

STUDENTS IN STORM OVER SLUM ACTION

Research proposals

A MOTION calling for an independent working party "fully representative of all sections and interests within the University, including research staff," was passed recently by a general meeting of the Research Staff Association.

At the same meeting they deplored the secret and arbitrary dismissal of members of the L.S.E. staff, and called for the creation of a social centre for the whole University within the refectory/staff house building, with freer entry of students into staff house.

The Association, which was established last term to give a voice to those members of the University who are neither staff nor students, has 550 members, and makes its decisions by general meetings, which have been on the whole well-attended.

Alty retires

DR. ALTY, the Deputy Principal of the University, is to retire at the end of September. He has been Deputy Principal since 1963, when he came to Birmingham from Rhodes University, South Africa.

Dr. Alty's successor will be Professor Rayner, who is at present Head of the Department of Physical Metallurgy and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The next Dean of the Faculty has not yet been elected.

Enterprise?

The B.B.C. want to make a television film about any student who intends to do something really unusual during this summer vacation. The producer, Derek Smith, says that he is not interested in something as mundane as a journey to India, but wants to hear from anyone working in a little known area of human activity.

A film will be made during the summer vacation and the student asked to add his own commentary and to answer questions in a studio.

Further details are available in the Welfare Centre in the Union. Plans must be sent to Mr. Smith by May 12th.

LATE NEWS

ELECTIONS

"MERMAID": Editor — Paul Sommers; Assistant Editor: Roland Clark.

"REDBRICK": Assistant Editor—John Keetley.



A speaker at last Thursday's Black Power meeting in the Council Chamber.

HALL FEES RISE AGAIN

HALLS fees are to rise again next session, as a result of general increases in the cost of living and particularly in Selective Employment Tax and cost of delivering things to the Vale Site.

Although some people have expressed concern about the rise, both as a matter of principle and because the fees were increased by £13 at the beginning of this session, the general feeling is that the increase, of £3, is not as high as it might be, and that no complaints need be made. Mr. Marshall, in a statement on the increase, said: "The increase of £3 per session instead of £8 has been made possible mainly by economy measures introduced into the Vale Halls last October. Provided these economies continue to work, and with the co-operation of all the residents they can be made to do so, then no further increase in fees is at present anticipated for the following year—1970-71."

Mr. Marshall later explained how these economies, in such fields as porters and kitchen staff, has made the financial position in the Halls easier; however, he was rather worried by the position on staff pay, as cleaners are being paid only 4/6 per hour at the moment, whereas cleaners in other jobs get paid 4/10 per hour. This could necessitate increased pay for such staff.

Due largely to the use of the Halls as conference centres in the vacations, the Vale Site has in fact run at a profit for the first time this year; however, the profit is not large enough to offset the increased cost of living.

Mr. Marshall also commented this week on the rumours that electricity in the Halls is being sold to students at a profit. He said that at the beginning of this session the cost per unit to the student was raised from 2½d. to 3d., a

charge which makes no provision for the upkeep of meters. He answered complaints that meters showed widely-diverging charges for a similar amount of electricity by saying that this happened only in the few cases where meters were faulty.

PHILLIPS TO EXPLAIN

THE Vice-Chancellor has asked Ray Phillips to explain to University Council why he issued information to the Press which Council had agreed to be confidential.

This came after Council had considered the documents on which they based their reaffirmation of the dismissal of Roland Chaplain; these were issued to all Council members, but at the end of the meeting, when the decision had been made, Council decided, in spite of protests by the student representatives there, that the decision should be kept confidential until Roland Chaplain had been informed of it.

Ray Phillips, however, felt that the decision and the documents relating to it should be published, and so, after consulting Roland Chaplain, handed them over to a "Birmingham Post" reporter. He said later: "In my view this was both in the interests of the Guild, which had attempted ab initio to secure a fair hearing for Mr. Chaplain, and the public at large,

by Roland P. Clark

THE threat of court proceedings against Martin Lowe and Gerald Hitman, who on Monday dismantled a City Council exhibition in Concourse Lounge, displaying slum clearance schemes, has been withdrawn. The exhibition, an extensive display of "before and after" photographs and statistics, was invited from the Corporation by the Guild Shelter Group as a complement to their display in the New Entrance Hall.

Yesterday Lowe and Hitman transported the exhibition to an empty council house in Knutsford Street, Balsall Heath, where they invited local slum dwellers to come and view it.

They also sent a letter explaining their action to the Town Clerk. In it they expressed their opinion that the exhibition was misleading to students and was an attempt to sweep the housing problem "under the carpet," and that it would only be possible to see it in a proper critical light when it was accompanied by comments from slum-dwellers.

They had, they said, "the full intention" of returning the exhibition to Concourse yesterday evening.

During the day, a representative of the Birmingham Corporation, R. B. Hunter, and six repair labourers arrived at the house and stated: "We are prepared, if necessary, to

use force to evict you," and that on condition that they left by one o'clock, returned the photos, and issued no statements to the Press, there would be no court action for theft or trespass. Lowe and Hitman refused the third condition, but left the premises and returned the photos, and spent the afternoon in "constructive discussion" with the deputy head of the Housing Department, who later confirmed that no action would be taken.

A motion was brought before Guild Council last night by Ian Nelson, Union Services chairman, which urged Council's acceptance of a definite code of behaviour with regard to future exhibitions in the Union, and contained a clause



Martin Lowe

censuring Martin Lowe and Gerald Hitman for their actions. The censure clause was carried by one vote.

Tony Delves, chairman of the Shelter Group, expressed approval of the concern which had been shown, but said: "I think their motives were no more constructive than a method of drawing attention to themselves."

Gerald Hitman said: "Our action has been an unqualified success—the attention of slum-dwellers has been drawn to the complacency of the City Council, and the large amount of adverse publicity might well shake the corporation into a more honest appraisal of its housing policy."

John Renbourn: peace in the middle of cacophony

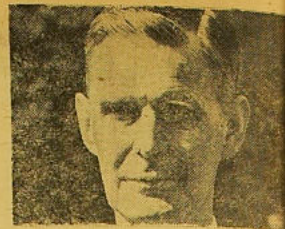
JOHN RENBOURN'S concert in the Deb. Hall on Saturday evening, with Jacqui McShee and Terry Cox, was a peaceful, spellbinding performance, and one which proved, to anyone still unconvinced, that John Renbourn's art has led him into a musical spectrum where traditions have been mere stepping stones. During the interval on Saturday, he talked relaxedly about his work. He abhors the term "progression," and asserts quietly that playing 12-bar blues with a dance band in the early 1960s was as satisfying as the intricately counterpointed mediaeval melodies and gentle 15th century French folk-dance tunes which he is at present arranging and playing in concerts.

Public success during the past three years, both as a solo artist and with the individual musicians known collectively as "The Pentangle," has rewarded him with an

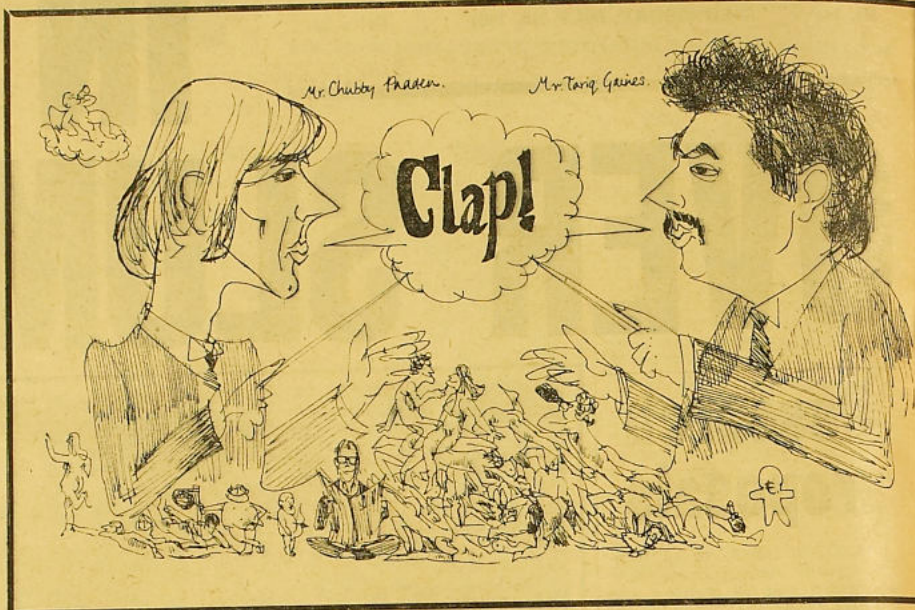
an open recording contract, which means, as he says: "So much of what I like doing is acceptable to the public." Commercial success only makes him happy in that he has an audience for the most divergent products of his own extremely varied musical tastes. John Renbourn is essentially an outward-looking musician, and modestly insists on talking about the people who join in his arrangements and compositions. It is, he says, "rather difficult to come across a hip viol player, but one of the most encouraging things has been the way established musicians like Ray Warleigh (flute) have been able to create and improvise in a line with me."

The quality of understatement is the arresting feature both of John Renbourn and his art. Talking to him, one is aware of the unpretentious dedication of a man who is happy to be doing what he likes, and listening to his music is an experience of peace and gentle yet authoritative expertise in the midst of a contemporary scene which too often produces only raw cacophony.

back to front



Sir Robert Aitken, former Vice-Chancellor, was presented with a portrait of himself, in a ceremony last week Lord Avon, the Chancellor made the presentation.



Sing something awful

When the tears of laughter ceased to flow from the eyes of Messrs. Padden, Humble, Lowrie, Entwistle, Gaines and Seckavz. I, dry-eyed, asked: "Can I see G.T.G. Chairman Booth?" "Who?" replied P.H.L.E.G.&S. (see above). "Alan Booth, the director of..." Six pairs of hands were clapped over my mouth. I reeled backwards until Dave Entwistle dropped his bagpipes to seize a copy of the newly-published Festival Report and continue his desperate search for a good laugh.

ham Padden, neatly slicing his his toenails with a Samurai sword: "Could you put this in 'Redbrick'?" He handed me a publicity photograph of himself with this written on the back: "Will anyone who has written any songs in any style, that they would like performed, bring them to G.T.G. office or get in touch with us personally; it's for our new musical 'CLAP', which we're doing in the Deb. Hall in the last week of term."

"No" I said, neatly avoiding the sword as it closed into the floor.

"But seriously though," said Gra-

With menace in their eyes and bananas in their ears they phoned "Redbrick" office and fed me into the internal telephone.

Victory chips-1984



Nelson's Pride and Joy, the new Chip Machine, fresh from its success on "Tomorrow's World." A non-functioning and smelly eyesore for much of last week, it has recently begun, spasmodically, to excrete greasy chips as well as greasy plastic forks.

REPRESENTATION REJECTED

NOMINATIONS for the Social Science Faculty Committee closed on Monday morning with only nine people standing for a total of 30 places. The committee, set up largely due to the influence of Professor Ferns, is to elect nine of its own members to sit on the Faculty Board.

Meetings have been held throughout the year to draw up a plan for the Committee, and although attendance at these reached a peak during the sit-in, it fell off steadily last term.

One of the nominees said yesterday: "By Friday, only three nominations had been received—this is the result of total apathy in the Faculty. This representation is what the sit-in was all about, but now people are only interested in how much work they are doing for the exams."

Moves have also been going forward this week towards representation in the Arts Faculty. At a meeting last Thursday, the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Davies, discussed with students proposals for representation. The meeting, which only about 50 people attended, voted to accept a motion which allowed for four "observers" to sit on the Faculty Board. The observers cannot attend Board Meetings when confidential business is being discussed, and it will be for the Dean to decide which matters are confidential. On this,

Prof. Davies said: "If I want to fiddle, I can fiddle."

Nominations for one representative from each of six constituencies closed today—hustings will be held tomorrow, and voting on Friday. The six representatives will decide which four of them will sit on Faculty meetings.

GRANTS SURVEY

This week Welfare Committee is conducting a survey of all British Undergraduates in the University to find out how effectively the grants system works. There have been several cases of hardship in the past year due to failings in the grants system in one way or another, and there may well be more of these which are never heard of. It is hoped that the anonymous replies to this survey will provide valuable aid in strengthening the grants system in coming years or until an alternative system of student financing is found which is better for all concerned.

GOURMET FOOD IN THE UNION

PHILIP JOHNSON, an apprentice chef in the Union catering department, has recently won a student prize at the annual awards of the Industrial Catering Association. The prize was for a saddle of lamb and a charlotte russe. Philip is a final-year apprentice and a student at the College of Food.

At the same competition the senior chef, Barry Newell, won a diploma for a decorated ham; Norman Jones, the patissier, won a diploma for a decorated cake, and Mr. Verdegem, the Union catering manager, won a silver cup for bakery and the overall company prize for catering.

At another competition in Leicester over Easter, run by the Association of Caterers, Mr. Verdegem (who, incidentally, is suffering from severe tonsillitis at the moment) won a gold medal for a cold sweet, a silver medal for petits fours, and a bronze medal for a gateau.



Vivien Sting speaking at the E.G.M.

Sting fights repression

A PROPOSAL that students should stop the working of the University on the afternoon of May 1st was demanded at last Thursday's General Meeting. The proposer of the motion, a Miss Vivien Sting, outlined how the dismissals at the L.S.E. and the proposed anti-trade union legislation were all part of the Government's attack on the political rights of students, lecturers and workers. A stoppage of the University would be part of the fight against these repressive measures.

Miss Sting's motion was soon amended beyond recognition, and the discussion moved on to the issue of confidentiality in University government, with special reference to the previous day's action of Ray Phillips, when he made public "confidential" documents.

The 80 people who initially attended the meeting soon lost interest in this discussion, and after half-an-hour the numbers had dwindled to about thirty people, when the meeting was declared inquorate.

The General Meeting which was called for the previous Tuesday to discuss the one-day technicians' strike and the L.S.E. dismissals was even more unlucky and did not achieve a quorum to even start with.

Mr. Roy Weeley, one of the technicians' leaders, told the 40 people who turned up that the technicians were taking this strike action because of prevarication on the part of the University and a failure to meet reasonable pay demands. The informal meeting expressed its support for the technicians, and then moved on to discuss the L.S.E. issue, until it eventually faded out about half-an-hour later.

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FOR INTRODUCTION NOTES CONTACT:
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Dept. of Medical Biochemistry

APOLOGY

AN apology to the "Birmingham Post," which was published in our issue of March 5th in respect of Alan Booth's article "What Really happened at Cannon Hill Park" in the previous issue, retracted remarks defamatory of the "Post" and explained that they should have referred to the "Birmingham Evening Mail."

Alan Booth and "Redbrick" wish to state that the criticism of the production "Quo Vadis" (by the Swiss Treteaux Libres group) which appeared in the "Evening Mail" of February 20th under the heading "Another student view of society" was perfectly fair and ethical.

We withdraw the allegation that the criticism was written in "a deliberately scandalous and over-sensational manner."

We also withdraw the allegation that the news report in the same issue of what occurred on the stage and in the auditorium was "written in a deliberately scandalous and oversensational manner." Mr. Booth and "Redbrick" apologise to the "Evening Mail" and their critic for the slur on their integrity.

TORY CHAIRMAN INJURED

Gramham Frost, Tory Association chairman, narrowly escaped death when his car skidded into a telegraph pole near his home in Surrey during the vacation. He suffered a cracked pelvis and broken ribs but, after being in a critical condition for several hours, his condition improved and it is now hoped that he will be back in Birmingham in two weeks' time.

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There are two different 'Crash Courses'.

1. University Concentrated Course - from 23rd June to 19th September.
2. Other Concentrated Courses are held with frequent entry dates throughout the year.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gerontocrats' Pall Mall carve-up

MADAM,—The concern shown in academic circles at the dismissal of two lecturers from the L.S.E. reflects an unwillingness to recognise the fact that universities can easily dispose of their ideological enemies without recourse to the formal disciplinary procedure.

Lecturers who display unwelcome political views do not need to be dismissed—their contracts need not be renewed. When they lose their job at one university, who is to say that their future prospects are not decided by the academic gerontocracy enshrined in the Smoke Room of the Athenaeum?

The position of students is often worse. One of the "secret" documents seen during last year's occupation was an application to take a Master's degree which was glossed with the candidate's previous political activities. Why is this information collected if it is not to be used in the selection process?

During the occupation medical students were told that if they joined it they would not receive testimonials. This threat came from one professor, but who does not know of similar threats made in Engineering, or Chemistry, or wherever?

Two years ago a first-year student was allowed to refuse his examinations as the reason for his failure was the amount of work he had done for the Conservative Association. Can one imagine this latitude being given this year to a student who had been working for the Ad Hoc Group? This example came from the Law Department but is it confined to an isolated instance?

I have enumerated three simple examples of methods the authorities have used without invoking the publicity of the official disciplinary procedure.

If their attitude to political opposition is reflected by the threats that were made by so many Professors during the occupation, then who can have any confidence in the way they choose to mark the examination papers? One might expect them to be partisan in deciding whether to allow re-sits, but who is to deny categorically that discreet words have not already been had in Pall Mall, and that external examiners do not recognise the great danger of allowing certain individuals to remain in the Universities?

Promotion to senior posts in the university have traditionally been immersed in intrigue and rumour-mongering, and one example this year shows to what depths this process can fall. Who can have any confidence that this procedure will not be used as a discreet alternative to the discipline committee?

When the authorities are threatened what does one expect from reactionary professors? When the Vice-Chancellor is the sort of man who will cheat his own Senate, to what level would he not stoop to rid himself of a tiresome student?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON MANDEL.



Black magic on the Lickey Hills: the picture of the happenings which caused a stir at the end of last term. Was it a hoax? asked the Aston "Sun" this week. But they never answered the question.

Aesthetic pleasure with the coffee

MADAM,—I have noticed that in spite of the redecorations in the coffee bar and other parts of the Union during the Easter vacation, no attempt has been made to expunge the mural in Founder's.

I gather that this mural was painted on the condition that it was not removed; however, it is very tasteless, and is one of the worst examples of modern art I have ever seen. At least, if the Union hierarchy think that we need modern art with our coffee and sandwiches, they might provide something aesthetically pleasing.

I therefore request that this mural be painted over at the earliest opportunity, and that if the authorities really want us to imbibe art with our food, they provide something which both pleases the eye and educates the artistic sensibility.

Yours sincerely,
PRUDENCE MIDDLETON.

Facade of concern

MADAM,—One is often suspicious of those more vociferous of our brethren who, as the occasion arises, see fit to unleash their glib tongues and harangue the crowds gasping with admiration below (that's you and me).

Of course, when there's a scarcity of issues they make one. Take for instance the matter of an exhibition held in Concourse Lounge this week, contributed by the City Housing Department.

Messrs. Hitman and Lowe, the first famed for his performance during the sit-in, the second affectionately known as the Union non-entity, decided that in case you were deceived by the machinations of the Housing Department, a little adaptation was necessary.

In true authoritarian style the exhibition, which had taken a day to erect, was thoughtfully removed by them on the pretext that it was "biased."

The arrogance with which these two (the Union's answer to Laurel and Hardy?) presume to judge what is good for people to see is a bitter indictment of that fine talk of participation and democracy which enthralled us last November.

The twins obviously have a highly individualistic sense of participation. The exhibition was designed to show housing developments in Birmingham but we don't need these two colourful incoherents to tell us that large twilight areas still characterise much of the city—in search of evidence they had to go no further than the "Shelter" stall in the entrance hall, many of whose pictures were taken in Birmingham!

They have infringed the freedom of expression and the property-rights of others. And why? Behind a shallow facade of concern, to cause the maximum of inconvenience and the maximum attention for themselves. In my opinion, on the backs of paupers the lean and hungry one and the meagre tiny one have made a bit for self-glorification.

Sincerely yours,
TONY DELVES,
Chairman, Shelter Group.

The next edition of "REDBRICK" will be on Wednesday, June 18th, and readers are invited to submit letters for that edition.

Representation; Masturbation

MADAM,—At last a group of radicals have told the University authorities exactly where to get off. After passing motions and convening meetings for nearly two terms, the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science found it had the ultimate in confrontation issues. The stirrers and even the ideological socialists had persuaded a sacred majority to back a "responsible," "militant" demand for student representation on Faculty committees.

The majority became aroused at the obstruction of the Board, gently freaked out when Senate intervened, and was whipped into its final, apocalyptic and orgasmic frenzy by the consistent penetration of so many "Redbrick" column inches.

What could happen after this? Human passion and depravity can go only so far. Did the authorities expect love as well? What they wanted was confrontation: they wanted to take over from the old and impotent. They wanted power and could only get it if they could find an excuse for the fight.

So now the authorities have been told exactly what a majority of the Faculty think of representation. Power—fine; a decent fight—fine; representation—masturbation.

Let the authorities remember to keep the dialectic open. As for the students: remember: remember the fifth of November.

With a firm handshake,
D.M.V.
(name and address supplied).

GTG MINSTELS GO WANDERING

IN September of this year, a new theatre project is planned to go into rehearsal. It is a full-time touring company which aims to present its repertoire of experimentally-directed classical plays both in this country and on the

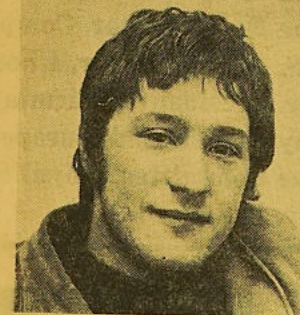
The project is the work mainly of people who have been concerned during the last three years with drama at Birmingham University, and who have appeared in many G.T.G. and Drama Dept. productions. The members include Alan Booth, Colin Higgins, Dave Gay, Bill Hindle, Bob Nicholson, Maggie Ainley, Judy Seymour and Nick Hart, as well as actors from drama schools and other colleges and universities.

There are few companies concerning themselves with full-time serious work on English plays aimed at foreign audiences, presented in such a way that the plays become a part of theatre now—as opposed to the kind of antiquarian exercises in Elizabethan drama that one mostly associates with modern productions of Shakespeare. From this point of view, one would have expected good support for the project, but up to now it has been slow in coming.

The Arts Council and the British Council are so constituted that they cannot experiment with new ideas, only perpetuate old ones. Most of the large charity trusts are content to watch their resources accumulate interest in bank vaults and finance expense accounts, instead of putting the money to the use for which it was originally intended.

The attempts to finance Theatre Export for one year, requiring an estimated, incredibly low, figure of eight thousand pounds, have thrown into sharp relief the manner in which arts resources in this country are used.

Perhaps the situation will change when the people who hold the purse strings realise that art cannot stand still: that it must progress, and that it cannot progress without new ideas, new experiments, and new companies being formed. The members of THEATRE EXPORT hope that the situation changes before September.



Alan Booth

Continent, in any theatre or educational establishment interested in seeing them. The company, consisting of eighteen actors, actresses and technical staff, is THEATRE EXPORT

ST. FRANCIS HALL

LOOKING for peace and space to work? The old chapel in St. Francis Hall has now been converted into a library and reading room with study space for 50, and is open to all members of the Guild. Entrance through new doors, down one flight of steps and through door, or through old entrance and down stairs.

You have enough to worry about. So we don't ask for bank charges.

The biggest cloud on the horizon for a student (apart from examinations) is money. A grant is difficult to live on.

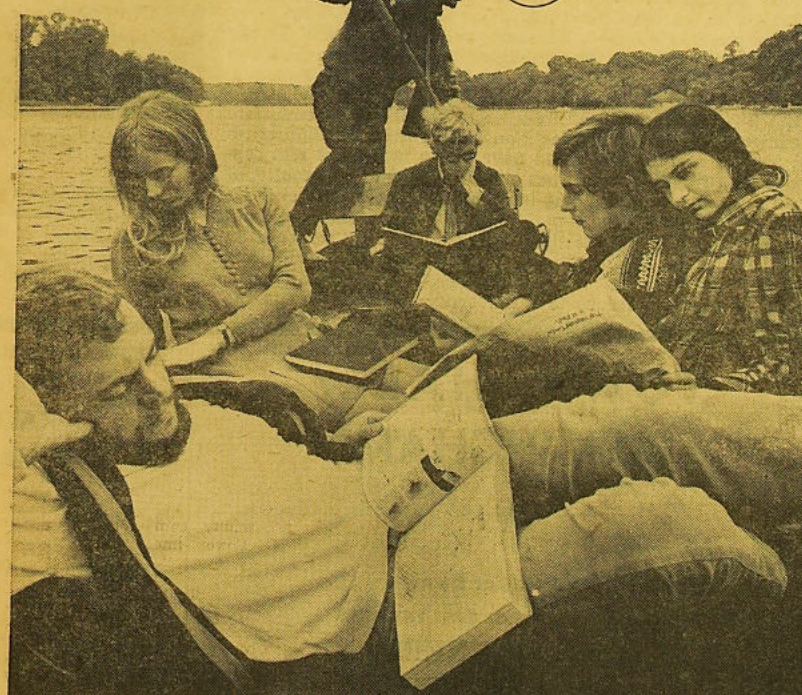
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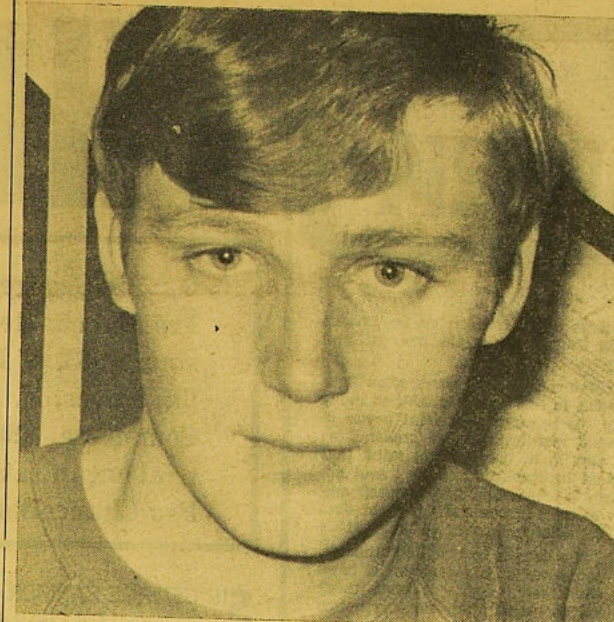
University of Birmingham branch: New Refectory block. Manager: Mr. H. E. Tonks.

FUZZ BUST TORY

POLICE showed unnecessary violence on removing 40 demonstrators from the South African Airways office in Manchester on the morning of Friday, April 11th. The sitters-in, who were protesting against apartheid, were all member of the S.C.M. Congress "Response to Crisis," called to consider the problems of race and poverty in the Third World.

At a morning session in Manchester's Free Trade Hall one of the leaders of the demonstration made an appeal for support; however, most of the 1,400 delegates remained in their seats. Tony Page, a final year student at Birmingham, after speaking against this particular form of protest, went to observe the demonstration and was himself thrown forcibly out of the office by the police. "I saw two demonstrators punched in the face and students, both male and female, removed by violent tugs on their hair and clothing," he said. "There was no need for such violent treatment."

Over 1,000 students took part in a ten-minute silent vigil outside the S.A.A. office the following morning as a protest both against apartheid and police behaviour. The Congress itself was attended by a forty-strong delegation of Birmingham students, and was addressed by Ronald Segal, Helda Camara (the revolutionary Brazilian archbishop) and other well known speakers. One outcome of the Congress has been the formation of a Haslemere group in Birmingham, designed to highlight the problems facing the developing nations.



Rod Playford, next year's Vice-President, who was elected unopposed this week.

CONFLICT OUSTS ENTS COMM.

THE conflict between Events Comm. and Entertainments Comm. has caused Internal Affairs chairman, Elvin McDavid, to propose the elimination of the latter as a separate unit of the Guild. This move is said to have arisen because of a duplication of functions which has resulted in "a high degree of inefficiency."

In his memorandum on the projected integration, McDavid stated that "due to the setting-up of Events

Committee, there has been a considerable reduction in the functions of Ent. Comm., bringing about the redundancy of more than half its operatives and invalidating its existence as a separate entity."

It was stated at Guild Council in March that a merger of the two committees would be favourable, and consequently a joint committee has been formed. If the venture is successful, the necessary constitutional changes will be proposed at the end of this term.

Personal Column

FLAT wanted for September. Three bedrooms pref., near University.—Contact Anne Griffiths via Union or Cassa Pigeon Holes.

MAYNARD has got W.E. VOX Guitar for sale, crappy condition through lousy playing. Cost £100 new, worth 10/- Any offers.—CAL 2706.

SCARD is Dead! Or is it?—Contact M. Bush if you know via U.P.H.

HELLO Norman Walker.

CHEAPEST and QUICKEST Photocopying on the campus.—New Entrance Hall, Union—6d., 6d., 6d., per copy.

IRON and Ironing Board available in Ladies' Basement.

BALLS, Balls, Ball—Tennis Balls are available Free of Charge from Union Reception.

TIGHTS, Tights, Tights—On Sale from Ladies' Cloakroom in the Union.

BARN Dance—7.45 p.m. on Sunday at Catholic Chaplaincy, 29 Harbours Road. All welcome.

PLEASE return "Lamp-post on Limits" via Pigeon Holes. Last copy.

MANOR House Croquet Team require fixtures.—Apply G. Weir.

PETE Ullathorne wishes to thank Festival for their contribution to his financial stability.

COMPETITOR or Spectator? Either way you will see a good afternoon's sport at the Motor Club Driving Tests, Sunday, May 18th. See Noticeboard for details.

GET away from work for a day with the Motor Club. All-day Treasure Hunt, Sunday, May 11th. See noticeboard for details.

WANT to show the experts how it's done? Compete in the Motor Club Driving Tests on Sunday, May 18th. See noticeboard for details.

GRANTS matter! Return the Survey.

SUE and Margaret, Sue and Liz, help now and after exams? Chris.

LOOK in departmental P.H.s for Grant Survey.

PLUMDUFFERS unite and overthrow the wackling reactionaries.

ARE you a Plumduff?

ARE you a Plumduff?

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UNIVERSITY

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REDBRICK

There are too many examples of students being trodden on by various factions both outside and inside the Universities at the moment, and Birmingham is no exception.

The Press is the first example of this; well-meaning reporters often have their stories twisted by editors anxious to link students with as many evils as possible. Even in spite of the upsurge of student power in the last few years, and the obvious manifestation of students as members of society with a role to play in it, they tend to think that students can be intimidated and kept in check by threats. And unfortunately, as students in the main are badly-off, badly-housed and badly-fed, there is a grain of truth in this: life on £360 per year does tend to sap one's resistance when financial loss could be involved.

Landladies are another group of people who delight in crushing students, and because their relationship with students is on a commercial basis they have an even stronger hold over them. Some of them think nothing of such irresponsible actions as giving their tenants notice just to keep them in order, and then withdrawing it when they realise the financial loss involved.

Likewise insurance companies and other similar organisations who demand higher payments from students than from people who differ in no way other than that they are not students.

Within the University, too, there are examples of students being treated with less respect than they have a right to. Examples of this are well known—the representation questions, the idea which is only beginning to be forced out of the minds of the University elders that students are children, but dangerous children who should not be given anything except imitation power, disguised as representation without voting rights, or committee membership as long as they withdraw while the matters which do not concern them are discussed in private. Sir George Farmer, in the "Redbrick" interview on this page, sees no need for everything to be discussed in the open—for him confidentiality is an automatic part of his life.

With this kind of attitude how are we ever going to get our points across to the Administration other than by enforcing our ideals by ignoring the Council requests which conflict with them. Sir George Farmer, in fact, typifies everything in the Administration against which the students have been fighting—complacency, capitalism, unjustified authority and patronisation; he is not to blame for this, but it is a situation which will persist until principles of University government change radically.

ONCE again the University is becoming deadened by the mass-hysteria of the pre-exam period, when ideals are temporarily masked by frenzied work in order to get "a good degree," to be, after all, a product of the system.

It is invariably said that nothing happens in the summer term, which is regrettable when one thinks of all the groundwork for the next session which might be done; and this lack of happenings is due entirely to exams. There have been many arguments made against exams, of which the least convincing is, perhaps, that some people are not suited to the exam system; this can scarcely be true, as anybody who can get to a university must be reasonably competent in exam technique.

However, exams are not, on the whole, desirable, as they make for a very uneven stress-distribution over the year, and often they attempt to assess subjects which are wholly unsuitable for conventional examination. If the universities are determined to have some kind of assessment, they must carefully reconsider which subjects can be properly assessed by the traditional type of exam, which can be tested by extended exams or exams to which one is allowed to take books, and which subjects cannot be assessed by anything except long-term assessment.

Continual assessment has drawbacks, too, of course; it would crucify the academic chances of those many people who are involved in what are rather narrowly-mindedly termed "extra-curricular pursuits," and who prefer to do their work at their own convenience than at the convenience of their department. For these people the pre-exam vacuum is necessary, while the present system exists, but how much better if it didn't have to happen at all.

There finally remains the possibility that everyone who can survive three years at university deserves a degree for sheer nervous stamina—perhaps not the criterion for awarding degrees, but a factor which certainly deserves consideration.

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THE FACE OF POWER

Sir George Farmer, born Bridgnorth 1908, educated Oxford High School. Trained chartered accountant, joined the Rover Motor Company 1940. Chairman since 1963, of Rover, England; Rover, S. Africa; Rover, Rhodesia; Rover, Australia; Rover, N. America; Deutsche Rover. President, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce 1960-61, member of many British and European Trade and Industrial organisations; Chairman, Executive Committee, Royal Shakespeare Theatre; Pro-Chancellor, Birmingham University. Knighted 1968.

SIR GEORGE FARMER looks like the company chairman he is—well-fed, well-dressed, aware of his position as chairman of a world-wide motor company and Pro-Chancellor of this University. In a relaxed atmosphere, over an afternoon cup of tea, he talked to "Redbrick" about the University, and its relationship to industry; he talked confidently, and more openly than students might expect of a man in his position.

Leaning back in his chair, and smoking his pipe, Sir George talked about the government of the University and his job as chairman of University Council—a job which takes the better part of one day in every week for him. Although University Council is finally responsible to the Court of Governors, he is not without power; as he said: "I'm just a chairman, I suppose. I like to think I'm a chairman who takes an active interest in what is going on... I think if you are a chairman who does take an active interest you have the power which is usually associated with an intelligent chairman."

He then went on to talk of Council's responsibility for the administration of the University and its relationship to Senate; he was very anxious to point out that Council does not like to intrude on what he regards as the rightful preserves of Senate—"the real work that goes on in the University, of educating people, and research, and the search after knowledge." However, in the event of disagreement it is Council who have the power; Sir George said: "While we would listen most sympathetically to Senate's recommendations, it is finally Council who have the last word." Although this actuality is often masked, put in the form of advice rather than orders: "I always have to bear this in mind, that when I am chairing a Council meeting my function there as counsel is to aid, and help, and guide, and give advice."

Changing the subject from his own role in the University to that of the students, he commented on a "Redbrick" editorial of last October which called for adequate student representation on Senate and Council, and which pointed out that the University should not continue to treat its like children. It also stressed the importance of "Student Role" as a start towards the establishment of a true "academic community"; Sir George talked about "Student Role," which he thought "a very carefully thought-out and a very full and well-researched document on the student role," and he carefully emphasised the willingness of Council to discuss these proposals with an open mind and in an atmosphere of openness with the students. Council, he said, "willingly conceded 95 per cent of the demands of 'Student Role,'" and he thought this was quite fair.

But Sir George is not entirely happy about the current state of relations between the students and the University administration; he said ruefully: "I would have hoped that there will continue to be a situation, which has always existed until recently, of mutual trust and understanding in each other's point of view." He dislikes the division of the University into factions, and so did not divide the case for representation of the technical and clerical staff from the case for representation of non-professional staff and students, who, he said, "are almost there." Fragmentation, he stressed, is disadvantageous to a university: "Universities in the



SIR GEORGE FARMER

future will function more fully and to better advantage if they are fully representative in shades of opinion." He pointed out that Council could not be expected to accommodate every shade of opinion, but that it should take account of any reasonable, intelligent point of view, and thus welcomed students. However, he made it clear that the University charter has always

provided for a measure of student representation, beginning with representation on the Court of Governors and now fully implemented; he said that if the Charter were changed neither he nor University Council would object to full student representation, but "we have gone as far as the laws will permit us... there has to be order in these things."

Order is, in fact, one of Sir George's key principles; as a businessman he likes precision, and this is one of the reasons why he prefers student representatives on Council not to be mandated, as the fulfilling of the mandate takes so much extra time. It is his eagerness for efficiency, also, which makes him favour confidentiality in committees—if all the discussion were done in the open there would be, in his opinion, much unnecessary haggling. He seemed to understand that young people are often suspicious of authority, but even then he said: "I don't understand this great cry for everything to be debated in the open—I don't think it gets you anywhere... a lot of the trouble in the world today is that everything is done too much in the open."

Sir George made a number of comparisons between the University and industry, and between his job as Rovers' chairman and his job as Pro-Chancellor; they do not seem to conflict much, although the handling of a board of directors was, he said, rather different from the handling of Council in that a board of directors has a more absolute power. He went on to talk about the position of businessmen and industry in a University, particularly in the light of the increasing proportion of universities' money which is coming from private enterprise.

He said that never in his experience had an industrialist given money to the University expected to have any control over it—that the money was given, quite rightly, entirely for the good of the University. The question was raised of whether businessmen were the best people to run a university; Sir George said: "No, I'm a very humble fellow. I wouldn't say I'm the best," and went on to explain, "a fair sprinkling of business people is not a bad thing. I believe this is what the Universities Grants Committee feel," and that a Council of "disinterested business experts" was really advantageous to the University. He also said that the present method of control of the universities under Royal Charter at a time when the question of University structure was in the melting-pot was infinitely preferable to strict Government control.

Opposition to Government control was not a point which Sir George emphasised, but he did come out strongly in favour of freedom: "Nevertheless there is a certain code of behaviour which one has got to observe; and this is the only place at which I draw the line—I'll fight for free speech and the right for everybody to say what they feel." He said that although he might not agree with everyone's opinions, they still had the right to express them; this tolerance came out again when he talked about his disadvantage within the University in not being an academic; "I'm perhaps a little bit of a philistine; I'm not an academic—I'm all in favour of teaching people how to live," which includes learning how to make decisions and to administer them when made. This is perhaps why he thinks that the ideal combination for university administration is one of academic and business qualifications.

From his comments on his job as Pro-Chancellor, it is obvious that Sir George regards it with loyalty, and with an affectionate sense of duty. He fully supports the Vice-Chancellor, and said that the University was very fortunate to have a man like Dr. Hunter as Vice-Chancellor; so the alliance between Senate and Council seems firmly cemented, at least from the point of view of their respective chairmen.

ROGER KELLY AND
JENNY WICKHAM
INTERVIEW
SIR GEORGE FARMER
(PRO-CHANCELLOR OF BIRMINGHAM
UNIVERSITY)

YOUNG BUMLEY

The incomparable Martin

THERE was a motion tabled for last night's Guild Council calling for our disaffiliation from N.U.S. This would save us £2,000 a year, which could presumably be spent more profitably on bigger and better plant pots for the Sports Centre. It would also of course be a public disavowal of N.U.S. policies, which for many years have appeared to have been formulated by a group of half-witted apes with the mentality of retired colonels. Even last year for this reason, and a world-shattering effect that has had I must say.

But of course, as our intrepid reporter is writing elsewhere, N.U.S. has changed leadership, and conference procedure, and a new era is promised. And most important, our own Raymond Phillips has been elected to the new swinging Executive. It won't look very good for him if his own Union dis-

affiliates, and so it is a fair bet that his own not inconsiderable influence will be exerted towards staying in. And with the apparent new look of N.U.S. most of Guild Council will vote with him.

Apparently Martin Lowe, who is proposing the motion, is doing so on the grounds that Conferences are just excuses for all the delegates to have a good time on expenses, a thesis for which there is ample evidence.

This year the Birmingham delegation were especially noted for their activities, which included dancing on the tables of an Indian restaurant, pelting the president of Liverpool Union with fire buckets, and removing doors. Their piece de resistance was a poor imitation of Isadora Duncan at the Metropolitan Hotel, when they hurled a bed from a seventh-storey window. And whose bed was it? Why Martin Lowe's of course!

The ultimate irony

Elvin McDavid, who over the years has often expressed the opinion that one P. Ullathorne, ex-editor of "Redbrick," is not his favourite person, probably because of certain articles in the said newspaper described by the aforesaid McDavid as "attacks," received a most chastening experience last week. He was forced to present Pete Ullathorne with a cheque for £50, won in the Carnival Competition.

Ullathorne, out of malicious spite,

had prophesied a ludicrously small amount for the Carnival street collection, some half of that collected in previous years. After the adding-up he was found to be one of the ten people whose tickets were closest to the actual amount—about £890.

Throughout the vacation McDavid looked for technicalities on which to disqualify the presumptuous editor, but alas! 'twas all in vain! And Ullathorne laughed all the way to the bank.

Hitman's folly

Tired of having to work through the revisionist organ "Redbrick," Gerald Hitman has decided to start his own radical newspaper. An eight-page weekly, he reckons he can sell it for sixpence and break even. It'll be socialist, serious and readable (none of which one really

expects from Hitman) and will be a serious rival to "Redbrick."

However, his estimated sale of 1,000 is probably optimistic, and in any case can hardly match up to our own 3,500. Anyway, we're all waiting in eager anticipation for the first issue. I expect you are too.

Occult hoax

Anyone who saw the "Daily Mail" early in the year, with its story of Black Magic at this University, may be surprised to hear that the whole thing was a hoax.

The "Mail's" reporters, in the form of Harrigan and Powell, "Redbrick's" resident greasy hacks, were

taken for a ride, literally, to the Lickies, where they were allowed to photograph a "ceremony," specially prepared for them, complete with chickens and Woolworths candles. They are now looking for Jeremy Laurance, Chairman of the Occult Society, screaming for blood and vengeance.

Bakunin, turn in your grave

Overheard at an E.G.M. in the first week of term. One noted anarchist to another: "You know,

we anarchists are going to have to get organised."

Bumley

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N.U.S. IN LIVERPOOL

The Spring Conference of N.U.S. will be looked on for years to come as a turning point for the Union. It was remarkable not so much for what it achieved in concrete terms as for the change of attitude and purpose which became obvious as the conference progressed. To a great extent this was a conference which swept away the cobwebs of the Union, and created the conditions for future development by not only rejecting the bureaucratic Establishment as personified by Trevor Fisk for the "radical" student, Jack Straw, but also doing away with the corruptible M.T.V. voting system, and abolishing the outdated restrictions on the Union's aims which had previously effectively emasculated discussion at Conferences.

Spring Conference opened on a hot, sweaty day in Liverpool University Union. The Executive, in a long row on the stage, wore shades to eliminate the glare from the floodlights burning down from the ceiling of the vast, smoke-filled Mountford Hall, where 1,000 delegates and observers sat, red-faced and perspiring.

The opening address by Trevor Fisk was surprisingly progressive, but it became obvious that many present had heard it before, basically it was a speech that had been made at a conference of Union Presidents in March, by Ray Phillips. In total contrast this was followed by a very moving, sad speech by a representative of the Czechoslovakian Students' Union, who spoke of the hopes that Czech students still had that democratic socialism could be introduced eventually. He received a standing ovation when he left the rostrum, and one felt, somehow, that this conference was already showing signs of being different from the past.

Triumph

The second day was absorbed almost totally by elections. They must have resulted in the most interesting Executive for about 15 years, when the last Communist sat on it. But the most important result was the election of Jack Straw.

The consequences of his election were not really a victory for his policies, for it became obvious during the conference that he still followed the Executive/Establishment/moderate educational policies of previous administrations. It was a triumph for those who want a student of their generation there; a man who belongs to the age group of the great majority of the Union's members, rather than, as with Geoff Martin, a man clearly a whole student generation before the present.

Aspirations

Jack Straw represented the radical leader of a large University Union with the experience and knowledge of today's student problems, needs and aspirations. Many of those who supported him were disappointed when he followed the Executive line during the conference, when they had expected him to live up to his Press tag "militant." But Straw does at least represent a much more conscious union membership, more aware of educational and social problems and more concerned to try to provide

answers to them.

His election should not have surprised the old hands of N.U.S.; it was the culmination of so many stage-managed conferences where the seeds of frustration were sown. Particularly it was a reaction against the abortive Margate conference last November, which was a total waste of everybody's time. The "establishment" was now reaping the results of the pent-up resentment of so many years.

by
Pete Ullathorne

One of the most memorable events of the conference was the art colleges' "happening," as it was dubbed by the Press. The scenes of disorder must surely be unparalleled; the whole floor of the conference erupted in an orgy of streamer-throwing, shouting, dancing and whistle-blowing as Roger Jeram, from Hornsey, came to the end of a beautiful, rambling speech

which raised terrifyingly fundamental questions about education and society.

Even Trevor Fisk was prevailed on to rather sheepishly blow up a balloon, but he was not part of the mood that had engendered this demonstration.

Irrelevance

For the organisers, the happening symbolised the emptiness and irrelevance of the conference to them and to many students. This gesture would certainly have been appropriate at many previous conferences, but one felt that they underestimated the advances being made there in Liverpool. The same can be said of the Birmingham delegation and their rather meaningless and pathetic walkout from the final session.

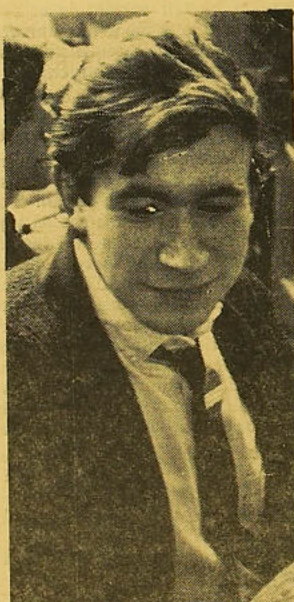
The most important aspect of the conference must be that it engendered a feeling of hope. Hope that with a more representative leadership and perhaps better communication with the rank and file members, the Union may develop into leading the "student movement" rather than, as many speakers said, fighting it. Hope, too, that it can develop into the educational forum that many see as its most important function; a start was made in this direction, maybe because the luxurious surroundings of the Students' Union built in the midst of some of Britain's most appalling slums had some effect upon the conference's collective conscience.

Social context

Certainly student problems were beginning to be put in their social context; however, it is doubtful if plenary sessions of conference are or can be effective means of achieving anything really meaningful.

There is to be a special one-day conference to discuss the future of education later this term, a measure of the concern that is generally felt, but what can come out of it is difficult to assess. What one can say, though, as far as Birmingham is concerned is that disaffiliation must now be a non-issue; the prevailing mood of N.U.S. remains basically moderate-centrist in education, slightly left in politics.

There has to be some national organisation of students, and if it goes forward in the way I think it will, then N.U.S. is going to be with us, and us with it, for a long time to come.



Ray Phillips, elected to N.U.S. Executive.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

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POP

FOLKJOKEOPUS. ROY HARPER. LIBERTY RECORDS.

THE thing you've got to admire most about Roy Harper is his blatant ruggedness in his disregard for the gentle art of quiet persuasion. The sheer force and energy of his performances on this second LP never lets you merely sit back and listen. His harsh voice, which so often becomes akin to a high-pitched funeral wail, claws fiercely at his subject, primed by strong words which are embittered with the

disillusionment of society and life in general.

But it's not all grit and spit. There are softer phrases when Harper feelingly sings to his guitar, although he never attains the composure and poise of an Al Stewart in his singing or a John Renbourn in his playing. Nevertheless, this is not his main concern—he doesn't want to soften the blow.

"McGoonah's Blues" is probably the record's focal point. The first movement, with its strong and simple single guitar backing, is a powerful protest again man with an intriguing juxtaposition of a wild prey of omniscient nature. After over ten minutes of this style, there

comes a striking and literally shocking transition. The mood suddenly changes when the beat is stepped up and piano, bass and drums join in. This is the highlight of the whole album.

One other outstanding asset of this collection is the "joke opus" part. This is where Harper revels in his rough, offbeat humour which so distinguishes him as an accomplished entertainer on "Manana" and "Exercising Joke Control." Yet it is never just one big laugh because Harper has always got so much to say—and most of it is worth hearing.

JOHN KEETLEY

THEATRE

TONY ROBINSON'S production of "The Good Soldier Schweik" at Cannon Hill is taken from the novel of the same name by the Czech writer Jaroslav Hasek. Realising, perhaps, that few of the audience would have tackled this saga—which runs to four volumes—some notes had been provided that stressed the importance of Schweik as "the little man," a Chaplinesque figure blundering his way through an ugly background of over-bureaucratism and political strife.

It was then something of a surprise to find that one was in the middle of a production that was almost a musical. This seemed a curious over-simplification of the ideas, for musicals tend to bring out the comedy of a piece while serious ideas run the risk of emerging hopelessly sentimentalised.

Here the production was loaded on the comic side and occasionally

ran to burlesque with a number "Sarajevo at the Seaside"—led by the Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Schweik is initially seen in his digs rubbing embrocation into his knees as a cure for rheumatism. A series of misunderstandings leads him in and out of prison until he finally joins up in a wheelchair after war breaks out.

Schweik—bow-legged, popeyed and with a slightly pregnant gait—is propelled through the play by a series of metaphorical kicks from his superiors, and in the final scene he is back at the local pub, happily eating sausages, completely unaltered by experience.

The light-headed method of presentation emphasises Schweik's complete unconcern with the moral and intellectual issues of the war. It is easier for him to admit to the murder of the Archduke and be certified insane than to stand up for his rights as an individual. His companion in jail states: "I'd rather have my life, and stuff yer bloomin' liberty," so the war is treated as a national sport and casualties are announced in the

manner of football results.

Such is Schweik's philosophy. Very little else emerges from this production, which is lively and colourful but falls, nonetheless, between two stools. It needs the songs and music to give continuity to the fragmented scenes, but they are not really good enough to provide the production with the greater unity it requires, and often strike one as more improbable and misplaced than the worst of Gilbert and Sullivan.

There are, however, a number of rewarding characterisations: Andrew Manley as Schweik himself; the drunken chaplain, Tony Kenway, who doubles as an uncouth and hungry corporal; and the villainous plain-clothes agent Bretschneider, who insinuates himself into a number of unlikely places, including a ladies' sewing circle. "There's more in this than meets the eye" is his motto, though this cannot be said of the whole entertainment which is presented at a generally light and superficial level.

JESSAMY SAUNDERS

HENRY DUMOLO'S NEEDLESS ALLEY RAG

THE second issue has now miraculously appeared, and

beneath the purple cover lies a really good magazine. The poetry, which has been gathered in from the far corners of Birmingham, varies widely in style, tone, depth and quality. The occasional poem should perhaps have been used in a poetry reading, rather than a magazine, the beautiful drawing by Ian Trevor Brown is mutilated by his poem and Brian McGarrett's "Three For the Road" is needlessly long, but most of the poetry works, and there are some outstanding moments. Reproduced for your delight is "Haku," by A. Smith:—
Like a cut finger

FILMS

ROMAIN GARY'S "The Birds Come To Die In Peru" has, at long last flown into Birmingham; its corpse is on view all this week at the Cinephone.

"Birds" is a dreary and pretentious mess, in which the clash of symbols is positively denying. Having adapted his own short story for the screen, Gary chose to direct it as well (his directorial debut) and cast his wife, Jean Seberg, in the title role (yes, the title role—I warned you about that symbolism, didn't I?).

The setting of the film is an isolated stretch of sand somewhere in Peru. Seberg plays a nymphomaniac who, in the course of a world tour, tries desperately to find someone capable of "breaking the ice."

Never overly nice about particulars, Seberg is willing to try anything—men, women, it makes no difference. (At one point in the film, she kneels down in front of a huge bird perched calmly on a rock, and for one horrifying, mind-boggling moment I nearly thought that she might literally try anything.)

The "story" itself is mildly preposterous. Seberg makes love, is befriended by a local brothel-keeper (how convenient for there to be a brothel on this isolated stretch of sand), makes love again, is befriended by a hermit (how convenient, too, that everyone in Peru happens to be a French expatriate), makes love again, etc., etc.

Despite the emphasis on sex, the film is in no way erotic—unless your idea of kicks is watching someone straining away like hell to have an orgasm.

The film's major flaw, however, is Gary's trying to endow his slight tale with the quality of myth. Maybe it worked in the short story—it fails drastically in the cinema. The symbols are heavy-handed, the dialogue is ludicrous, the visual emphasis is hilariously over-pointed—and, most damning of all, Seberg is simply too limited an actress to cope with the demands made on her.

What a long way she's come from her disastrous debut in Preminger's "Saint Joan"—now she has the distinction of being totally wooden and incompetent in two languages!

On the same bill: "Two Weeks In September," with Brigitte Bardot.

HERSH ZEIFMAN

"CANDY" (Odeon this week) is a cinematic mess. The makers had some great material to start with in the original novel, some very well-known names appear on the credits (Marlon Brando, James Coburn, Richard Burton to name but a few), they give some great performances as well, but the net result is liable to turn any watching anarchist green with a very considerable envy.

Obviously the movie catalogues Candy's fall from innocence after her ethereal arrival on this sex-obsessed world. Personally I don't believe she's all that innocent to start with—clutching her virginal white dress very possessively to her bosom, implies at least she is corrupt enough to be aware of modesty.

Spraying out half-serious comments on the American social scene with all the subtlety of a cannon shot, the film follows Candy through this wicked world; a series of adventures totally unrelated to each other—some of them hilarious little cameos in their own right;

Your absence, not mortal but brushed every minute.

There is a great improvement in the standard of articles. The reviews of the Jon Hiseman's Colosseum's new album, and of Wadja's trilogy are intelligent and well-written, but the real achievement is the review of Bunting's "Brigflats." This is what "Dumolo" should be doing, printing articles of interest about poetry that are unlikely to be printed elsewhere.

Anyway, it's worth one and six of anybody's money.

PAUL SOMMERS

but ill-fitting jagged pieces of movie when viewed collectively.

Eventually the amazingly perceptive conclusion that everyone wants sex is hammered out to an audience already bemused by what has gone before.

Ewa Aulin as Candy performs extremely well in the face at some really formidable opposition—poor girl she didn't really deserve all that happens—but James Coburn as the prize surgeon/bullfighter emerges triumphant stealing the best bit of the film.

See it if you're feeling very, very sane.

It's difficult to see how "The Assassination Bureau" at the A.B.C. New Street next week could possibly fail, but for me it only just scraped home. A pre-first world war setting, with Diana Rigg doing her own emancipated female thing, spies and assassins lurking everywhere in Edwardian drag, whistle-stop tours of the turn of the century Europe, whilst all around are being bumped off by the unlikely and exotic cinematic deaths—Can they go wrong?

Well, almost. The film is light and airy—a good romp through the script, but the comedy is so predictable at times that the actual debacles, when they arrive, seem hardly worth it.

It scrapes home by virtue of Michael Relph's sharp and witty dialogue, which consistently sends up all the standard assassination lines, and magnificent performances from all the star-ridden cast from Oliver Reed, as the boss of the Assassination Bureau, to Jess Conrad (a gondolier).

All in all, it's well worth a visit, even so near the exams.

PHIL IRVING

REVIEWS



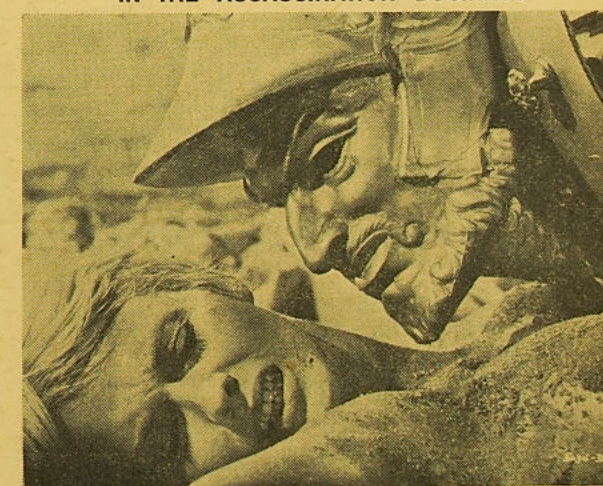
JACQUI McSHEE AT THE FOLK CONCERT



OLIVER REED AND THE INCREDIBLE DIANA RIGG



IN THE ASSASSINATION BUSINESS



BIRDS COME TO DIE IN PERU

sport 1

MEN'S LAWN TENNIS

SMASH HIT OF A TOUR!

FROM the evidence of the Easter tour of Somerset and Devon when there was only one player missing, this could be Birmingham's year to reach the final rounds of the U.A.U. Lawn Tennis Championships.

The three wins out of four matches has been bettered only once in recent years and only then with the help of guest players Harvey Bryan and John Furlong. In particular the victory over Exeter University demonstrated the immense depth of the University team.

VOLLEYBALL

COLLEGES
BYE-BYE

Birmingham 3, Loughborough 0. Loughborough waved a fond but somewhat limp farewell to any chance they thought they had in the U.A.U. championship, when they were out-volleyed, out-jumped and outclassed by the Birmingham lads. They were immersed in the exhilarating ebullience and efficiency of captain Gisi Tiegel, and submerged by the superb Scottish subtleties of "Jock Lyle."

Tom Harkvat played superb shots with almost monotonous regularity and Bob Lee rose to the occasion by playing like a veteran in his first major game. Birmingham stamped out their superiority by disposing of their opponents in three "straight games."

Team: G. Tiegel, J. Lyle, T. Markvat, Y. Nemovsky, R. E. Lee, A. Laskaris, J. Newton.

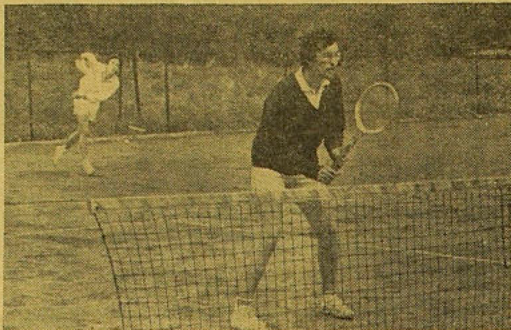
Undoubtedly the best performance of the week came when freshman Terry Taylor and John King, playing third pair, thrashed the Exeter University first pair U.A.U. choice Roger Knights and junior Wimbledon player Ray Downey. With this sort of performance from the bottom pair any team is difficult to beat, and the 3-1 win came as a matter of course.

With three wins in the match against Exeter University and another three in the 6-3 win over St. Luke's College, Jack Robinson and "veteran" John Palmer seem to be firmly established as first pair.

The only defeat of the tour was at the hands of Millfield School. Even against the country's premier tennis school the result was a desperately close thing. First pair Jim McCollum and John Palmer and second pair Jack Robinson and Terry Taylor, both lost in three tight sets to their opposite numbers.

Gordon Bannister played steadily throughout the tour and Terry Taylor's big booming shots continue to find the court.

Results: St. Luke's Colleges won 6-3, Exmouth L.T.C. won 9-0, Exeter University won 8-1, Millfield School lost 3-6.



New University find Terry Taylor waits at the net while Jim McCollum serves.

ORIENTEERING

START OKAY!

THOUGH still only an unofficial club, Roger Start organised a very successful training event at the Lickey Hills, and intends to hold another today, meeting in the Sports Centre at 2 p.m. The University sent a full team, and over an amazingly difficult course, managed to finish three out of the four first team members, though not inside the time limit. It is thought that some of the 130 starters still haven't finished!

Last Sunday the club had three teams running in the Derwent Valley score event in Derbyshire and claimed the first team three places in the Intermediate men's event. The maximum time allowed was 90 minutes and captain Roger Start managed to pass through all the nineteen checkpoints in 81 mins. to record the third fastest time of the day. Other members of the team have their own tales to tell about the ones that got away, but their scores were:

Geoff Goodwin (A) 325 pts.; Dave Goodwin (A) 300 pts.; Pete Griffiths (B) 345 pts.; Gordon Thompson (B) 325 pts.; Andy Holden (B) 300 pts.; Alan Jones (B) 265 pts.; Mike Peacock (C) 348 pts.; Geoff Bell (C) 240 pts.; Mike Cleator (C) 235 pts.; Dave Roberts (C) 195 pts.

In the Intermediate Ladies newly-elected captain Francis D'Alcorn had an untroubled victory, but needs more daring ladies in order to form a good University team. Any offers?

SPORTSVIEW

... a weekly column of news and views in the University Sporting world.

"RING is here, the birds do sing and the young man's fancies turn to thoughts of ... cricket." So wrote one enterprising "Redbrick" cricket correspondent a year or two back. Unfortunately, there is a small snag to this rather optimistic approach and that is Examinations, the plague of all the summer sports teams. There is nothing worse for the morale of a team than to find that their star player has ducked out of a vital U.A.U. game because of work. The cricket club have taken the easy way out and have decided to play only friendly games and have not entered the U.A.U. competition this year.

The tennis and athletics teams battle on supported largely by ready-made talent, for it is impossible to manufacture a team in the short University season. Let us hope that one of the men's teams will pull something out of the bag and wrest a U.A.U. Championship against the odds.

Today sees the "A.A.A. match" which you should all have a programme for by now. There is little doubt that the athletes work harder than any other University sportsmen and deserve every bit of support you can give them. The match can only be a success if the weather is good and will produce some fine races whatever the conditions.

Two other sporting events take place in the next week which should also provide a break from work. In the University v. The Exiles basketball match there will be plenty of thrills. Certainly, 15 stone, 6ft. 6in. Chris Reiss should be well worth watching. His two-handed dunk which helped Birmingham to the U.A.U. title three years ago, is really something. The other event of note is the University Soccer team v. Show Biz XI. That will provide good entertainment if not the highest standard of football.

It all just shows what an enterprising club can do if they really try.

SKIING CLUB NEWS

THE University team for the British Universities Championships at Aviemore did well to qualify in each event for the final runs. Conditions were, however, very icy for the Slalom and this together with their inexperience limited the Birmingham representatives to the lower half of the large field. Jan Lucy was the highest of our four finishers in 55th place.

Pam Story and Fiona Strong came 25th and 26th in the women's giant slalom the following day. In the men's giant slalom, fastest University man was Pete Eisner. It is hoped to start an official University ski club next season, with films and training weekends forming part of the regular programme. Anyone interested should contact JOHN LUCY at Mason Hall.

sport 2

TONIGHT!... TONIGHT!... TONIGHT!... TONIGHT!... TONIGHT!... TONIGHT!... TONIGHT!... TONIGHT!...

Stars fall on Edgbaston!

By PETE TREWIN



National junior cross-country champion Andy Holden leads his senior counterpart Mike Tagg (Reading University). Tagg won but Andy will be back — tonight!

KYAK

LIME TAMES CAPTAIN SPINKS!

DURING the vacation, the B.U.S.F.-U.A.U. kayak slalom championships were held on the River Lime in Yorkshire. The eighty competitors enjoyed a crisp, sunny weekend in superb scenic surroundings, against the background of the snow-topped eastern fells.

The second runs were a considerable improvement on the first as far as Birmingham were concerned, and Dave Hunter notched up the second fastest time (213 sec.) only 18 seconds slower than Macleod. This lifted him to 19th place, great going in his first year at the sport. John Rutherford recorded one of the few clear runs in the event in a time of 274 secs. to give him 24th place.

In the team event on the Saturday afternoon, Birmingham were represented by Dave Hunter, Neil Spinks and John Rutherford. Lack of practice, due to an extremely late arrival, hampered them but they still managed to finish 14th out of 23 teams.

Injured

While making a novel horizontal descent of the bottom fall, club captain Neil Spinks, tore shoulder ligaments and was out of the rest of the competition. The team then retired to their kayaks and spent a considerable time paddling! The following morning they took to the water on more equal terms with their competitors in the individual event.

It was clear from the outset that a worthy successor to Birmingham's Ric Prince was going to emerge in the shape of John Macleod of Salford, who hurtled down the course unaware that the gates were designed to slow competitors down!

Short Sports

MEN'S LACROSSE

BIRMINGHAM UNIV. ... 7, STOCKPORT "A" ... 8. ACCORDING to that cornerstone of knowledge, the "Guinness Book of Records", Stockport claim distinction as the team with the greatest number of league championship wins. While their days of supremacy are over, tradition dies hard it seems, as they overcame a much-improved Birmingham team.

University goalkeepers were Wilde (2), Mayer (3), Bolland and Crowhurst, but the highest praise must go to the defence, with Chris Bullough outstanding in goal, and Joe Ashton (the handsome one) as the powerhouse in defence.

HORSE-RIDING

Today the club stage an Inter - Universities match against Durham and Newcastle Universities. Reduced-rate lessons have been arranged for the less advanced riders in the post-exam period, and a club gymkhana is to be held. About six matches per term are envisaged, against other universities. There seems little doubt that the standard of the Birmingham team will go from strength to strength.

BASKETBALL

The "New and Improved Air-proof Harp-String Box" play the "Balsall Heath Wrestling and Crochet Road Show" on Saturday, May 10th. This match will feature all your favourite stars!

ATHLETICS

In the match against the R.A.F. last Saturday the University set a new University record of 42.65. Tony Newton marked his return by throwing the discus a personal best of 132ft. 3ins.

THIS evening at 6 o'clock the University entertains the might of the Amateur Athletics Association who have never been beaten at Birmingham and only last week annihilated Cambridge University. However the team is at its strongest ever and with an irresistible elan, a shock result is on the cards.

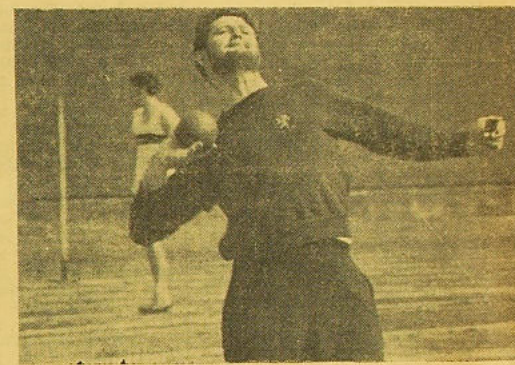
The night opens, as with all good contests, with a needle match! In the 100 metres, the Birmingham speedsters face controversial Martin Reynolds, credited with a sizzling 10.3 sec. 1 tip Olympic star Ralph Bannhorpe (10.5) and ebullient Geoff Silman to take Reynolds, for the London boy is extremely inconsistent. Brian Green (A.A.A.), an explosive starter, is the dark horse of the race, though he has done 10.6, it's rumoured.

Immediately afterwards, Birmingham's answer to Ron Clarke, Andy Holden, faces a grim duel with Birchfield's Chris Perry. Both are world class steeplechasers but Andy is the rising star! The Cassius Clay of the cinders, "Geno Griffiths" (Birmingham) will be scheming to produce shocks and world records should count for nought down the final straight!

Meanwhile on the field we can see an equally impressive display of athletic talent. No-one can expect Frank Ince or Tony Newton (who both beat their personal bests last Saturday) to challenge mighty Mike Cushion (A.A.A.), a 170 ft. discus throw to his credit, but both could improve even more. Another underdog, Chris Cumbers, taking off of a new all-weather runway, could just touch two 13 ft. 6 in. men in the pole vault.

The high jump and triple jumps display two unpredictable talents. Perry Christie, a 50-footer maybe, will need every inch of it to beat Martyn Roberts from Cardiff. From the vertical angle, Pete Trewin could just as easily come first as last, but he will have to raise his game a few inches!

On the half-hour is probably the best race of the evening. Welsh wonder boy Gwyn Griffiths (A.A.A.) will be pushed all the way by "Sokkit to 'em" Jim Aukett of the University, who is really going well at the moment. Trevor Rodwell (A.A.A.) and club captain Ian Thompson, a programme-selling powerhouse, add to the spice.



Tony Landon, shot-putting President of High 'Fall, can beat 47 feet tonight!

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

JUNE AND FANNY GROOVEY!

BIRMINGHAM UNIV.49pts., W.R.A.F.55

IN a close-fought match, the W.R.A.F. decided the result in their favour, when they gained a narrow victory in the 4 x 100m. relay. The University go-girls put up some fine individual performances and a number of personal bests were recorded. June Bench did extremely well to clear 4ft. 2in. in the high jump. Liz Purvis just pipped her, clearing 5ft. 5in.

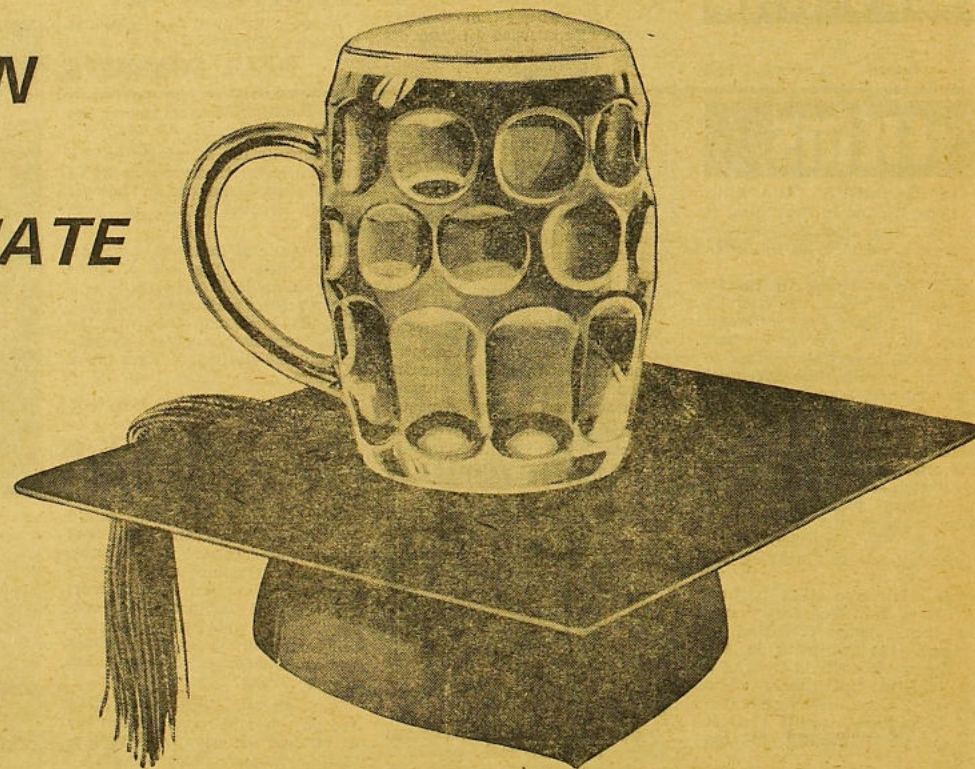
Fanny D'Alcorn grooved her feet or so to win convincingly, way to second place in the 400 metres, recorded 67.7secs. and Ruth Martin Jones, speedier then rushed off to compete in than last year, long-jumped the long jump. Many of your 18ft. 11ins. and then put her old favourites were performing, legs to good use in winning the Liz Thompson, a fresher from 100m. and 200m. in quick succession, the reading room in the cession, Helen Disney, filled library, threw the discus 106 with finals fury, flicked the feet. Peter's glad he was javelin 112 feet for a new safely tucked away in the tele. small best and crowned a success! Put Parkin, alone for cessful afternoon by winning once, thrust the javelin 130 the 100m. hurdles in fine style.



Dave Thomas, Birmingham's new U.A.U. road-racing champion peddler.

From FRESHMAN
To GRADUATE

M&B
BREW
XI



ALWAYS A FIRST

REDBRICK

TECHNICIANS' STRIKES MAY DISRUPT FINALS

SCIENCE students' finals may be seriously affected by the wildcat strikes which the University technicians are considering as a follow-up to their strike last week. At an A.S.T.M.S. branch meeting yesterday they agreed to operate a campaign of non-co-operation, starting immediately, and members of the gas liquifying unit in the Physics department have been on strike since nine o'clock this morning.

Foden out

ANN FODEN, controversial President-elect at Aston has been asked to leave the University after twice failing preliminary examinations.

Foden, who was criticised for her handling of this year's Aston Festival, believes that her dismissal is not entirely on academic grounds and intends to defend the decision.

She is supported in her opinion by Guild President Dai Rees, who was also put under strong pressure to withdraw by the University authorities before taking office last year.

The "Birmingham Sun" (Aston University newspaper) reports that Foden's tutor, Bill Davies, who is also returning officer to the Guild, had said before the election that "if Foden was elected she would never become President."

It is generally thought by Foden's hard-core supporters that this re-

This is part of a nation-wide campaign for more pay and better conditions of employment—the policy of non-co-operation, for example, includes refusing to do portering or other non-technical work. However, the final details are still being discussed. Other Universities where similar action, and in particular strikes, are in progress, are Kent, where there is a 3-day stoppage, Imperial College, London, where there will be a strike until tomorrow, and Liverpool, Sheffield and Glasgow.

At a general meeting which passed an informal motion of support for the technicians last week, Mr. Roy Weeley explained their case for increased wages and improved superannuation benefits among other things, and said that the wages are inadequate in relation to skills and have not been reassessed since 1966, when a 3½ per cent rise was immediately absorbed by the rising cost of living.

Mr. Weeley also explained how the local branch of the Union is often not recognised at a national level, and only selectively recognised by the Universities. He stressed the need for more co-operation between different sections of the staff, and between Union and non-Union members. However, in spite of the fact that he said then that there was no blacklisting by non-Union members of striking Union members, the technicians meeting yesterday passed a resolution supporting members of the Union against victimisation should this arise.

Car theft

A CAR belonging to a third-year Dental student, John Rowlands, was stolen from outside the Barber Institute sometime between 10 and 11.30 last Saturday night.

The car was later found stripped of everything removable, including most of the engine, smashed up and dumped in a street off Metchley Lane, near the Medical School. Selly Oak police later detained a man in connection with the incident.

Postgrad centre

THE new Postgraduate Centre has been open since the beginning of term, and has been quite widely used since its opening. It has been redecorated and refurnished to make it a more congenial place for relaxation.

Its facilities include a bar which sells drinks, food and cigarettes.



The technicians on strike on the 29th of April.

STUDENTS CONDEMNED FOR FESTIVAL APATHY

STAFF, student and Council apathy are condemned in a report published by Festival Committee this week. But the concept of a city-student arts festival is praised.

In his introduction and conclusion to the lengthy, critical appraisals of each Festival section which form the main body of the report, Festival chairman, Elvin McDavid, praises the overall concept of the event which aimed to promote "a new mode of communication between the student body and the local community."

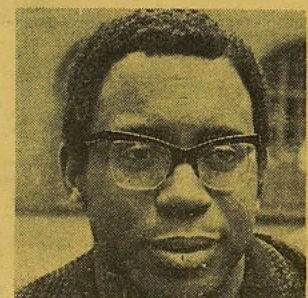
On the question of the Festival's success, McDavid quotes the "Sunday Mercury" of February 23rd "One of the main aims of Festival was to improve the rather tarnished student image. It seems to have succeeded—but only just."

However, other criticisms attempt to explain how much more successful the project could have been. For example, McDavid expressed the opinion that, although contributions from other institutions of higher education in the area should be invited, the organisation should rest solely with Birmingham. This could herald the end of the Aston/Birmingham partnership.

Another significant adverse criticism is directed against members of University Council and the Court of Governors for their poor response to letter asking for donations to Festival charges. McDavid says: "We were extremely disappointed that the Pro-Chancellor,

Sir George Farmer, did not find it possible to reply to our letter."

He continues: "On this occasion, when we were making a direct contribution to the community, one



Elvin McDavid

would have thought our endeavour would have found favour in the eyes of the University elders."

Almost inevitably, there is a long section concerning the Drama Festival. A detailed account is given of the controversy which incurred such bad press coverage both locally and nationally and attempts to review the situation objectively, as far as that is possible. In spite of everything, the conclusion is that the Drama section, as well as Festival as a whole, was a success.

V.C. to visit Rhodesia

THE Vice Chancellor is going to Rhodesia on Monday, to speak at the degree congregation of University College, Rhodesia. He is going to assess the situation at this multi-racial University, with which Birmingham University has been linked since it began; the original agreement to give advice to the University would only hold as long as it remains multi-racial.

Dr. Hunter said yesterday that in his speech he intended to stress that Birmingham is assisting Africa as a whole, and not just Rhodesia; this is substantiated by the fact that the Med. School has just offered help in the form of advice and staff to start a new Medical School at Benghazi in Libya, and Professor Hubble is advising the Medical School in Addis Ababa.

GTV

want singers, pop groups and entertainers of all sorts, plus a compere, for their post-exam entertainments programme.

Thursday

FILM SOCIETY

"IL GRIDO"
(Antonioni).

"HOTEL DES INVALIDES"
(Franju).

7.30 HAWORTH

Friday

GERMAN FILM: 3.15

Arts Lecture Theatre.

FREE.

LAKE HALL BALL

8 p.m.

Saturday

ENTS. COMM.

DISCOTHEQUE

with BARNABAS

FOUNDERS

8 p.m.

3/-

Sunday

SUNDAY FLIC

"THE MAGNIFICENT TWO"
(Morecambe & Wise)

plus CARTOON

FOUNDERS - 3/-