

GUILD

Christmas

NEWS

Edition

Thursday, Dec. 3,
1959. No. 563

3^D

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham.

INEFFECTUAL BLEATINGS

N. U. S. nonsense

IN his report of the proceedings of the N.U.S. conference at Margate a fortnight ago, Mr. Blader told us of the vast amount of time devoted to an emergency motion dealing with a mass boycott of South African goods by students in this country. After a great deal of argument as to whether this motion was in order (because it did not concern students directly), the following resolution was passed:

"Council supports the National Union of South African students in their attitude to the boycott of certain South African goods as a protest against the South African Government's extension of University Education Bill, and therefore:

(a) Requests members of N.U.S. to carry out an individual boycott of these goods, as a practical measure to attempt to remove racial discrimination from higher education in South Africa.

(b) Instructs Executive, subject to satisfactory legal advice, to prepare and publicise a list of proprietary goods which shall be included in the boycott.

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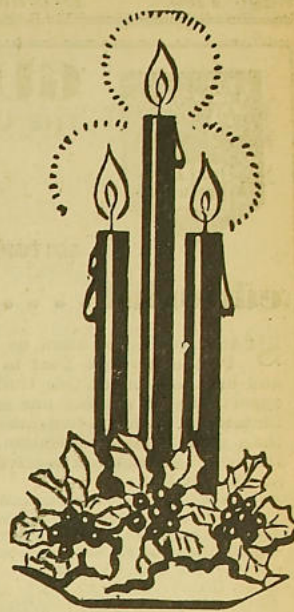
£10,000 in a fortnight

Record street collections

AFTER three hectic days of counterfoil sorting, Carnival Committee announced on Tuesday the total for Carnival, 1959: £10,057-12-8. On being asked to comment, the Chairman of Carnival Committee, Mr. Roger Sutton, said that this was a very respectable total for 1959, considering that it was only a fortnight's Carnival. In his opinion, Carnival has now reached a happy mean: a fortnight's Carnival, starting a fortnight after the beginning of term, enables students to participate fully without interfering too much with academic work, while at the same time enabling a respectable total to be reached. A shorter Carnival would be fatal, he said.

Carnival was notable this year for the record success of the street collections, which reflected the obvious enthusiasm with which the students had combed even the more distant suburbs and had made use of the free transport on the buses. The prize for the most successful sale of magazines and car tickets went to Mr. Rawi, of the Arab Society, who won the

gramophone with a total of £107. Guild News would like to congratulate all who took part in Carnival, or coming so near to last year's total in only two-thirds of the time available in 1958. In particular, Carnival Committee, under the able leadership of Mr. Sutton, must be congratulated for organising a Carnival which has raised a handsome total for local charities and has led to remarkably little friction with the city authorities. In fact, Carnival, 1959, has been a great success!



All out of darkness we have
light, Which made the angels
sing this night; "Glory to God,
and peace with men, Now and
for evermore. Amen."

MEATLESS DIET

N.U.S. Debating

THE motion for the several rounds of the N.U.S. Debating Tournament was hardly adequate for the twelve speakers in each contest to speak to; indeed at one round in which Birmingham has taken part, it was being rumoured that the judges had sent a request to N.U.S. for motions with more meat to them than "In the Opinion of this House Politicians are a Bore."

Some of the Birmingham entrants have found this meatless diet to their liking. The palm must go to Jennifer Steer Wood who, speaking in the 'C' team at Loughborough, emerged from the otherwise all male competition as the Outstanding Individual Speaker; condolences to her teammate David Lane who was unfortunately, by all accounts, to be eliminated.

The 'A' team, Arthur Large and Robert Wreford, speaking at Nottingham, were selected to go through to the next round in what was apparently a needle contest; the judges took some forty minutes to reach a decision.

The 'B' team, comprising Mike Stanley and Jack Betteridge, probably our most powerful team, unfortunately came across very strong opposition at Leicester and were eliminated.

However, we can be fairly satisfied that half our entry are still in the Tournament after the preliminary round and we can be sure that they will not fall easily by the wayside.

Entertainments Committee

present

CHRISTMAS BALL

Friday, December 4

in the

Debating Hall

8.30—1 a.m.

Double Ticket: 12/6, inc. Buffet
Dress Formal

Post-Graduate

CHRISTMAS VACATION DANCE

on
Saturday, December 19
ALL STUDENTS WELCOME

Guild Council

GUILD COUNCIL conducted its affairs on Tuesday, November 24, in the pristine luxury of the Women's Common Room and welcomed the Freshmen's representatives to their first council meeting. After the reading of the minutes a question from the floor brought to the notice of Council the fact that a section of the minutes referring to the motion, passed at the last meeting, requesting the Guild Secretary to send a written apology to the Editor of "Guild News," had been removed from the copies pinned on the notice boards. Mr. R. T. Jones apologised for this action and said that he had misunderstood the intentions of Council with regard to the publication of this motion.

In matters arising from the minutes the President reported that a meeting had taken place with the architect of the Physical Education Centre, and that he and the Chairman of the Athletic Union will be attending a meeting of the Planning Committee on December 4.

With regard to Mr. Derek Sampson's impassioned plea on behalf of married Medics at the last meeting of Council, the President's suggestion that the post-war system of having letters-of-authority to enable the wives of married students to enter the Union premises in the absence of their husbands, was approved by Council.

In the light of recent incidents involving the University Clock Tower, the President has been asked by the University authorities to warn students that any further incidents involving students of this University will be viewed very seriously.

On a lighter note the Vice-President appealed for support for her Children's Christmas Party on December 12. She would be very glad of help a few days beforehand. The President then stated that he had had personal communication with Professor Humphrey Humphreys, Warden of the Guild, who had been distressed at his reception at the A.G.M. The President had assured him that stamping and hissing were sometimes a sign of popularity.

As a result of the resignation of Mr. D. B. E. Stroud, the

election of a new House Member for Edgbaston took place, and in a close contest Mr. Tim Butterfield defeated Mr. John O'Connor.

Council then discussed and accepted the report on the Freshmen's Conference. It was decided to leave suggestions for improvement until nearer the next conference, but Council congratulated Mr. W. G. Rastall, Conference Secretary, for an excellent report. Council also congratulated Mr. F. Blader and accepted his report on the N.U.S. Council Meeting at Margate.

Date of Carnival

Council then turned to the most controversial item on the agenda—the suggestion that the date of Carnival be changed. This question had been raised by the University authorities last session, and Council decided in March against changing the date. The President said that he had received a request from the Vice-Chancellor to re-open this matter, and he asked Council to consider very carefully the arguments for and against a June Carnival. The discussion was opened by Mr. Roger Sutton, Chairman of Carnival Committee, who expressed the opinion that Carnival should not be cut to less than a fortnight. It should not be too near the beginning of term because of the difficulties of organisation; and that it would be practically impossible to form a committee to run a June Carnival because of the pressure of academic work for examinations.

Support for an October Carnival also came from two Freshers' representatives who felt that Carnival had helped them to meet people in different years and departments in their first term. Council did not on this occasion attempt to reach a final decision, but it was suggested that the Social Science Department should try to correlate examination failures and participation in Carnival activities and provide some definite statistics on this subject.

With motions pending on South Africa, Carnival and the Constitution the meeting ended with the feeling that there would be another heavy session in the near future.

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GUILD NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER

THE UNION
EDGBASTON

Tel. Selly Oak 1841

EDITOR Mark Seaward

editorial

SPACE would not allow us to wish a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to each and every committee, society and organisation of this Guild, but we should like to take this opportunity of wishing our readers (however limited!) a Happy Christmas . . . always remembering that there is more to Christmas than mere commercialisation. This is shown effectively in the following contribution received from Keith Wilkes, Chairman of St. Francis Hall:

"I saw a splendid racket of course, vac. jobs for example—I saw a chap who knocked up £24 in a fortnight. It's a splendid gimmick for the salesman and shopkeeper; Santa Claus appeared in one departmental store on November 14. It's a wonderful excuse for a party. My dear, do drop in on Christmas Eve, we're not inviting those Browns again so you're quite safe this time! Christmas is a marvelous pretext for a respectable orgy of food and wine and extravagant extras—what do you do with Aunt Hesta's jars of pickled ginger?"

"Christmas is a terrific festival, even if all those Christmas cards are such a bore to send, and the relations always call and stay for hours and hours and ask embarrassing things about your university career. What a good idea to relieve the monotony of mid-winter with a splash of colour and candles and bubbly in the glass with your mate of the moment. Those chaps who invented the Yuletide rites knew a thing or two about giving the natives a bit of uplift at the right time. Even the Christians have tried to cash in on the idea—they're selling religious Christmas cards at Woolworth's, and putting angels instead of fairies on top of their Christmas trees. Perhaps there isn't much harm in it if it makes them happy (peace on earth, goodwill to men), but don't for goodness sake bring religion into OUR Christmas; it would rather spoil the atmosphere, and we don't want our friends to think there's anything religious or queer about US.

"Christmas isn't really anything more than an opportunity for us to have a damn good time, is it? Don't let's think too much about the 700 people somewhere in the world who will die of hunger during the hour in which we eat our Christmas dinner. Don't bother about the refugees who celebrate the dignity of man and the humility of God in squalid camps because there is no room for them in our particular inn. After all we've been to at least one bread and cheese lunch during the term, what more can we possibly do? Don't let's face the incredible chance that God might once have arrived on earth to show us that He is, and what He is like, and to bring us to our senses. Don't let's admit the uncomfortable fact that a God who is a person with a loving purpose for this universe and everyone in it COULD do such a thing. Haven't we proved innumerable times that God doesn't exist and life is meaningless and history is bunk, and that is why we are at the University? Don't let's give in to that constant temptation to think that love, care, respect, worship (if you like) DOES matter more than anything else. Don't let's let the apparatus of our self-gratifying festivities and our self-inflicted tears. But I hope you will be disturbed, I hope you will be so affronted by the scandal of Christ's birth that He will make your Christmas vac. full of unexpected love and lasting joy."

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PRESS POST

G.T.G. crit. inadequate

Dear Sir,
MAY I protest about the inadequacy of last week's criticism of "The Duchess of Malfi." A dramatic criticism should deal with the play as presented on the stage, not with it as considered in the study. Instead of discussing the debatable points of John Brown's production—and Heaven knows there were plenty—instead of analysing the various performances, the critic dealt with the emotional responses of the audience and the universal truths supposedly contained in the play. These topics certainly have a place in the dramatic criticism, but not, please, at the expense of dismissing the performances of Rosemary Kerner, Geoff Hutchings and Paul Herman in a single uninformative sentence. May we, in the future, have a critic who will give due importance to the theatrical side of a play and not waste his column in vague philosophical musings.

Yours etc.
MARGARET DENNIS
(History II)

EDITORIAL FOOTNOTE:

Unfortunately our regular critic could not write the criticism owing to illness and our writer last week kindly undertook this at very short notice, and only had very small space available due to economic reasons of this newspaper.

Election fiasco

Dear Sir,
ONE aspect of Guild activity, to which the phrase "need for radical reappraisal" can honestly be applied, is Guild Elections. In this respect Mr. Heseltine's article in your last edition was most timely. The results of the recent Freshers' Elections reveal that we have reached the point of no return. No longer can we accept the lack of nominations and votes as typifying the outlook of any average student body. Elections cannot be treated as a mere administrative task, a wearisome chore which unfortunately has to be undertaken once a term. The constitutional provisions governing elections are inadequate and too restricting on the freedom of the student. These elections are reduced to a piece of paper. There are no personalities involved; in fact it is completely impersonal. Hustings and advertisement of any kind are taboo. We get no opportunity to judge the ability or character of the people destined to represent us. Many would-be candidates are discouraged by the nature of the business undertaken by Guild Council. In fact the attitude of all concerned is unhealthy and undemocratic. This is a result of many senior members of the Guild taking themselves and their positions far too seriously. After all we are mere mortals and students at that. Mr. Heseltine's comments were fair but hardly far-reaching enough in the light of present circumstances. Fresh ideas and fresh personalities should be encouraged to enter the arena of Guild politics and thus eradicate the idea "A fiasco a term maintains the old firm."

JUSTICIAR.

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Dissatisfaction

Dear Sir,
A LARGE number of members have expressed their discontent with the present organisation of the Guild's activities. Several methods of removing this discontent have been considered, some of them involving drastic action. However, the writers of this article have arrived at the conclusion that an independent commission should be set up to root out the causes of dissatisfaction and to submit recommendations to Council. The Commission could be composed of both Guild Councillors and ordinary members together with outside experts on particular subjects.

One of the first things which should be looked into is the system of representation on Guild Council—in the recent Freshers' representatives Elections no less than eight constituencies failed to nominate candidates, whilst other constituencies could only raise one nomination. Further, the Commission should study the whole problem of Guild administration. It has been said that certain posts on Executive are full-time jobs and cannot be carried out fully by students aware of their academic commitments however willing they may be. The Commission should reassess the duties of Executive as opposed to those of the permanent Guild Staff, especially in view of the increasing size of the Guild. Not only Executive, but Standing Committees should also come under review.

Union Committee

Last year the budget of £17,200 was exceeded by £250, the main reason being that the cost of cleaning the Union and Guild Club amounted to over £5,000, the estimated amount being exceeded by almost £700. It is essential that the whole system of cleaning be studied and methods of promoting efficiency be put into operation at once.

The state of cloakrooms, generally, is very bad, and locker facilities are inadequate. Members' property should be made secure at all times by the employment of porters, at least one of whom should be in attendance at all times.

Catering Department

There should be a wider variety of meals available during any given week. Also, it would be worthwhile to study the nutritional value of the meals provided.

The arrangements made for bars at most Guild functions are deplorable. There should be more bar space and more people serving behind them. The accent throughout this department, and in fact in the whole of the Union and Guild Club, should be on service to members; this would increase sales and result in a larger surplus for the department. There is no reason why the net surplus should not be in the region of eight per cent. Instead of last year's meagre 4.44 per cent. To achieve this it would be necessary to improve efficiency, reduce waste, and revise the buying system. An improvement in quality generally, without an increase in prices, is not incompatible with such a policy.

Guild Dinner

There should be a reduction of at least £100 in the loss on Guild Dinner, i.e., from £275 to £175; this reduction could be achieved by ceasing to give Guild Councillors' free tickets for this function. In addition some limitation should be made on the number of outside guests invited.

Last year, the Entertainments Committee failed, by £235, to achieve the expected surplus of £1,150. The main reasons for this are the loss of over £300 on Guild Ball and the reduced surplus on the New Year's Eve Dance. In the case of Guild Ball we feel that it was absurd to pay £225 for one band, especially since it was expected that a loss would be made on this function. Some real effort should be made to make this function no longer a financial liability. If the reduced overall surplus be guarded against in the coming year it may be possible to reduce the Hop ticket to the former price.

It may be argued that most of the above problems can be handled by existing machinery, but we feel that it is necessary to view the situation from outside.

For this reason we stress the importance of including outside experts on ordinary members in the Commission which we advocate.

Yours etc.,

J. O'CONNOR, D. MALLION,
M. JOBBES, BERNARD J. YATES.

PROFIT



Photo: John G.
Decor: Christmas

COLONIAL FORUM

LAST Friday the Debating Society met with the three University Political Societies to discuss problems and policies of Colonial Government. A formidable line-up of speakers was present: Mr. Nigel Fisher, Conservative M.P. for Surbiton; our own Dr. Hamish Carr, M.P. for the Foreign News Staff of the "Daily Worker"; tackled the first question put to the debate, "Unrestricted immigration from the Colonies tends to increase racial inequality, is the remedy to restrict it?"

The four speakers agreed that there did exist in this country and that education of both white and black. They differed, however, in several minor points, such as Mr. Fisher's view of criminal immigrants' deportation; Mr. Carr's Trade Union solution to employment problems and Mr. Silverman's view of the immigrants' own countries. These ideas were discussed and several speakers commented on them.

After a brief summing-up of the first question, the second question which was, "What solutions would be put forward for the problem of Central African federation?"

Speaking from the Liberal point of view, white superiority was still present in white and Central Africa. Mr. Carr, however, was ready for self-government and we would make a note of this.

Mr. Silverman pointed out that there had never supported federation because another "South Africa" was ready to be enforced federation.

Mr. Carr agreed that the Federation, including Banda, should be released and allowed to function with full freedom.

Several speeches from the floor followed and there followed summings-up. The meeting was lively and well attended. Especially when these views are given by people who do not know what they are saying about as opposed to the usual student opinions on such matters.

C. A. CHAUDOIR, J. H. GUNN.

Book Review "Lolita"

MORE has been written about "Lolita" than about any other work; this great interest has been with it vulgarisation by the press. Certainly it concerns both love and sex, specifically the love of a man for a young girl, but linking these factors, Nabokov's aesthetic sense raises the book to a level unknown in mere pornography. The relation of love and sex in the book is infinitely subtle and flexible, but is a vital factor in the balance of the work. If there is a tragedy, it is in Humbert's cynical hatred and mockery and his acceptance of frustration and punishment.

Part of the power and perhaps beauty of the book is in the way out of a freakish situation with strictly symmetrical framework. Humbert's perversion arising from a youthful affair with a certain American and how the physical remains of him the only symbol of love. The relationship developed. In the way, we know from Humbert that

JENNY STEER WOOD

WHETHER Jennifer be auctioneer-ing chamber pots in the City Centre on Carnival Day or delivering debating speech standing on a table in front of a large all male audience at Aberystwyth, she is always in the thick of things doing the talking. But when it came to an interview for material to write this profile, Jennifer was far more reticent, claiming that she knew more about her than she knew herself. Not everyone, however, knows that she designs and makes her own clothes—this being due to a singular lack of funds. In this connection it is reported that she is worried about how she is to raise sufficient money to claim back from the news shop, the Women's Debating trophy she won last year and that she would do anything for a meal! (Well almost anything.)

To be serious for one moment; she does English but this does not deter her from undertaking such practical jobs as redecorating and repainting her flat.

And the future?—She wants, eventually, to teach drama, not because she thinks that this is the only thing that Arts graduates can do, but because she is genuinely interested in it.

We wish her every success in this choice of career.

SQUASH RACKETS

JOHN WHITE WINS UAU TITLE

THE U.A.U. Individual Championships, played at Bristol on November 27-28, were won by John White, of Birmingham. In a final lasting an hour and twenty minutes he defeated G. Thompson (Manchester) by three matches to two (9-6, 4-9, 10-8, 1-9, 9-3).

The match was a contrast between the hard, straight hitting of Thompson, and the more varied play of White, who used the side-walls well to make Thompson run about a great deal. The crucial game was the third, in which Thompson had a game point at 8-7, but hit down. The game eventually went to White at 10-8. Thompson ran away with the fourth game, but was made to run about a good deal in the process. In the final game White built up a quick lead of 7-3, hitting much more sharply than Thompson. The service alternated several times before White got to match point at 8-3, and he required two more match points before Thompson hit down.

Robin Creed reached the semi-final, where he was beaten 3-0 by Thompson. Dai Goldfinch lost to Davies, of Hull, in the third round, and Norman Seagram and Rod Embley won their first round matches but were beaten in the second round. There was a record entry of 42 for the Championships.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Winning run halted

THE visitors at Bournbrook on Saturday were the Birmingham AFA representative team, which had already beaten the Midland UAU this season. Although the University were without Fay, McIntosh, Gray and West, the match promised much in the way of excitement. The University were defeated 4-2, however, in a disappointing game.

The early exchanges were equal.

With Roberts (AFA) and Roper (Birmingham) both missing good chances before Smith found himself unmarked and converted a corner with a fine header, to put the AFA in the lead. The University team failed to produce any of the urgency which marked their display against West Bromwich Albion. Their attacks continually broke down on the right-wing, despite valiant efforts by Roper and Fleming at inside-forward.

Fifteen minutes before the interval Westwood intercepted a pass back to the goalkeeper, and passed to Horton, who scored with a well-placed drive from the edge of the penalty area. This state of affairs was short-lived, and half-time saw the AFA 3-1 in the lead through further goals by their right-winger, and Roberts the inside-left.

The visitors continued to hold the better of the exchanges, and prompted by fine wing-halves, Betterly and Russell, kept the Birmingham defence busy. Tipples was constantly called into action, making many fine saves and the "Setters-like" Sandford was particularly prominent, his destructive tackling showing the limitations of his colleagues in this respect.

Latham produced the most inspiring sight of the afternoon with a great drive from 25 yards which hit the crossbar with Tipples well beaten, and in the closing minutes a defensive error allowed Roberts to shoot the AFA further ahead. Horton scored his second goal, and gained some consolation for the University, after the opposing goalkeeper had dropped a centre from Fleming.

G.T.

WINTER ATHLETICS

MEDHURST BEATS PAYNE BY 4 POINTS

The Athletic Club staged its second Decathlon on November 14-15. Conditions were atrocious, the track being half-flooded on the first day. Nevertheless, six hardy individuals turned out and gradually worked their way through the ten events. Medhurst eventually won by the narrowest of margins from Payne, last year's winner, and it was pleasing to see two competitors achieve 4,000 points, particularly in view of the inclement weather. Result: 1, Medhurst 4,012 pts.; 2, Payne 4,008 pts.; 3, Lloyd (Birchfield) 3,323 pts.; 4, Fish 3,095 pts.; 5, Bruch 2,305 pts.; 6, Thomas 2,180.

In equally unfavourable conditions a large team travelled to Loughborough on November 25 for a most enjoyable track and field match against a very strong college side. Although outclassed in most departments the club were by no means disgraced in their 52-25 defeat. Newcomers Eastwood, Rawlings, Brooke, Braithwaite, Walsby, Amle, Rushen, Horwell, and Partington all performed creditably and with more out of season competition to supplement training all should improve considerably by the summer. Of the individual performances the most notable were Payne's shot and hammer double, the vaulting of Ward (13 ft.) and Brooke (personal best of 9 ft. 9 ins.), and Davies' two mile run in 10 mins 2 secs.

CHANCELLOR'S TRIUMPH

Chancellor's Hall 11 pts., Manor House 8 pts.

ON Sunday, November 22, the annual Rugby Football "Derby" was held between Manor House and Chancellor's Hall, at Chancellor's. The game promised to be a good one and spectators were not disappointed, since the teams were extremely well matched, and produced a game of very high standard.

Chancellor's scored first with a breakthrough try by Wilson, converted by Wilkinson, about half-way through the first half. Manor House, however, fought back well and very soon equalised with a well-earned try by Dorricot, Huggill kicking the goal.

The scores remained equal until half-way through the second half, when Chancellor's scored another try, this time by Ball. It was at this stage in the game that injuries took their toll, Chancellor's losing one man permanently and Manor two men for most of the rest of the game. Chancellor's then further increased their lead when Ellis dropped a goal but Manor fought back and more than once were almost over the line. At last their perseverance was rewarded five minutes from the end when Anelauskaf scored an unconverted try.

OTHER RESULTS

RUGBY FOOTBALL

1st XV beat Bristol University, 8-0.
Medics. beat Chemists, 10-3.
Metallurgy beat Mining, 8-0.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

1st XI beat R.M.C.S., 3-2.
2nd XI beat R.M.C.S., 9-0.
2nd XI beat Aston Villa A.M., 1-0.

HOCKEY (MEN)

1st XI lost to Sheffield Univ., 0-2.
1st XI lost to Edgbaston, 1-2.

LACROSSE

1st XII beat Solihull High Sch., 5-3.

JUDO CLUB

Outgraded again

Men: Birmingham 2, Sheffield 5, drawn 1.

Women: Birmingham 2, Sheffield 0.

From the score it looks as if the men's team was fairly easily beaten by Sheffield on Wednesday; in actual fact this was not so. Indeed, considering the degree by which the home team was outgraded by Sheffield, the closeness of the contests was quite remarkable.

It is our misfortune, especially from the point of view of early season matches, that although we have the largest membership of any Midland university judo club, we never seem to get graded Freshers as others do.

At the top of the team the Sheffield captain outranked Alan Caines by two grades. This man, a green belt of one year standing, was obviously too tough a nut for Alan to crack, and although he fought well he was fairly easily beaten. Another of our men in a similar predicament was Alan Scott, but he attacked constantly, his opponent only scoring in a hold down, kesa gamate (scarf holding).

The best contests by our players were by Dai Jones and Gordon Lawson. Dai, although he too was two grades lower than his opponent, attacked enthusiastically until he scored with o-uchi-gari (major inner reaping), and finally won with kesa gamate. This was a very good and unexpected win. Gordon, one of the few fighting a man of his own grade, won a hard tactical battle with a nice clean o-uchi-gari.

Both teams fought with a good, relaxed style, and it was, perhaps, the best match of the season.

The ladies' team, fighting after the men, were obviously out to regain some of the glory lost to Sheffield.

Patsy Goodyear and Charis Folland both outranked the two girls from Sheffield, so it was expected that they would win. Even so, Patsy did very well to score a clear point in the first few seconds of the contest with o-soto-gari (major outer reaping), especially when it is remembered that she is still fighting under the handicap of a recent back injury. Charis, although much smaller than her opponent, was obviously much the better judoka. She attacked almost non-stop and threw her opponent quite easily, going immediately into groundwork each time.

The women's section seems consistently to do very well and it is a pity that other universities cannot provide them with some stiffer opposition.

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CONCERT DIARY ★ STOCKING FILLING ★

WHAT a welcome visitor Rudolph Schwarz is, and how last Tuesday's audience showed their appreciation of his presence. Moreover, this concert was yet another example of the excellent though inobtrusive programme planning which we have witnessed this season. The happy thought of combining Mozart and Bartok was a thorough success, and was in no small part due to the performers.

Mr. Schwarz has changed since going to London. Much of the delicacy of his left hand gestures has been replaced by a firmer beat, often duplicating the right hand, but with added authority. His approach to the "Jupiter," too, is different. There was a decided masculine bias to this work which was not altogether acceptable. There was a definite gain in the minuet, which had a firm beat, but the opening movement was deadened by a tendency to slow the climaxes, and the orchestra never seemed to be at full stretch. In the same way the overture to "Il Seraglio" also suffered slightly. The real delight came with the gem of a 6th Serenade for two tiny orchestras, the first being two violins, viola, and bass. The string tone was excellent and the total effect was enchantment.

The Bartok, therefore, came as a complete change, as it should, and enabled all concerned to reach the heights of performance. Every instrument gave of its very best, and

while the protracted "introduzione" needed greater force in the climaxes, the overall effect was to allow us to see the finely woven texture of the composer's orchestration. The "Elegia" was beautiful, and the one harpist, while handicapped by not having a second to help (as the score demands) added lustre to the tone. Altogether a splendid evening.

RANDI.

YOU can probably get away with handkerchieves for Dad again, and even handkerchieves for Mum, and perhaps little sister has to blow her nose occasionally, but before you dismiss the "problem" of Christmas presents with a shrug, remember that other person in your life: SHE will certainly object to being fobbed off with a few square inches of cambric only slightly less than she will object to being overlooked altogether. As for your boy friend ladies, a present this time may well save nine after you are married.

Those of us who have ventured into the big wide world lately from our usual havens—the Bar, Founders' Room or the Ref.—will have noticed that the local emporia are making a concerted effort to attract our custom. In fact a truly sensitive student may be brought near despair as the commercial confusion becomes more riotous, the shopping days dwindle

and the anticipatory gleam in HER eye becomes more and more pronounced. But help is at hand! This column will now distribute largesse in the form of concrete suggestions to dispel the present buying blues.

For Him

The aim here must be to give a present which is "just right" and this calls for the use of psychology or feminine intuition. Consider first what he likes doing best, what are his hobbies and what are his weaknesses (always excluding yourself). Perhaps he owns one of those wrecks which litter the Union car park. If so, headgear suitable for the nights the "Car" has to be pushed up Edgbaston Park Road in a blizzard would make an acceptable gift. Of course checks are almost traditional in this respect, but one can be original in red and black striped corduroy for 10s. 6d. If you, too, have to push perhaps a pair would be appropriate.

Of course he smokes but if you, or your purse, are daunted by the thought of a solid silver lighter or cigarette-case, there are gay little tubs of "Harlequin" matches in the shops for 1s. 10d. During the long lonely weeks of the Vac he will remember you each time he strikes a brightly coloured match.

Or has he got cold feet? You can warm them up for 5s. 11d. by giving him a pair of fleecy pink bed-socks, and perhaps he will propose at last. Well, there's no harm in trying.

For Her

The secret here is Flattery. She may have legs like matchsticks but buy her a pair of Dior 12 denier nylons (15s. 6d.) and she will be your slave for life. Or if this is just what you are trying to avoid, why not deliberately make the mistake that was once made inadvertently by one innocent in the ways of the world (and of women): give your beloved a belt 42ins. long.

Or buy her a ring. Not necessarily THE ring (it would be better to ask her first in that case), but a chunky antique ring to flatter her long fingers, and provide a weapon if needed. Mink may sound luxurious but in fact need not be beyond the pocket of the most impecunious student. A mink brooch costs only 4s. 11d. and ear-rings slightly more. Equally luxurious—and what girl does not like to feel pampered at least once a year—is perfume, but here you must first decide if she is Electric, Hypnotique or just Pagan.

You may discover that after all women are easy to please if you make up your mind to tear yourself from the Coffee Room and buy her SOMETHING. After all, the whole of Brum is out to sell; all you have to do is get out there and BUY.

MAUREEN JONES.

coffee talk . . .

ONCE more it is the Hops. Surely the Hop is supposed to suit a complete cross-section of the student population not a hardened core of beer-swillers and their molls. Recently I undertook a spot check in the Coffee Room, and out of thirty people, found that seventeen had given up Hop going altogether. Though I am the first to admit that a "booze-up" with the boys is great fun, the back of the Deb Hall is no place for the after celebrations.

What have we now? An overcrowded floor aggravated by a solid rank of men with no intention of dancing, who for some inexplicable reason take to the far end of the hall and gradually move towards the centre as the night wears on. The same girls decorate the walls and the usual crowd shuffles mechanically to an over familiar band. No one asks for a weekly supply of goddesses, but is it asking too much for the girls to have minds and intelligent conversation. And what about our own girls? Do not their interests come before those of a crowd of nurses? When drunkards start feeling conspicuous on the dance floor, we might find the better type of girl coming more often, together with some of our own numbers who have given up in disgust. Now is the time to start, for when the new buildings are open there will be room to dance.

The Miners' Dance and the University Balls are the type of dance for which there is a demand. Christmas Ball tickets are having to be limited. Any society wondering how to make their dance a success, make it semi-formal.

Entertainments Committee have sound plans for the future, but to ease the present situation, we could use the balcony, not shut it off, and launch a campaign to shift the back-end boys.

A. OSBORNE.

Debating Society

LUNCHTIME DEBATE

on
Tuesday, December 8
in

Debating Hall

Motion: "Christ has no place in Christmas, 1959"

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Personal Column

THE UNIVERSITY HUMANIST FEDERATION WILL HOLD ITS INAUGURAL CONFERENCE AT THE ARDEN HOTEL ON JANUARY 2 AND 3, 1960. DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED VIA UNION FIGEON-HOLES, FROM R. M. SPANSWICK.

"SOUTH EDUCATION TO-DAY": Talks by Mr. Wright (former Registrar of Port Hare University) and Prof. Peel (Dept. of Education, Birmingham). Mixed Lounge, Thursday, December 3, at 5.15 p.m.

ARDINGLY COLLEGE, SUSSEX, WOULD ANY OLD BOYS OF THIS SCHOOL PLEASE CONTACT W. TEMPLETON (CHANCELLOR'S H A L L) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?

YOUR STANDARDS ARE SLIPPING!!! If you disagree, come and oppose the motion that University life leads to a decline in personal standards at the Pre-Hop Debate in Women's Common Room at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, December 5.

MEET "Wall" on the steps of the National Gallery on New Year's Eve at 11.30 p.m. to see the New Year in.

THIS WEEK . . . "LOLITA" and other books purchased for Union Library. Opening hours: Monday—Thursday 12.30—2 p.m. Friday 4—5 p.m.

M.R.D.S. REGRETS too busy selling U.F.A.W. Christmas cards (expertly designed by Fougasse) to write usual notorious column this issue. Cards from M. R. D. Seaward via "Guild News" pigeon-hole.

CINEMA COLUMN

WEST END Cinema: "South Pacific" (U). Daily 7.15 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday 2.30 p.m. Sunday 5.30 p.m.

A.B.C. BRISTOL: "The Mummy" showing at 2.35, 5.40 and 8.40. Also "Bed Without Breakfast" at 11.4.11 and 7.20.

GAUMONT (Steelhouse Lane): "I Started With a Kiss" showing at 1.35, 5.10 and 8.45. Also "Davy" at 11.45, 3.20 and 6.55.

ODEON (New Street): "Killers of Kilimanjaro" showing at 11.15, 4.25 and 8.55. Also "Battle of the Coral Sea" at 12, 3.35 and 7.15.

SCALA (Smallbrook Street): "Bliss Date" showing at 2.30, 5.35 and 8.40. Also "Tawara" at 1.45 and 7.10.

FUTURIST: "The Blue Angel" showing at 2, 5.15 and 8.30. Also "Speed Crazy" at 12.30, 3.45 and 7. FORUM (New Street): "John Paul Jones" and "The Witness". Programmes commence at 12.35, 3.35 and 7.5 p.m.

CINEPHONE (Bristol Road): Another Ingmar Bergmann production "Lesson In Love" (X cert.). Week beginning December 6, "Escape from Damnation". Also child crime problems in Mexico — "We Want a Child" (X cert.). This film contains a complete uncut birth sequence.

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