

# GUILD NEWS

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The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

## Is it really necessary?

By John Gunn

SINCE I came to the University, four years ago, I have been aware of the popular belief that between Arts students and Science students there exists an irreconcilable difference in outlook. C. P. Snow claims that the intellectuals of our Western civilisation are split into two groups, "the two cultures," "who have almost ceased to communicate at all."

To this extent, at least, this University fits in with the pattern. The main reason for this, many people claim, is purely geographical: with the Arts and Science faculties in different locations it is not surprising that there is little communication between the two. But I believe that the reason lies much deeper.

Believing, as I do, that this difference exists, let us examine some of the attitudes of the so-called Artists (I prefer the word Humanists) and Scientists concerning each others field of study.

On the one hand the Humanists say "that Science has nothing to do with the life of the individual" and on the other hand the Scientist says "that the Artists talk a lot of nonsense about men who have lived or are living which is based on little or no factual evidence." Both points of view are equally short-sighted.

### The individual

Contrary to the first point of view, Science has very much to do with the life of the individual. Unfortunately, this fact is all too frequently overlooked. Take for instance, the crass stupidity of many politicians (most of whom are Arts graduates) over atmospheric pollution due to the testing of bigger and more awesome hydrogen bombs. Only after a bitter struggle did they begin to appreciate and respect the views of the Scientists on this point.

To avoid mistakes like this, it is not necessary that everyone should undergo a specialist training in Scientific subjects but that they should have a general knowledge of Science and its im-

plications sufficient to respect the views of the experts in any one branch.

On the other hand, the second view is equally narrow. The lives of men who have passed before are a useful guide as to how men should live today—if he wants to improve his civilisation. For the scientist to shut himself off from the world and work on projects such as the building of even better ways for man to destroy man is obviously wrong. By not thinking of the mistakes other men have made because of lack of knowledge of the humanities and by not thinking of the social implications of their machines of destruction, these men whose knowledge could build the world into a better place are bringing it nearer to destruction.

### Simple answer

But what is the relevance of this to life within a University?—the answer is simple: the students of today will be the politicians and scientists of tomorrow, and if no attempt is made to bridge the gulf between the two ways of thinking (or more correctly not-thinking) in the Universities the situation will not improve.

I have one suggestion to make and that is that it would be a good idea if the University Open Lectures were extended in some way so as to provide lectures of scientific content (these need not be as dull as such lectures are believed to be) for Arts students and lectures on the Humanities for the Science students.

It is difficult to judge what sort of support these would receive, but anything which could possibly reconcile the two points of view is worth a try.

# JOIN THE QUEUE

## The Five Faculties meet on one Campus

By Margaret Righton—Vice-President

IT seems to have become a custom for the Vice-President to welcome the Freshers in the pages of Guild News. The last year's Vice-President had to because the President was in Russia at the time; and this year's President, Tony Goss, has asked me to write to you on his behalf because when this paper went to press he was still in America. Doubtless next year's President will not be outdone by his predecessors' wander-lust.



Margaret Righton

Well, you have arrived at the University, and it is with great pleasure that I welcome you on behalf of the President, myself and the Guild of Undergraduates. Alas, we regret that for a time you may not be as comfortable as we had hoped, for you see, you are so great and we are so small—in the Union building, I mean, that I quite tremble when I think of the crush there is going to be at meal times until the new Union extensions are really finished.

I think there are no students, even the most perennial, who can remember a time when buildings were not going up around them, and the past three years have certainly seen drastic changes of skyline.

### Wooden Planks

Those who came this way before you have been sorely tried. Wooden planks have served as roads, and prefabs as lecture rooms. Our nerves have been subjected to an unending series of harsh sounds, and many a visual shock as building after building appeared. All this was in preparation for 1960, this year when the Law and Arts Faculties have finally left the city for the land of cricket and engineering—Edgbaston.

You are fortunate to be starting your days here when students of all faculties are together (if a little crushed) on the same campus. Many of you will have fine new buildings to work in, and when our Union is finished, it will certainly be one of the best in the country.



Tony Goss

### Peaceful time

I hope that you will use this comparatively peaceful time during the Conference to become familiar with the Union and make yourselves at home before 3,000 other people come along, many as new to these surroundings as you, and reduce the space and swell the meal queues even more.

Because of the inevitable confusion which will arise in the first days of the term, it is even more important than usual for the Freshers to grasp quickly what is expected of them and how best to use the Union facilities.

### Last Year

After last year's conference, one Fresher wrote "... Having been welcomed and welcomed

and welcomed... and welcomed, we were ignored." I think he was wrong there. After the Conference you will not be ignored but we shall certainly not subject you to any more conducted tours, organised meals and words of advice.

We shall be pretty exhausted by then ourselves. That will be the time for you to wander alone for a while, and if anything puzzles you, do ask! Three years might sound a long time to you at the beginning of your University career, but I assure you it passes very quickly, and too much time is lost by Freshers who remain shy and tongue-tied among the confident-looking old hands who really haven't much more idea of things than you.

### University Ways

May I close with the hope that this Conference will help you to learn quickly the University ways, that you will spend useful and satisfying hours in your departments and relaxing and entertaining times in the Union.

Finally I wish you all a very happy and successful stay in this University.

## FRESHER OF THE YEAR

AFTER much protest on the part of the Acting Editor we are pleased to publish that she has been awarded the Prize for being the Fresher of the Year—1959-1960.

Maureen Jones is the first woman to gain this coveted award for a number of years, and it is the result of sincere and capable effort on her part during the past year. Besides being one of the mainstays of last year's "Guild News," she distinguished herself in the Debating Society and on Guild Council.

Maureen is following a line of distinguished Freshman of the Year, for last year Mr. Goss (now President) gained this award.

The Prize is awarded annually for the Freshman who has both gained a high standard in his or her academic work and still participated actively in the work of the Guild.

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## EDITORIAL

FOR the next three or more years "Guild News" will be YOUR paper. In it you will find news of Guild personalities, societies and events which you will find nowhere else. You will find that to read "Guild News" is to stay well informed about all aspects of Guild affairs—and whether you decide to play an active part in the life of the Guild or not, it is your duty as a member, to find out what is being done in YOUR name, with YOUR money.

"Guild News" aims to be readable and informative, but it is not merely a convenient purveyor of information providing a useful bridge between the administration and the ordinary member. It is a newspaper—YOUR newspaper—and what it is, and becomes, is largely YOUR responsibility.

No intelligent reader is going to be satisfied with a paper completely written by a small minority, and foisted upon an apathetic majority. The paper must reflect the opinions and interests of the whole membership of the Guild and it can only do this if a broad cross-section of the Guild contribute to these pages.

In another part of the paper you will see an appeal for Freshers to join the staff of "Guild News," but even if you, as an engineer or a scientist, have few literary or journalistic pretensions, this does not mean that your contributions to the paper are worthless.

The correspondence columns are open to anyone with the energy to pick up a pen and write. Your opinions on anything from the H-Bomb to the state of the Union plumbing are welcome. And, if you are filled with journalistic zeal, and yet cannot join the staff, independent contributions on any subject will always be warmly appreciated.

Remember it is your paper. If you don't like what we make of it, write and tell us so and we will print your complaints or remedy them. Only if our readers let us know their opinions of the paper can we adapt it so that it constantly reflects the whole student body. And after all, the aim of a student paper should be to stimulate controversy and reflect every facet of opinion generated by what we hope are four thousand intelligent and lively minds, and as we are not yet competent mind-readers, you must let us know what you are thinking.

So it is up to you. All the Editor and Staff are prepared to guarantee is the paper YOU deserve!

# WHO CARES? Don't get lost in an introspective huddle

IN one department there were over 300 applicants for 32 places . . . At least you have arrived at the University and deserve our congratulations for having reached this seat of higher learning. The next question is what are you going to do now you have got here.

If you haven't already been suffocated with good advice from school, home and your seniors here, you will be gasping for the fresh air of your new-found independence in a day or so.

It is no part of my business to weary you with more advice however admirable or necessary it may be. I have to give you good news that in the middle of the heaps of rubble, the reams of paper, the high pressure salesmanship of innumerable societies, and the mass of apprehensive faces, there exists a community of people in the University which cares about you.

It cares about your work, your degree and eventual job. It cares about your extra-academic interests, sport, music, drama, writing, art, politics. It cares about your relationships. It cares about the conditions in your digs. It cares that you should use the great opportunities now open to you for your own maturity and enjoyment and responsibility. It is con-

**By the Rev.  
KEITH WILKES  
Univ. Chaplain**

cerned that you should not be dismayed by the seething crowds in the Union or the fact that you may no longer be the top of the class.

It is equally concerned that you should come to grips with the great questions while you are in the University, and that you should resist every attempt to withdraw from your proper life as a student into some closed, introspective huddle, secular or religious.

It is ready and anxious to help you for your own sake, whoever you are, simply because you are a fellow student and human being. The friendship of this community is open to everyone. It exists to serve the University. This is not to say that other

## Change of face

FRESHERS' Conference this year runs from Saturday to Monday, following complaints that last year the conference lasted too long and tended to drag towards the end. Events on Saturday culminate with a Freshers' Dance at the Union, replacing the usual Hop in the Great Hall, which many people think is an unnecessarily brutal introduction to Guild social life.

Sunday is still a day when the Freshers are left largely to themselves during the morning. The University Musical Society are giving a concert in the Barber Institute on Sunday afternoon. On Monday evening new ground is broken with a Freshers' Debate in the Debating Hall. The motion will be "That this house believes that University Education is essentially a Vocational Training," and it is hoped that many of the Freshers will pluck up sufficient courage to speak from the floor.

Later in the term, Debating Society are holding a Freshers' Tournament, in an effort to encourage new talent as early in the session as possible.

### Medical Horrors

On Monday morning, Freshers will be subjected to the traditional horrors of the Medical Examination, conducted by members of the Medical School who have little respect for the finer sensibilities of Freshers straight from school. Protests are normally ineffective, either at the time, when the Freshers labour under the psychological disadvantage of being very scantily clad, or afterwards in the columns of this paper. Medicals are part of the

# ONE IN A MILLION

**By David Mallion**  
(External Affairs Chairman)

LOOK around at the swarming crowds of your fellow students. In this University alone we have well over 4,000 students and when we pause to think of our colleagues at other Universities and colleges throughout the country we soon realise that the student population must number several hundreds of thousands. So, if not one in a million, we are each of us one in a pretty large number.

Moreover, when we realise that every one of us has his own particular interests and needs, that we may be studying almost any subject at a university, college of commerce, art or technology, full-time or part-time, married or single, we wonder how it is possible to speak with one voice on behalf of the student body as a whole. Fortunately we have a National Union of Students.

This organisation, N.U.S. represents some 125,000 students studying in a highly varied selection of 336 colleges throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each college selects representatives who sit on the national council of the N.U.S. and, after much discussion, pass resolutions which can be said to represent most of the students in the country.

### Co-operation

And what do these resolutions deal with? Well, like trade unions we have a strong interest in obtaining good working conditions and adequate financial support for our members. Because of the good relations between N.U.S., the Ministry of Education and the teachers' unions we are able to promote

tradition, and the sympathy of the rest of the University is with the Freshers.

During the Conference Freshers will be subjected to the usual high pressure salesmanship from the various societies within the Guild, and warned with great regularity to divide their time fairly between academic and non-academic activities. In a week the Conference will no doubt be a fading memory—and the Freshers old hands.



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# INTRODUCING . . . YOUR TOP PEOPLE

**YOUR CHANCELLOR**—Sir Anthony Eden, recently the Conservative Prime Minister of Suez fame (or notoriety, depending on your political complexion), but an eminent politician and international negotiator since long before most of this paper's public were born. Even apart from Sir Anthony's ill health, you are unlikely to meet him walking round the campus in robes of office. His is an honorary position and he is only seen at Degree Congregations and other important University functions.

**YOUR VICE-CHANCELLOR**—Sir Robert Aitken, who succeeded Sir Raymond Priestley as Vice-Chancellor in 1953, and received a knighthood in the Birthday Honours List in June of this year. Sir Robert is a New Zealander who was educated at Otago and Oxford. Before coming to Birmingham he was Regius Professor of Medicine at Aberdeen, and in 1949 went back to New Zealand as Vice-Chancellor of Otago University. At the end of last term Sir Robert was one of a small group who received honorary degrees at Oxford, from the new Chancellor, Harold Macmillan. Although Sir Robert is faced with the increasing problems of the University's expansion, he always takes a keen interest in the undergraduate members of the University and their problems.

**YOUR PRESIDENT**—Tony Goss, a third-year Chemical Engineer and the Guild's first undergraduate President for years. Tony shattered the long-standing traditions of a post-graduate President, and also of a President who has been a member of the previous year's Executive. In his first year Tony was given the award for the Outstanding Freshman of the year, for his work on Guild Council, in the Guild theatre Group and his very high academic attainments.

Last year he served on Entertainments Committee, and in the Presidential Election easily defeated three more experienced opponents. With considerable courage and determination Tony takes on the responsibilities of President and the strain of Finals all in one year—and he is the sort of character who will come through both with flying colours.

**YOUR VICE-PRESIDENT**—Margaret Righton, graduated in Zoology last term, and is sufficiently fond of "Bum" to stay on for post-graduate studies. It is not only Margaret's flaming tresses which stand out in a crowd for she has proved her ability in Guild affairs in committee work, at the Council meetings of the National Union of Students and in the Debating Society.

She is also Captain of the Women's Fencing Club although whether she took up fencing for the exercise or in self-defence has never been ascertained. Representing the women of the University, Margaret takes on the task of the Guild's official hostess at a time when the Union extensions give her a much more imposing domain over which to reign.

# GUIDE FOR THE BUMPY

HOW to make friends and influence people—first you must learn how to play bridge. It may never actually be necessary to play but you must always be prepared to make up a four. Next a dress suit you must possess. Attendance at all formal Guild functions is an essential step up the ladder. At the same time you must be prepared to muck-in and appear in the bar on Saturday night in sweater and jeans.

You must quickly get an idea of what is in and what is out. Beards are out unless you're final year or research. Scooters are out. Everyone should be able to afford a car on his grant. For women, beatnik type dress, trousers and long hair are out—every woman should be able to

stock a good wardrobe out of her grant.

### Way to the Top

By perception and care you will discover which people are "IN." Being on Guild Council may assist this so take advantage of the temerity and apathy of your fellow freshers and get elected while the going is good. Be aware of the phrase "social responsibility" but don't be too conscientious about it.

The way to get to the top is to "get known" and this can be achieved in many and devious ways, although there is always the risk that you will be dismissed as a "bumpy" Freshie by the people that matter. But take no notice. The people that count started off by being bumpy themselves—after all it is pretty difficult to stand out among four thousand others also bent on making their mark unless of course you start off with the advantage of being seven feet tall or four feet square.

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# Don't waste your chances AFTER THE STRUGGLE—WHAT NOW?

THOUGH by no means the first to do so, let me add to the welcomes you will have already received.

At the same time, let me go on to ask what you intend to do with yourself now that you have managed to win through in the struggle to get here. Just ask yourself, please, what all the business of passing exams, filling up forms and a cajoling money from your L.E.A. was for. I daresay that for the last few months, all your mental energy has been spent on getting to the University. Well, now you are here, what for?

### Nine to five

It may be that all you have in mind is working from nine to five each day for three years like any other white collar worker. If that is your idea of a university education, the best of luck to you—doubtless you will end up with a good degree. But you will have wasted the only chance you are likely to have for a thorough look at life and yourself, as well as the vast sums of money that have been lavished upon you. If you are satisfied with such a prospect at the start of your three years, I suggest that you hand in your resignation and go off to Little

Puddlecome Technical College, or its equivalent.

The point is that there is more to life in a university than financial statistics and bottles of microbes. For one thing there is a chance to make new friends, possibly some that are taught to arrive at conclusions in a different way to you. Do not be hide-bound by the rigid departmental system that governs this seat of higher learning—there are other ways of getting knowledge than mucking about with machines. For another thing, there are the Guild activities. Somebody advises you not to join too many of these societies, but there is an equal danger of

joining too few. Having joined the two or three you choose as soon as you have made up your mind, you should be as active in them as you are in your academic work (which for some people may not mean very much). There are surely enough societies to allow for every one's tastes, but if you really are not sent by any of them, then get about starting something that does.

### Look at yourself

Above all, a university education gives you a good opportunity to look at yourself. This is the time to look at those questions you have quietly shelved because they were too difficult to deal with at the time. Such things as what life is about, what happens when it ends, and what makes you tick, matters of social responsibility and personal relations must be dealt with now, or you will be left with them nagging at the back of your mind to the end of your days.

All these are often bound up in a parcel and called "religion." Accepting the definition, now is the time to consider your attitude to it. These three years are a time when you can consider whether what you believe fits the facts, or whether what you do not believe is based on anything more serious than another person's cast-off contempt for what he will not take the trouble to investigate.

### Microbes and hockey

Religion is as much a part of education as microbes and mixed hockey, in one way and another this has always been the case with universities. You will therefore miss out the relevance of your being here if you also miss out any part of the university's activities. Your tutors will urge you on in your work, and many other societies will claim that their's is the only one for you. What I ask is that you will not be so absorbed in these that you will put off the claims of the Church without any serious thought. For those who are already members of a particular denomination, each has its own society. For those who are not tied down or who wish to find out something of Christianity for themselves without being committed to anything which they cannot honestly hold, I would suggest to you the Student Christian Movement.

This body of people, most though not all of whom are Christians, exists to show that Christ is Lord over all aspects of life, putting forward reasons for this lordship. It has been in this setting of honest enquiry that many have found solutions to their problems in the past, and I hope that you will take advantage of them now.

To the Editor, Guild News,  
c/o Guild News Pigeon-hole,  
The Union.

I should like to become a member of Guild News staff this year. My main interest in the paper would be

and I should like you to contact me personally/by post about it.

Name .....  
Department .....

# SPARE TIME NO PROBLEM

**A review of Societies**

**By Val Jennings**

WHAT to do with your spare time, or at any rate time, should be no problem for the new Guild member. In Guild Diary he will find details of a considerable variety of societies—athletic, political, departmental, religious, unusual, etc.

### Future M.P.

For the future M.P., the three major political societies offer an opening. With the chairmanship of Ian Ellis, the Conservative and Unionist Association will no doubt continue its policy of bringing outside speakers to the Union. The annual visit to the Houses of Parliament is another of this society's activities. In past years the Liberal Society has come to play an impressive role in University and national affairs.

This society has a reputation for bringing exciting and controversial speakers to Birmingham and has ambitious schemes for expansion. Lionel King has succeeded prospective parliamentary candidate Brian King as chairman. Socialist Union Society has as its new chairman Andy Miller. Among the speakers it attracted to the Union last year was Harold Wilson and the society was active in its support of the proposed Guild boycott of South African goods.

### Athletic interests

If your interests are of an athletic character, perhaps you will be attracted to the Staats (i.e. the University Mountaineering club). Meets are held regularly in Wales and Derbyshire, while during vacations Scotland and the Alps are often visited. Of a similar character, though slightly less rigorous is the Wayfarers, who hike in the country around Birmingham and further afield. Several successful sailing holidays on the Norfolk Broads have been organised during Easter Vacations. Probably requiring equal stamina is the Rhythm Club, who among other things organise very successful Jazz Band Balls. Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band and Ken Colyer's Jazzmen were the two bands who appeared last year.

### Hard Drinkers

For the hard-drinking types the Firkin Club has much to offer while the Wine and Food Club provides a more sophisticated

cated atmosphere for the epicures. Club functions include dinners, luncheons, tastings of wine and food, and cellar visits.

The efforts of the Film Society have brought to the University many famous films by English and continental film-makers that students would probably not have had the opportunity of seeing otherwise. "Animal Farm," "Of Mice and Men" and "Henry V" are three shown last year which spring immediately to mind.

Two societies for those requiring something of a more serious nature are the '56 Society and the New Thinkers. The former, whose aim is to propagate an appreciation of the visual arts, was last year poorly supported which seems a sad reflection on the cultural standards of students of this University. Perhaps we have among this year's Freshers people who will remedy this unfortunate situation. The New Thinkers concern themselves with problems philosophical and would welcome any budding Bertrand Russell's into their midst.

### Full Guide

This list of societies is by no means complete and comprehensive. A full guide is to be found in the front of your Guild Diary and also you will have an opportunity to question representatives of most at Freshers' Conference. A short word of warning ought, however, to be given. Most societies have very full programmes and to be a conscientious and responsible member is demanding of one's time. Selection therefore is the keyword; read, discuss and think about societies you are interested in before committing yourself, and when you have made your decision, support the societies you have joined loyally and enthusiastically. May we wish you a satisfying and rewarding session, in the societies of your choice.

# YOU RUN THE GUILD

## But it's a long story

AS soon as you become a First Year Student at the University you also automatically become a member of the Guild of Undergraduates, the body which has already organised your Freshers' Conference, and within which you will find most of your non-academic activities for the next few years.

But to describe the workings of the Guild in one short article is a task which would defeat the perspicacity of the longest serving member. This attempt will leave out a lot, and if any Freshers are inspired to become a Guild politician he would do well to obtain a copy of the Guild's own book of words—The Constitution—from the General Office.

The Guild is governed by Guild Council, a body elected by the total membership of the Guild who are divided into constituencies on a departmental basis. Council elections take place during the Spring term, but to ensure the representation of First Year students they elect their own 'Freshers' Representatives during the Autumn term. Guild Council and Guild Councillors have been called many names, in this paper and elsewhere, but their shortcomings and their efficiency are your responsibility. You vote there.

### Right to vote

You also have the right to vote, during the Summer term for the President and Vice-President of the Guild. These two officers, (one of each sex, although there is no rule to say that a man must be President) act as the Guild's representatives in dealings with the University authorities and with other outside bodies. The Presidential election is usually a fierce struggle between well-known personalities and all the candidates have the ordeal of facing the Guild en masse at the Husting.

Working with the President and Vice-President in the day-to-

day administration of the Guild and the Union, is the Executive Committee who are elected by your representatives on Guild Council. The Executive consists of an Internal Affairs officer, whose main responsibility is the running of dances and hops and providing hospitality for visitors to the Union; an External Affairs chairman who deals with our relations with the National Union of Students, grants and welfare; and six other officers who between them deal with all the financial and secretarial work which the running of the Guild requires.

### Mammoth meeting

At a mammoth meeting during the Summer term, which is attended by the Councillors for the current and the coming year, Guild Council elects Executive, and the eleven standing committees of the Guild, which between them are responsible for the detailed running of the Union. Catering, Carnival and Entertainments, to mention just a few.

This is how the wheels go round. Naturally it is not a simple organisation. With a membership of more than 4,000 who want to eat, drink, hold meetings and find their entertainment within one building, the organisational problems are tremendous. But apart from the indefatigable Permanent Secretary and his secretarial staff, the Guild is run by students—by you.

## Chess : interested?

MANY Chess players, when they leave school to go to a University, tend to lose interest in the game and although they may have taken an active part in their school club, they take no interest at all in their University Club.

The two most usual excuses given for this state of affairs are that either the University Club has too high a standard or that there is far too much to do at university. This first excuse is completely invalid since the University Club has five league teams which enclose a complete spectrum of abilities.

The second excuse is partially valid, but the fresher must weigh up in his mind whether or not

he or she can find time in order not to forget all the chess he knew.

If you wish to keep up an active interest in the game, you should either attend:—

- (a) a simultaneous Chess display in the Council Room on Saturday, October 1st at 2 p.m. or
- (b) a Lightning Chess Tournament on Wednesday, October 5th at 7 p.m., or (c) both.

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It is not enough for any member to shrug his shoulders and say 'I've paid my fees, let someone else get on with the work. Even if you have no ambitions to become a Guild Councillor or a committee member, you have one over-riding responsibility in Guild affairs and that is to vote.

### Spark of enthusiasm

By voting, both in elections and at the Annual General Meeting, you are using the obvious channel for influencing the policy of what is after all, your Guild. Past years have shown that the students are all too often a thoroughly apathetic bunch. It is up to you to show that your year at least has a spark of enthusiasm and is determined to make itself heard in the Guild.

But be warned—only the Constitution can really guide you through the devious ways of Guild politics.

## NATIONS UNITED

By Rodney B. Watts

FOLLOWING the custom of the past two years, a "U.N." pre-term conference for overseas freshers was held in University House.

Officially the conference began on the 19th, but British representatives were busy forming pacts on Snow Hill and New Street stations long before and after this date.

There was the annual confusion over sexes, resulting in a young lady sharing a room with a member of the opposite sex.

On "its" arrival, the staff, with their usual sparkling ability to spot mistakes, offered her another room. Several lost their baggage, and the porter complained of somebody swiping his lists and dogends. Nevertheless everybody seemed to settle in with remarkable rapidity.

### War dance

There was a programme of lectures, English language and subject tutorials arranged by the Director of Studies, Mr. E. J. Hathaway of the French Department. The programme was kept to a manner, peculiar perhaps to students—the lectures were attended or skived, and the English tutorials were thought of as an unnecessary evil.

Entertainment was arranged for several evenings, including folk dancing and songs, but perhaps being made more memorable by a French Canadian, "Momo," doing a war-dance in a "broom" and a brass band and balloon debate were also held. The survivor in the balloon ordeal was H. Goczen, alias Guy Fawkes.

### New ties

Although the conference may not have been too successful in teaching English language, it has brought together people from 30 countries into a community where many ties have been made, not only among the overseas folk but with British included.

It is a great pity that more British people have not given their help and friendship, for it is only on a basis of friendship and concern for each other that the right type of multi-racial society which should exist in a university will emerge.

## THIS IS 'BRUM'

### By Justicar

NOT unnaturally the Fresher's first reaction to the City of Birmingham is "What a God-forsaken town!" This is an understandable but an inaccurate impression. Outside London and perhaps Manchester, no town offers such comprehensive and varied facilities for entertainment and enlightenment.

### Food

First food: here there is little ground for complaint for there are restaurants for all pockets and tastes. For Indian and Chinese gourmets there are several reasonably priced restaurants, mostly along the stretch of Bristol Road between the Ringway and the Bristol Cinema. For the special occasion: The Plough and Harrow (Hagley Road); The Queens Hotel, the Grand Hotel (Town centre); The Burlington (off New Street).

There are a multitude of coffee bars, most of them also catering for meals of an inexpensive nature. Recommended are the Locarno (Broad Street); the Firebird (Moor Street); the Sicilia (Five Ways); for Saturday mornings and social climbing, the Vintage Room (Temple Street). There are hundreds of other cafes, hotels, coffee bars, restaurants ad infinitum so take your pick.

### Theatres

The worst drawback of Birmingham for the culture vulture is the lack of accessible theatrical entertainment.

The Alexandra and The Repertory Theatre both have resident companies of an excellent standard.

The Birmingham Hippodrome occasionally gets some good shows, but mostly it is mediocre variety. For those prepared to travel, the best two Midlands theatres are The Belgrade (Coventry, 20 miles) and the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre (Stratford). Music in Birmingham is fairly satisfactory. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra rates highly and the Birmingham Town Hall is an ideal venue for classical music. There

are frequent concerts throughout the year as well as jazz concerts and other stage performances.

### Art

The Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery is a fine building, the contents of which do not match the stature of the internal design. There are some fine pictures but also, unfortunately, an over-abundance of mediocre mid-Victorian paintings. The Gallery also has a comfortable Tea-Room. The Barber Institute in University Road is one of the finest small galleries in the country and its concert hall has superb acoustics.

For historic buildings and stately homes, there is little within the city boundaries except Aston Hall which is well worth a visit. The Warwickshire and Worcestershire countryside is most inviting during the summer months though for an autumn ramble the Lickey Hills (No. 62 bus) or Clet Hills (Midland Red bus) are attractive and easily reached.

### Cinemas

There is a multitude of cinemas with an all-round coverage of horror, drama and continental films as well as the news theatre Jazz clubs abound.

### The Brummie

One final point—do not be disconcerted by the Brummie. He is an oddly unforthcoming character and rather involved with himself and not his neighbour's affairs. He tends to regard strangers mainly for geographical reasons but he can be won especially by the use of that most English characteristic—moderation.

## EVERY WEEK, IN THE SPECTATOR

Roy Jenkins or Charles Fletcher-Cooke or Mark Bonham Carter writes about politics . . .

Evelyn Waugh or Kingsley Amis or Angus Wilson or Dan Jacobson or William Golding or John Mortimer or A. J. Ayer or all of them at once and many more write about books . . .

Alan Brien and David Cairns and Isabel Quigley write about the theatre, music and films . . .

Bernard Levin writes about the Powers trial or Lady Chatterley's Lover or the Prisoners of St. Helena . . .

Katharine Whitehorn writes about almost everybody . . . Cyril Ray writes about wine . . .

Foreign correspondents write from Johannesburg or Capetown or Bonn or Paris or Washington or New York . . .

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# CALLING ALL SPORTSMEN

## Grants, welfare.. ... and you

THE sports clubs in the University extend a warm welcome to all Freshmen. Sport in the University is administered by the Athletic Union, of which all members of the Guild of Undergraduates are automatically members.

To become a playing member of the Union, you merely have to register with one of the Union's constituent clubs.

Besides matches with other universities and local sporting clubs, the Athletic Union sponsors and organises fixtures on a competitive basis between Departments in the more popular sports for members unable to make the University teams. In the past these have included cricket, rugby, soccer, basketball, netball, tennis, athletics, squash and badminton. Mixed hockey, weightlifting and volleyball are more recent ventures in this direction.

All this has resulted in the formation of an Inter-Departmental Competition on a league basis, which has firmly established itself as an integral part of the University's sporting calendar.

Thus, most students can take part in their particular sport.

by  
**MIKE DOWN**  
Sports Editor

even if they do not gain a place in the University team immediately.

And there are, of course, numerous casual and informal games played between various organisations in the Guild.

### Birmingham Leads The Field

In the national field of sport, Birmingham is one of the foremost universities. Several of our clubs have been successful in the Universities' Athletic Union and Women's Inter-Varsity Athletic Board championships, whilst many players from all sporting branches of the Athletic Union gain representative honours yearly for the U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B., as well as county, district and even national selection.

Inevitably, however, we lose many players each year and the burden of upholding our sport-

ing traditions fall to a great extent on the shoulders of Freshmen.

Most clubs in the Union run two teams and the major sporting clubs four or more. Incidentally, you are only required to pay the first 3s. of your fare to away matches, and people required for matches are excused lectures.

To assist the organisation of trials, a meeting of all Freshmen wishing to play for the University teams will take place on Saturday, October 1st at 11.30 a.m. in the Debating Hall of the Union building.

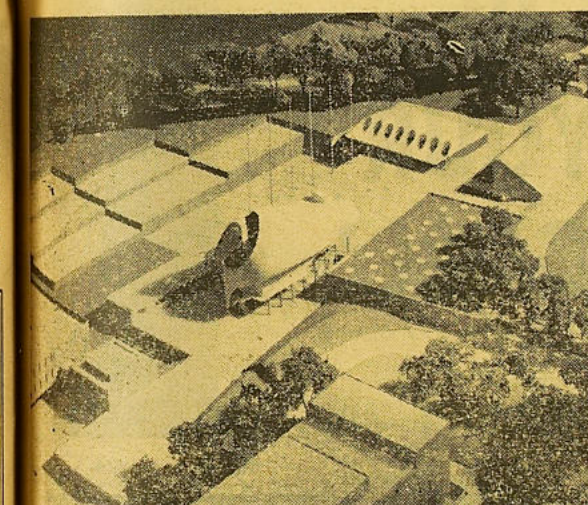
Be sure to go along and see the representatives of the clubs you wish to join.

The Freshmen's trials will be held the same afternoon and continue during the first week of the session.

Each club will have lists of names posted on their boards in the Union, so remember to sign the necessary list.

Finally, your degree course provides for your academic needs; the Athletic Union, the means for you to spend your leisure hours with great enjoyment and purpose at the same time.

## YOUR NEW SPORTS CENTRE



AN ARCHITECT'S MODEL OF THE NEW SPORTS CENTRE.

THE University Council has approved plans for the building of a new University Sports Centre which will also include the Department of Physical Education and the Health Centre. It will replace the present building containing a large gymnasium, squash courts, lecture rooms, a sports hall annex and two changing rooms, facilities which are now quite insufficient for the demands made on them.

The new Centre will comprise a sports hall, two large and five small gymnasiums, eight squash courts, a swimming pool 110 ft. by 48 ft., with a 10-metre diving board and a rifle range, all adjacent to the existing running track. Changing accommodation will include 4,000 lockers for students, which will also cater for those using the adjoining playing fields. In addition there is an all-purpose outdoor playing area complete with rebound wall 80 yards long.

When this scheme is completed, the University will have facilities far superior to any sporting organisation in the country, let alone other universities.

The building should be completed by 1963-64, so we can look forward to the future with hopes of great improvement both in our sports facilities and the standard of play achieved on the University playing fields.

Such a centre will surely demonstrate the great social value of sports as an essential part of a student's life. The proper blending of academic, athletic and social activities is surely the hallmark of the good student.

It is important that a student should live in an environment suited to his particular needs, providing facilities for group work and a room suitable for both work and rest, and that he should receive adequate financial support.

Such is the attitude that underlies the activities of the N.U.S. in its Grants and Welfare policy. In recent years the N.U.S. has obtained an increasing measure of support from the major political parties, the Association of Education Committees, the Local Education Authorities and the Educational Press, all of whom have come to accept N.U.S.'s concept of the treatment which a person taking up a course of higher education should receive.

### Any Problems

Within the Guild of Undergraduates all aspects of student welfare, with particular reference to grants and fees, insurance, health, food and accommodation problems, are dealt with by the Grants and Welfare secretary. If you have any problems of this nature, the Grants and Welfare secretary will be pleased to answer your enquiries and needs or, alternatively, to put you in touch with people or organisations that can.

The Grants and Welfare Secretary during the 1960-61 session is Barry M. Faulkner, who can be contacted via the Union pigeon holes or at the Department of Genetics through the internal University post.

## Personal Column

**University Service.**—The university Service will be held on Sunday, 9th October, 1960, in St. Bartholomew's Church (Edgbaston Old Church) at 6.30 p.m. The Preacher will be Canon T. R. Milford, Master of the Temple.

\*\*\*

**Experienced Typist** requires work at home, willing to do dissertations, available any evening, apply: Mrs. A. D. Holloway, 44 Kempson Ave., Wyde Green, Nr. Sutton Coldfield.

\*\*\*

**Autumn Ball.**—Make sure you have got your dress suit in time for our first formal dance (see Entertainments Committee bulletin).

\*\*\*

**Wanted.**—Freshers with journalistic inclinations—Critics, Reporters, Photographers, Typists, etc.—Apply Editor, via "Guild News" Pigeon Holes.

**Carnival Magazine, 1961.**—Contributions should be sent to the Editor via Carnival pigeon hole.

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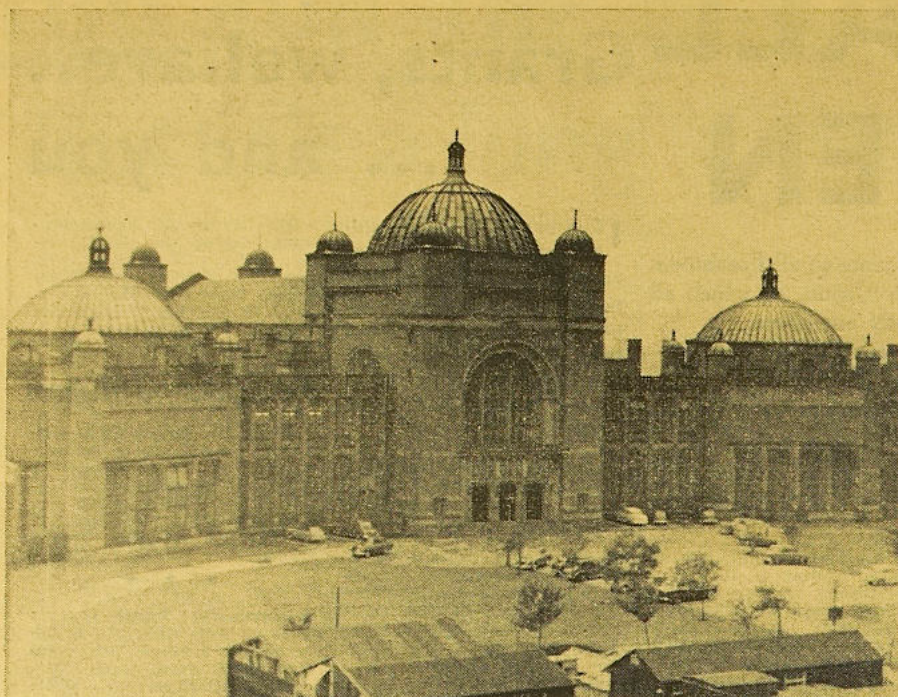
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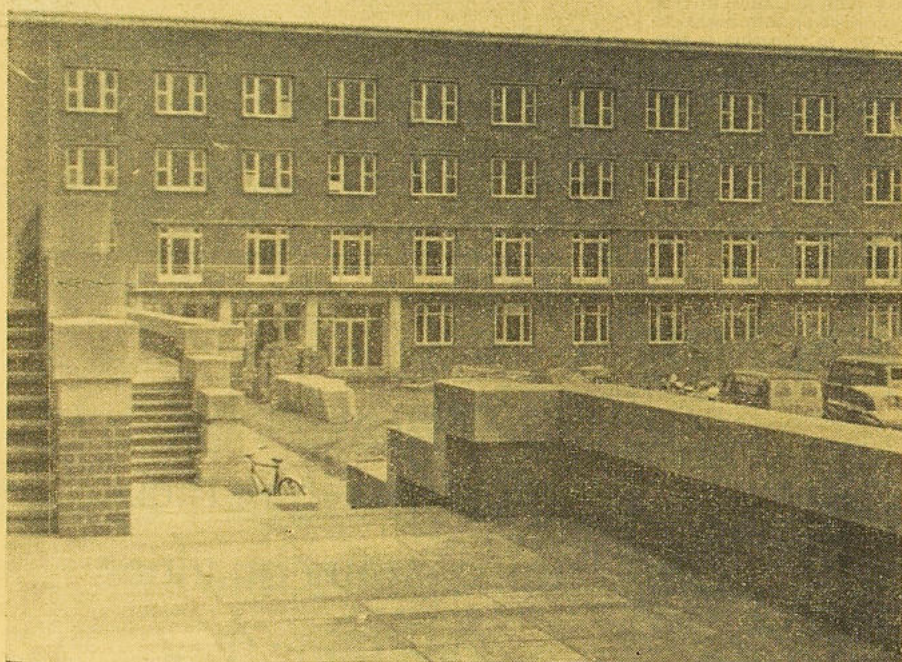
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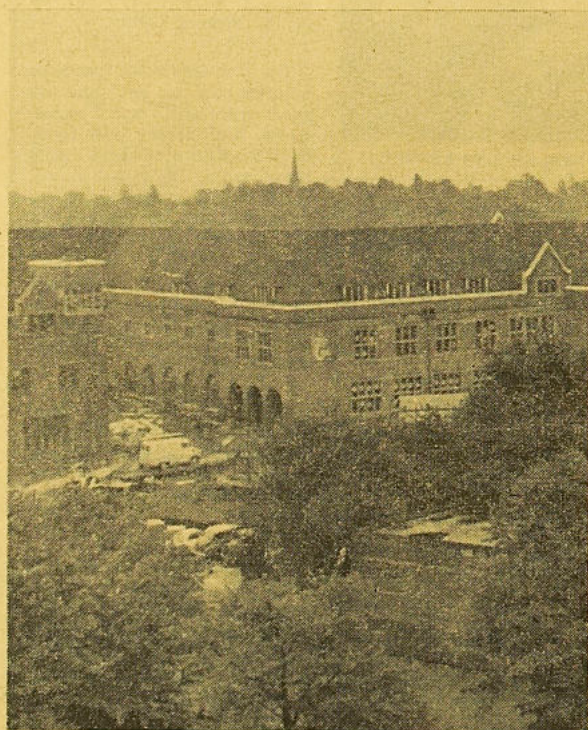
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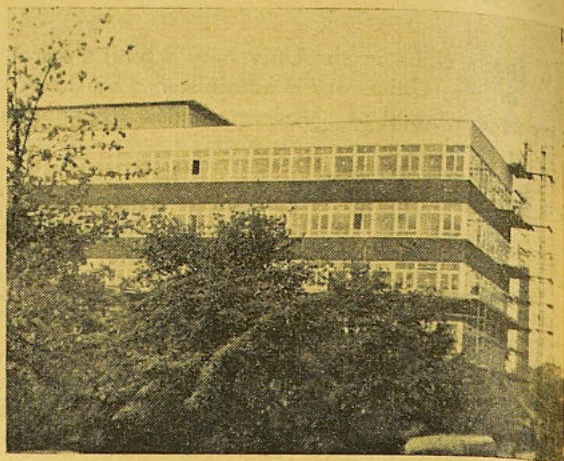
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