

REDBRICK

Birmingham University

No. 773 WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26th, 1969 Price 5d. 2p.

Aston nears conflict

A MASSIVE student occupation of Aston University is imminent, a member of the Union Executive said yesterday. A meeting of the Students' Union tomorrow will make a decision and discuss methods and timing.

The trouble which has led to concern on the Aston campus has come to the surface in the last fortnight, and has resulted from student complaints on three issues.

The wholesale rejection of the University Council's Austin report, which proposed campus representation by the Student Union, has led to a situation similar to that which brought about the Sit-In on Edgbaston campus last November.

Also provoking discontent is the probe on the running of Aston University proposed by Alderman Turton, as well as talk of installing "clock-in facilities" to insure that students attend all lectures.

Lastly, and most important, the proposed breaking-up of the Joint Students' Union on the campus by moving the College of Commerce to a Polytechnic at Perry Barr, has created great concern among both students and staff.

An emergency motion was added to the agenda of the N.U.S. Conference at Margate three days ago, condemning the proposed break-up of the Students' Union. The motion was carried unanimously after Roger Howarth described the proposed Polytechnic as "cheap and nasty."

The Aston Union has already received many concrete offers of assistance from Universities throughout the country, who see the issue as a fight against the binary system.

Reports circulating the Edgbaston campus last night indicate that any direct action at Aston will be met with action here by the Guild in solidarity.

Marchers keep quiet

ARRANGEMENTS for the Anti-apartheid demonstration in Manchester today have been kept secret by student organisers.

This means that until the Birmingham coach arrives at the march rendezvous, a clear plan of action on the nature of the demonstration will not have been widely discussed.

It seems, however, that the march will form up at Manchester University Union and proceed through Moss Side to the ground. Whether or not demonstrators will attempt to invade the pitch is still uncertain but informed sources cite this as a strong possibility.

This week Mr. Callaghan, Home Secretary, issued a warning to rugby club "vigilantes," reminding them of their legal status in suppressing anti-apartheid demonstrators. Nevertheless, the police have taken the now usual precautions against any form of physical force.

In Redbrick TODAY

Page 4: "The Psychiatry of Politics"

Page 5: Enquiry: Student Advisory Centre

Page 6: Fashion

Page 7: "The Abortion Business"

Pages 10, 11: Sport

Aston Lecturer attacked in . . .

ABORTION ROW OVER NEW CLINIC

by Redbrick News Staff

A VOLATILE medical controversy has come to light over the setting up of a Birmingham Private Abortion Clinic, the Calthorpe Nursing Home; which has already run into problems in obtaining a go-ahead from the Ministry of Health.

The clinic has stimulated the opposition of many Birmingham gynaecologists, particularly within the Maternity Hospital attached to the Medical School. One member of the hospital has rejected an offer of a job at the clinic, where he could earn "nearly £200 in one morning's abortion session."

One of the strongest critics of the clinic is Professor Hugh McLaren, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

According to Dr. Martin Cole, who sits on the clinic's managing board of three, the Professor has "tried every tactic possible to prevent the clinic being set up, even going to the point of seeing Mr. Richard Crossman (Minister of Health and Social Services).

At the moment the clinic, al-

though paying some 18 staff, cannot commence abortions because the essential licence has not yet been granted by the Ministry of Health.

PRESSURE

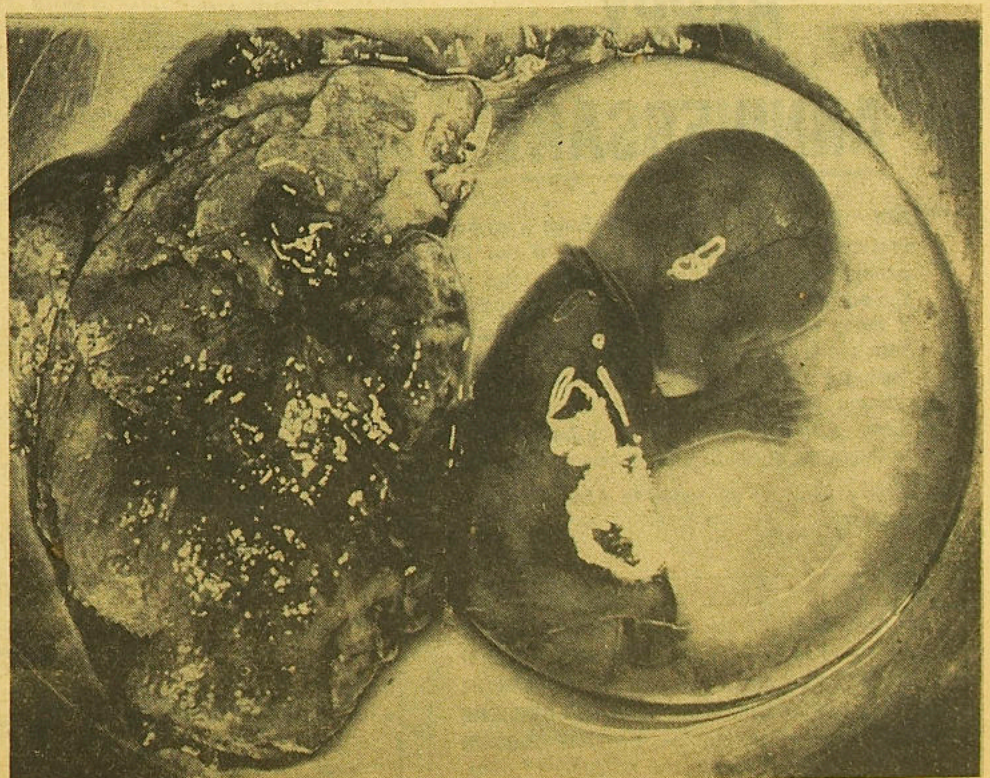
Dr. Cole maintained that this is the result of bureaucratic delays, but some informed sources believe that the licence is being withheld as a result of criticism and pressure from top-ranking Birmingham gynaecologists, and further, that Mr. Crossman is looking seriously

into the possibility of having the clinic taken over by the N.H.S.

ANTI-SEXUAL

Some members of the maternity hospital are expressing concern over the way the clinic is to be run, its equipment and the competence of the staff. They are annoyed that no facts regarding these aspects have been made available to them.

Dr. Cole lashed out at these critics of the clinics: "The clinic will provide a first class and impeccable service. Some 14 per cent of the intake, I estimate, will be students from the Midlands." He added: "The critics are juniors to Professor McLaren and must toe his line because they depend on him for promotion. They are all anti-sexual."



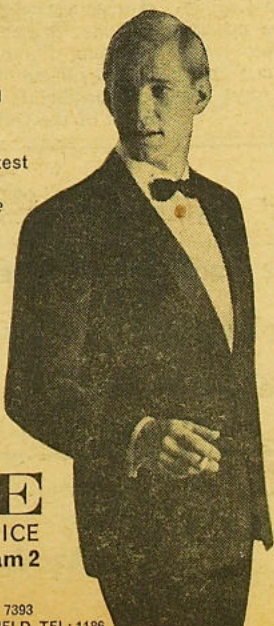
Abortion in its stark reality—See Leader (Page 2) and Feature (Page 7)

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ABORTION

It is important this week to use the leader column to set the abortions controversy in its proper perspective.

No mistakes must be made about "Redbrick's" intentions concerning the reporting of this issue. We state quite categorically at this point in the investigations that the last thing we want is for the clinic to be closed. We further admit no personal vendetta against Dr. Martin Cole and his colleagues.

Clinics such as these are performing an indispensable service to young people, and students in particular. Their sponsors are thankfully realistic towards the cost of operations, and for the most part are humane and enlightened in their dealings with these difficult cases.

But there have been serious allegations from the more "recognised" sectors of medical activity. Professor McLaren and others have openly raised doubts as to the clinical efficiency of the Calthorpe Nursing Home. One can hardly dismiss these challenges as examples of professional rivalry.

However, it is a fact that McLaren is firmly against the principle of abortion for social or emotional convenience. The memory of his article in "Time Magazine" last year makes this obvious. Yet can the other attackers simply be written off as toeing the senior man's line?

Quite clearly, there is not half enough valid information to draw any definite conclusions. We must wait for an independent enquiry which will perhaps be able to thoroughly clear Dr. Cole's newly tarnished reputation. Until then, it is your decision.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

TODAY "Redbrick" might well have carried a feature on the anniversary of the 1968 occupation. But living in and learning from the events of the past are different things. And if there was one thing to be learnt from last year's one-week protest, it was that a greater push for reform should have followed in the autumn term of this session—and stronger direct action should have been borne in mind in the event of stubborn non-co-operation.

But after a year all we seem to have gained is a memory.

Editor JOHN KEETLEY
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Features Editor PAUL TAYLOR
Reviews Editor PAUL SOMMERS
Pictures Editor MARTIN COOPER
Assistant Business Manager GRAHAM LEWIS
Sports Editor ANDY HOLDEN

Disgusted . . .

DEAR SIR—I was appalled by the City Council's decision to allow "The Killing of Sister George" to be shown in Birmingham. The film is concerned with a sexual perversion, which, I believe, is called lesbianism. Such a film might well encourage young people to take part in such practices.

People who suffer from such unnatural desires should learn to apply some self discipline and control their animal lust. If they cannot do so they should be locked away somewhere where they cannot contaminate ordinary decent citizens. I am sick of perverts like the Rolling Stones being glorified by the press, television and films.

"The Killing of Sister George" is just one more example in this disgusting trend.

A friend who went to see the film on Sunday has told how leathome and sordid the whole thing was. I feel every decent person in Birmingham should contact the city council and express his disapproval of their too liberal attitude which can only accelerate the decline of moral standards in this country.

Yours sincerely,
S. PERD.

. . . and grateful

DEAR SIR, — I should like to draw every reader's attention to the showing of "The Killing of Sister George" at the ABC this week. It is high time people began to understand the problems of lesbians.

Publicity given to homosexuals has resulted in social acceptance of what is, after all, just a difference, not a perversion. Lesbians add to a need for love from members of their own sex, the basic female need for security leading to relationships which can only be thought of as true and lasting marriages.

There is nothing to be ashamed of, nothing to fear or to laugh at. The film is a sensitive treatment of a delicate subject, and I should like to think that every Birmingham citizen will see it. Afterwards, they may cease to think of the subject as a matter for derision.

And stop laughing at me when I walk down Bristol Road.

Yours sincerely,
LESLEY

DEAR SIR,—Re "City Action" arrangements: it would not be such a bad idea for the patients of Summerfield Geriatric Hospital to return the compliment and "brighten up" High and Ridge Halls.

MUCHLOVE,
Two sufferers in High Hall.

IN MEMORIAM

Andres Nin

1878-1938

Long Live the

PARTIDO OBREDO DE

UNIFICACION

MARXISTA

student magazine

Readers are reminded that this is the last edition of "Redbrick" for this term.

The date of the first issue in 1970 will be Wednesday, January 21st—the second week of the Spring Term.

DEAR SIR,—The Free Union took up a lot of "Redbrick" space with ideas that make a mockery of their self-styled moral.

Their concept of the student and his relationship towards the University and the outside world is a pathetic fantasy. There we all are, cosseted by cheap buns and cups of coffee nestling in the protective womb of the University—or is it "the department"?—cosily discussing the dialectics of the colour of the bog paper or perhaps presuring for two essays a week instead of three now. Meanwhile back in the nasty, noisy world—Vietnam still burns, the pollution count rises, bombs circle the earth, computers track our every step and the government whispers of conscription—yes you might even be involved.

Pathetic fantasy of Union reform

Time you opened your eyes Mr. er apolitic? We are our fingers in the political just as deep as anyone—up to us to make it to taste.

By the way Mr. er? You talk of anonymity, but who d'you think you are Mr. Free Union. You're certain not me.

Love to all,
MICK BEGLEY,
(Geog.-Soc. Sec.)

Outside comment

DEAR SIR,—I should like to thank you for your courtesy in sending me "Redbrick."

I would add that, as a regular reader of long-standing, I am still astonished from time to time by your arrogance in assuming the mantle of the gods and pronouncing opinions on causes and personalities which often display woeful ignorance.

From such a dazzling olympian eminence, a regard for accuracy may seem of trivial nature to war against any concern, but we less mortals may be forgiven occasionally we question the wisdom of those who, in passing judgment on members of the Court, do not trouble to distinguish between the living and the dead; two members in the latter category were referred to in your issue of November 12th—and not in an obituary column.

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE CADBURY

letters

Goodnight from the Great Hall

DEAR SIR,—On the eve of the first anniversary of the sit-in, it's shocking to see how all enthusiasm for the Union and for political involvement has died during the last year.

Those of us who can remember the massive involvement in the occupation which so many students felt, can only feel frustrated by the change.

You only have to compare General Meetings last year, when relay systems were organised between Deb Hall and the Council Chamber to absorb the overflow, and this year, when even Deb Hall is half empty, and those present are generally political stirrers, to see the disappointing difference.

It's difficult to see why this has happened. Is it the fault of the Guild adminis-

tration, or the departure of many of our best rhetoricians, or simply frustration at the ineffectiveness of last year's action?

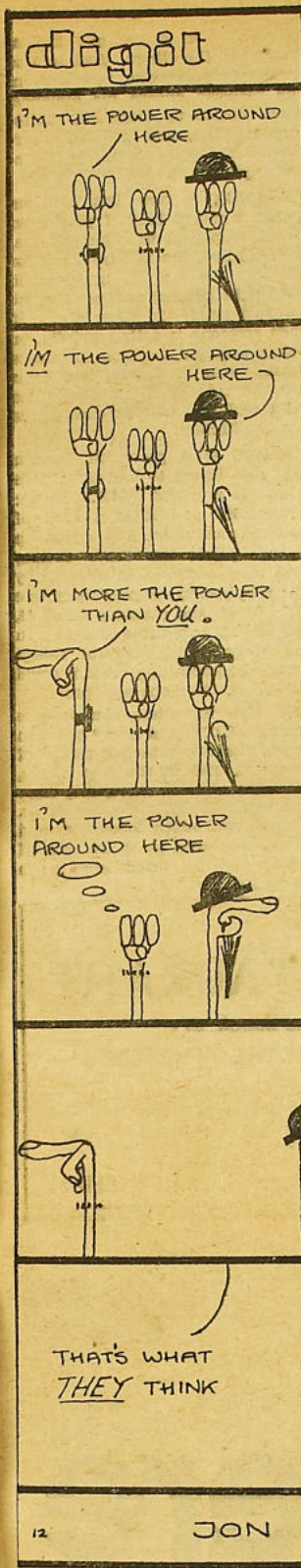
Whichever it is, the Union is not what it was and sadly, people are more interested in the price of meals and beer than in the central issues in which we all should be involved.

Yours,
JOAN ALEXANDER.

'Redbrick' requires more staff for the New Year.

There are vacancies for reporters, feature writers, photographers and business staff—all applications to be made to the Editor, or in person at the office.

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PALESTINE

Fred Halliday, from "Black Dwarf", will be talking on the Palestinian Revolution today at 1.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber. The talk is sponsored by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

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Apartheid link condemned at Margate talks

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY'S complicity with the Smith Regime in Zimbabwe was condemned by the National Union of Students' Conference at Margate last weekend.

In one of the best conferences for years, motions were passed supporting demonstrations against the Springboks, and establishing a legal aid fund to assist students arrested at demos.

A wide range of educational topics were discussed, covering the Binary system, comprehensive education and educational philosophy. Solidarity with the teachers in their pay dispute was expressed, and a national day of action was decided upon, to include strike action in Colleges

and Universities.

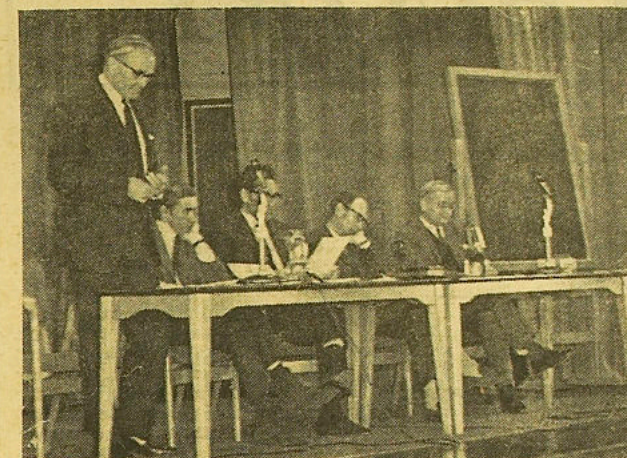
Conference also demanded a Government inquiry into teacher education, and a campaign was launched to get higher grants for all students, to bring them up to their 1962 level. The keeping of secret files on students by College authorities and the Department of Education and Science was condemned as a danger to individual freedom; it was demanded that no records should be kept of a student's political or religious beliefs.

In the first political debate that the Union has ever allowed, the Unionist oppression in Nor-

thern Ireland was condemned, and the removal of Stormont effective power was demanded.

This was one of several defeats of the Executive line, for perhaps the most significant fact at the Conference was the emergence of a minority executive, led by Ray Phillips and Dick Davies (ex-Liverpool President).

This gives Conference a great deal more opportunity for decision-making, as there is no united leadership for college delegates to follow as blindly as they have before. It could have far-reaching effects at next Easter's Conference.



The V.C. at last week's Rhodesia meeting in the Medical School. It was his first appearance at a public discussion for over six months.

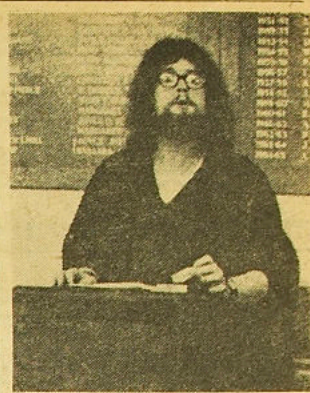
FOWLER ON REDUNDANCY

THE redundancy of the Robbins Report on Higher Education was the main theme of Mr. Gerald Fowler's Open Lecture yesterday afternoon. Mr. Fowler is the new Minister of State for Education and Science, and he was speaking on developments in education policy.

The demand for higher education would be far greater in ten years' time than the Rob-

bins Report had envisaged as the number of suitably-qualified applicants grows. This point was made very strongly recently by the Select Committee Report on Student Relations.

Mr. Fowler stated the obvious fact that either more places must be made available or the standards of entry must be raised. He was against the latter view, as this would stem the flow of scientists and technologists coming out of higher education.



Nudity sensation

THE climax of Wednesday's Debating Society meeting came as a stunned house watched Mr. Steve Harriwell, that lovable naked ape, strip off and march out of the Council Chamber, leaving behind his undies, jeans and polo-neck.

Prior to this non-event, a record number of frustrated students had overwhelmingly defeated the motion, "This House finds nudity disappointing."

The proposer, Mr. Alan Martin, a diverting chemist, decided that sex takes place in the dark as the sight of unadorned bodies puts people off.

Opposing, Mr. Graham Derbyshire decided, when he wasn't preoccupied with stepladders, that there were two big things he liked about nudity. He appeared to have weaknesses for being beaten insensible with frilly suspender bells, nights with the naked Gerald Hitman, and predictably, Raquel Welch.

Mr. Martin Cooper, deserting his dark-room, seconded the proposition by quoting extracts from "The Naked Ape." Finally, Mr. Steve Harriwell happened: he informed us clothes were a neo-fascist plot, and that many people got a lot of satisfaction from Wellington boots, after which he sank slowly with the sunset.

But he was not finished yet; after the departure of the "Birmingham Post" he gave everyone the thrill, he thought they had really come to, and proceeded to undress which surprised, more than stimulated the house.

Deb. Soc. cannot promise quite such an experience tonight when the motion: "This House supports equal pay for women" is debated. Miss Olive Williams of the Labour Party will be furthering the female cause.

J.S.R.

SIT-IN

ANNIVERSARY

G.T.V. this week is devoted to an examination of the events of the past year since the Sit-In last November. "The emphasis of the programme will be on exactly what the Sit-In did achieve in the long-term, and exactly how far the ideals expressed in the Great Hall occupation have been come to being realised," said Peter Donovan, the programme's producer.

Also included will be full coverage in film of today's demonstration against the Springboks' match in Manchester. The programme will be relayed in Concourse and the T.V. room at 1.15 and 5.15 on Friday.

PERSONAL ADS

UNIVERSITY of Birmingham Musical Society. "Verdi Requiem" in the Great Hall on Wed., Dec. 3rd, at 7.30 p.m. Adm. by programme 3/-, available from the Barber Institute or Vincents, Needles Alley.

WELFARE, Ground Floor Union, any time.

PUPPY must be given away or taken to the police to be killed. Enquiries c/o the Editor.

WELFARE, 2 p.m., Discussion Room 2, today.

INDIAN Summers over Wydd in near future. Diddy migration from N.I.G. expected.

SEE the Motor Club autotests in the West Car Park at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30th.

YOUR Welfare Committee needs you.

CHRISTMAS present problems? "The Gospel according to Pariah" is ideal for puritan grandparents.

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RAVE, J-Soc. 8.45 p.m., Sat., 29th. Ghoully Ghostie. 5/- Hillel.

"THE Gospel according to Pariah" ought to be required reading for all courses.

"GEORGY GIRL", 7.30 Founder's, December 2nd, 2/6.

THUNDERCLAP hang on to it—you will soon be a new man.

GREWSOME — When will A-Man get his leg over Puke.—Love, C.C.D.G.E.P.

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Death. No-one likes to think of it, yet time makes us think of it. Time is death's countdown. And change makes us think of time, since time tracks change. So most people shrink from change. Perhaps to be revolutionary (in any way) is not to crave change (as accused), but to confront it.

THE POLITICS OF PSYCHIATRY

If change is positive (which is my stand), and constancy is negative, psychiatry in (not only) Britain rates a double minus. In fact so negative is it, and so ironclad powerful, it is difficult to see how any rumbling mutation in man could ever get off the ground. Outriders, carriers, would be leapt on, rubber-stamped "sick," swooped off to the bin, and popped in, and the peep of transcendence seared off like a wart. For in the country of the blind the one-eyed man would be king. So

dig out his eye, flip. We are the topcats in the politics of the blind. Let there be no light.

ALL that thwarted thrust and punch in man gets programmed into exploration of outer space. This

by
Mike Barnett

could be seen as hysterical conversion, or "making do." And lock up all those who refuse this dummy run. They remind us of our Faustian pact with constancy and time (a sellout for thoughts of immortality).

STATE psychiatry is a paradigm of unchange, both for the person and his world, both the inner and the outer. In the midst of its newest discovery it is reactionary. For it is lost and gone inside its affirmation of the status quo. Lost in there with it, I believe, is the best part of the doctrine of "mental illness."

IT seems to me that "the mental patient" is a casualty of the cry for law and order. Like the murdered millions of the last war. The cry for law and order echoes round the scaffolds and gas-chambers of the world. It is the cry for constancy. It is also the cry that calls the psychiatrist to come and take someone away.

PSYCHIATRY has a duty to re-adapt and re-adjust "unfortunates" to society—that is the monolithic view in the profession. No one stops

to inquire about the pathology of society people are to be adjusted to, its neuroses and sores. There is a little opposition: Drs. Laing, Cooper, Esterson, Crawford, and so on, but they are a slender band and almost outcasts.

As for actual places, refuges for freedom and new approaches, as far as I know the total lot is: Villa 21 (Cooper) at Shenley Hospital, a brave caper now deceased, and Kingsley Hall (Laing and others), a small community of "schizophrenics" in East London, now under sentence of death. There are a few "advanced" state try-outs, the Cassel, the Henderson, but these are wee aspidochasms in the dungeon window, and besides, this kind of paternal liberalism springs its own subtle traps.

OF COURSE, all the mental hospitals are full. And if you doubled their number they would still be full. Halve them and likewise. Quadruple them and likewise. The limiting lines of tolerance would just flex accordingly.

HOW can change come? FIRST I think we have to scrub the naive myth that mental illness is something that exists, like a Jesuit devil, inside a person, who must then be assailed in certain ways to be cured. A mental illness so-called, is notice of an invisible war going on in a situation, which usually includes other people. If so, everyone around is involved in creating the symptoms that one of them is evincing. But he or she who is the lightning conductor for the lot, and freaks out, is seen as the

sole player in a multiple drama. Seen so by the others. And seen so by the "expert" who is called in. The "expert" checks his almanac, which throws up diagnosis, schizophrenia (say), and treatment, largely and electro-convulsive treatment (probably).

SECOND, a new but cautious emphasis might help if placed on the parts played by other players, the audience, the theatre itself, in the plot. Change all these and it just might be that the protagonist is transformed. In other words, if when someone is acting weirdly, or feeling cornered, he then surrounds himself with much cool and calm and the right kind of people, he could well find in that cloister his own equilibrium.

THERE is a group in London right now trying to find out if this is so. It is called P.N.P. (Phone: 01-794-4699) and it is a kind of scattered commune that opens up at all points to those feeling threatened, boxed-in, invalidated by others, by society, by psychiatry (see IL, 59/63/67, and probably 68 or 69, and LFP, 2 or 3, these to come). In this group some beautiful things seem to be happening. And it could proliferate. Perhaps and pray.

IN the meantime, leucotomies continue, E.C.T. and heavy sedation remain the two principle modes of treatment, and in the best places, where there are no more, they have been replaced by, to quote R. D. Laing: "more subtle lobotomies and tranquilisers that place the bars of Bedlam and the locked doors inside the patient."

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enquiry—the student advisory centre

The advisers

THE magazine, "Student," was started about 18 months ago by Richard Branson. The original idea was to develop along the lines of the several underground publications based in London at that time. However, "Student" became, perhaps a little surprisingly, very successful and was able to diverge from the so-called "underground" and develop along its own lines.

It has a large circulation, in the region of 100,000, being distributed mainly by street sellers and representatives in many colleges and universities: it is now also being handled by Smiths, who refuse to distribute true underground papers. It can afford an expensive layout, a colour photo front page and contributors such as Don McCullin as well as its own reporters around the world.

It was this initial success that laid the foundation for the formation of the Student Advisory Centre. Some of "Student's" readers and certain members of the "Student" staff found that when they had a social problem there was nowhere in London that they could turn to for general help and advice. It was for this purpose that Richard Branson formed the Advisory Centre. Through contacts made in the writing of "Student" a large number of organisations and individuals were known who were qualified to deal with such social problems as drug addiction, abortion and contraception. The Centre increased the number of its contacts and widened its fields so that it is now in the position to refer anyone with a particular problem to a specific expert in that field. Amongst its many connections are 50 doctors, the Family Planning Association, the Samaritans, the Albany Trust and a number of solicitors and psychiatrists.

Through its many contacts the Advisory Centre is in a position to help someone who requires an abortion.

A girl coming to the Centre will be referred first to the Centre's registered doctors, to establish grounds for the abortion. If these grounds are established, every effort is made to have the operation carried out under the National Health. Only if the girl does not want this, and in the last resort, will she be referred to a private clinic. It is these places that can make excessive profits out of abortions by over-charging, and so the Centre deals only with clinics that perform the operation at a reasonable fee.

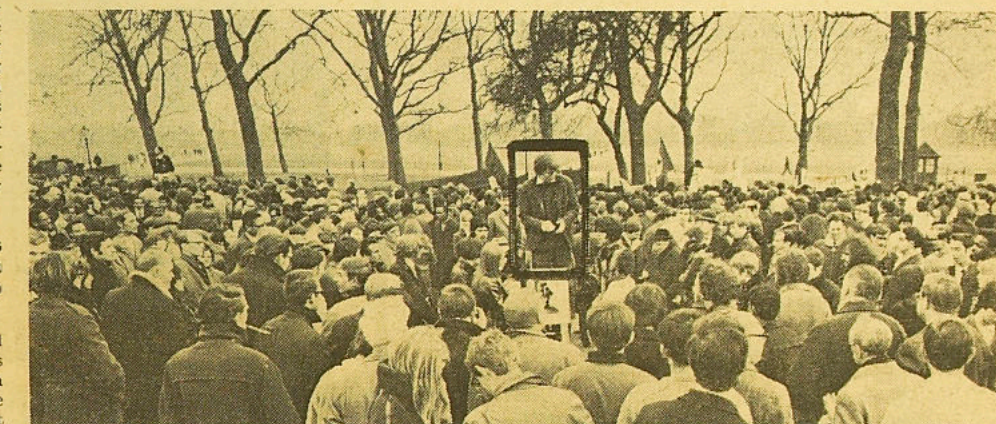
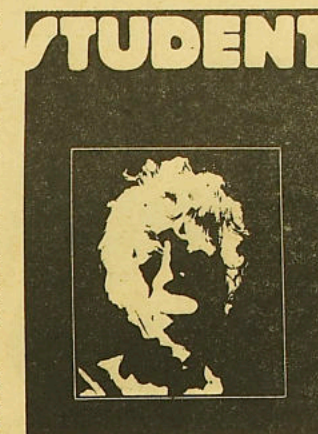
By providing this service the Centre is acting mainly in the role of a clearing office, and as such has no charge.

All doctors and advisers working at the Centre give their services free. A large amount of work is done by the 18 members of the magazine staff itself, who work free at the Centre, in their spare time. In fact, the "Student" staff draw no salaries as such, at all; they live as a community, drawing money as they need it from a community cash box. This system, in theory, is all right, but in practice, of course, is open to abuse. At the moment, however, it seems to be functioning smoothly.

Perhaps one of the most vital roles the Centre plays is in the advice it gives with regards to abortion.

Approximately 500 inquiries are received each week by the Centre. Of these 20 are connected with abortions.

The largest number of inquiries are from people needing advice on contraceptive methods. The 100 inquiries of this type are usually referred to the Family Planning Association or the Brook Centre. Other problems dealt with include venereal diseases, homosexuality, educational



"Student" Editor and Publisher, Richard Branson speaking at a Biafra meeting in Hyde Park.

problems, accommodation, employment and pregnancy testing. In fact, the Centre is equipped to help people with a problem in nearly any social situation.

At the moment the Centre is based in London and so a large number of its inquiries come from, and are dealt with, in the southern region.

However, there are plans to extend with branches throughout the country. A large number of universities and colleges have one or two members of "Student" who may act in an advisory capacity. This is often in conjunction with Health Centres and Welfare organisations, but the Advisory Centre is trying to get its own room in most places.

At the moment, Birmingham has not got a Student advisor,

although it is thought that there may be one soon.

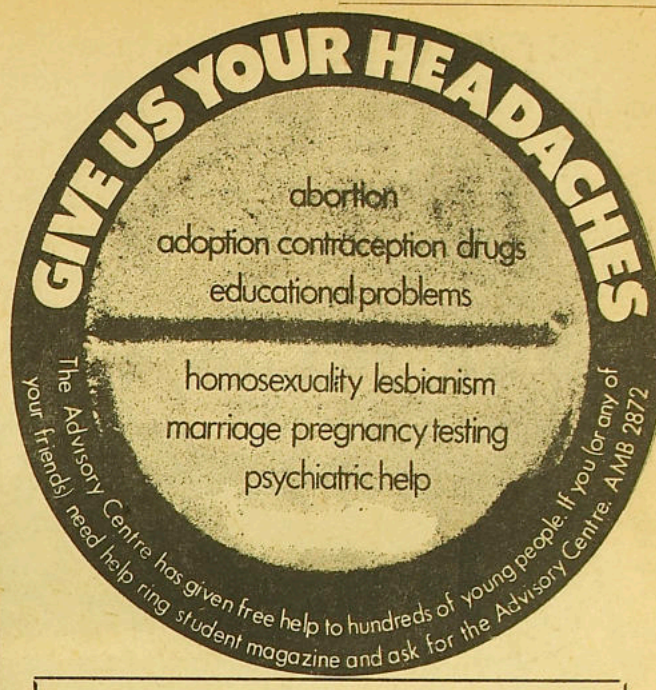
But the need in Birmingham is not as pressing as in many areas, because we have here a Brook Centre. Although the Advisory Centre does not have a representative in many areas, advice is still given through the medium of the magazine. The present issue carries a good article on contraception; a subject that, considering its great importance, a large number of people are very ignorant about.

A number of letters received by the Centre were also published because "it often helps just to know that your particular problem is not unique." In the next issue there will be an article on another much-ignored subject: venereal disease.

The extension of the Student Advisory Centre is not restricted to England.

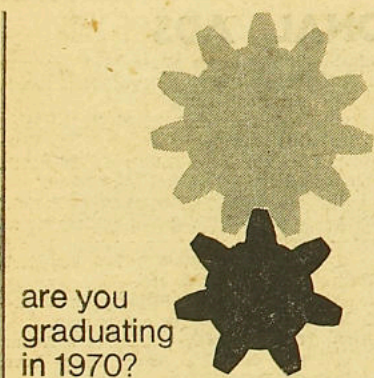
A branch is being started in the States under the name of Switchboard. This has been boosted by a £500,000 grant from a large psychiatric unit in Philadelphia. The English Centre is financially backed by a couple of industrial firms and also from the profits of the magazine. Similar projects are under way in France and Germany, under the name of Help International.

The Student Advisory Centre is there to help anyone who has any type of problem. It can be contacted by writing to the Advisory Centre, 142 Piccadilly, London W.1. or by phoning 01-723 4247.



Researched and written by
Paul Taylor

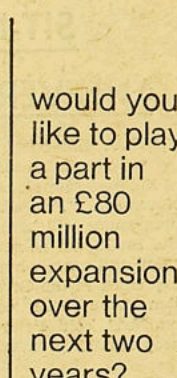
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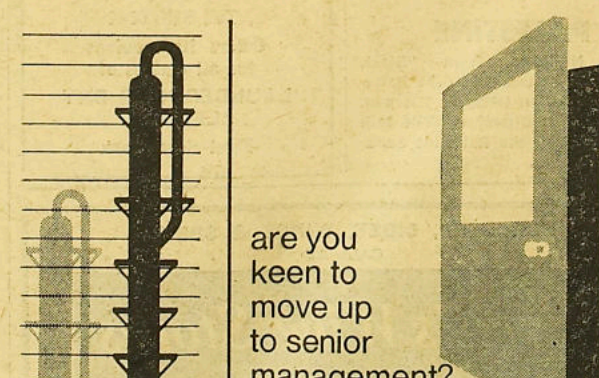
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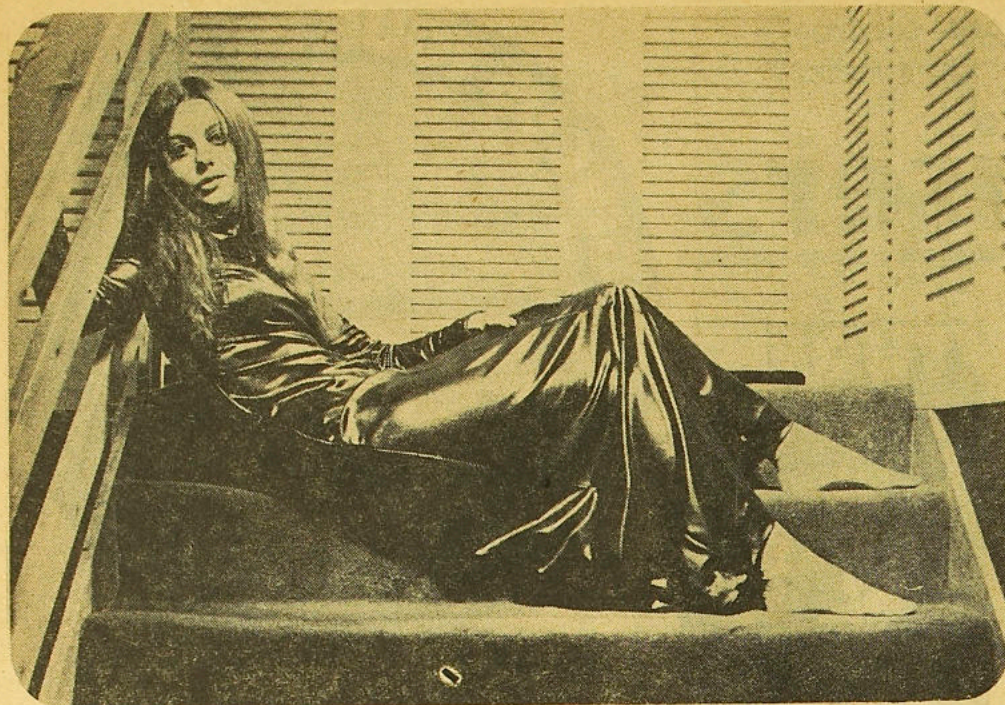
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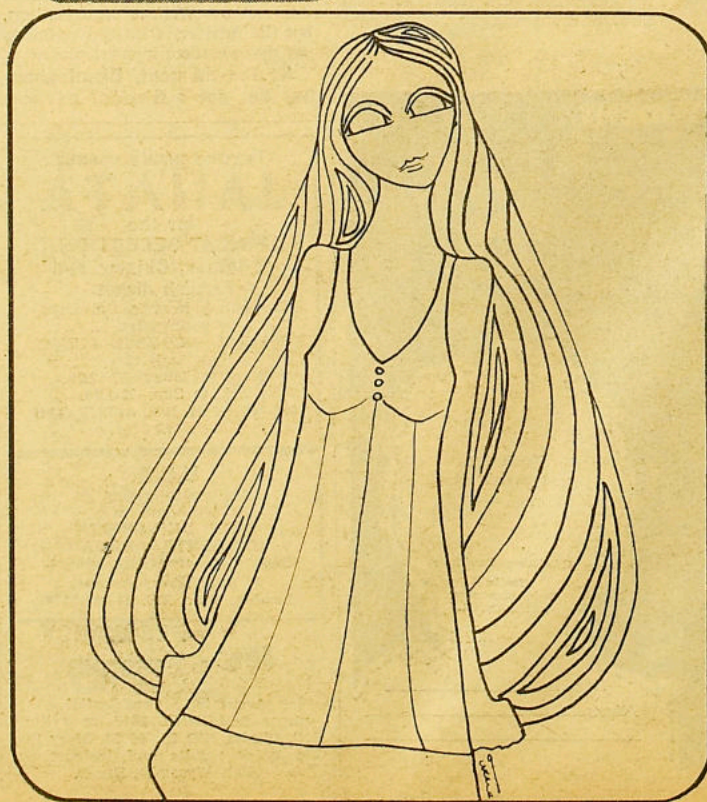
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BP chemicals and plastics



Part one in a look at the Birmingham fashion scene

- words — irene gadsby
- pics — pete mills
- poses — judith willcock



WINT LADY LAD

THIS winter is going to be a beautiful winter, full of city streets—a winter in which slithers of long coats will brush over the streets and past the dismal puddles, a time of year when girls will frame their shoulders and their faces in velvet hats, brims glowing out of the smoky fog—at least, the fashion magazines predict. How far will this affect Birmingham, regarded as a conglomeration of cheap tawdriness, slum dwellings, and long-clogging traffic? It is easy to forget that this city has another side to it—that its art gallery houses Rossetti, Holman Hunt, Burne-Jones, and Ford Madox Brown—that its long-derelict areas are examples of Gothic Romanticism—that antique shops hide Victorian jewellers' jumble sales can be found high-necked nighties and Edwardian dresses.

Until recently the shops in Birmingham have succumbed in aspect of the city, retailing either cheap mass-produced clothes or scaled-down versions of couture for the more discerning of the public. However, this autumn saw the arrival of Bus Stop, an off-shoot of the Bus Stop boutique in Kensington Church Street, some time as similar shops in Nottingham and Croydon. One enters through the ever-opened a relatively small interior of warm red walls adorned with faded family photographs, and cases of stuffed birds. As a sharp contrast the changing area gleams screened off by slatted shutters. Bus Stop is alive with colour, music, people and clothes.

Although the boutique stocks plenty of sweaters and short dresses, its main trend is towards trouser suits, long coats and skirts all waiting to be transformed by the many accessories which it has to offer. The shop assistants themselves are enthusiastic about the feminine appeal of long clothes and buy most of those they wear from the boutique.

One of the more striking items we saw was a black velvet trouser suit retailing at £13 10s. and designed by Lee Bender as are the rest of the clothes. At the other end of the price scale one can buy long chiffon scarves for only 9/11d. The majority of the clothes are in bonded jersey and long coats in this material prove less bulky and more flowing than woollen coats.

Also stocked are long coats of thick corduroy in glowing jewel colours. To team with them are long skirts in crepe or light-weight mottled wool. On the counter are baskets overflowing with Indian silk scarves, variously coloured tights and strings of beads or jostling with studded leather and snake-skin belts. Not only does Bus Stop cater for what to wear on top but also provides underwear in the form of gauzy bra's and thin camisole-type petticoats.

At Bus Stop we photographed their clothes with shoes from Sacha. This shop is no newcomer to the Birmingham scene but is already established as a centre for well-made fashion shoes and different-looking handbags. Their tendency this year is away from conventional leathers and colours; they offer shoes in grey, wine or white in contrast to the usual brown or black, and produce them in coloured patent and wet-look leather. Last year's knee-length boots have, to some measure, given way to ankle-high booties to wear with trousers and show improved styling to counteract the loss of extra warmth.

Near Sacha's and only opened this week is Ravel who are also beginning branches in Leeds and Manchester to extend the rage of the parent shops in London. The interior of this shop is lavishly opulent. The ladies' salon is furnished in antique velvet; pink Louis XV chairs, floor-length crimson curtaining and a pale-green carpet combine with white and gold freizes and rhinestone chandeliers to create a world of pampered elegance. An outstanding feature of the company is their attention, not only to men's

shoes, but to all of which retain the high quality to fashion that has made Ravel ladies known name.

The fine Italian and Spanish shoes preferring an of stitching which the Continent in they appear to favour brogues. Unconventional shoes characterised by elaborate chains and straps, and combs exemplified in a range of navy and toes decorated with punching and buckle.

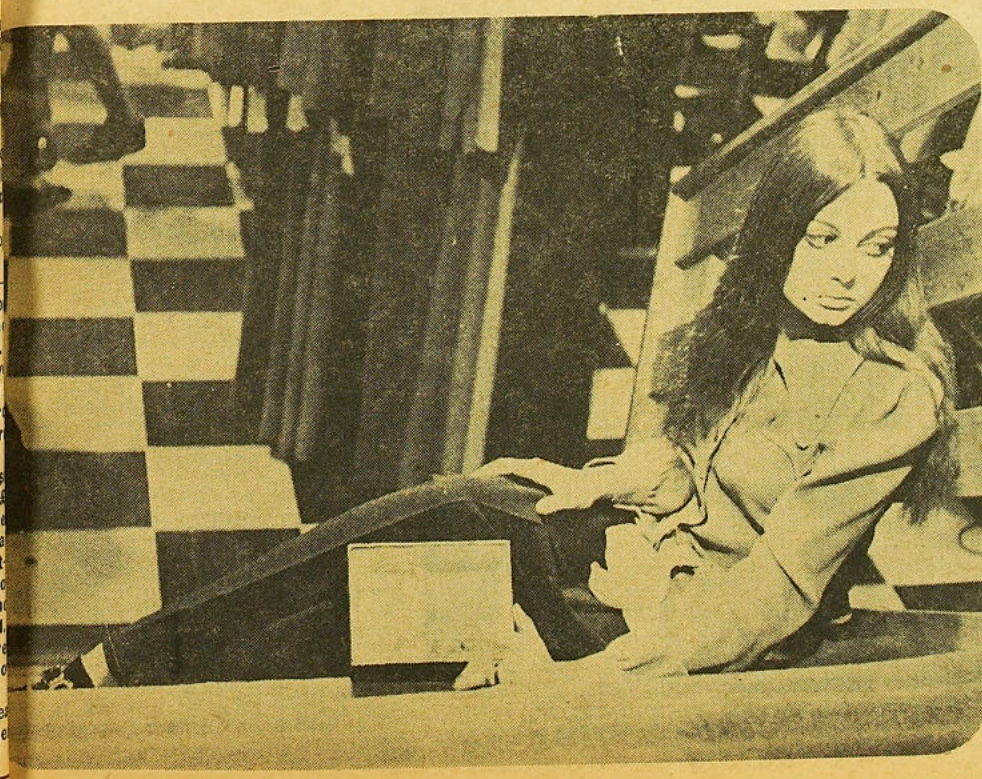
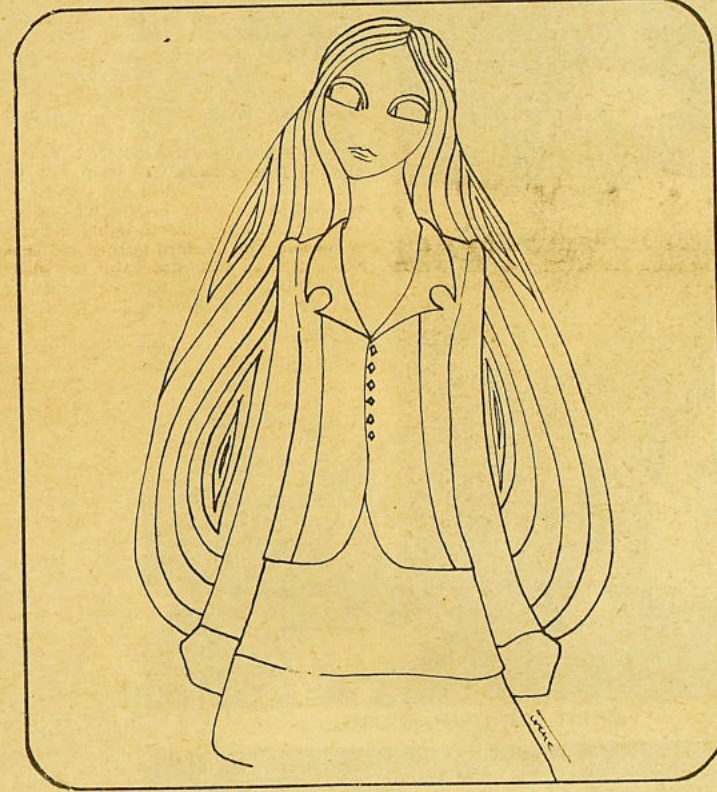
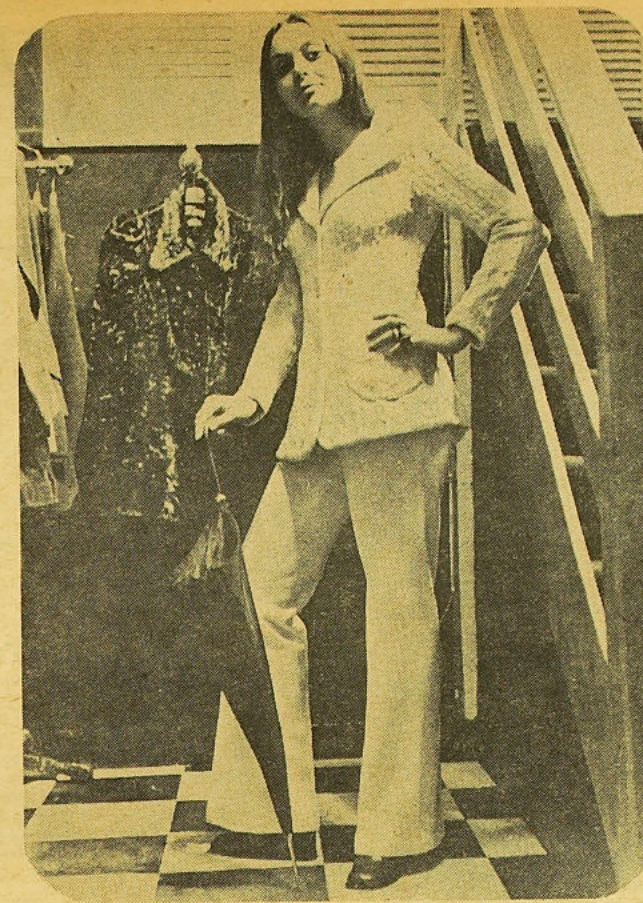
Crowthorned this week. Situated in busy Corp, seems a century away from the life oak walls are starkly simple and interested at low level on the clothes, the, the Victorian china vases, and the distasteful. Originating in Manchester, takes its own clothes, reacting away from aspect of large combines. Many of the trousers are in an unusual waffle-weaving warmth and comfort and they also resses and suits in vibrant colours. Alid not have long clothes in stock the mall in favour of this sweeping look and wing them.

One of the attractions is in the form of accessories: long narrow scarves in '30s prints, tight hats and the most beautiful suede with snake-skin butterflies. However thular facet of the boutique is its decor via talking-point and a satisfying place.

Fashion has never been ahead of itself as in Ungaro and Courreges slice up the comas the tendency to revert to itself and we are looking back on the preceding. Birmingham is a fund of the immediate and That in Newhall Street sells ostrichs to hold up Edwardian coiffure, pinning and tiny crochet bags. The Rag from the usual second-hand stalls, has its and Art Nouveau brooches and a stallhead bags, hawls, lace blouses and crepe g's.

With where it shouldn't be difficult to bring romagham so, c'mon, let's decorate the place a

Top left: Petrol blue nylon crepe dress from Bus Stop—£6 19s 6d.
Middle left: Jacket in million crushed velvet, terylene trousers — 18s 6d and £3 9s 6d from Bus Stop. Navy buckled shoes from Sacha—£5 5s 0d.
Bottom right: Turquoise jacket and black shirt crepe from Bus Stop—19s 6d and £5 5s 0d respectively. Black patent shoes from Sacha—£7 7s 0d.
Top right: Cream w trouser suit—£10 1s 6d from Bus Stop, with brown trouser shoes £7 7s 0d from Sacha.
Bottom left: Trouser suit in rust coloured wool—teamed with black crepe shirt—£3 9s 11d—snakey butterfly belt guineas, all from Crowther's. Black barred shirt from Ravel—£4 9s 11d.
Middle right: Red crepe suit—7 guineas, from Crowther's.
Middle bottom: Cream crepe dress—5 guineas from Crowther's.



insight

The Abortion Business

Pete Harrigan investigates

EVERY week about a thousand abortions are carried out under the legal umbrella of the 1967 Abortions Act. Six months ago 40 per cent of these were performed in private clinics, mainly in London, charging an average price of £165 per termination; the rest were carried out in National Health Service establishments.

However, with the spread of private clinics into the provinces, often motivated by commercial opportunities of excessively high profits, or in many cases by genuine social philanthropy, the percentage of private sector abortions is continually rising. So too is the annual rate of terminations and experts estimate that within a year the number of abortions performed will have doubled.

ABORTIONS BOOM

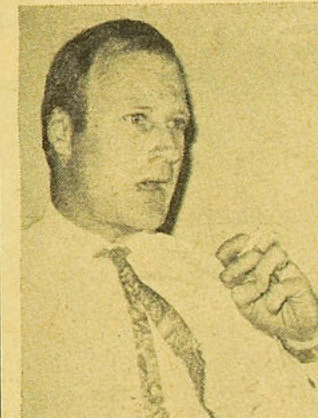
The construction of a £30,000 private abortion clinic in Birmingham, euphemistically titled The Calthorpe Nursing Home, is an indication of the present abortions boom.

The clinic was largely the result of the work of Dr. Martin Cole, a lecturer in Human Genetics at Aston University, who established the clinic to help meet the growing demand, and to alleviate the situation whereby an estimated 150 women have to travel each week to London from the Midlands to receive terminations, by setting a fee "which is within the reach of everyone."

The nursing home will have a capacity of performing 18 abortions a day and will hence have an annual gross turnover of over a third of a million pounds.

CONTROVERSY

Yet before even the clinic has opened it has met problems and



Dr. Martin Cole

considerable controversy has arisen. Although it had received City Council permission the clinic is still awaiting the essential licence from Mr. Richard Crossman after being inspected more than a month ago by the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Cole, one of the three on the managing board of the nursing home told me that he is confident that the clinic has "fulfilled every requirement," and that the delay in obtaining a licence was merely a bureaucratic one.

N.H.S. TAKE-OVER?

However some informed sources believe that Mr. Crossman is withholding the licence for the time being as a result of pressure and criticism from top-ranking Birmingham gynaecologists. What also seems apparent is that he has

looked seriously at ways of attempting to takeover the clinic by the N.H.S. If this were to happen, staff would be salaried by the N.H.S. and the price of an abortion would drop substantially. The proposed fee for an abortion would drop substantially. The proposed fee for a termination at the clinic is £65 which includes an over-night stay and all counselling of the patient.

What is the background to the controversy around the clinic, what are the criticisms being levelled and how do the management answer them?

£12,000 OFFER

Mr. J. A. Jordan, a lecturer in the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, was approached by Dr. Cole when staff for the clinic were being recruited. He was offered an operating fee of £25 for each termination performed. Working for just three hours every morning he would have been able to earn well over £12,000 a year. Yet Mr. Jordan turned the offer down. He explained, "I would not work for the clinic because I believe it is taking a far too liberal interpretation of the law, and I find the financial aspect of the clinic inexcusable."

He also expressed the view that complications arising from termination could not all be properly dealt with at the clinic. "In the case of an emergency at the nursing home we, at the maternity hospital, will have to drop whatever we are doing here to go to the clinic and deal with any one of the many complications that can arise from a termination. I am concerned with the affect of this on ancillary services like the flying squad and the Blood Transfusion Service."

COMPLICATIONS

There are numerous risks of surgical accidents or complications attached to an abortion whether carried out per vaginam or abdominally by a hysterotomy. The major direct complications are haemorrhages, which require immediate blood transfusion; infection which generally does not become apparent until the woman has left the clinic, or local injury such as perforation of the uterus.

Medical critics foresee that the clinic, which will perform abortions on women up to 15 weeks pregnant, will see such complications and that some of them will necessitate calling on the flying squad from the maternity hospital, or that patients will develop complications after discharge and attend N.H.S. hospitals for treatment.

A gynaecologist spoke of the secondary complications that can

(Continued on Page Eight)

ABORTION

• Continued from Page Seven

easily arise out of abortion, including involuntary sterility, remorse or guilt leading to nervousness; menstrual disorders and frigidity. He went on to condemn Dr. Cole for purporting an abortion to be an operation without danger.

A clinical survey conducted in Norway indicated that as many as 13 per cent of women suffered as a result of an abortion from frigidity and menstrual disorders, and five per cent suffered from mental disorders with a further five per cent becoming infertile.

"BLEEDING"

A consultant who practices in Birmingham told me that every week two patients come to his hospital after having had an abortion in one of the registered London clinics. "They are often suffering from bleeding or sometimes perforation, or have had an incomplete abortion which needs to be finished off," he said. "I can only assume that there will be women who come to the National Health Service for treatment after an abortion at the Birmingham clinic."

However, Dr. Cole maintains that the only complications he could foresee occurring would be perforation of the uterus or an anaesthetic emergency. "We are a private nursing home with full consultant cover, about to be registered as competent to perform abortions, if this is so, then we have every right to call on the services of the maternity hospital in the case of an emergency and it is their duty to turn out," he said.

RETICENCE

But members of the medical staff of the maternity hospital commented that although willing to attend any emergency they cannot take responsibility for a private clinic where they have no control over administration, competence of the abortionists or selection of cases.

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2. Date of operation (Print date)

3. Name of practitioner (Print name)

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On all three questions the management board of the clinic seems to be reticent. No clear statement has been issued listing either the staff of the clinic and their medical qualifications, or the equipment installed.

One medical member of the clinic who I spoke to asked for his name to be withheld from publication and attempts to discover who will be operating at the clinic were met with rebuffs.

The strict anonymity in which the medical staff of the clinic are apparently being hidden disturbs many gynaecologists. In the words of Dr. John Studd, a senior registrar at the maternity hospital, "If the clinic is as good as Dr. Cole maintains why be reticent about who is counselling and who is to operate." He added: "I want to know whether the clinic is equipped to deal with emergencies—whether it has full resuscitation facilities, piped oxygen, electrocardiograms and a cardioverter, with staff who know how to use them, particularly at night."

I asked Dr. Cole whether it would be possible to visit the clinic with Dr. Studd to view the equipment. He refused. "After all, why should I open the doors to those who only want to criticise?"

Dr. Studd remains adamant. "Both the patients and ourselves, who will be the people required to pick up the pieces, have the right to know the facts about the clinic."

"MOTIVES SUSPECTED"

Ironically, even a medical adviser of the clinic has criticised the high fees charged by surgeons who will operate. "That one-third of the price of our abortions goes to these surgeons is due to nothing but their avarice," he said.

The critics in the N.H.S. use this argument as a strong case for the N.H.S. taking over the running of the clinic and condemn the fees charged. "I suspect the motives of these anonymous surgeons who are clearing £200 for a morning's termination session, operating on patients that they have not seen beforehand. If they are compassionate to these girls as they say they are, they should perform terminations for a basic sessional fee of about £10," John Studd argues.

"SUFFERING WOMANKIND"

The clinic's critics also allege that the counselling service is inadequate and doubt its competence. At the moment a pregnant woman who requests an abortion is referred to the Birmingham Pregnancy Advisory Service, where she is counselled by a social worker before being referred to the clinic.

In the estimate of Mr. Jordan: "few of the referring counsellors are qualified social workers." His senior, Professor Hugh McLaren, is more severe in his dissent. "Many counsellors are social do-gooders who are not technically qualified. These lay workers funnel patients towards private abortionists. The whole thing is a trade on suffering womankind," he told me.

Dr. Martin Cole defended his position and the clinic when I spoke to him. "If it were not for our clinic offering this cheap service women would resort to aborting themselves or present their cases to the N.H.S. I think that if a woman wants a termination, then termination is the only answer... why should a woman not choose whether she wants her baby or not? The clinic is here to provide women with what they want, and if they want abortions, then we shall give them."

He added: "It seems that the critics of the clinic have fallen under the spell of Professor McLaren. Both him and the other critics are anti-sexual."

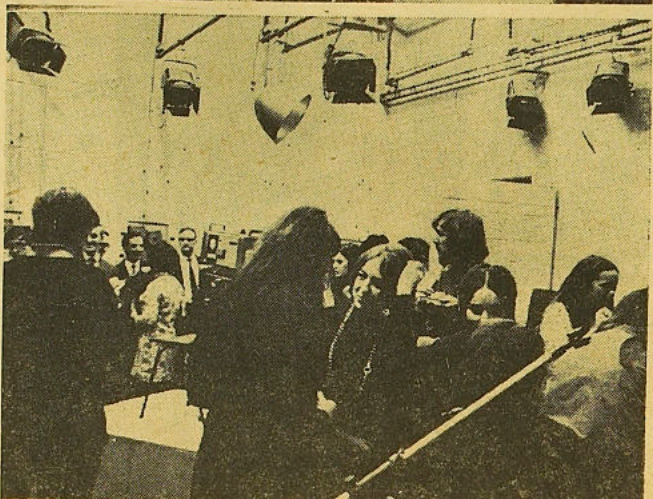
UNFORTUNATE SCHISM

It is obvious that the spread of private abortion clinics has created a deep schism of medical opinion which is both bad for the profession and for the public. The case in hand at Birmingham clearly indicates this.

It is also increasingly apparent as the law stands more women are using abortion as a form of contraception. As well as this there is the case of many surgeons charging excessively high fees for a few minutes work. They should be condemned and encouraged to inspect their own motives and drastically reduce the price of their labour.

Gallup Poll figures published last week reveal that 63 per cent of the public want an amendment of the Abortion Act and that 83 per cent are not satisfied with the working of the present laws surrounding abortions. Clearly the Act should be reformed and it seems that the best solution for an amendment so that all terminations can be carried out or supervised by N.H.S. gynaecologists with all clinics under the firm control and regulation of the Government.

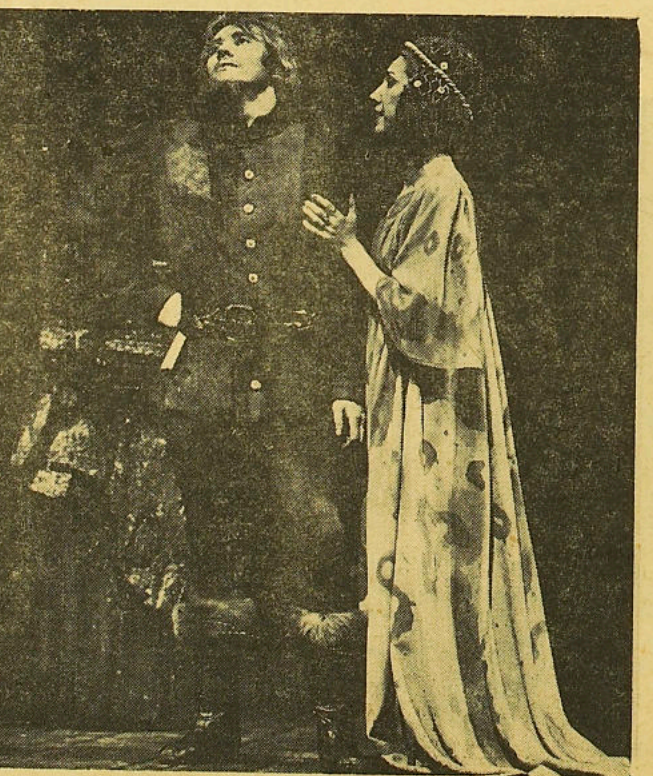
REVIEWS



FRIDAY'S G.T.V. PROGRAMME



SPIRIT OF JOHN MORGAN



A SCENE FROM "HENRY IV PART I"

THEATRE

WHILE the R.S.C. is exploring Shakespeare's last play, the Birmingham Rep. has decided to produce Henry IV, part one. The number of past productions of this play limit the director, and most of the histories are practically dead.

The Rep. production was disappointing when compared to previous versions of the same play. There seemed to be no clear conception of the play. Each group of actors seemed independent, and the play became a series of scenes.

There would seem to be three obvious ways of producing the play. Sacrifice every other character to Falstaff, as Orson Wells did in "Chances at Midnight," taking him as the centre of the play. To turn it into the political drama which Henry IV, part two is, regarding the play as the natural consequence of Richard II; or to look at both parts of Henry IV as the preamble to Henry V, and to take Prince Hal as the perfect prince in disguise.

From the curtain calls it would appear that they regarded Falstaff as the leading character, but it takes more than padding to make a Falstaff. He must expand and fill the stage with his presence. This Falstaff alternated between a comic stooge and unimpressive Lear.

Prince Hal was solid, but the lighter side of him was missing. He always looked like a useful soldier, never like a frequenter of taverns.

The scenes between Hal and his father were effective, and Henry was particularly good throughout the play. He seemed, at times, to be the only person to be taking the play seriously. Hotspur was, in effect, the central character of the play—when he came on stage the other characters looked to him.

In the confrontation between Hotspur and Hal, which occurs, in fact, at the end, but is implied throughout the play, he was always the greater. The first scene between Hotspur and his wife was rather uneven, but in the later scene with Mortimer and his wife (who spoke the most beautiful lyrical passage in Welsh), the production was at its best, having found a focal point. Glendower was good as the boastful mystic-soldier.

The characters have to be dealt with individually. They did not come together. The political scheming was uncompromising, the clandestine atmosphere was evoked by shadows, but was shattered by comedy.

The set, with the omnipresent swan, and the simple props, were effective, especially when the barren field was achieved by a completely empty stage. The costumes were beautifully in tune with the darkness of the production, only the helmets were rather unfortunate, and seemed to inconvenience the players.

The production was unsettled, the attempts at comedy kept the audience amused, but they resulted in them finding the sword-fight between Hal and Hotspur, which was absolutely brilliant, rather funny. PAUL BRETT SOMMERS.

POP

"MIND music" was the most apt label John Morgan thought he could put to his style of playing. "Our main aim is audience participation." "We don't want them to sit there looking solemn because they're afraid of what the person next to them may think. We just act naturally and enjoy ourselves and try to get the audience in the same mood."

Unfortunately Spirit of John Morgan were plagued by mishaps at Lake/Wydd Do last Friday. Neither the group nor the hall had had the foresight to provide an adequate piano, and several amplifiers broke down during the performance. Their real potential could not be realised. They had to improvise on their usual act, and several people went away not so much disappointed, as mystified (or stoned out of their minds). How-

ever, a crowd of well over 100 stayed until the Do ended at 2.00 a.m., obviously appreciating Spirit of John Morgan's music. A feature of the act was an amusing ad-lib blues satire, "Yorkshire Blues," with lead guitarist "Fagin" doing his thing. Despite the trouble with the equipment, and the couple of drunken hecklers, the group were able to give a very worthwhile performance.

The evening also featured Clouds, a group who are rapidly gaining recognition after doing the circuits with Jethro Tull and Ten Years After, and whose music was the disco attracted people throughout the evening (or perhaps it was the bar at the other end of the room). However, for those who wanted to listen to the groups, the continuous drone of records in the background was annoying.

I spent a very enjoyable night talking to John Morgan and friends and so I didn't actually go to the Do but I am told it was one of the most successful dances this term.

Love and peace.

CLIVE

CINEMA

ROBERT ROBINSON wrote, in "The Sunday Telegraph," of Arthur Penn's Mickey One, soon after it was released in 1966:

"A wrecked car is clamped into a metal cage by a steam-crusher, a spotlight arrows out of the darkness of an empty nightclub and assassinates the man doing the audition, old walls collapse under pile-drivers, sculpture consumes itself in fire, guttural fun-fair noises are subdued into the distant howling of animals, an iron grab sails like a bad spider after a man who is running, the hubbub is ferocious, the very chrome chatters while the rust is held at bay by cold, unloving chemicals, and the air of Detroit reeks with attack, pursuit, paranoia."

It is to be shown here on Friday, November 28th, by Film Soc., in the Arts Lecture Theatre. As Robinson went on to point out, description does this film no service—verbalisation will make the pictures sound as though they, too, may be translations of literal metaphors, and the remarkable thing about this film is that it works in visual images, the pictures deliver the message direct.

The fugitive (Warren Beatty, in another Method acting performance whereby he helps an audience accept something by totally accepting it himself), is a nightclub comic running from the Mob who "own" him; but who are the Mob?

No doubt they actually exist—others are frightened of them, too—but nobody sees them. And yet the more invisible they are, the larger they loom in the life of the victim, until he is shying at open doors, running from empty rooms, finding the emblems of his own destruction on the corner of every street.

Perhaps the Mob gave him the excuse, and what he runs from is something else? On a stage, standing up in front of people to make them laugh, he acts out the problem of being himself—"The one, exactly, they want you to be"—but cannot stand his ground. He runs, as people run from success, fearful of being found out, of having to pay

for it, of being unmasked.

Most probably the viewer will find all is much less coherent than this, but he must certainly note how the whole is integrated: the violence has become the pictures, and the pictures are the story.

Penn's "The Chase" is being shown as Film Soc.'s scheduled programme for Monday; and, a reminder to scholar, film-viewers, seminars on Penn are to take place over the weekend.

FELIX CLARE.

THE Compton Cinema Club provides the best opportunities for public masturbation in Birmingham, or so I'm told. With this mecca for dirty old men on our doorstep, it's hard to understand why the general run of films shown to large audiences at the Cinephone are so popular.

The films attempt to exploit the public's sexual frustrations usually results in a total neglect of narrative and character portrayal. It is quite easy to see the place of pornography in our culture, and to justify it as a valid means to release of a basic frustrated urge, as competitive games can exhaust the violent instinct, if not fulfil it. But most of the films labelled as pornographic and shown in public cinemas can do nothing more than further frustrate, without any compensatory interest.

"The Sadist," on this week after the long run of "Teenagers" and "Aquasex," is perhaps typical of this rather peculiar phenomenon. It promises much in its title, which will draw the crowds to the box office, especially with the unsavoury (or perhaps savoury) reputation of the Pornophone. But it is unsatisfactory in almost every cinematic sense.

The plot is predictable, contrived, and very thin. A doctor in a small clinic takes a sadistic interest in his patients and nurses, and is ultimately given divine punishment. There are clumsy attempts to build up tension through the film, with heavy pauses and straining organ music.

The actors perform the uneasy task which is their fate in such films: they must portray a character who is at one and the same time Everyman and a perverser, or a totally sexual creature, as the nurses in "The Sadist" are. Here they nothing more than conform to a pattern, and mid-atlantic dubbing does little to improve their performance.

A clumsy comic sub-plot of two incompetent undertakers is an almost complete failure.

We can only sympathise with the manager of the Cinephone, who is perfectly aware of the quality of most of the films he books, and appreciate the occasional good foreign film shown there in spite of box office figures.

MAXINE LINNELL.

WHEN "The Killing of Sister George," which is showing this week at the A.B.C. New Street/Coleshill Street, was first released, it received some rather lurid publicity. Although its subsequent success may owe more to its supposedly sensational content than to the critical appreciation, "The Killing of Sister George" is, in fact, an extremely sensitive development of Frank Marcus's excellent play.

The film opens with an ingenious credit sequence in which shots are changed as if they were slides. The

So "Student" has a very hard task. It escapes by an enormous compromise, and is consequently rather dull. The magazine is too slick, too professional and takes itself too seriously. Primarily a vehicle for topical features, it exhibits a painfully middle-class attitude, and is competent rather than exciting, visually and in content.

In the current issue, it certainly has a great list of interesting people and subjects. Articles on Bialfra, the monolith, television, contraception—the picture being clear just from this. It has interviews with John Peel and Alan Aldridge, and more features on careers, new theatre, Dylan and fashion. They

continual cutting between Alice (Susannah York), in the quiet flat, and "Sister George" (Beryl Reid), bustling through the side streets, immediately reveals the difference in temperament and role. Their two characters are rigidly differentiated, (perhaps too obviously), throughout the film. Alice fondles her dolls and wears frilly nighties, George wears tweeds, smokes cigars and collects horsebrasses. But this belies the compassion and sensitivity with which they are portrayed. The relationship is seen in terms of power rather than sexual terms. Until the last scenes there is no sexual act.

Alice's desire to escape from George's control is evident from the first scenes. The change is seen when George forces Alice to eat her cigar butt, her usual punishment, and Alice pretends to enjoy it. They are constantly acting, and the increasingly sadistic nature of their roles is shown in the Laurel and Hardy sequence.

Much of the tension comes from George's belief that she is about to be "killed," written out of the T.V. soap-opera in which she plays the lovable "Sister George" the country nurse. After walking out of a rehearsal she gets drunk and attempts to rape two nuns in a taxi (one of the many hilarious sequences).

Mercy Croft (Coral Browne), appears to convey the Corporation's displeasure. She is the epitome of the smart, sophisticated widow, the exact opposite of George. Her interest in Alice soon becomes apparent, as her latent lesbian tendencies are aroused by this innocent girl. The love scene between them towards the end of the film has been rather clumsily censored by the B.B.F.C. and the result is rather disjointed.

The "revelations" about Alice which George makes as she leaves seem rather incredible, and the end of the film is rather disappointing.

Beryl Reid is absolutely brilliant, showing that her acting ability was hidden rather than displayed by the string of comedies which came before this. Susannah York's Alice is a mystery; just how innocent is she? The fact that most of her stories have been lies is discovered by George when she visits the factory and finds a balding Jewish rag merchant instead of the dashing young executive who Alice describes. But how much more is fiction? The question of reality is constantly posed by the T.V. setting. How much of "George" is really "Sister George"? People she meets believe in the reality of the characters in the series. She is the thing she acts.

The other characters are beautifully sketched in. The people at the T.V. Studios are much more than merely characters (Hugh Paddick is particularly good). Each one has a distinct identity. In this way the original play has been expanded. The scenes in the lesbian club, "The Gateway," which Frank Marcus objected to so strongly, were actually very convincingly done, not vulgar, but sympathetic as was the whole film.

"The Wild Bunch" opened last Sunday at the Cinemas, Bristol Road. The treatment of violence, is and is meant to be, extremely nauseating. A long dissertation on the Western genre and violence could follow, but go and see for yourselves.

PAUL BRETT SOMMERS

are good, but really too ordinary.

"Student's" major project, the Student Advisory Centre, which Richard Branson, the editor, has set up, obviously has good intentions behind it. But I rather mistrust the motives behind printing two pages of letters which the Centre has received in the magazine, and incorporating an advertisement in the hand-outs about the Centre.

Design is good, again, but rather stale and safe. It's a pity Richard Branson couldn't do more with the enormous revenue he must get from the advertising to produce a new and visually exciting magazine instead of a second-rate "Nova."

MAXINE LINNELL.

REVIEWS



SISTER GEORGE IS TO BE MURDERED



THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE



THE SADIST

sport 1

SQUASH

U.A.U. FINALS REACHED

—but promotion unlikely

THE University squash team has won its U.A.U. group play-off, and is one of five teams left in the competition. Having beaten Loughborough, Leicester and Keele, Birmingham annihilated Warwick, runners-up to Nottingham in the other Midlands group, for the loss of only 50 points on Wednesday.

Warwick were certainly not the weakest team the University has played in the competition this year, but so determined were the home team that Warwick were given no chance to play well. Paul Graetz and Bill Perrie lost only five points each, Jim McCollum and John Palmer four each, and Richard Eaton two.

Birmingham's next opponents are not yet known as the draw has still to be made. But even if it were drawn against the highly-fancied Nottingham, or last year's winners Durham, on present form the team would have a good chance of progressing further.

An exciting 3-2 win over the Old Silhillians also kept the University in a healthy position in Midlands League (Division II) last week. Paul Graetz, at two, had a fine 9-7, 9-3, 8-10, 9-6 win, particularly as the strings immediately above and below him were unsuccessful. Not at his best, Bill Perrie lost in three straight, but Jim McCollum at first string had two match points in his favour in the fourth game, before losing 2-3. John Palmer at five had a comfortable 3-1 win, and fourth-string Richard Eaton clinched the match with a narrow victory, 9-6 in the fifth game.

But any lingering hopes of promotion to Division 1 were made extremely remote when the team went down 2-3 to Duffield on Saturday. Jim McCollum and Paul Graetz were both soundly beaten, but John Palmer again won after dropping the first game, and Bill Perrie staged a magnificent fighting recovery to come from two games down to win 9-6 in the fifth. At third string this time, Richard Eaton was unable to clinch the match. He narrowly lost the second game, and sneaked the third, but in the fourth his opponent's powerful hitting proved too much for him.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Gibbons twice second

BIRMINGHAM held only four of their top twelve runners for the final Midland League match at Loughborough University last Wednesday. Loughborough Colleges condescended to make the 200 yard trip up the road, which made the competition a lot closer than in previous races, so that Birmingham merely won rather than annihilating the opposition.

Individually the highlight was the great running of Steve Gibbons, who, in the absence of the injured Mal Thomas and Andy Holden, narrowly failed to make it three individual wins in a row for Birmingham. Nevertheless, his performance in coming so close to junior international Frank Thomas was one of his best to date.



Steve Gibbons, the most improved runner of the season, had two more fine runs this week.

A big question was once again raised by Wednesday's race: — Is Gavin Russell coming back to form? ... or is it just another rumour?

Nourished by a couple of pints of Hancock's bitter and a pie, in the Llanthunney Arms, the team took part in a seven-team battle at Cardiff on Saturday.

Andy Holden employed his new and previously undreamed-of tactics, and shot off into an early lead. By

FENCING

READY ON THE LOOKOUT

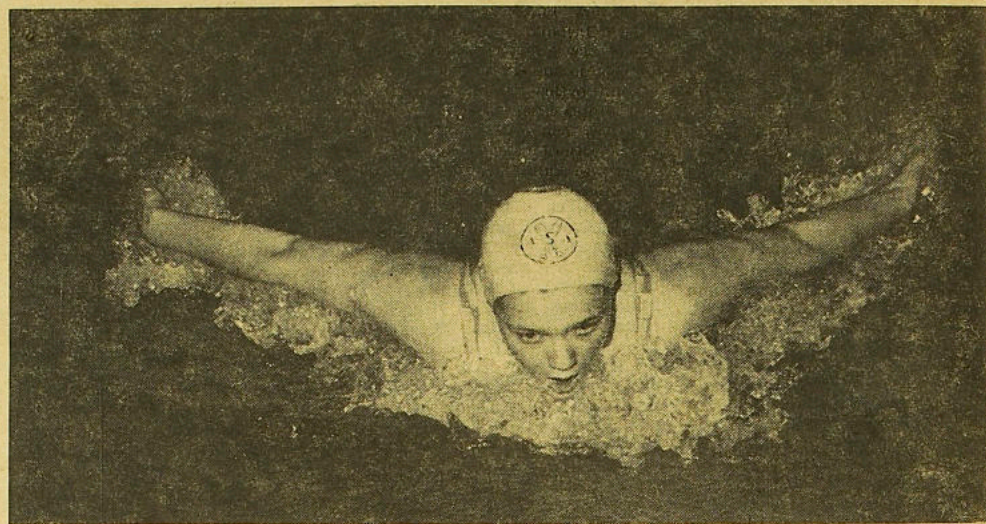
IT'S the start to what promises to be a successful season. The fencing club has fought its way through the first round of the U.A.U. competition with three overwhelming victories. If Keele (won 14-4), Leicester (21-6) and Loughborough Colleges (24-3) didn't provide opposition enough, the Midland semi-final against Nottingham last Wednesday did.

The Brum fencers had already shown their potential against experienced teams, albeit with two unfortunate losses—Loughborough University (lost 11-16), Manchester University (12-15)—so that the semi-final victory over Nottingham was not unexpected.

Manchester provided a far higher standard of fencing than that met locally, and the match was tightly contested to the last fight with some doubtful electronic equipment.

Bryan Pready, Ralph Evans and Dick Darton have been joined in most matches by a very able new sabreur, Norman Milligan, and it is rumoured that captain Bryan has his eye open for more new talent.

Some newcomers definitely helped the ladies in their creditable win (5-4) against Nottingham ladies last week. Rumours that the team will commit hara-kiri rather than face defeat are unfounded! Ralph is merely sharpening his sabre to put off the opposition.



Alison Lindley, the inspiration of the women's swimming team (and a lot of others).

SWIMMING

GALLANT FOURSOME STEAL THE SHOW

BIRMINGHAM UNIV. 69, MANCHESTER UNIV. 57, OXFORD UNIV. 48

BOTH Manchester and Oxford were easily beaten by Alison Lindley, Mary Elliot, Wendy Dodds and Jan Grey, who made up the Birmingham team. Although Alison was the only individual winner, all four were always well up at the finish. Mary and Jan both had three individual events and Wendy and Alison had two. As if to emphasise the fitness and ability of this incredibly small team, all four swam in both relays and won them. It is difficult to believe that only four girls are representing a university of this size, and yet all credit must go to them for continually producing good results.

The men's team lost their swimming match against Oxford by 64 points to 33.

As more and more importance is placed on water-polo, it is good to see that Birmingham compares favourably with any other universities in this sport. Yet again, last Saturday, they triumphed and this time it was against a team that was on average bigger and heavier. The experienced gained throughout this term showed itself by the fact that the lads were really producing good teamwork.

In the first quarter Richard Eagling's much-practised backhand shot produced a goal for the first time this season—much to the surprise of Birmingham's spectators. John Callins again linked the defence with the attack well and scored a good goal in the shallow end. If Oxford had stuck to their positions they might have done better, but they left many gaps around their defence which Rich Eagling and

Pete Heffer took advantage of by scoring the other two goals.

Birmingham's fouling, although not serious, resulted in Oxford winning three penalty points, which automatically gave them a penalty in the third quarter. Excellent goalkeeping by Ron Birch ruined their chances of an extra goal, and from then on they never looked like catching up.

BADMINTON

Nottingham easily dismissed

LAST Wednesday the University men's team thrashed Nottingham by the decisive margin of 9-0. This was a play-off in the U.A.U. and now we have qualified for the quarter-finals. This fine victory was achieved by a good performance by the whole team. Only Doug Haynes and John Davidson actually played all three of their rubbers and although not at their best, they came through to win two rubbers in three games, whilst they managed to win the other rubber in straight games. Two of the Nottingham pairs had to leave early; however, it would have made no difference to the final result as Mick Howes, Dave Jones, Dick Abell and Mastafa could have won the two remaining rubbers without any trouble.

Last week-end the B.U.S.F. badminton championships took place at Crystal Palace and the Birmingham representatives met with very moderate success. Mick Howes reached the quarter-finals of the men's singles before being beaten 15-9, 15-10 by Dave Clayton, who is a U.A.U. player. Sheila King, playing in the ladies' singles, was unlucky to meet a B.U.S.F. player in the second round and was duly beaten. Sheila, playing with Alison Odel in the ladies' doubles, reached the quarter-finals before being beaten by a W.I.V.A.B. pair.

I.D.S. RESULTS

SIX-A-SIDE

DIVISION ONE

Eng. Prod. 3, Spanish 3.
Biology 0, Physics 1.
Univ. House 0, Commerce 4.
Biochem 1, Mason 0.

DIVISION TWO

Metalurgy 1, Lake 3.
Jew Soc. 1, Mech. Eng. 0.
Exp. Path. 1, Chem. Eng. 0.

11-A-SIDE

DIVISION ONE

Manor 1, Chem. Unders 4.
Geog. 7, Mason 1.
Biology 4, Elec. Eng. 0.

DIVISION TWO

Ind. Met. 0, Physics 4.
Mech. Eng. 0, Law 5.
Newman Soc. 2, Ind. Met. 4.

sport 2

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Brilliant Pringle the teams inspiration

IN a 12-hour marathon bowling competition last Saturday Birmingham "A" team led the field by over 1,000 points. Their total for the day was 20,436 pins with an average of 833 per game. Second in the list of 22 teams was Aston University with 19,349, making it a complete Birmingham day.

First the leaders—some brilliant bowling by Martyn Quigley (Maths II) gave his second place in the individual averages with 179 over 24 games. Following close on his heels was Rich Stratton, who came third with 177. Doug Old (Maths III) turned in a 171 which altogether rounded off the best team performance of all time. A mention must also be given to Phil Garratt (Commerce), a new entry to the first team, who produced the second highest game of the day—242.

Next came Aston with 19,349. An excellent performance from all six men with Bob Chown rolling the highest game of the day of 242, and Ian Hughes averaging 170.

Birmingham 7, Sheffield 9.

DEFEAT at long last for Birmingham after a year and a half of success. The only thing that makes it bearable is that Sheffield are our best opponents and now take over leadership of the Midlands Division.

It was one of those matches where the "B" team beat Sheffield "A" on pinfall, yet could only take two off their opponents, and our "A" were crushed, 3-1.

Some members did, however, emerge successful — Ian Hughes (Aston) rolled a 543, Bob Chown (Aston) 510, Steve Clifford (Aston) 523, and Dave Davis (Aston) 532. No Birmingham bowlers shone at all, so we were all thankful to our brothers from the town centre for a good match from what could have been a maul.



Doug Old, one of the most consistent members of a fine tenpit bowling team.

SOCCER

THORPE POINTS THE WAY

FOR the second successive season the 1st XI have reached the quarter finals of U.A.U. They did this by beating Nottingham, away from home, in a tough and often violent game. This was due mainly to a timid referee who offered to let anything apart from lifting go with little more than a talking to.

Having lost to Nottingham earlier in the season the odds were stacked against Birmingham from the start but the "boys" knuckled down to the task from the kick-off. With a strong wind at their backs they provided the three or four staunch supporters present with plenty to shout about. After only five minutes John Thorpe had the ball in the back of the net after a good run by Andy Maile had spreadeagled the opposing defence. Andy, obviously impressed by his write-up in last week's "Redbrick," was having a fine game and dipped over the goalkeeper's head from an acute angle for the second.

Facing a strong wind in the second half, the defence held strictly to this lead, but it was finally pierced when a thirty-yard shot flew into the roof of the net. Despite exerting a lot of pressure, Nottingham were restricted to two chances. Finch roving one and Eastman heading the other off the line. Birmingham's forwards were still fighting hard and when Maile was put through only a rugby tackle prevented him from scoring.

Soon after this a major incident took place which would have been more appropriate outside a pub at closing time. Fists and boots flew in a fracas lasting some thirty seconds with the referee covering fifty yards away. Finch ran half the length of the field to be in on the act, but it was all over

when he arrived, which just shows how fast he is. When the game resumed tempers cooled but the incident was never completely forgotten.

Maile had a chance to sew the game up when he beat three de-

fenders, including the goalkeeper, to leave himself with an open goal but he shot wide from about two yards. The game ended with Brum battered and worn out but victorious by two goals to one, despite the doubtful Nottingham tactics.

BASKETBALL

Tower power return to earth

PERHAPS it is time that people in this university came to acknowledge the fact that this year's basketball team is flesh and blood and cannot match the super-human achievements of previous years; the comet of Birmingham's basketball skills has re-entered the atmosphere and faded considerably in the process.

On Wednesday the squad, minus Graham Pile (sprained ankle) and Vahik Nersissian (fractured toe) travelled to Loughborough for the U.A.U. Midland play-off and for only the second time in living memory (i.e. since Vic Gregorian came to the University) failed to reach the final tournament; though only after a gargantuan struggle. Of course, our morale had been suitably raised by being dubbed as "wash-outs" and by all the destructive criticism we have received from people who should know better but

evidently don't. [Thank you, John—Ed.]

In the match, Birmingham sorely missed their two injured stars, and Loughborough, inspired by the experience and excellence of U.A.U. coach and former England player Bill Worth, who this year has reverted to studying and is thus ineligible for U.A.U. matches, refused to yield the lead that they grabbed in the first ten minutes.

Our big boys, Graham Campbell,

Chris Cumbers and John Pringle, each played his best game of the season, but our captain, perhaps a little too keyed-up, could not find the basket with his jump shots and Dave Griffiths found it impossible to ignore the continual barracking to which he was subjected by the "sporting" crowd. The rest of the squad tried hard, even to the extent that Shawn Newman, to the great amazement of all players over six feet on both sides, popped in a rebound; but in the last analysis, it is just not Tower Power's year.

SHORT SPORT

RIDING CLUB

Birmingham 204pts.,
Exeter 183pts.
Reading 156pts.

IN spite of the gales and rain, the indoor facilities at Reading were ideal for the match, at which Birmingham had an easy victory over Exeter and Reading (incidentally fourth in B.U.S.F. last year). In such a competition, 10 points would be a very good lead, but Birmingham beat Exeter by over 20 points, and Reading by almost 50 points.

After the dressage tests, in which Exeter did two good tests, there was only one point between the teams, but clear rounds over a low but tricky jumping course by both Sue Walker and Francis Barley increased this lead. The former's effort was particularly good, considering the Exeter male member had failed to get the horse to leave itself round the course, which proved skill and not strength is more important in this field.

Individual results: 1st K. Brown (Birmingham) (dressage 79, jumping 3), 2nd J. Murray-Palmer (Exeter) (73, 0), 3rd N. Kinread (Reading) (69, 4), Tied 4th F. Barley, S. Walkins (Birmingham) (64, 0).

WATER POLO

Birmingham Univ. 15,
Leicester Univ. 2.

IN a match that was virtually a repeat of last year's U.A.U. contest, Pete Heffer proved how efficient he is in attack. Most of his goals were scored after tantalising Leicester's defence and choosing the right moment to blast the ball past the bewildered goalkeeper.

Birmingham's mid-bath play was as good as ever. John Collins was feeding the ball accurately to the attack, creating many of Pete's goals and also helping Dave Cheeseman to score three as well. He did however, alter his tactics occasionally by bringing the ball up himself, and scored a hat-trick by this ploy.

Leicester's attack was virtually non-existent, and their defence didn't really mark their men. Even so, Martin Thomas failed in his one desperate bid to score his first goal of the season. The other two goals were scored by Ron Birch and Ron Beesley. The result put Birmingham second in the final league table, to Loughborough, and they now go through to the finals of the U.A.U. championships.

HOCKEY

AS a result of final trials held at Motspur Park on Saturday, Pauline Clay and Helen Disney were selected for Combined Universities I, with Pauline as vice-captain. These two were also selected for W.I.V.A.B. I, with Pauline captain, and this side includes Margaret Pike and Gwynneth James, who are also to play for Combined Universities II. Lorraine Thomas was selected as a reserve for Combined Universities.

"A" XI 2, Hampton 4.
A team of only eight players put up a courageous display. Some valiant defensive play by Fiona Burns, Kay Brown and Judith Hancock almost earned a draw. They were helped by the weakness of the Hampton side, but in the end the sheer weight of numbers proved decisive.

Team: F. Burns; J. Hancock; E. Blaylock, F. d'Alcorn; G. Stokes, J. Punt, P. Keep.

GOLF

Birmingham University 6,
Manchester University 6.

PLAYING in a strong wind at the Manchester Golf Club, Heywood, last Wednesday, the University team halved with the U.A.U. champions.

Two new foursome pairings were successful in the morning. Pete Bielby and Bill Harrison played in a cool manner to hammer the Manchester second pair by 4 and 3, and Jenny Sanderson and Richard Lister won by two holes. The other two foursomes were lost.

Powerful Andy Dathan led the singles in the afternoon and played well to beat Tony Thornley, U.A.U. champion. Harrison and Bielby continued in their winning form to give the team a 5-2 lead.

REDBRICK

Birmingham University

No. 773 WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26th, 1969 Price 5d. 2p.

'Report' is without prejudice

Family doctors talk on drugs

"BEHIND THE DRUG SCENE," is the title of a new booklet published today by "Family Doctor." The booklet claims to set out the unvarnished facts and attempts to answer the questions they raise honestly and without prejudice.

"There is a feeling that much of what has previously been published on the subject is highly coloured, moralistic and generally suspect to anyone seeking an objective view," say the publishers. This booklet has been prepared by several doctors and social workers concerned with the problems of drugs.

Articles include "Why people take drugs," "Who and what sort of person takes drugs," and a useful section on "Drugs and their effects."

EXPERIMENTS

Michael Schofield, the editor, says that "Many people take alcohol and smoke tobacco because they cannot get through the day without them. But many intelligent and discriminating young people experiment with new sensations and explorations because the world of today seems to offer so little that is adventurous or exciting."

"The book has been prepared with sixth-form and junior university students in mind, to be a book that they can trust and respect."

Shakespeare Films

Wed., Dec. 3rd, 2.30

'OTHELLO'

Orson Welles

Mon., Dec. 8th, 7.0

'JOE MACBETH'

K. Hughes

Arts Lecture Theatre

Entrance 2/-

Wednesday

G.T.G. Production

"PERIBANEZ"

7.30 5/-

Thursday

FILM SOC.

"PETER & PAULA"

Milos Forman (1964) (Czechoslovakia)

HAWORTH 7 p.m.

G.T.G. Production:

"PERIBANEZ"

Friday

FILM SOC.

"MICKEY ONE"

with Warren Beatty and Arthur Penn (1965)

ARTS. LEC. THEATRE 7 p.m.

G.T.G. Production:

"PERIBANEZ"

MASON BALL "POLAR PARADISE."

Saturday

G.T.G. Production:

"PERIBANEZ"

DISCOTHEQUE

in aid of Royal National

Lifeboat Association.

FOUNDERS 9.30. 2/6

Sunday

SUNDAY FLIC

"SAN FRANCISCO"

FOUNDERS

7 p.m. 2/6

Research men want pill-test volunteers

By Redbrick Reporter

THE Department of Psychiatry of Queen Elizabeth Hospital is to carry out two new research projects into the effects of certain drugs.

The experiments, for which volunteers are required, are into the effects of commonly-used tranquillisers on driving performance and also the physical and psychological aspects of the use of oral contraceptives.

The study involving "the pill" will be running for at least two years during which subjects will be tested twice before starting on oral contraception and four times in the space of the year after commencing with "the pill." For this research, the department requires women who are due to get married and have not yet started on oral contraceptives, and women who are due to get married but who are going to use other forms of contraception or no contraception at all.

Each testing session (involving standard physical and psychological tests) will last approximately two hours, and volunteers will be paid £1 for each session.

SUPERVISION

Work on the effects of drugs on driving will involve a standardised driving performance test taken under the influence of the drug, the dosage of which has already been tested on other volunteers. The experiments will take place under direct medical supervision, and volunteers will be insured and indemnified during the course of them.

Volunteers will be paid £1 for each session, and should be between the ages of 21 and 30, have good health and possess a current driving licence. They must own or have access to a motor vehicle and should be driving fairly regularly.

Full information on both experiments can be obtained from The Research Secretary, Department of Psychiatry, Clinical Research Block, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham 15.

Nominations are open this week for two Arts Faculty representatives on Senate and close at 10 a.m. on Monday. All students in Arts Faculty are eligible. The election will take place a week tomorrow.

GRAPHIC MERMAID OUT SOON

THIS term's edition of "Mermaid" comes out within the week. After the political issue of September, this issue has a literary bias, with the emphasis on creative writing and the arts.

The main features are Louise Jones's article on Astrology, and an article on the Pre-Raphaelites, which is illustrated by a great number of prints. There is also an article on poetry, a play, and several pages of poetry, one of which, predictably, is by John Ash.

"We tried to include many writers who have not contributed before," said the editor, Paul Sommers.

"The cover design is by Ersch, and I tried to include as much graphic material as possible, ranging from the line drawings of Rossetti and Millais to the illustrations of Entwistle and B. B. Slayer.

"We need new contributors, and we really need them now for the February edition. This time too much had to be done in a hurry."

M.J.L.

Levi resigns after Festival split

A MAJOR split in the organisation of this year's Festival has resulted in the imminent resignation of Rob Levi as Carnival Chairman. He is disillusioned about Festival in its present form, and thinks that liaison with the community is almost totally non-existent, in spite of Community Action Group, Charity work and the Drama Festival.

"Festival as a practicality fails to fulfil the aims of festival as a concept," he said. "The true concept of festival encompasses the whole idea of Broader Education and University Social Action. Festival 1970 realises few of these ideals. People working on Community Action projects are being mainly used as cheap labour."

"The student on the campus goes on the sponsored walk, sells the rag magazine, and hands in the money, having not the faintest idea where it is going or what good, if any, it is doing. The citizens of Birmingham are similarly ill-informed when they make their contribution to charity."

"Festival is valuable in one im-

portant respect; it can sow the seeds of interest in Broader Education, but, unless the end product of social awareness is kept very much in view, those seeds will be sown on very infertile soil."

Rob hopes to continue to support the idea of Broader Education, but to do so outside any formal position in the Guild.