer sailing.

On Sunday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr.

Robert Aitken, launched the new dinghy "Faith," with the aid of a bottle of champagne. Kay Sellars represented the Union, Mr. Munrow, the Physical Education Department, and Dr. Bolton the University Health Service, on this memorable occasion. About 40 members of the club were also present. In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor praised the spirit shown by members of the club in this venture.

The first competition for the Raymond Rostall Memorial Trophy was held at the end of last term, and after several capsize by some of the competitors, the trophy was won by Geoff Hogbin, with Rosemary Mitchell crewing. It is fitting indeed that Geoff should be the first to hold the trophy since he leaves the University after three

years of very valuable service to the Sailing Association.

Our record in recent months has been a very good one, with Ron Tupper, especially, excelling himself with a remarkable number of first places against tough opposition. At the Association of Northern Universities Sailing Club's Regatta at Leeds, the team sailed well and fought its way into fifth place. This was a creditable performance in view of the fact that there were 11 entries, some of whom were very strong.

The year's activities are now drawing to a close, but three or four fixtures and the A.G.M. remain to complete the programme. Even so, we shall be sailing during the summer, so why not come along after exams! ... or better still now.

Swimming

AT the end of the term the club engaged in three fixtures not yet reported. The men were able to win two of their matches but the ladies were less fortunate.

In our last University match against Manchester, the ladies lost heavily to the side that was to become the W.I.V.A.B. champions early in the vacation ... despite some excellent swims by Jane Spencer and Sheila Lowe. The men rather surprisingly managed to beat the strong Manchester side, although only by the narrow margin of 33-32. P. Coultas crowned an excellent season by coming first in three individual events to gain 15 points out of his team's total.

Against Smethwick Club, both teams were outclassed even though the ladies were strengthened by the inclusion of international Jennifer Tiso as a guest swimmer. The polo teams were also beaten despite a fine display by the goalkeeper, Kerry. This fixture again proved to be one of the most enjoyable of the season.

The final match was a friendly fixture against King Edward's School, and although the University team won easily, the school-boys, most of whom were juniors, produced some creditable performances... adequate testimony to some fine coaching by the staff... some of them late of the University swimming teams.

UNIVERSITY CHAMPS

OWING to other commitments the University had few entries in the U.A.U. Championships. M. Chown did well, just missing the final of the 220 yards butterfly, and Jane Spencer maintained her fine record in those championships, coming second to international Margaret Edwards, in the 200 yards freestyle and third to two international swimmers in the 100 yards freestyle. On the strength of these performances she has been selected as a trialist for the World Student Games in Turin this summer. H. King, striking good form during the vacation, won the Leicestershire County team trial in an excellent time.

CYCLE RACING CLUB

THE cycle racing season started at the end of the spring term with the time trials doing several slow rides due mainly to lack of training, and a variety of causes. The road racers, having done more training fared somewhat better, especially in a three-day event of 250 miles in which Jo Griffen finished twelfth out of 53 starters. J. Waddens was unfortunate in having to retire with a knee injury when well placed on the second day.

However the vacation enabled time trialists to get fit at last and this resulted in the 25-mile record being broken on three occasions. Those responsible were R. Goodfellow, who was placed seventh in a field of 120 when setting up the present record and T. Randall, a Fresher, who is now riding for the University Club. This means that the University will be at last able to field a strong team for short distance events.

The club will be very pleased to welcome any new members or previous members on club runs when the pace will be adjusted to the non-racing members.

LACROSSE TEAM '58-'59



To be complimented

The Lacrosse Club may well be complimented this season as it has several outstanding victories to its credit — including the W.I.V.A.B. Cup — for the first time for many years. This was due partly to the several outstanding Freshers who joined at the beginning of the year, particularly Susan Andrews, who has had one of the best goal averages for the season.

Good season ahead

ALTHOUGH the standard in some events was not as high as expected, due to the absence of several notable performers, the Athletic Club trials held last week indicated that the club should have another successful season.

Outstanding amongst the large number of Freshers present was Howard Payne, from Rhodesia, who specialises in throwing the hammer... probably Birmingham's weakest event in past seasons... and who also excels with the shot and discus. If Medhurst, Pemberton and Whiston retain their form of the last year there will be few teams in the country as strong as Birmingham in the throwing events.

International David Shaw after a very successful cross-country season should be a hard man to beat on the track this summer, and with plenty of enthusiasm and experience to help him in the club will be hoping to show that they are still the best of the provincial Universities.

The club's first fixture is on Wednesday evening (6.45) v. Lozells Harriers on the University track.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL '58-'59



THE Soccer Club has had an average season. In the U.A.U. we met with little success, but despite a series of unfortunate injuries we managed to finish with a reasonable record, viz: P. 23; W. 11; D. 2; L. 9; F. 57; A. 49. In the representative field we met with more success. Our captain Tony Fay captained the British Universities and U.A.U. sides, and Gus Sandford and Alan McIntosh both have established themselves in the U.A.U. sides. Sandford, McIntosh, and Tipples represented the Birmingham Amateur Football Association, whilst Fay and McIntosh have had the honour of playing for the Birmingham County F.A. This last distinction has not been conferred on our club for many seasons.

WINNERS OF THE HEAD OF THE TRENT

On the last Saturday of term, the Rowing Club entered four crews for the Head of the Trent, at Nottingham. There were 30 entries starting at 15 second intervals, in the combined five and clinker IV's division of the three-mile timed race.

The first crew (bow, A. P. Milnes; 2. P. C. Thomas; 3. R. W. Bunce; stroke, I. C. Canadine, captain; cox, J. C. Cupitt), rowed exceptionally well to win the clinker IV's pennant in the fastest time of 14 mins. 50 secs. They also tied with the winners of the fine IV's pennant. This was a very fine performance against experienced crews, several in the faster line boats.

The second crew also rowed well, to make the University the only club with two crews in the eight fastest boats. The novices crew rowed with great determination and finished thirteenth, and the third crew put up a good time finishing fifteenth in

GOLFERS BEAT BRISTOL

The Golfers were in great form last Wednesday and showed their superiority over Bristol University by the large margin of 71-1. The weather was perfect and the conditions were marred only by a lack of good tees and excess grain on the green.

Yomi Beck playing to his handicap had a fine round hitting the ball great distances down the middle to the embarrassment of those just in front. He beat his opponent John Sheep by the 12th tee with the phenomenal score of 9 to 7. Tony Jowle had a consolation win over his old rival Max Clarke and Roy Duff did well by winning 6 and 4. The other successful members were D. Liffon, R. Tait, M. Stockwell and B. G. Clendinning.

position and bringing all four crews into the first half of the entries.

The prospects for regattas this term are marred by the fact that the first crew cannot compete until a fine four is procured.

WEIGHT LIFTING BIRMINGHAM WIN

On Saturday, March 7, the University Olympic team of Howard Payne and Joe Holder defeated the Birmingham Central team by 71lbs. Once again both Holder and Payne were on top form and showed the spectators just how strong one can become with the aid of weight training.

Joe Holder reached the excellent total of 595lbs. This was five lbs. more than was lifted by an opponent

weighing 20lbs. more. Howard Payne again equalled his personal best total with a 715lbs. aggregate.

There are great hopes that the University team will win their division of the Midland Olympic League.

Results: Birmingham University—Payne, 220lbs., 215lbs., 290lbs.; Holder, 155lbs., 185lbs., 235lbs. Total 1,310lbs. Birmingham Central 1,232lbs.

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PROPOSALS

MATTHEW ENGLAND

Dear Electors,

Each year at this time you are faced with the problem of choosing the best man for President. I wonder what qualities you look for? What makes a good President? For that matter, what does the President do? His function is twofold — he is your official representative to other Guilds and to all other official bodies with whom the Guild has contact. In this capacity he will be called upon to present your views to many more important officials as well as being your social representative. Therefore he needs tact, charm, understanding and experience.

Secondly, a President is chairman of Guild Council, of Executive, and of many Guild committees. However, please remember that he is Chairman, nothing approaching a Prime Minister, and the Executive are the servants of Guild Council, not the masters. It is a weak council which allows itself to be led by them. Nevertheless, as chairman, the President's views, and experience will be valuable in directing Council's deliberations into the right channels. He should be capable of seeing all aspects of a problem, presenting them clearly, and of carrying out decisions irrespective of his own feelings. So he needs wide experience of Guild affairs and committee work, and also a sympathetic personality.

All of these qualities I believe Matthew England to possess. You will not be surprised that I say this; else I should not be proposing him. He began his career illustriously by being elected Fresher of the Year. Since then he has had two years as member of the Executive and of many varied committees, so gaining useful experience for the important year ahead. He is already well known in, and a welcome visitor to, many other Unions. Although he often holds very strong views of his own, he is always ready to listen to other people and, if their reasoning is sound, to accept their opinions. (I do not always agree with him myself, but he is a most sympathetic listener). I myself have worked very happily with him, and had the pleasure of watching him work with many other people on G.T.G. productions, and know first-hand, therefore, that he will do the (sane) bidding of others.

During the year ahead, which will bring the Union extensions, continued negotiations with the University, and many other problems, we shall need a good President, and one who could feel the movement of opinion within the Guild, one who is never out of contact with the people he represents. Having known Matthew England for his entire University career, I have no hesitation in asking you to make him your next President.

CLIFFORD PEARTREE
JOHN SNOWDON

There is an illusion within the Guild that the President is a man aloof from the ordinary member; in reality this should not be the case.

Since John Snowdon came up to Birmingham it can honestly be said that he has made friends with every member with whom he has come into contact, both in the administrative and social life of the Guild. He has shown an ability to weigh up accurately the climate of opinion and to act in the best interests of the Guild.

After his successful first year on Chem. Soc. committee, his department elected him their representative on Guild Council. Here his interest in Guild affairs increased, and he was soon elected to Grants and Welfare, and Catering Committees. It is probably worth mentioning that at his first meeting of the latter, he successfully moved that Worthington be introduced into the bar in place of M. and B.

His work in the External Affairs Dept. was rewarded by his election to Grants and Welfare Secretary. In his new position he began meeting members of other universities, making many valuable contacts which afforded him the opportunity to discuss all student problems and to find ways of tackling them to the benefit of our student body.

His experience, enthusiasm and interest were all taken into account when he was elected Chairman of External Affairs and Grants and Welfare Committees. In this capacity he has led the Birmingham delegation to two N.U.S. Council meetings and expressed the opinion of this Guild on a national level. When trouble intensified in South Africa, he showed his administrative ability in his reorganisation of S.A.S.S.I.C. and the establishment of the President's South Africa Society and Fund. Whilst on the Executive John Snowdon has widened his knowledge of Guild activities to cover all aspects of administration, including finance, catering, and the general day-to-day running of the Union.

Besides his ability to mix well with members, he has been able to establish good relations with the University authorities, and to receive a sympathetic hearing on all problems which have needed mutual discussion.

In his year in an office involving chairmanship of four committees, he has blown his own trombone in G.T.G. orchestra, entertained a party of Russian students for a fortnight, made an excellent Father Christmas at the Vice-President's children's party, and seen that External Affairs has been represented regularly. Next year's President will be faced with many major problems, including Union extensions, preparation for integration with Ed. Street, Refectory and Carnival.

John Snowdon will be able to tackle these problems; he has the ability and the foresight, and if elected, his intimate contact with Guild opinion will enable him to carry out his duties with the full knowledge that he is implementing the wishes of the Guild.

**B. E. LUBY (Commerce),
F. B. BLADER (Mech. Eng.).**

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FILMS

Thoughts on "Separate Tables"

IF I remember aright, Sacha Guitry once said that a good film needs no plot, and this was emphasised by René Clair, who wrote that he would not look at a screen play whose plot could not be condensed into less than six lines.

Thus plot and action may not loom so large in a critical appraisal of a film as is thought. That the story line is important may be gathered from Chaplin's films, when one considers the amount of time he spends on the full-length ones.

To a certain extent, Clair's words were a reaction against "talkies." Plays were bought and produced in the studio in front of cameras — cameras were even taken into theatres. From this stems that long line of romantic comedies culminating, this week, with "Separate Tables."

One need never know that this was a film. It could conceivably be the film of a play produced in the round. No longer are those flights of fancy induced by cutting rhythms and the play of light present. (One wonders whether the producers could not have borrowed a bob or two for the meter to give adequate lighting). A film does not need words; consider the paucity of sub-titles in the best silent films, compared with the cacophony of sound issuing from present-day films. A film needs only a simple theme; this is then embellished, pointed, and extemporised on to show the depths and range.

All there is in "Separate Tables" is talk, blather and drivel, with occasional Cinemascope versions of Mr. Lancaster's eyelashes. Critics have even paid tribute for the retention of much of Rattigan's dialogue. It is similar to filming the C.B.S.O. without a sound-track; it does not do it justice. Nor does this do justice to films in general. Plagiarism, man, plagiarism, as Lobachevsky apparently suggested.

No, a film that takes advantage of a reasonable play by giving the audience four or five points of view instead of the one from the stalls — that saves the playgoer any exertion.

However, the cast deserves some credit. David Niven humbles his way round nicely; Wendy Hillier displays her poker face to approval; Burt Lancaster in his usual drinking role misunderstands to tediousness. But good performances do not make good films. Because a film wins two acting Oscars it is fallacious to believe that it is a good film.

I do not suppose that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences would dream of giving acting Oscars to the casts of Ingmar Bergman's films, other than "Wild Strawberries," but then, I do not suppose that it would dream of awarding him the director's Oscar.

K.R.C.

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COFFEE TALK

SO they are producing a new Highway Code. Well, well well—one more thing to remember, I suppose. Preaching to the converted, mind you, such things always are. Think of the A.A. leading to B 7864 Slagpool. Who but someone going to Slagpool interested? Who but the careful driver feels that glow of vanity he smugly remembers that you can overtake on the left at a traffic roundabout? Clever one, that, you know—really a catch question because it is only apparent overtaking. The bad driver will not have even read his Highway Code. It is very sad.

Ed. St. Column

The mercury has somewhat reluctantly stirred. Ed. Street has put on her brightest colours (even the paintwork in a bleakened Founder's Room is now visible). Heigh ho! Spring is here and young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of examinations. Although faces are not yet adopting a dutiful pallor — was that a healthy tan I saw? (Roger Jones—you never got that colour in Paris alone?). Mr. Matthew England, worn to a substantial shadow, was heard to expound, deftly retaining balance on a barrel in the "Mermaid," on the ordeals of existence.

As the sunlight gained in concentration, Ed. Streeters were seen drifting towards the gardens round the Hall of Memory where they, like fauns and cryads (well, not quite) frolicked by the fountain's sparkle (changing colour twice a minute by night). They are still in doubt as to why the man in the peaked cap should restrict lying on the grass to the two hours after midday.

We did wonder why heating in the library should operate at full strength shortly after 9 a.m. We now realise that this was a device to force some out in order to make way for those in the queues in the corridor. (Poor Gill at the counter even had a new hair-do too!). The survival of the fittest maxim also applies in the vicinity of a particular notice board.

Barring our route we have a futuristic element which requires only HB at one end to be sold as a novelty in a stationer's shop (and which, incidentally, can be included in your wedding photograph for little extra cost). This missile is causing an antiquation complex, as the renovations across the road are making us feel like the poor relative. As the rain on Saturday filtered through our several layers of masonry, we mused on the abilities of the French Seminar to retain its precarious perch during another winter. Or is it shame which forces the building to hang its battered head?

Perhaps if some imaginative Servant really got to grips with the problem, he could produce a Highway Code which every one would read, one that no-one could afford to ignore, everyone but everyone would be talking of it. The whole business would have to be re-thought.

Take, for instance, the matter of hand signals. First, we must dispense with the idea that the passenger signals must be ignored. Then, picture the back seat driver at last given the joy of participation, signalling articulately and with candour through a back window. The possibilities are immense. The old routine, I am driving right/left, slowing down, does offer scope? Oh! we try of course the imperious left turn, the faintly correct left swing, and the patronising anticipation of deceleration. But with two hands and a whole back window . . .

Right hand clutching head: Ignoring last signal, I thought this was Cirencester.

Left hand held pleadingly: Turn away the adjective you thought of.

Two thumbs turned down: If you think you can get away from me, lights quicker than I can . . .

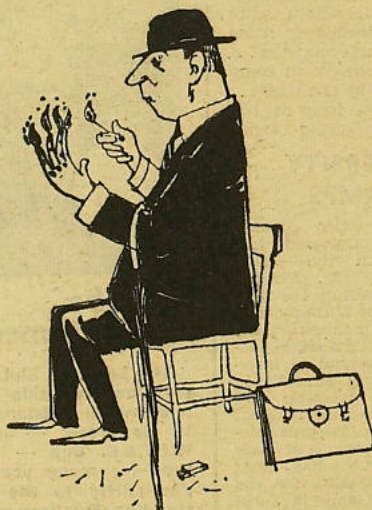
One thumb turned up: Well?

Right hand held out in despair: My wife is driving.

Left hand held out in despair: This thing she is someone else's wife. Anyway she is driving.

Two thumbs turned up: I am averaging 45 miles to the gallon. Are you?

All this and much more for the back seat driver. The joy of it is Television a thing of the past. It is drama on the moving road; a romance. Think of it: our roads are artistic medium; a means of expression within the grasp of all those who know a car owner. Truly it should become a freer, more fluid nation; extinct, of course, but what past!

SCIATION


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