

B.S.A. re-imposes veto on Sociology Posts

BIRMINGHAM BLACKLISTED

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY has again been blacklisted by the British Sociological Association following the decision by the annual general meeting in York on April 12th.

The reason given for the reimposition of the ban, which covers all Sociology posts in the University, not just those in the department of Sociology, is that a report by the Society's Committee on Academic Freedom published last month states that it is unhappy about the selection procedure at the University.

The investigation by the Society followed the rejection of Dick Atkinson by a Faculty Selection Committee for a post in the department of Sociology last year. Dick Atkinson had previously, the year before, been accepted by the Faculty Selection Committee but rejected by the Central University Academic Appointments Committee.

It was stated by those investigating the case which included Professor P. Worsley of Manchester University that the Vice-Chancellor had taken the unusual step of questioning Mr. Atkinson about his "political activism" at the Selection Committee.

EQUAL

It finally states: "We feel bound to conclude that the Selection Committee did not in considering Mr. Atkinson's candidature, treat it as equal with the other candidates."

Reaction by the University to the blacklisting has been quiet. A "Redbrick" reporter was told by a University spokesman "No comment." It is believed that the University's position is that on such matters it negotiates directly with the Association of University Teachers not the B.S.A. The Birmingham branch of the A.U.T. it is reported can find nothing wrong with the manner in which Dick Atkinson was rejected.

However in the department of Sociology fears are rising about courses for both this year and next. One lecturer next year is going on study leave and the department is already short staffed. Students taking options in Sociology courses have already been warned that the courses may not be available next year and are being urged to take options which meet the interests of the Sociology staff remaining at Birmingham.

News in brief

Bangladesh appeal

Final year students are being asked to donate unwanted textbooks to help students in Bangladesh. Many students at Dacca University lost everything in the recent war and desperately need textbooks to enable them to complete their courses. Books will be collected in the Union and Refectory from June 19th to 30th.

N.U.S. computer plan

The N.U.S., the major employers and the University Employment Services are co-operating in setting up a Computer Assisted Placement Service. This system will provide graduate students with a free and confidential method of matching their own job requirements with those of employers. The service is to be financed by contributions from participating employers.

Professor Mackenzie honoured

Professor F. Mackenzie, Head of the French Department, has been unanimously elected by the students as Honorary Vice-President of the Salford University Chemistry Society, 1972-73. He is to give his presidential address early next session. His subject: "Guy Lussac, Lavoisier and Davy."

Commex again

The fifth Commonwealth expedition, Commex 5, leaves on August 15th to make its way overland to Singapore. The expedition, consisting of 30 coaches each with 20 people, aims to "make contact with people at a human level" by concerts in major towns and universities.



King Kong comes to Brum

THE only true beauty of the film world has finally found a resting-place in Birmingham, the Florence of the Midlands. Just in case you haven't been along to admire/deface this monument to the good taste of Birmingham City Corporation, it proudly stands, about twenty feet high, slap-bang in the cultural centre of the city, i.e., the Bull Ring.

King Kong, his red eyes aglow and his smooth plastic fur glistening gently in its rain-drenched surroundings, chokes silently on the cataclysmic effects of carbon monoxide, cigarette smoke, industrial effluent and the odd molecule of air. His head was proudly held but for a few moments and then fell dolefully on to the crowds of connoisseurs sipping their Brew XI in admiration.

There is but one flaw in this majestic masterpiece and that is the task of visible means of ascertaining whether Kong is in indeed a King. The inalienable truth is that it is King Kastrate. This, we believe, is due to the intervention of a notable female city councillor who, unable to block the King's erection, insisted on his castration.

However, the sad episode of the Pieta in Rome looms heavily over Kong's aesthetic majesty. Four guardsmen will be posted around Kong in dreary vigil, whilst the City Fathers decide a means of enclosing him in glass. Knowing the learned gentlemen's haste, those guardsmen are likely to be pensioned off, their only claim to glory that of having guarded a King Boob.

UNEASY COMPROMISE OVER HALL FEES

THE Vice-Chancellor has proposed and University Council accepted the plan for a £256 total fee for the Halls of Residence next session. The fee may be lowered to £240 if economies can be made.

The proposal follows a hardly amicable round of talks between hall representatives and Vale Site administrative officials. While the result has been called, to quote the Guild's official hand-out, "substantial headway" with the President, Anne Naylor, claiming that students' actions brought about the decrease in the proposed rise in fees, the general acceptance of the present solution has been far from happy.

Tony Pierce, President of Mason Hall is reported to be unsatisfied with the proposal—a proposal which will mean the fresher population of Mason Hall increasing by 10 per cent to 75 per cent. Mr. Pierce's objections to the plan (contained in a Mason Halls document) include the proposition that the introduction of a continental breakfast is not what students want. He claims that one of the reasons students go into hall is to have good breakfasts without having the bother of cooking them.

However, Miss Diane Forsythe, President of Ridge Hall considered the new scheme as not particularly satisfactory but tolerable under the circumstances. She said that 50 per cent of her hall considered the introducing of a continental style breakfast a good idea. She also agreed that there would be a decrease in the 2nd and 3rd year hall population.

Manor House are reported to want autonomy, and the Lake Wyddington complex also want independence. At Lake the situation has not been eased by reports of a steward, having been 13 months on the dole and with two previous convictions being given a job, and then after two weeks, absconding with £200 worth of bar takings.

'AFTERMATH'

THIS Friday sees a major innovation in Union Entertainments—our first "All Nighter" as part of the weekend's fun and games in the form of Aftermath. Latest news is that Stone the Crows will make their debut with new lead guitarist Jim McCulloch—their first date since the fatal accident six weeks ago.

With Brinsley Schwarz, Viv Stanshall, Mike Chapman, Third Ear Band and David Blue also appearing, it seems like a good buy at £1 a ticket.

redbrick' A review body in Birmingham

AT the last meeting of the University Council, the Pro-Chancellor, Sir George Farmer, indicated that the final report of the Review Body under Jo Grimond, M.P. would shortly be available. It was agreed to arrange a special meeting of the Council in September to receive and publish the report and to hold a further special meeting in November which would, if Council decided on changes, invite the Court to entertain consideration of constitutional amendments at its annual meeting in February.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES

After nearly two years of debate and criticism, it finally seems as if the considered opinion of the Review Body will be available to us all. Obviously views on such matters dealt with in the interim consultative document by such influential personages on the Review Body will be of major import not solely for Birmingham but for higher education generally. It is here perhaps that one can also look back on the past two years as also a time of lost opportunities. Debate on the campus about the structure, role, composition and functioning of Birmingham University has been limited, at times non-existent. This does not include just discussion about an admittedly anachronistic university government with its Court, Council and Senate but also concerns the low quality of educational dialogue about such vital matters as exams, courses and forms of study. Particular issues, concerning the quality and nature of our education at University are matters which must involve and engage us all in a continual educational discussion between all members of the campus community. Such matters will not be legislated for by a Review Body but by original constructive debate at departmental and sometimes Faculty level. All we can hope from a Review Body is that it will propose a more flexible and responsive structure to allow such a change of views to take place and indeed encourage it.

PROGRESSIVE

Despite the fact that the Review Body at its inception was hailed as a progressive move by many sections of the campus, this should not make us oblivious to the fact that its very existence, whether intended or not, has also, to a certain extent, inhibited experiment and change on the campus. To the credit of the Review Body it has attempted to overcome this by an interim document and by reporting fairly quickly. Hopefully, its final report will not be so summarily ignored as the consultative report, if it does then another opportunity for raising the educational debate at Birmingham is lost.

We have been living in the shadow of the Review Body for sometime, after it has reported and after its recommendations have either fought themselves into implementation or oblivion we will have to look forward. One of the major tasks of the incoming Executive of the Guild of Students next year will not be just reacting to what the Review Body states but also constructing a viable future policy for the student body which appeals to no ghosts, 1967 Sit-in or 1971 Review Body.

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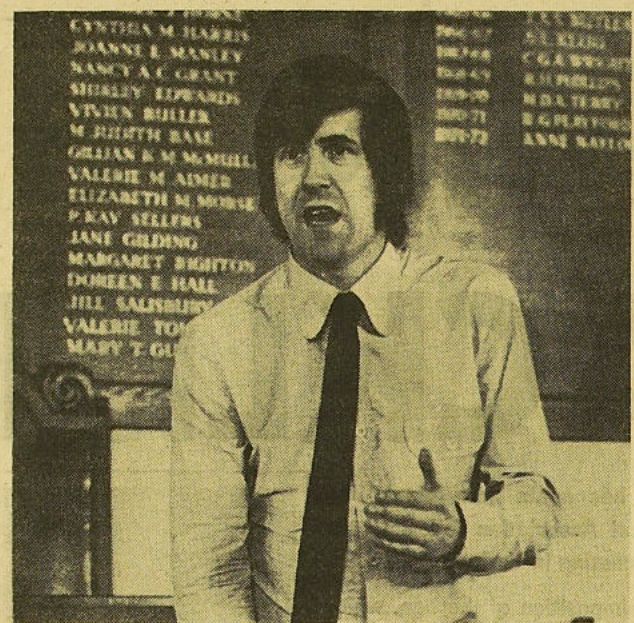
A FOOT IN THE UNION

LAST Wednesday, for over an hour, the Council Chamber was graced with the presence of Paul Foot, as he addressed a meeting of the International Socialists.

Paul Foot, of "Private Eye" and the "Socialist Worker", describes himself as having been "born into an aristocratic, liberal, West Country family, the son of a post-imperialist Imperialist who spent his time hauling down the flag in

various countries." He was educated at Shrewsbury and Oxford, but then, as he says, "You can't do anything about your upbringing."

The subject of the meeting was billed as "The Role of the Student in Society." But in his talk, Mr. Foot covered the whole range of I.S. philosophy, or rather his particular version. He started by soundly condemning the capitalist system, which he said had never had it so good, and thus the workers had never been so harshly



PAUL FOOT.

SECOND CLASS STUDENTS

by ANN NAYLOR

THE last N.U.S. conference passed a resolution on student grants. This stated that the abolition of the system of discretionary awards was one of the most important issues upon which students had to campaign. Despite students' preoccupation with the Government's plans for the future of student unions, it is imperative that pressure is maintained for the abolition of discretionary awards and the other anomalies in the grants system.

What are discretionary awards?

Students who study degree-level courses, as designated by the D.E.S., receive grants as of right at a fixed level. The majority of students at University in Polytechnics or Colleges of Education receive such grants. Many others, particularly those in further education colleges on lower level courses, receive grants whose existence and level depend on the discretion of local education authorities. It is quite common for students in further education on full-time courses to receive no grant at all or quite a minimal amount of money.

This state of affairs is inequitable. It is wrong in principle for the state to judge in such a harsh way that some students (those not doing degrees) are only worthy of a lower level of support than others. The value to the community of a student on an O.N.D. or H.N.D. course is in many ways no less than a student studying for a degree. The present system is educationally discriminatory and causes gross hardship to some students. A student has to live and study regardless of the course he happens to be on.

What can be done?

N.U.S. has pressed in successive grants reviews for the abolition of discretionary awards and their replacement by a standardised man-

datory system. On each occasion the Government has refused a just case—on grounds of financial economy, bureaucratic inertia or just plain conservatism. Recently the N.U.S. has again taken up the matter with the Government—because local education authorities are themselves pressing for reforms in the grants system.

Individual local education authorities are very important in this respect. Their attitudes and policies can have a crucial role in determining whether the Government will alter its grants policy. It is therefore important that individual students and students' unions should maintain pressure on their local education authorities.

How does L.E.A. discretion affect you?

Many people reading this article may feel that this has little or no relevance to them. (It may have affected their friends and relations though). In fact most students do suffer under the present grants system. Because the parental contribution is discretionary many students (about 35 per cent) do not receive their full grant. Other students are affected because their local authority will not pay all their extra travel allowance, will not give them extra money for longer terms, equipment etc. Married women students have to exist on £275 a year—often not enough to pay for children's nursery facilities.

It is therefore important that all students should become involved in the campaign for a fair grant system for all. This is especially important at the present time. With the publication of the Jones report, on the future of teacher education, it is quite likely that new courses will be set up. This will necessarily entail some changes in the grants system. Unless students are active on the issue of grants, changes may well be introduced that we cannot agree with.

oppressed. This harsh oppression was manifesting itself in the industrial unrest and militancy which had become prevalent; more work-days would probably be lost due to strikes in 1972 than in any other year. Mr. Foot saw the workers' militancy, particularly workers taking over factories as an attack on capitalism, and the start of the Revolution. He went on to advocate the setting up of Councils of Action to co-ordinate the activities of all the groups involved in the fight against the oppressive Tory Government. The role of the student in all this was to support the actions of the workers by such noble acts as joining the picket line. But Mr. Foot saw little or no positive, direct role for the student. Then after about an hour's loquacious rant Mr. Foot abruptly sat down.

A questioner from the floor asked Mr. Foot what his attitude was to the use of violence in the promotion of the Revolution. But Mr. Foot would have none of it, believing instead that violence was counter-productive; his faith lay with the workers.

In response to a second questioner, Mr. Foot outlined his vision of a great spread of I.S. and the rise of the worker across the Continent in response to that capitalistic plot called the Common Market.

The audience of about a hundred seemed split in their response to Mr. Foot: the converted loved him, but those who hadn't foreseen the inevitable Revolution were somewhat less convinced. But perhaps understanding of the workers comes with an aristocratic, liberal West-Country background?

YOUR CHANCE TO WORK FOR REDBRICK NEXT YEAR

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THE SCALES FALL OFF 'MERMAID'

A PRESS statement issued last week from "Mermaid" office announced for the first time official confirmation of the rumours which have been circulating concerning that magazine's future. The statement confirmed the appointment, by Mr. Laurence Wyborough (ex-Editor of "Wall") who was elected Editor at the last Guild Council, of an Editorial Board consisting of Tony Lee, Kingsley Manning and Greg Sherwin; thus the Guild's empire building media men have their own organ at last.

The statement went on to outline the sort of "Mermaid" it's going to be. Gone, it seems, is the trendy art and poetry. Instead there will be news, comment, features, reviews, interviews and humour. A somewhat drastic change maybe, but "Mermaid" needed something to revitalise its appeal to the campus.

Mr. Wyborough hopes that "Mermaid" will be published six times in the next session, three times in each of the first two terms. He believes that above all the presentation and writing in the magazine should be as professional as possible; avoiding the normal clichés of student publishing and thus producing a truly university magazine which will not, however, be introverted.

At present Mr. Wyborough is collecting together ideas and teams of writers, photographers, etc. Anybody interested in helping produce "Mermaid" next year should contact the Editor as soon as possible.

YOUR OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR

THE last two meetings of that loquacious and pragmatic body, Guild Council, elected next year's Executive, representatives on both University and Guild Committees.

The Executive, chaired by the President, is the Guild's ten-man "Cabinet" and has overall responsibility for the day-to-day work of the Guild. Possibly its most important task is to formulate the general policies of the major committees for which each member of Executive is responsible.

The results of the elections were: Guild Secretary and Communica-

tions Officer: John Tustin (2nd Year Philosophy);
Union Services Chairman: Jerry Martin (2nd Year Elec. Eng.); this year has been the Guild's stage equipment manager;
Guild Treasurer: Colin Turner (2nd Year Mech. Eng. Econ.); he has been Treasurer for past two years;

Education: Tim Greenwood (2nd Year Elec. Eng.);

Social (formerly Events): Dave Kelly (Geography);

External Affairs: Helen Franks (Combined Honours);

Welfare: Peter Davies (Law);

Athletic Union: Dave Griffiths (Phys. Ed.).

If you've got any complaints (or suggestions) then the characters above are the people to contact. If it's a general problem, not directly related to any of the above committees, then contact Jim Tyack or Nobby Clarke. Officers of the Guild exist only for your benefit—so please make sure you use them.

Elections have also taken place for the student members on such University committees as Senate, Discipline, University Centre, Library, Bookshop, Open Lectures, Lodgings, Health Service, etc. These committees constantly deal with facilities that are used by students—if you've got any complaints then



JERRY MARTIN
(Union Services).

make sure they are heard in the right places.

A full list of student members will be published in "Redbrick" next session or alternatively a copy may be obtained from the President.



NOBBY CLARKE (Vice-President)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DEAR SIR,—Students here at the Halls are deeply concerned about the imminent large increase in Hall fees. They claim that inefficiency and bad management are the cause of rising Hall costs and consequently student fees. So they are proposing humane solutions to the problem, one of which is to reduce the number of staff in Halls. Only a beginning, of course, this. They hope eventually to be able to dispense with staff altogether and run the Halls themselves.

Obviously not of the same mind as the students at the University of Kent. There they believe in student-worker solidarity and are fighting against members of the catering staff being made redundant. More power to them!

While we are waiting for Utopia to arrive at the Vale though, may I make a proposal for cutting Hall costs which the students seem to have rather absentmindedly overlooked? Could not the damage occurring daily in Halls be checked?

A certain amount of this is unavoidable and accidental, considering the large number of people using the Halls. I refer to that which is the result of sheer vandalism. And not all students are guilty of vandalism. I refer to those who behave as if they are only here for the beer.

Windows, doors, tables, chairs, toilet cisterns are broken. Phones are ripped from the walls. Electric light bulbs are taken from public rooms. Fire extinguishers are discharged; fire emergency doors are opened to facilitate inconspicuous entry (or egress) for unofficial guests. Hose-reels are used (and

often put out of action) by students who miss their water-pistols. All these things and others which I have not mentioned, cost money to put right, and a good deal of money must be involved yearly. Would not the saving of this money help to keep Hall costs down?

Having tried to discuss the matter with students I must, to be fair to them, admit that we have usually differed on the question of definition. What to me is the result of vandalism is to them the result of "high spirits." Johnnie Walker? They explain that most students are away from home for the first time, that they are immature, that they lack guidance, even—wait for it—discipline.

Whatever the definition, however, the damage goes on and I believe it should be stopped, that the economy of the Halls would benefit. The Halls are beautiful. Set in lovely surroundings, which include a lake, one finds it difficult to imagine that only a few minutes' journey away lies the town centre of a large industrial city. They contain all the facilities essential to students for study, from libraries to bars. And they are far too good for the few hooligan students who cause such wanton destruction. Doss-houses should be found for people like that. After all, there's no place like home.

We hear a lot from students about their rights and privileges. It's time we heard something from them about their duties, responsibilities and obligations.

Yours faithfully,
T. HALLISSY,
Head Porter, High Hall.

THE GAVIN COLUMN TWEEDSMUIR

GALVIN'S GAME

MR. ERIC GALVIN, the lumbering monstrosity who wastes everybody's time on Union Services Committee, has been playing musical chairs again with society offices. This pointless and totally unnecessary manipulation of Union Societies is usually done when people start noticing that the Chairman of Union Services hasn't really much to do at all and consequently spends a large amount of the time boring certain journalists with alleged inaccuracies in their columns.

The result of Mr. Galvin's last dice throw was that DebSoc got shoved into a lavatory (an unseemly place for it, whatever one's thoughts of Lord Justice Ringuth) and Comac got shoved into G.T.V. (Whether they had come here from a lavatory is malicious speculation abhorred in this office).

Mr. Galvin's new plan will embody certain distasteful elements of the former (abandoned) plan for the mediocrity of the Union, G.T.V., "Redbrick," "Mermaid," "Concourse" and "Wall" will all be moved into the present magazines office. G.T.V.'s office will be thrown open to the Communications Committee, a group of political orphans and psychological waxworks exhibits who will be allowed to fall asleep while John Tustins tells them the latest Conservative achievements.

Mr. Galvin's new plan is believed to be a last desperate attempt to kill anything worthwhile being done in communications in the Union at the moment. It is worth noting that this new scheme comes hot on the heels of Mr. Galvin's announcement that no long distance phone calls can be made without the consent of Executive (a prominent group of consenting adults) or the editor of "Redbrick." The combination of these two plans will now have the following effect.

Union reception staff will be moved to Vast Hills on a permanent basis. It is believed that telephoning via the Union switchboard will be as impossible as ever. The president's office will be moved to the billiards hall, thus ensuring that any policy decisions made can be greeted with the appropriate objects.

G.T.G. will be moved out of their present accommodation as soon as the smoke clears and the public health people have declared the dressing rooms fit for human habitation again.

The general feeling among forward thinking members of the Guild is that the plans are the result of a twisted and warped mind, if what lies inside Big G's head can be accredited the description of mind at all.

A PLEA FOR MERCY

I would like to make it clear that I do not, and never will, support brutal and pernicious victimisation of Guild personalities. It is an act both barbarous and obscene, and when it raises its ugly head we must take cognisance of it and stamp it out. Thus I must warn Mr. Robert (Where is your writ?) Gregory that his continued and unwelcome persecution of both the Editor of "Wall" magazine and the Editor of G.T.V. has gone too far and must stop.

Threats of writs may have been the limit; threats to throw them out of Welfare Office might have been excused, but when blackmail—yes, an ugly word—when blackmail is used, i.e. telling the aforesaid editors that if their public respect and acclaim for Gregory does not cease he will resign from Guild politics, the man has gone too far.

To reduce these two upstanding members of society to frightened and neurotic shells is an act of such callous brutality that only a public apology and firm assurances from

(Continued on Page Four)

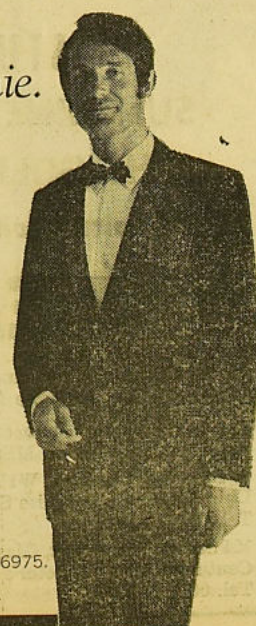
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Chunderful

ON BRIDGE

IN little downtown Northfield a mighty swirling torrent, Griffen Brook, divides the inhabitants of Middle Park Farm Estate from the student ghetto of Griffen Close. However love knows no barriers—at least so we are told from our toddling days—and a friend of mine who lived nearby me in Middle Park Estate formed a liaison with an attractive young lady from the student quarters. It seemed as if the University blessed this couple for instead of having to detour nearly half a mile to the Bristol Road to cross Griffen Brook a plank construction was placed over the water close by Middle Park Flats.

Every evening about 7 p.m. I would watch my friend skip happily down the track to Griffen Close, crossing the bridge to his dear one. As the days passed he seemed more and more lost in eternal bliss, indulging no doubt in his own personal euphoria of cherubs and seraphims.

One evening however, when it was somewhat overcast I watched him disappear in the usual way then heard a choked cry and a splash. Alas my poor friend! Somebody at the University had decided that Griffen bridge was an inducement to thieves, without warning it was removed. Yet another love was dampened.

DIARY OF A CHUNDERFUL

IT is writ that parting is such sweet something or other. And likewise with a Chunderful. A little sad and a little happy, I pack my trunks in "Redbrick" office; whimsically drive to the Sportsman to kiss my favourite barmaid adieu and then to the United Welsh Choirs singing "We'll Meet Again", set off into the fading sunset, pausing only to turn and wave to gathered groups of devotees sobbing their hearts out on the Union steps. Alas, the reality—like most students after having a happy and enjoyable University life—I say goodbye to those who can remember me and those who can forgive me, and quietly disappear into harsher climates.

But, in a nostalgic way, I will always look back to my life at Birmingham and the friendships I have formed, with a certain joy and rekindled happiness. At the back of my mind I keep trying to believe what the trendies tell us, that the University is an establishment agent of domination and oppression—but somehow it doesn't seem to hold entirely true. There is at Birmingham a lot of good as well as a lot of bad, indeed, as generally in life. The danger of a dogmatic stand all the time may be that it will destroy the good as well as that bad. Despite economic, social, religious and industrial systems, people still survive and thus opportunities and capacity for important and original change still survive as well.

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CENTRE TO BECOME GOOD TIMES REALITY? SOON . . .

AT last week's meeting of University Council, it was agreed to "sympathetically examine" the proposals of the Joint Working Party set up last year to consider how best to co-ordinate services in the University Centre and the Union, and the possibility of integration of the two.

Ever since its completion over ten years ago the Refectory/University Centre has been the subject of a continuous debate. Although the idea of a University Centre, as a centre of staff and student facilities, dates back to 1969, little in the way of concrete moves to create it has occurred. But at last it seems, change is nigh.

The proposals cover the short, medium and long term. In the short term the Joint Working Party proposed, the setting up of two joint sub-committees to co-ordinate the social and catering requirements of the Centre and the Guild, and to make limited use of the Centre for social purposes. The first meetings of these sub-committees will take place in the near future, and it is hoped, following the completion of the infamous "Link room doors" in the Anon Room, that several events will be held in the Centre next session.

In the medium term the Working Party suggested that various alternative proposals for catering on the campus should be considered and that the managerial structure might have to be changed. But it is in the long term proposals that the light of hope exists for the believers in a true University Centre. For here the Working Party proposes that a new Union should be established adjacent to the Centre and that the Union building, Refectory building and Staff House, be

considered to embrace the University Centre. These proposals have been accepted by the Guild and all the various University committees concerned in the running of the Centre.

The situation following last week's University Council meeting is that the Vice-Chancellor is to look at the various ways in which the long-term proposals could be implemented and subsequently report back to Council. But sympathetic examination of the proposals and commitment to them are different things, and several obstacles might well appear before the ultimate goal is achieved. Notably within the University is the feeling, particularly among some of the academic staff, against the inclusion of Staff House in any of the proposed changes. The desire that Staff House should remain as a separate entity, bolstered as it is by the tradition of a "Senior Common Room," denies the undoubted educational benefits of increased staff/student contact. It seems likely however, that as the economic position of the catering on the campus worsens, that this obstacle will fade away.

But far more serious than this is the problem as to where the money is to be found to build a new Union. This will undoubtedly involve a sum in excess of £1 million. It is unlikely that the University would wish to, or could, provide such a sum from its own resources, more likely is an approach to the U.G.C. It is possible that it is this problem which will come before University Council before a solution has been found.

Thus, perhaps only slightly, the prospect of a new Union and a truly "University" Centre has come closer to reality; even if in reality there is no possibility of the first brick being laid for at least five years.

'DISCO' KITTENS DIE

DESPITE the efforts of Union staff, the three kittens born inside a loudspeaker at a Union discotheque are now dead.

The three kittens started their lives to the plaintive sounds of Messrs. Jagger and Hendrix, as their mother had unwisely chosen the speaker cabinet on the wall in Founders' Room as a refuge from the world.

It is reported that the first kitten to be born (and the first to die) rolled out of the cabinet and into the lap of an unsuspecting raver sitting beneath who was at the time engaged in witty repartee with his girlfriend.

After the initial shock was over, a cardboard box was found and placed on the radiator directly beneath the speaker-cabinet. Into this receptacle two further slimy young things gracelessly plopped. No amount of coaxing could en-

ter the mother from her noisy retreat and anyway she was obviously too frightened to think of suckling her offspring.

An heroic attempt to save the three fragile lives ensued, foremost in which was Mr. Eric Galvin, who had long been wandering around the disco with a concerned and God-motherly expression upon his face.

The first-born died soon afterwards. The other two were taken to a vet who sadly informed that the kittens could not survive, and they were painlessly destroyed.

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External Affairs Committee

CAVLI GULSAZ

will speak on
**REPRESSION AND
THE STRUGGLE FOR
DEMOCRACY IN
TURKEY**

WED., JUNE 21st
Council Chamber 1.15 p.m.

EXAMINING EXAMS

by BARBARA SLOMNICKA

WHEN our revered editor informed me that I was to write an article on examinations for this issue my first impulse was to tell him just what I thought of his peculiarly sadistic brand of humour. Recovering from the initial spasm of revolt, however, it occurred to me that it is exactly at this time, when the vast majority of us are recovering from that annual bane of the student's life, that it would be as well to examine the function, purpose and effectiveness of examinations and consider whether there is a possibility of a more viable alternative.

When discussing examinations, or teaching methods, course content, participation and so on, there is always the tendency to refer to them in isolation whereas they should be considered in context. Academics and students are faced with a choice: In the admittedly biased words of the N.U.S. Executive: "Do we want to produce thousands of graduates who have got a piece of paper which says that for approximately thirty hours one summer they were able to regurgitate facts and stock interpretations? Or do we want to produce people who have evidence that for the duration of their course they prepared well-researched written work, contributed effectively to seminars and tutorial discussions, as well as passing some written examinations of the traditional type?"

PURPOSE

We live in a society geared towards results and from an early age examinations constitute a regular and integral part of life—the type of school a child enters depends on them, as does university or college entrance and the type of job we ultimately get. But what is the purpose of examinations? If it is to measure a student's intellectual or academic capabilities, do they actually succeed in doing so?

Or is the ability to do well at the traditional test the result of merely ability for coping with the examinations themselves, technique or the capacity to fit oneself into an accepted mould. And how far does success in the present system merely reflect socio-economic opinions and serve to reinforce a division in class strata.

A wall in Paris 1968 bore the legend: "Examination = Servility, Social Climbing, Hierarchical Society." It must be said, however, no matter how much sympathy one might feel with the writer, such a statement neglects to consider the fundamental reason why examinations became a predominant part of our educational system at all—namely that they would be an effective method of countering privilege, patronage and place-mongering and would remain as a safeguard against these things.

Examinations are concerned with "pupils as candidates, not as members of different types of school or of different classes." The ques-

tion must be asked here how far this is true, in institutes of higher education, where unlike G.C.E. 'O' and 'A' levels, the candidate is a name and not merely a number. How far can individual prejudices be honestly excluded?

WASTAGE

Every year some 18 per cent of men and 12 per cent of women studying at British universities fail

when it is seen that the failure rates vary from 3 per cent to 30 per cent from university to university, these fluctuations would appear to indicate only that the existing system of examinations is a random process of selection.

As Tom Fawthrop pointed out in his paper "Education or Examination", most discussion of examinations has concentrated on the issue

concerned with. Would it not be more rational to first define the aims of a university education, then design an assessment system to coincide with these objectives?

ASSESSMENT

Examinations as a form of assessment can be attacked from two vantage points—first their reliability and secondly their relevance, conflicting as they do with the liberal aims of education.

Marking: the examiners' judgment is a notoriously hazardous business; there are profound differences in criteria, in the standards expected and other marginal factors such as the mood, temperament, health and individual prejudices of the examiner.

RELEVANCE

As for the relevance of examinations—one need only look at the extensive folklore that has sprung up about them: ways of deceiving the examiner, of paring to his known prejudices, of deploying a careful hoard of quotations and so on.

At most colleges it may fairly be said that the normal process of education is undermined and disrupted by examinations. Interest and involvement in the course for its own sake give way to the demands of the educational machine, where knowledge becomes relegated to the acquisition of a marketable commodity — the degree. "The priority of teachers is generally to 'get them through'; that of the taught 'to get through'."

Nervous breakdowns occur, insomnia, even suicide, all are subject to the same stresses and tensions. And the final irony, the student is held responsible if he fails and not the system.

One point of interest is worth making here though. Surveys carried out at Aberystwyth have found that contrary to many students' belief, the examination system tends to work to the student's advantage rather than to his disadvantage. If a student does better in his examination than had been thought probable from his work during the term then it accepted that he had been doing more individual work than previously thought. If a student who has produced good work during the term does badly in the examinations, then that work is taken into account and his marks are upgraded. This nevertheless ignores the fact that in effect many students abuse the present system, particularly by astute question-spotting; results are often totally unrepresentative of the work done (or not done) over three years. This, it has been said, accounts for the relative silence of students, once results have been issued.

ALTERNATIVES

What, then, are the alternatives?

The most well-known method, that of continuous assessment, by which is meant not an amalgamation of marks collected in the course of a barrage of tests, but a system of assessment by which all aspects of a student's work are taken into consideration—tutorials, essays, practicals, seminar contributions, dissertations, etc., as well as written examinations. In this way

staff and students get a continued feedback on performance.

This idea, implemented in many departments meets with a varied response, with some speaking of the continual strain involved, others of a reduction in nervous tension and a feeling that each individual has a fair chance to demonstrate his capabilities. Interestingly enough, a survey conducted at York showed that de facto the same people were liable to crack under the strain as would have done on any other system.

The difficulties are in the administration of such a system. Students question staff members' seeming bias, external examiners find it virtually impossible to contribute to assessment, etc. Only by active co-operation and participation can these problems be resolved.

FLEXIBILITY

Other possible methods include objective testing and the credit systems, both more popular in America and Japan than in Europe. These have the advantages of flexibility, helping departments to ensure that available courses meet students' needs rather than vice versa. Open book examinations and delayed time tests have been found useful at York in reducing tension but experience has shown that the performance of candidates has not been drastically altered by their use.

Orals are already the commonest form of supplementing written time-tests, especially in languages and medicine. Although it seems that there is an even greater chance of variability in marking here than in written examinations, even if several examiners are involved.

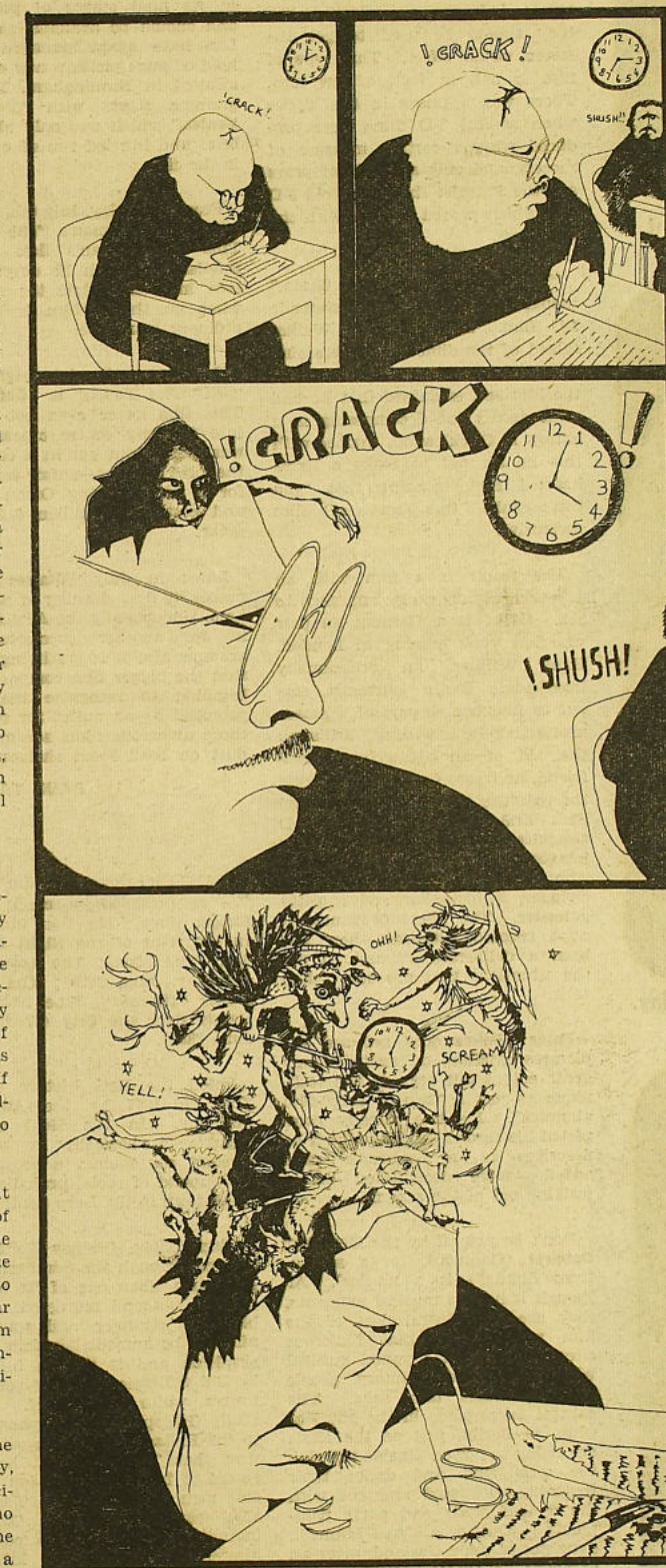
There is some scepticism amongst staff about the general effectiveness of these various methods, especially continuous assessment, although most agree that properly administered it can reduce tension. This scepticism is well summed up in the following quotation in favour of the traditional time test:

"In spite of all its faults, the examination system remains a more rigorous test of quality than any possible substitute. Essays are written in comparative leisure and contributions and seminars are made in the most favourable of circumstances, but exam papers reproduce the conditions that apply in the post-university world; there is strain and tension, there is working against time, and the student has to use his intelligence and his accumulated knowledge in the way that he will be called upon to use it for the rest of his life. Examinations are thus a psychological and a moral test as well as an intellectual one."

ACTION

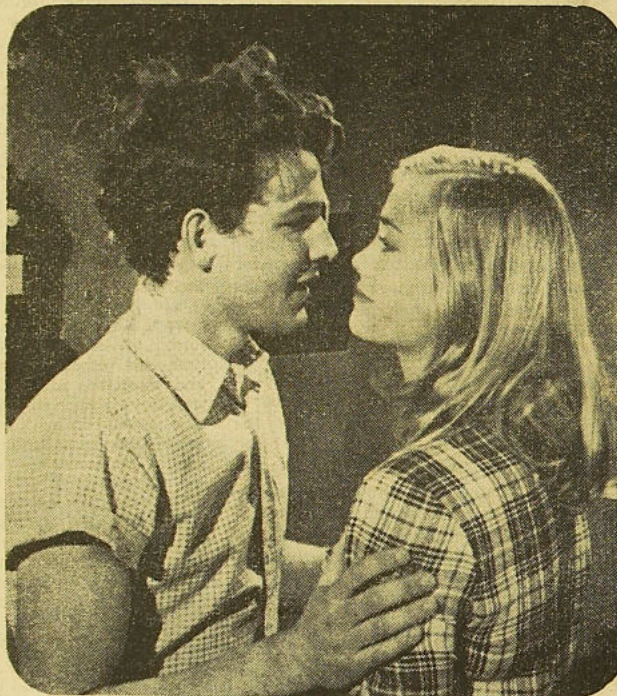
Whether or not you agree with this view, it is to counter such arguments that it seems reasonable to advocate a mixed system of assessment, which in addition to giving each which in addition to making it more difficult for the less conscientious student to slack during the course and would encourage a more effective use of vacations.

The time is certainly ripe for concerted action by staff and students alike to evolve a more efficient, relevant and just method of assessment and not merely a method which has been aptly said makes "education not an end in itself but relegates it to a means of acquisition of a certain commodity of great value in the educational market—a degree. Examinations in the final analysis are a system of classification, grading students like battery hens."

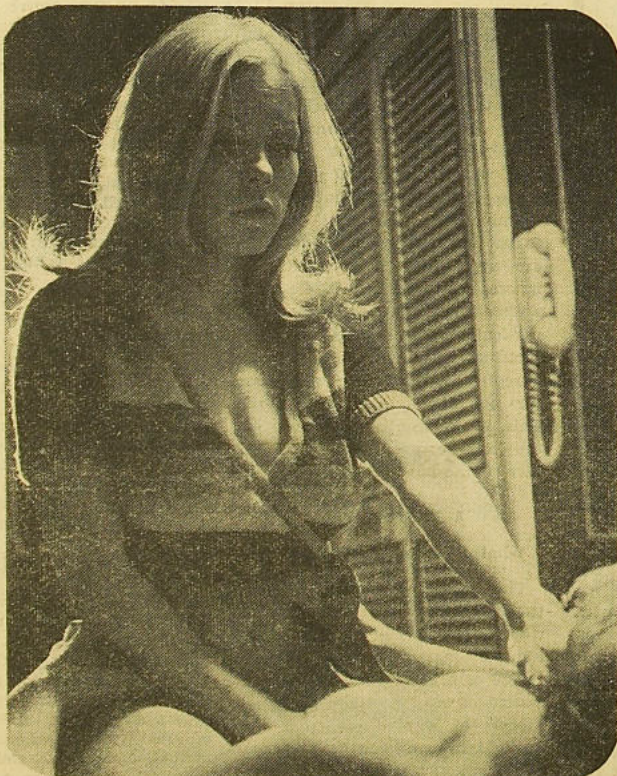




Liza Minnelli as Sally Bowles in "Cabaret" (Gaumont from Sunday)



"The Last Picture Show," Odeon, Queensway, from Sunday.



More dimensions of Greta at the Futurist.

cinema

ONE of the main points of interest in the city cinemas this week is the arrival of **The Four Dimensions of Greta** (Futurist). For this is no ordinary sex film but one with the added attraction of having its sexual complete in 3-D. The audience are provided with a set of glasses and a sign on the screen indicates the times when they should be used to get the stereo vision effect. This type of film is not, in fact, a new idea. There was a phase in the 'fifties when several 3-D films were produced with a certain measure of success, and only a couple of years ago the Futurist showed an old 3-D film which proved popular with the audiences.

"The Four Dimensions of Greta," though, is the first British-made 3-D film. Director Peter Walker talked of the difficulty in obtaining the special camera needed to shoot the film and explained that he had come across one decomposing in a garage in Cricklewood. Armed with this he set out to make a light-hearted film, insisting that "you can't take this sort of film seriously".

The result is a film with an amusing, almost camp, approach to sex. Greta is a German au pair who has gone missing in London. Hans Weimar, an occasionally inarticulate Berlin Journalist, sets out to find her as part of a magazine article he is writing. Enlisting the aid of an attractive ex-girlfriend, he traces Greta's movements through the city's pubs, clubs and East End underworld. The 3-D sequences depict the conflicting images given of Greta by people who have known her: flatmates, a stripper, a footballer and a petty gangster. The effect does not always succeed, although there has been a deliberate attempt to use the situations that are best suited to it.

Peter Walker does not see 3-D pictures catching on again to any great extent but regards the technique as just a "two or three-film gimmick". He has already completed his second 3-D film which he describes as "a sex-horror", and added, "nude decapitated bodies walking out of the screen".

Don't be put off by the idea that **Cabaret** (Gaumont, for a season, from Sunday) is a musical. Although it has its musical moments, they are an integral part of the film rather than that ludicrous situation in the Hollywood musical when hordes of ordinary people suddenly burst into song. The cabaret takes place in the Kit Kat Club, in Berlin, just as the Nazis are rising to power. Inside the club the girls sing and dance their routines, contrasted and cut with the daubed walls and party pamphlets. Outside, Liza Minnelli, daughter of Judy Garland, gives an excellent character performance, which is only marred in the slight lapse in the main story lines towards the end of the film. **The Last Picture Show**, shows **The Last Picture Show**, from Sunday. This is a film that has taken a while to get up to Birmingham, although its reputation has spread before it. It is hard to see exactly why this is so.

True, "The Last Picture Show" is an excellent film, in fact, the best that's been to Birmingham for some weeks, but the basis of its

commercial success eludes me. Shot in black and white, the film resembles one shot back in the 'fifties, the period with which it deals.

Set in a small town in Texas, it looks at the boredom that had set into the life of the inhabitants, especially the young ones. At times it verges on nostalgia, but always manages to steer clear of pure sentimentality. The humour is there right through the film until the rather bitter ending. A film not to be missed.

The new Arts Lab programme is in its final stages of production and should be available soon. The Lab have again managed to get hold of some pictures new and long awaited in Birmingham. The programme starts with **"Death in Venice"**, which was only allowed a brief and hurried run of one week in the city.

From Thursday, July 6th, the Lab will show Bergman's **"The Touch"**. This is Bergman's first film in English, in which he develops his own inimitable style the story of what on the surface is just an ordinary housewife.

Running as the late night show with **"The Touch"** is **"Catch 22"**. This film never even got a look into the city centre cinemas, but was merely put out in a couple of the local cinemas—unfair treatment for a film starring Orson Welles and costing 20 million dollars to make.

Later in July **"Claire's Knee"** makes its first showing in Birmingham. Undoubtedly the Arts Lab are in for another successful programme and it is gratifying to see that the bigger film companies are beginning to recognise the Lab's potential as an outlet for some of those numerous films accumulating dust on back room shelves.

PAUL TAYLOR.

STARTING this week Film Society are presenting a season of Rod Steiger films. The four films are: **In the Heat of the Night** (Thursday, June 22nd), **The Loved One** (Monday, June 26th), **The Pawnbroker** (Thursday, June 29th), and **Hands Over the City** (Wednesday, June 28th).

Voted the Best Picture of the Year in 1967 by the American Academy, "In the Heat of the Night" is basically a murder mystery set against a provocative background of racial prejudice in a small town in the Deep South.

Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier) is passing through the Southern town of Sparta when one of its leading citizens is found murdered. Being black, a stranger and unusually affluent, he immediately falls under suspicion and is thrown into jail by Bill Gillespie (Rod Steiger), the town's white police-chief. Eventually Gillespie makes a phone call to the Philadelphia police who confirm that Tibbs is what he professed to be, one of the top homicide men in their force. Together they work on the case, Gillespie intending to take the credit for himself when the real killer is eventually caught, though all does not go to plan.

Steiger, chewing gum incessantly, epitomises Southern prejudice at the beginning of the film and subsequently progresses through callous indifference, to his final grudging acceptance of a black man's friendship in the closing scenes.

Entertaining rather than profound it nevertheless makes a definite and undeniably valid statement of one of the most pressing

social problems of the modern world.

Based on Evelyn Waugh's famous novel, "The American Way of Death", and widely advertised "the film that offends everyone", "The Loved One" is an irreverent send-up of the false sentimentalism propagated by many American funeral parlours.

After playing a Pope ("A Man Named John") Steiger is cast as camp undertaker named Mr. Joyce in this macabre black comedy. With immaculately wavy blonde hair and an air of mock solemnity he turns in a comic caricature which represents something of a minor landmark in his film career in that it is his first essentially comic film.

On the surface it appears to be little more than a well-made Italian gangster movie, but on closer inspection, this first impression proves to be a manifestly superficial one. Rosi's film is also an eloquent plea for the plight of the poor people of Naples—the slum dwellers who are constantly being exploited by the czars of the big business establishment. It is also an exposé of the political set-up that existed in Italy during the early 'sixties, as well as a factual statement about the country's ruthless real-estate speculators and the human misery that can be caused by their unfeeling selfishness. Rosi's own conclusion to the film best sums up its essence: "The people and events shown were fictitious, but they are a true reflection of our society."

In Sidney Lumet's "The Pawnbroker", Steiger gives what is undoubtedly his most memorable movie performance to date as Solomon Nazerman, the embittered Jewish pawnbroker, whose family died in a concentration camp which he personally managed to survive. As he goes about his business around New York's Spanish Harlem district where his shop is situated.

Nazerman is haunted by the horrors he has tried for so long to forget. A negro bares her breast to tempt him and he is reminded of the S.S. men who forced him to watch while they raped his wife; a barking dog recalls guard dogs tearing a prisoner to pieces on the wire; the press of a subway train brings back the cattle trucks in which his helpless children were trampled to death.

In an effort to blot out these Nazerman cuts himself off emotionally from the rest of human society, eventually the world catches up with him and he is forced to become involved with other people and their problems.

Steiger's reading of the part is masterly. Even in the most emotional scenes he never allows his performance to venture over the bounds of credibility. He doesn't act the part, he lives it, in the manner dictated by the basic precepts of the "method" school in which his acting roots are irrevocably placed.

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theatre

FOLLOWING a run of recent successes the Arts Lab Theatre puts on its last production of the present programme. From June 22nd-25th Chameleon Theatre Group will be performing a piece called **"Mirrors of Chatter Street"**. This production is based on sixteen sketches taken from William Faulk-

ner wrote these sketches for the "American Way of Death" newspaper of Orleans in 1925 form the and Chameleon Theatre have decided to present these in a multi-media structure.

originality of this theatre displayed to its utmost with electronic music and film sequences.

GINETTE

books

I have recently published a third novel by Stanley, titled **The Helpers**. The story follows the lives of two psychiatrists, struggling to find their own clinic going, and the people and events shown were fictitious, but they are a true reflection of our society."

Unfortunately, I think, the author tried too hard to make it an angry novel, and the number of patients mentioned in passing was too many.

of the patients are having a drastic treatment because of either caused by, or caused by their sex life. The masochistic virgin-bride found out because she steals in pens, or the travelling man who can't resist the urge to love to other men's wives, whose guilt complex causes an ash.

less to say, everyone ends up, ever after, except for the who was happy and stable to death. The ending was really weak. It seemed that Stanley never could have gone on to several more chapters but had to curtail his imagination to produce a novel of reasonable

ness, quite an entertaining although I would have found it there had been more of them than variation theme.

basis of Hitchcock's latest film is a novel by Arthur La which, when first published, titled "Goodbye Piccadilly, Tell Leicester Square." Now film and novel are titled "The Day After Tomorrow", and the novel can be found in Paperback for 25p.

easy to see why Hitchcock to make a film of it; a nice, twist to the end. Arthur La style fits in with the Hitchcock technique perfectly. Just a outline of the story would give away, since the whole doesn't unfold until the very paragraph.

GINETTE.

music

GOING aside all remaining ideas of pen-pushing in the gymnasium for another year, now was for complete

enjoyment of the next three weeks. What better way than to begin by spending an evening at **Mason Hall "Folk" Concert**, held last Friday.

Once again, as on previous occasions, the concert provided a smaller than usual audience with four hours of contrasting styles and sounds.

Nigel Denver (encore un fois) began the evening in his characteristic raucous style breaking numerous strings in the process. Though his repertoire was much the same as on his previous visits, his songs eventually inspired the audience to become fully involved. His most notable song as regards audience participation was dedicated to the Second Front established by our glorious American allies.

Though the chorus took some time to be comprehended by the audience, the four lines from "It's here, it's here John" were soon sung with great gusto. This was followed by a series of songs, a number of which enabled him to throw his might behind his Scots accent, especially in "I'm No Hairy Mary. I'm Your Mother."

No matter what one says about his singing (or lack of it), Nigel Denver was well received, and satisfied everybody with an encore.

At this juncture of the concert, the M.E.B. disappeared with current for the lighting, but regardless, Barry Dransfield (from Harrogate) began an hour-long set. Accompanying himself on acoustic guitar and violin, his style contrasted with that of Nigel Denver. His songs were of a philosophical nature, especially the Sandy Denny composition "John The Gun," which included much guitar thumping with good effect.

He has developed his repertoire from other groups' songs. For instance, he has extended the arguments for keeping old steam locomotives from the Bands "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" to his own composition, "Bye Bye Black Smoke Chou Chou." Much of his repertoire looked towards the future. In this category his ideas of the effect of English Morris dancers on their handkerchief-waving antics upon French queers was most poignant upon our entry into the Common Market. His set proved that thought and concentration made a suitable contrast to the previous style of Nigel Denver.

Not having heard Trees before the concert, their folk rock and roll came as a complete surprise. The five-piece group centred around the female singer and harmonium player Celia Humphries, and lead guitarist Barry Clarke. The former was imaginative and emotive in her singing, whilst the latter was the mainspring and force of the group through his playing and singing. They have developed their folk rock image, and achieve one of the very few really original sounds on the contemporary rock scene.

They were very electric, almost brutal in their attack upon songs and used all means of electric gimmickry to enhance their performance. The best example of this was a song entitled "The Wife of Asherwell," relating the story of a mother who turned away her three sons who return as apparitions.

Much of their repertoire involved the supernatural, but overall their music was tight-driving funky rock.

Of the other members of the group, drummer Chas Ambler proved to be most impressive and made an excellent change from the normal standard of drumming. They ended the evening most unusually

with an arrangement of "Route 66" (though the P.A. level was too low), which provided the final contempt to the whole evening.

Though murmurs were heard against the lack of material for their records it was good to hear something different.

Now let's hope that with the gauntlet thrown down by Mason Hall, the challenge of Aftermath will be taken up by all those who have deemed to remain around the campus. If this concert is an omen for next Friday, then all augers well.

JONATHAN NASON.

"AFTERMATH" is an ambitious attempt by Events Committee to provide a full and varied programme of entertainments after the exams. They've got planned quite a selection of stuff—an all-nighter (Brum's first), an outdoor and indoor free concert, theatre, fancy dress disco if you're that way inclined, and a showing of Peter Watkins' film "Punishment Park."

By far the most important event is the all-night concert on Friday from 10 p.m. till 6 a.m. the next morning. It'll cost £1 but for that you get Some the Crows' first live appearance with Jim McCulloch, Brinsley Schwarz, Third Ear Band, arch-looner and ex-Bonzo Dog Viv Stanshall, and David Blue—an American folk singer to whom Joni Mitchell's album "Blue" was dedicated.

Other attractions include three hours of sitar and tabla, folk and poetry, a boppy disco, a macrobiotic food stall, and stalls selling cheap records, magazines, joss, skins and whatever else you need during the night.

There'll be continuous showings of two films: "Festival," featuring Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Donovan and others at the Newport Folk Festivals of 1963-66, and "Edgar Broughton." If you should get thirsty—there's a bar till 3 a.m., but don't get pissed, or stoned, too early as you'll miss all the fun.

The Saturday afternoon free concert will be held on the grass at the back of the Union by the tennis courts (on top of the South Car Park). Most of the bands are playing for next to nothing, as are the three bands at the free concert in the evening. It's nice to know that some people are still playing music because they like it. The music may not be from superstars, but it should be pretty good all the same.

Graham Bond and his afro-rock band, Ujama, will also be appearing.

The Saturday evening disco sees a slight variation. Firstly, the bar will be open till 11.30 p.m., and secondly it'll cost you 20p unless you're in fancy dress (15p).

The variety comes with a visit from two touring theatre groups—The People Show" on Saturday afternoon, "The Flies Revue" on Sunday afternoon. Both should need little introduction, the latter having already appeared in the Union twice. Sunday Film returns at 7 p.m. on Sunday, would you believe, with a showing of Peter Watkins' brilliant film "Punishment Park."

Overall, it's quite a gamble by Events—the whole weekend is costing them nearly £1,500. If you still want entertainment in the Union, and not just at the Town Hall and Kinetic Circus, and something to do after the exams, prove it by turning up this weekend. It should be well worth it.

BONZO



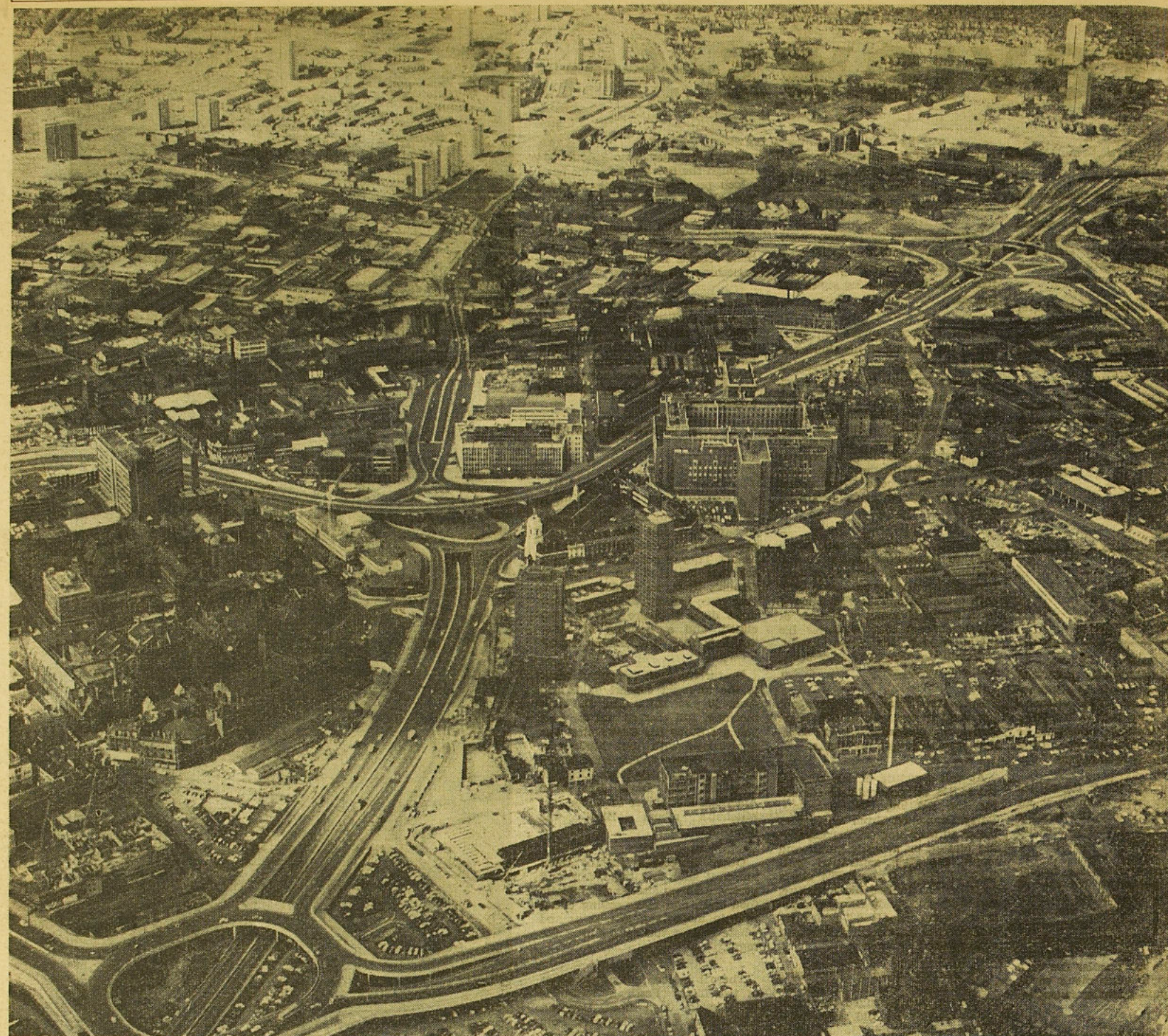
Trees at Mason last Friday, folk rock at its most original and entertaining.



On the run in "Punishment Park," Union, Sunday, a frighteningly realistic comment by Peter Watkins.

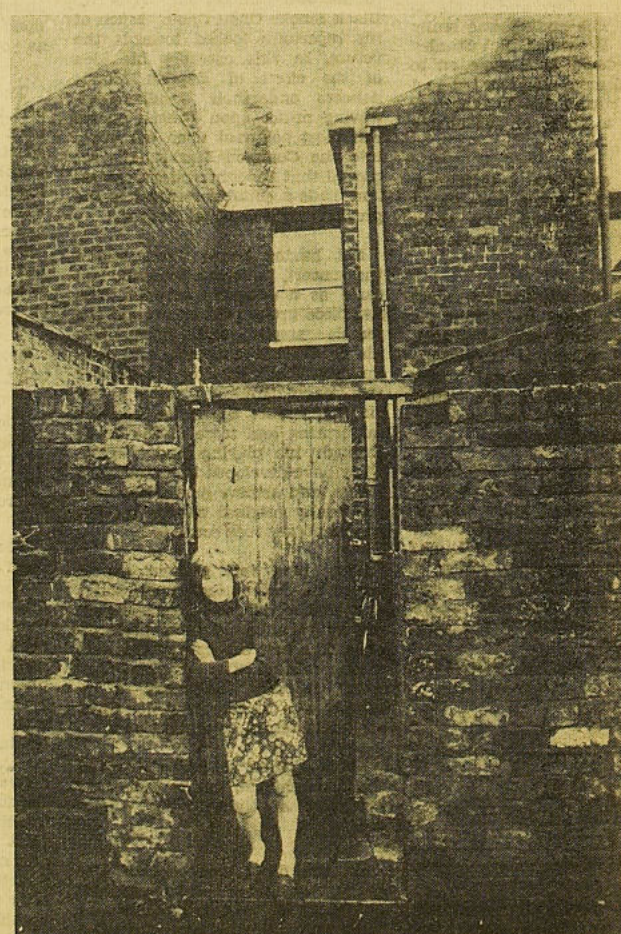


Help Yourself, who will be playing at the free concert on Saturday.



new streets for old

ONE loses a lot of detail from a vantage point. The two faces of Birmingham: The one, ultra-modern, Britain's "second city" building for itself a future; the other, the past that will not go away. Birmingham is a city with problems. Like any renewal process, Birmingham's can be a painful one. Old communities are bulldozed—for the best of all possible reasons—but destroyed all the same. Any living thing grows or dies. The peculiarity of a city is that in growing a part of it must first die.



What have you missed this year....?

A selection of items which appeared in the press during the year
Compiled by Russell Bryant and Dave Stapley

From "The Daily Telegraph," March 28th, 1972.

20p rise for man who must be ready for runaway apes

WHAT would you do if an ape escaped from the medical school laboratory. This was one of the questions put to a security patrolman, Mr. Edward Arnold, 55, by a board of three examiners at Birmingham University.

He was also asked about chemical fire extinguishers and security-pass techniques.

His answers were satisfactory—so the three examiners sitting in the university, agreed he should be promoted from grade-three night patrolman to grade two.

But, he claimed yesterday, his demonstration of technical knowledge has so far earned him a pay rise of only half a penny per hour—20p a week before tax.

From "Birmingham Evening Mail," March 2nd, 1972.

Thanks for saving my life

A UNIVERSITY professor who suffered a stroke woke up in hospital to find he was being kept alive by a machine he had designed himself.

And now he plans a campaign to raise the status of "appallingly paid" and overworked physiotherapists who saved his life with the aid of the ventilator.

The physiotherapists moved in with special methods to keep the professor's chest working, and then helped him to conquer the paralysis which had set in down one side.

Now restored full-time to his post as Professor of Anaesthetics at the University of Birmingham, Professor John Robinson said today: "That day not only proved to me that my ventilator worked, but it also opened my eyes to the value of physiotherapists."

From "Birmingham Evening Mail's" Colmore Column, March 4th, 1972.

WITHOUT DOUBT the present edition of Barb is one of the most shocking student rag magazines published in the city of Birmingham.

Not because some of the jokes and drawings are on the blue side. But because of the complete lack of evidence that contributed anything meaningful to the magazine.

Most of it reads like syndicated material which could appear in the rag magazine of any town or city in the country.

Is there nothing witty, striking, scandalous or even perceptive that the students of the Second City would wish to say about Birmingham?

Have we no local student satirists and cartoonists, no student journalist with a biting pen?

From "T.H.E.S.," March 10th, 1972.

Academic moorings

● The canal running through Birmingham University could become as much a part of the scene as the Backs are at Cambridge, if current negotiations with the British Waterways Board succeed. The university wants to control the moorings on the bank opposite the towpath, leasing them to students and staff, and setting up some kind of Marina opposite the large sports centre now being extended.

Reports that students would be able to set up houseboats in the canal have been discounted because there is no fresh water or waste disposal. Half-a-dozen barges have been occupied by generations of students, and although Birmingham wants to increase facilities it has no plans for floating halls of residence. When the number of moorings (now costing 4p a foot) increases, the canal will be open to any student who wants to paddle his own canoe.

From "Birmingham Evening Mail," February 7th, 1972.

CITY STUDENT IN "MOST DANGEROUS" CANOE TRIP

A 20-YEAR-OLD Birmingham student is to lead a four-man canoeing expedition along what is said to be the most dangerous river route in the world.

Mr. Michael Jones, a student at the Medical School, will attempt the Blue Nile, from Lake Tana to the Sudan during the rainy season this August.

He said today: "The risks are enormous, and there has never been a successful attempt."

"There are dangers from the river itself, crocodiles, and bandits. We intend to go armed."

From "Daily Telegraph," March 10th, 1972.

What we all think about students

A PARCEL of lazy idle fellows that are always smoking and drinking and lounging... The "fellars" were, of course, students. The date was the 1830s. The sentiments, which Charles Dickens put into the mouth of an outraged landlady in "The Pickwick Papers," are timeless.

It is not just since they started building universities in plate glass, or even in red brick, that students as a class have sent respectable middle-aged people into near-apoplexy—or that the young have felt it necessary to defend themselves.

The difference is that nowadays it is possible to quantify public criticism of students, and this has recently been done by the Gallup Poll.

Gallup asked a representative national cross-section of 2,289 people: "On the whole, would you say you were sympathetic or not to students' problems?" Those who said they were sympathetic totalled 41 per cent; 13 per cent were classified as "Don't know"; 46 per cent said they were unsympathetic.

If these figures surprise anyone, there is perhaps less surprise in the picture that emerged when the answers were broken down according to the age of those questioned. Among people aged 65 or over the number of "sympathetics" fell to 32 per cent, but among young people (18-24) it rose to 57 per cent.



Whilst King Kong adorns the Bull Ring in the City (see page one) Barbara Hepworth has lent a new sculpture to the University. The sculpture, entitled Ancester I has been placed on the lawns between the Library and Staff House. Another Hepworth sculpture is at present on the Vale site.

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sport 1

HOBLEY LEAVES IN A HUFF!

A.U. was rocked this term by the decision of knock-kneed Gerald Hobley to quit after 45 years. He leaves under a cloud of controversy (and a makeshift umbrella) over his relationship with Mansley Kinning. He has made no secret of the fact that he was unhappy with the way he was slowly being forced into the back seat. (Believed to be a reference to a recent incident involving a crowbar). Kinning was the boy that Hobley took under his wing when it seemed that no-one else wanted him. He'd even suffered rejection by the Guild of Students and the Sailing Club. Their partnership grew and prospered and they became feared throughout the whole A.U. world.

SCOTTISH JOTTINGS

PERHAPS it was the Scottish air or maybe it was just the combination of such people as Chopper Murphy, Digmy Scholes (a love of trendy footwear), Aggro Smoothly (a love of trendy footwear wearers), Pete Crone, Randy Southam, and, of course, Ian (always) Skintbrant ("you buy me a pint and I'll get you one sometime"). Whatever the cause, last weekend's excursion to Edinburgh and other places certainly produced an abnormally high level of lunacy. Here is a small selection of quotable quotes.

★ ★ ★
The scene is Glasgow University Refectory. Digmy Scholes says: "Randy Southam, you're despicable."
R.S.: "What's despicable?"
J. Skrybant: "A little bit lower than me."

★ ★ ★
A set of traffic lights in Edinburgh held up the Athletic Union minibus. G. Thewlis (a poet) turned in his driving seat and remarked: "This engine ticks over quietly." Small, gnome-like Sir Elf Edwards (a cynic) retorted: "That's because you've stalled it, you stupid."

★ ★ ★
S. Quay (a piss artist) was heard to say, we were talking about your tendencies. To which R. Southam (not even a person) replied: "I didn't think I was sophisticated enough to have tendencies."

Southam later came out with this statement: "It's not that I'm any more nasty than you lot... It's just that I've had more practice at it."

★ ★ ★
Jolly Roger Bottomless, the U.A.U. Secretary, approached Skintbrant after Sunday's representative match "Skrybant," he asked, "have you got a U.A.U. vest?"

"No," replied Skint, "but I know where I can get one cheap... only worn once."

★ ★ ★
Back in the refectory, Randy Southam said: "Skrybant, you're the only person I know who gets salad cream under his armpit."

Skrybant, licking his jumper: "That's not salad cream, it's ice cream!"

★ ★ ★
As he sat in the lounge bar of the Leyland Tiger, Mike Noyes got a sudden urge to render an Irish refrain. Jane Reynolds, who has an ear for this sort of thing, remarked: "Mike, you're flat."

Randy Southam is not a man to miss many opportunities, and he remarked: "Speak for yourself."

★ ★ ★
As Chopper Harley departed en route for the first Test match, Jane Reynolds asked him: "Who's playing at Old Trafford?"
C.H.: "Argentina."

J.R.: "Who are they playing?"

C.H.: "Aston Villa."

J.R.: "Do they play cricket as well?"

★ ★ ★
The rain had driven a large number of people towards the Old Trafford bar. Prospects of being served looked poor until Randy Southam remarked in a loud voice: "The rain's stopped, they're playing again!" The room emptied remarkably rapidly except for one cynical gentleman in a flat cap and muffer. "What's your source of information?" he demanded.

Southam joined his hands, gazed at the heavens and said in an angelic manner: "I've been in touch with higher beings... Baked Heinz."

BY OUR DRAMA CORRESPONDENT

However it soon became clear that the megalomaniacal Kinning was no longer content to share the glory. He was determined to force his own ideas on everyone. He proved this by a series of increasingly hysterical and egotistical circulars and directives.

It was obvious that Hobley was being phased out when he was shunted into the dead end job of Treasurer in succession to the equally phased out and dead end Keith Bonser. The duet was obviously turning into the work of a one-man band.

Hobley finally left last Friday evening carrying under his arm an M. & B. crate containing a few personal possessions (believed to be back copies of "Redbrick" Sports). The wry snarl on his face told the

full story. Here was a man determined to prove to the world that despite his stoop and walking stick he wasn't yet finished.

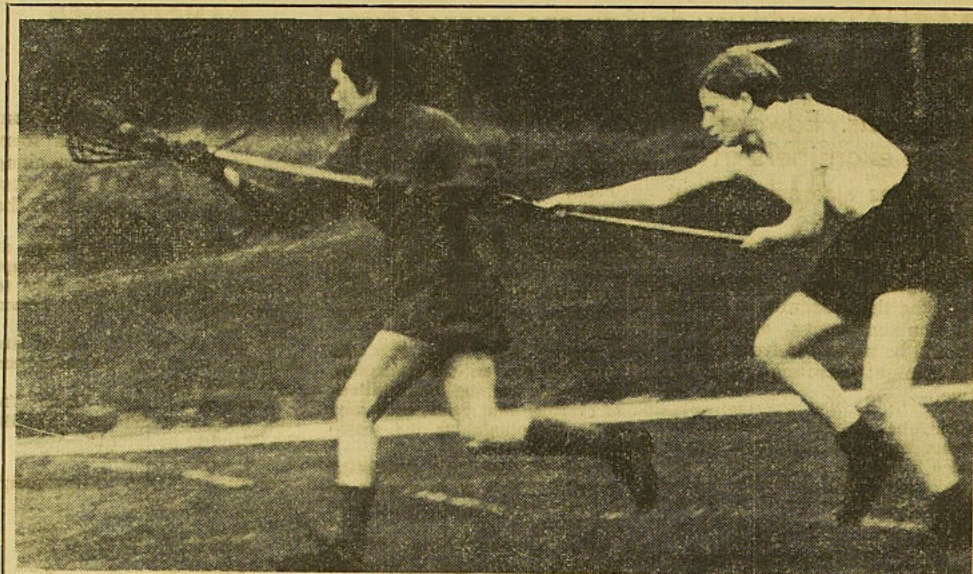
In a final fit of pique (cunningly

disguised as remorse Kinning is arranging a collection for Hobley. It is hoped that the proceeds will enable him to make a down payment on a pair of built-up boots.

Contributions should be sent to A.U. Office.

Gerald Hobley will be 90* next birthday.

(* weight in pounds).



Get off that Ball or else!

RUGBY?

A night on the Pernod

BY A BLURRED REPORTER

WITH great trepidation, 18 hardy individuals approached the Gun Barrels on Good Friday, 1972—the French tour was reborn. After two hours' planning, and an incognito pulse by "Buzz" Bastable, the two vans set off. Pleasant manners and good behaviour advances were to be ceased forthwith.

Pompadour appeared and the team spent a quiet evening only managing to lose some of the strips for the following day's game. Notable events were only hedge revelling, gardening, stripping and Robson.

The first match was over (think the opposition was connected with Brive) we narrowly won 52-3, followed by too many Pernods and a good dance at Lubersac. "Solide"

Howard negotiated a wall, and later as a member of the demolition mob along with Daniels, Waking and Dixon, took a cultural walk—A large bonfire was built with the spoils to roast one J. Davies. The evening ended with an aesthetic leap from a lamp-post by I. Pitche.

The French loved us so much that they confiscated our passports (d'amour). The boys fled to Limoges to play a combined French

first division side—two people expressed interest. However they appeared to be as pissed as us, the groans of their prop being matched only by the violent wretching of our two wingers. Apparently they won 48-19 but local press reports were more concerned with our victory in the bars afterwards.

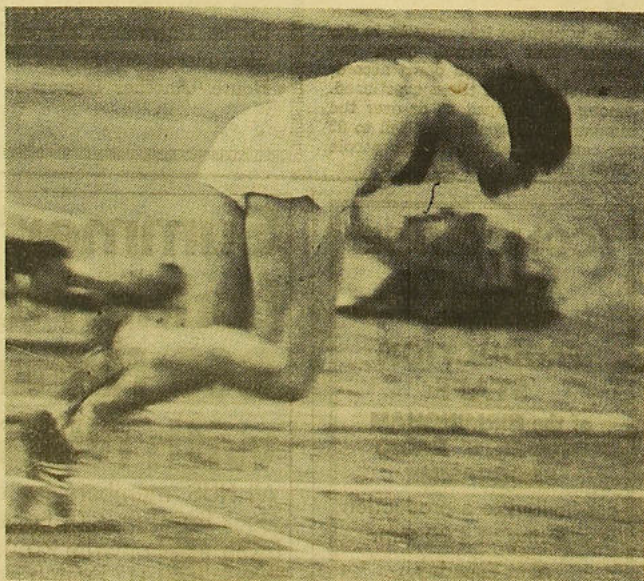
The season was now over and the teams consoled themselves with drink. My only concern, in passing from this University, is that such character building sojourns are now permanently banned by the narrow minded gnomes of the A.U.

La bière est morte—Vive le pernod et le Jumbo.

Poor tactics lose the day

A MAJOR tactical mistake in Senate was probably the cause of Birmingham's recent defeat in the defence of their U.A.U. title. By adjusting the dates of this term they succeeded in placing the U.A.U. championships slap bang wallop at the beginning of term and during the exams of some key superstars.

Loughborough Colleges won by the simple expedience of having the better team on the day. It is thought that in future years the dates of the summer term will only be announced after the date of the U.A.U. Athletics Championships.



Pete Crone, who set a British record by keeping Jane Reynolds quiet for 23.4 secs.

sport 2

SMEDLEY SHOWS THE WAY

by Randy Southam (all over the place)

IT'S not easy to adequately cover all the athletics matches that have occurred so far this year, let alone all the races, so let's not bother. Instead a selection of hero-superstar performances will have to suffice. By far the outstanding performance of the season was Aggro Smedley's 3-42.2 for 1500 metres which, at the time, was the fastest in the country for the year! This was in addition to U.A.U. 1,500 and 5,000 metres titles, plus B.U.S.F. 1,500 metres title.

Smedley's old sparing partner, Miles Gilmore, is now running with his broken foot. He is at last running well on the track and only last Saturday came 2nd in the Midland 5,000m. championships to International Alan Rushmer.

This year's captain, Pete Lornes is winning some very good races over 200m. but as per usual the timekeepers are not giving him fast times. Probably he will reach the Olympic qualifying time as soon as he goes home to Blackburn (believed to be a reference to Warrington—Ed.) and his mother can do his time keeping.

Cool Pete Howe has successfully guarded Brum's reputation as a haven for 400m. runners. He leaves after a one-year P.G. course and hopefully Derek Price will be able to regain his U.A.U. 400m title next year. D.P. is known to have returned to the track already only 10 months after having a vertebra crushed in a car accident.

The two 800m. specialists, Pete Shaw and Pete Lewis have both beaten Nigel Bailey's old University record. At the moment Shawer-than-you has the better time but it is known that Lewis, a meteorologist, has invoked the rain gods against Shaw. It is expected that Shaw will find that it snows during all his future races this year.

POG EXCELS

Big things are to be expected from Pog Brown, the loveable final-year Phys. Ed. student. His only serious race this year brought him an A.A.A.'s qualifying time in the steeplechase. In the A.A.A.'s race he should encounter Golden Wonder Holden. As everyone knows (or they should if they follow athletics) G.W.H. has not run a fast steeplechase this year.

The reason might not be a million miles from the fact that it is Olympic year, and the British team will be selected on the basis of the A.A.A.'s race. G.W.H. is sitting pretty because he achieved the Olympic qualifying standard last September. He is not generous enough to go out and run to give his opponents the chance of doing a fast time.

LONG TRIP

One or two things of interest have happened in the field. In the hammer the Mighty Skrybant was defeated by Alan Woods who travelled all the way from Poitiers in France to compete in our U.A.U. team.

But by far the most significant improvement has come in the triple jump. The amazing Herbie "The Leap" Sevell is close to pension age. Fortunately a new star has emerged to take his place. This year Steve Quay has already broken three triple jump barriers, they are: 14m, 46ft, and 47ft. His best in November, 14m, 48 or 47ft. 6ins. 48ft. is a definite possibility this year.



Dave Berry (30), veteran walker and final year Medic, lost his U.A.U. title but has had another fine summer.

Sportscene

TREVOR CRIGHTON has recently been hitting the headlines with his exploits throughout the length and breadth of Lake Hall Bar. In successive weeks he established himself as a star javelin thrower, raconteur and philanderer.

At Madeley College recently he shattered the previous Lake Hall javelin record with a monstrous throw of just under 50ft. He celebrated this by getting drunk on eight successive lunchtimes at a total cost of 16p. (Maynard's wine gums have gone up again).

On the way home from Loughborough he said: "Hey, did I ever tell you about the time Geoff Copes put Andy Holden in Mike Hayes's broom cupboard?"
"No," came the chorus.
"Well," said Trev, "one day Geoff Copes put Andy Holden in Mike Hayes's broom cupboard."

The longer than usual pause indicated that this particular anecdote had finished.

Lastly, there is Crighton the philanderer. Trevor has been rather embarrassed by his recent run of success with the fair sex. On Friday he was gently fondling a rather buxom young lady in a secluded corner of Lake Bar, when she became extremely excited and Trev was accidentally struck in the mouth by a beer glass. He spent the rest of the weekend undergoing emergency dental treatment.

★ ★ ★
Driving with Miles Gilmore is becoming an increasingly interesting experience, especially if you have a weak bladder. He set a world record for missing service areas on the way up to Edinburgh. The result was much agonised grimacing and several wet boots.

The weekend before he left Birmingham at 7 a.m. in order to watch the Maxol Marathon in Manchester starting at 11 a.m. Need-

by Andy Holden

less to say, he missed the start with plenty to spare. As he explained later: "I wanted to go the pretty way."

★ ★ ★
Speaking of pretty routes leads me to the amazing geographic knowledge of Jan Skrybant. As the mini-bus wheezed up Ship Bell, Skrybe remarked: "I thought the Peak District was in Derbyshire."

"It is, Jan."

"I didn't know we were going through there."

"Oh yes, Jan, we will be in Chesham soon."

"Oh. Never knew that."

★ ★ ★
Austin Dixon—who has taken to walking round Birmingham clad in only a string vest (it was an ordinary one until he got into a fight with a lamp-post) has recently taken on a somewhat dusky appearance.

Contrary to popular opinion, this has nothing to do with the Cornwall sun. During his recent visit to Newquay the beaches were polluted by oil slicks. Austin was too inebriated to realise that there may have been reasons for having the whole beach to himself.

★ ★ ★
As is reported elsewhere in the paper, Gerald Hobley is leaving the University after a long time. Kingsley Manning entered "Redbrick" office and offered to do "a serious appreciation of Gerald."

After a pause, however, he said "... but it may not be very long. It's awfully difficult to find nice things to say about him."

Never mind, Gerald. I'm sure someone somewhere must love you. Keep looking.

★ ★ ★
Debonair he-man Mike Gill became the first ever athlete to be sent off in a 110 metres hurdles race. Gill is the only high hurdler to go under the first three flights. His moment of triumph came at the end of the U.A.U. race. Mike was unhappy at a Loughborough runner passing him on the run-in. "You —," he said. A nearby judge was unamused. "That's sent off," he said, and Mike skulked from the scene.

SOUTHAM QUILTS

by Randy Southam

LAST Saturday a disbelieving world waited with baited breath for confirmation of the most tragic story of hit "Redbrick" Offices for years. With a masterful sense of timing the enigmatic and mysterious Randy Southam, ace sports crime reporter, announced to me: "I am giving up writing for 'Redbrick'."

CONTRADICTIONS

When I tried to question him closely he replied: "If you don't clear off soon you will miss the deadline and the story won't get printed."

TRAGIC

As I left his luxury basement penthouse bedsit in Moseley his words rang in my ear: "I've done my three years in Brum, and it's time to leave. My carrier bag is packed, you won't change my mind."

INFAMY

It is known that in recent months Southam has been dissatisfied with his writing performances. However, his departure comes at a particularly difficult time for "Redbrick", since Holden has resigned as Sports Editor and a genial idiot called Finbar is due to take over.

IRRELEVANT

It is totally without foundation, completely unsubstantiated, and over a million miles from the truth to say that the lovable Southam refused to work for Finbar. "I could do the job with my eyes shut in half the time that cretin would take," is a quote that we have not as yet been able to attribute to Southam.

HOLIDAY

Southam is due to catch a B.O.A.C. Number 11 bus tomorrow to Bearwood where he will holiday near the Ivy Bush Riviera with his financial adviser, Miss Delories Enormousones.

Mr. Southam is 3½ and 97.

around

DAY BY DAY

Wednesday, 21st

Pretty Things — Ceda Club, Constitution Hill.
Summer Solstice Concert: Bachdenkel, Tea & Symphony.
 Idle Race. In aid of Good Times. Deb. Hall 3 p.m. -
 12 midnight. Tickets 15p from 3 p.m., 25p from 7 p.m.

Thursday, 22nd

Film Soc: "In the Heat of the Night." Haworth Lecture Theatre.

Friday, 23rd

Aftermath
Canon Hill Film Theatre: "Them." 10.30 p.m.

Sunday, 25th

Aftermath

Monday, 26th

Film Soc: "The Loved One." Haworth Lecture Theatre.

CINEMA

Odeon, New Street: "Buck and the Preacher." L.c.p. 6.45 p.m.

Odeon, Queensway: "Man in the Wilderness." L.c.p. 6.30 p.m. Next week: "The Last Picture Show."

Gaumont: "Ryan's Daughter." L.c.p. 7 p.m. Next week: "Cabaret."

Futurist: "The Four Dimensions of Greta."

Cinephone: "Sex is my Game" and "Virgin Lovers." Retained second week.

Jacey: "She Lost Her You Know What" and "Twisted Girls." L.c.p. 7.40 p.m.

Cannon Hill: "The Anderson Tapes." 7 p.m. all week.

ABC, New Street: "Dirty Harry." L.c.p. 8.05 p.m.

ABC Selly Oak: "The Graduate" and "The Thomas Crown Affair." L.c.p. 6.25 p.m.

Arts Lab: See Theatre and Coming Events.

COMING EVENTS

Film Society: Wed., 28th, "Hands Over The City"; Thurs. 29th, "The Pawnbroker." Haworth Lecture Theatre.

Midlands Art Centre: Peter Watkin's "Privilege," starring Paul Jones.

Alexandra Theatre: "Lock Up Your Daughters." July 4th for two weeks.

Odeon Queensway: Next programme: "Hellstrom Chronicle and "Mephisto Waltz."

Arts Lab: New programme out soon. Includes: "Death in Venice," "The Damned," "The Touch," "Catch 22," "Claire's Knee," "Fahrenheit 451."

THEATRE

Alexandra Theatre: "Sailor Beware." June 20th, for two weeks.

Crescent: "Our Town." Nightly, 7.15 p.m.

Birmingham Repertory: "Dandy Dick." Until June 24th. From Thursday, 29th, "The Real Inspector Hound" and "After Magritte." 7.30 p.m.

Arts Lab: "Mirrors of Chartres Street" by Chameleon Theatre Group. Thursday to Sunday, 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 p.m.

GALLERY

Compendium: Central Gallery, Meg Small. Upper Gallery, various artists. June 20th - July 8th.

Ikon: Birmingham School of Photography Show. June 19th-21st. Gallery closed for moving on June 22nd.

Midlands Arts Centre: Exhibition of furniture.

Birmingham Art Gallery: Midianite Timna.

St. Francis Hall: Work of Keith Deane, Christopher Davies and David James.

AFTERMATH

FRIDAY, 23rd JUNE—

Lunchtime: Free concert with "Jessup."

10.00 p.m. All night concert, £1. Stone The Crows, Brinsley Schwartz, Third Ear Band, Mike Chapman, Viv Stanshall, David Blue. Other attractions—Discos, food, films, sitar and tabla.

SATURDAY, 24th JUNE—

2.00 p.m.: Outdoor free concert with Brinsley again! Help Yourself, John St. Field, Tapestry and Graham Bond.

8.00 p.m.: Indoor free concert with Little Earth, One And On Side Of The Sky.

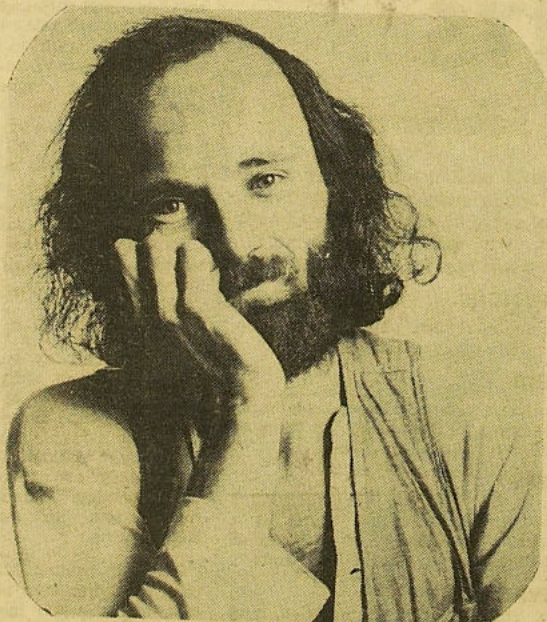
2.30 p.m.: Theatre with "The People Show."

8.30 p.m.: Fancy Dress Disco. 15p if fancy; 20p if straight.

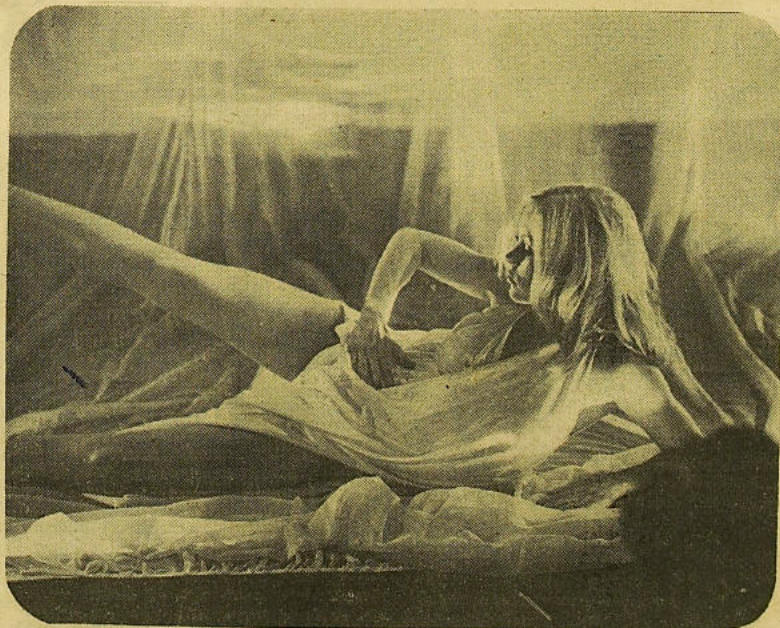
SUNDAY, 25th JUNE—

2.30 p.m.: Theatre with "The Flies Revue."

7.00 p.m.: Peter Watkins film, "Punishment Park." 20p.



Mike Chapman, Aftermath, Friday.



Greta reveals her dimensions at the Futurist.