GUILD NEWS

3D

THURSDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1961 No. 590

Birmingham student gets anti-immigrant letter

SCARS UNDER FIRE

Race hatred in the city

MIKE THICKETT, recently elected chairman of S.C.A.R.S., received a near-Fascist letter from an "average Birmingham working man" last week. The letter was addressed to "Mr. Michael Thickett, SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENT, Birmingham University," leading us to believe that the attack was based on an "Evening Despatch" report of the S.C.A.R.S. committee's first meeting in Birmingham last week. At this meeting it was decided the National Student Committee Against Racial Segregation should present a petition to the Commonwealth Prime Minister's' Conference next month, urging the Premiers to eject South Africa from the Commonwealth.

Mike handed the letter to "Guild News," in an effort to show the violence and prevalence of anti-colour prejudice in Birmingham. Many people imagine that the colour problem exists only abroad. Here is proof that it flourishes on our own doorstep.

We print the following extracts from the letter, which was not anonymous, to emphasise this point:—

"DEAR SIR,—At 20 years of age do you consider yourself old enough to decide this country's view of coloured People?

"Obviously being a student you come from a richer class than I (that is the misfortune of birth), but you definitely are blind to the facts and feelings of the lower classes.

"You see, sir, in my area, every other child one sees in the streets is a half-breed. This you never meet or see in your class so you cannot ever imagine what it means. Picture this country in 10 to 15 years when you are a little older and have more sense, will you be proud of a Coffee-coloured England? Where is your pride, Sir? What has the coloured man ever done for the White man?

Man of Pride

"Dr. Verwoerd, in my opinion, is a man of pride so leave him be, but there will be grave trouble, not from me, I assure you!

For years now the White races have been warring and killing each other off, whilst the coloured peoples lay back and animal-like, overbred, until they became a white man's problem!

"Why do you support them? Was your mother or sister ever accosted in the streets by coloured people offering them money to sleep with them!? This insult happened to my wife, Sir, but couldn't occur in your class.

"The coloured man is very animal in his approach to life, for Christsakes man stick by your fellow white people, it is not a minority of people in Birmingham who detest the Blackies, it is a MAJORITY.

Once Proud

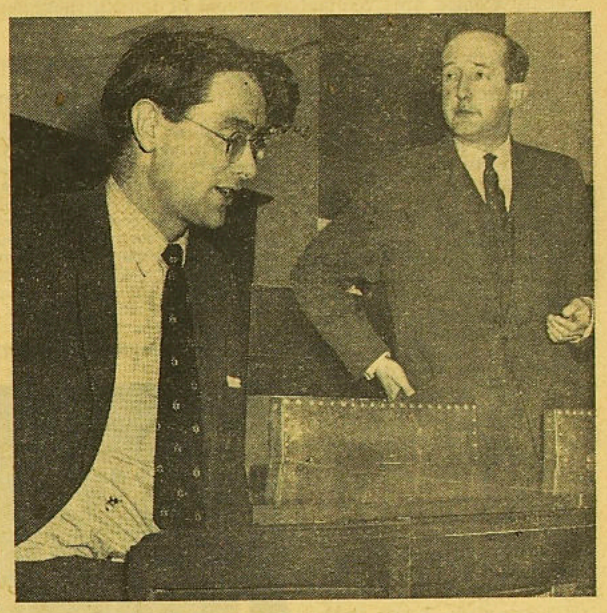
"Surely there is something white students could do to clear these coloured ones out of our once proud Land, not blessed well encourage them. Do you want a race of half-breeds?

Be fair now, set a test: let two of your girl students stand for 3-4 minutes on a corner in Pershore Road or Balshall Heath Road and afterwards see whether your love for the Blackies still blooms.

Great Danger

P.S.—"In a Post Office recently I saw three old ladies receive their pittance. I wondered how they could possibly manage the week on what they received. Following them came two Pakistanis—each sent £40 to their homelands. To send it cost them an extra £2 nearly, and standing there I wondered who was worse off. Who do you think? and any idea where their money came from? Dope? Prostitution? Someone's rent money? It makes you think! Brother, it makes you think, but you still might be too young at 20 to see the danger and it is a danger, son, a great danger.

P.S.—"If you're a Blackie, which is quite possibly true, you've just read an average working man's opinions of your sort. Get homesick and get out please! We don't want you, Sir, thank you very much.



Dr. Jasper McKee and Mr. Brian Priestley, visiting speakers at last week's debate.

ARM-CHAIR CRITICS WIN

THE House has long been ignorant of classical learning, but if Latinity be the sign of a good debate, last Thursday's motion "That this House has mistaken comfort for civilisation" should rank with those of Socrates and St. Bernard.

Leading the new fashion in red-brick debating was **Mr. Brian Priestley,** "The Times" correspondent for the Midlands and Wales, in defiance of his own opening criticism of old-style Oxford debating in which the speaker appeared to loathe his audience. This was all very well, he commented, for the days of "Civis Britannicus sum" and Imperial progress, but did not suit the modern completely deodorised and televised debator.

Having thus ingeniously approached the motion sideways he proceeded to lash out at the modern twin curses, television and "keeping up with the Jones's." These two, destructive of intellectual tolerance and feeling for fine things, imposed values that were merely "comfortable" on present day society.

Was it possible that some future people would one day engrave our epitaph, "They washed whiter than white'? Our present confusion of comfort with civilisation made this only too possible. So saying he sank back into his comfortable chair to make way for **Dr. Jasper McKee.**

Silly Question

Dr. McKee pointed out that Mr. Priestley had asked himself what the motion meant; this was a silly question and had received a suitable answer. His own thesis was that although the House knew civilisation, it had never known comfort.

Comfort was an attitude of mind, not a physical experience. How could a people unhappy about the Bomb, unhappy about money, unhappy even about luxury, be said to be comfortable? It was fortunated that we were civilised enough to discuss our lack of comfort; this might, in the end, save us.

Here was an argument to which Mr. Ted Ash could not accede. People were concerned only with their personal problems and their discussion of these was not evidence of the existence of civilisation. Principle always gave way to comfort, this being exemplified by the abortion bill lately before Parliament. He bewailed the fate of modern "civilisation."

Uncomfortable

"Ex Deb. Soc. semper aliquid novi" remarked Mr. Peter Thomas, possibly feeling that "Cinis ad portas" would have been a more appropriate cry. Mr. Ash's argument, like his person, was uncomfortable. Material comfort followed the progress of civilisation; it was not a substitute for it. All the members of the House were interested in the balance of interests within society—how could they be said to be uncivilised?

The motion was then carried by a narrow majority.

STOP PRESS:

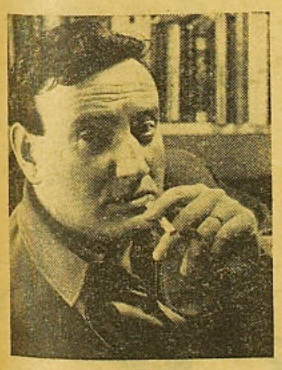
"NO" TO CUT-PRICE TICKETS.

Special general meeting decided by 12 votes to ask Council to ban cut-price tickets for officials at most functions. Full story next week.

Trying low-brow

WOLF MANKOWITZ is an aggressive low-brow who tries, not very convincingly to rationalise an instinctive dislike of artistic pretentiousness, and a warm love of life.

Speaking in the new Council Chamber on Sunday afternoon prior to the Jewish Society's annual dinner, he provided a number of stimulating and controversial topics for discussion. Conditions were inauspicious;



WOLF MANKOWITZ.
(Photo: Tom Blau).

Mr. Mankowitz had barely recovered from a recent attack of pneumonia and in addition had to struggle to make himself heard against an accompanying background of rising wind. His lively presentation of ideas and theories matched a forthright, outspoken personality.

Therapy

His motives for writing were primarily for money, and secondly to entertain. Therapy he felt was more important than education. In answer to a questioner who accused him of giving up æsthetic principles for fear of losing money, he replied, "I have no conscience, especially as regards my professional career." He wrote what he could sell, but refused to admit to exploiting a gullible public.

Not having the heart to submit such a friendly fellow to yet another press interview, we invited him to direct a rehearsal of "The Dumb Waiter," which G.T.G. are to put on this term. The actors were honoured, when flinging his camelhair overcoat round his shoulders, he bade them begin.

All Pinter's characters are paranoics or schizoids," he began, "and you must establish this apparently motiveless tension between you right from the beginning." Both actors glared at each other in simulated hate and fear, as he began to construct a paranoic character for each of them. "The play will stand or fall on the ambiguity of your relationship," he continued and went on to propose that they should hate each other off-stage as well, for the next few weeks, just for the practice.

After throwing out a further five minutes of provocative ideas, he hitched his coat more firmly around his shoulders, and leaping out to a taxi was whisked off to the train and Shaftesbury Avenue.

GUILD NEWS
THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER
THE UNION, EDGBASTON
Tel. Selly Oak 1841

EDITOR ..... Maureen Jones
ASSISTANT EDITOR ..... Bob Bootle
BUSINESS MANAGER ..... Steve Goddard

Weaker sex hits back

Woman in arms

MADAM,—I feel compelled to refute the Geologists' claim, in last week's "Guild News," that the majority of university women are "completely devoid of female characteristics."

Since Messrs. Toghill and Fell admit that their department is all-male, and that hops and dances are the only times when they meet women students, I do not see how they can be in any position to pass judgments upon us.

They don't seem to realise that women can, and are doing a useful job of work, and at the same time encourage the male to assert his alleged superiority.

As for the "well-known fact" that few university women attend the Hop, because they are afraid of the loose behaviour which they may encounter in the men, I can only say that this is neither "well-known" nor "a fact"; and only goes to show the complete ignorance of Messrs. Toghill and Fell in these matters.

REAL REASON

The real reasons for the comparatively small numbers of women students at the hops are:

(1) They often have boy-friends and prefer to go elsewhere; and

(2) if they DO go to the Hop, they are often discarded in preference to a nurse, or working woman, who can pay her share and who does not possess the "obvious innocence" with which university women are supposedly endowed.

I can only assume that Messrs. Toghill and Fell have little or no knowledge of female characteristics, especially those of women students, and that they have missed a great deal in their two years at University. I suggest that they acquaint themselves with their female counterparts, and then, perhaps they will not be so eager for the days when "women knew their place."

Yours, etc.,
A FERVENT FEMINIST.

AFRICAN AID

MADAM,—On two consecutive days we had our consciences and purses attacked by a collection for the Congolese. There always seems to be an air of condescension, almost of patronage, about giving in this fashion and a feeling that, with the clink of the coin in the box, our responsibility to others is paid off.

Would it not be possible for a few to give a little time, rather than money; time to be spent in providing a profitable service rather than plain begging? One possibility is a transport liaison office where car-drivers and would-be hitch-hikers could be matched more efficiently than the present method of little notes being pinned to the pigeonholes.

Steady Income

These groups could be formed to get 20 tickets on the railways; even separate coach-loads could be made up for popular destinations.

A surcharge of 3d. or 6d. on each transaction could be made and a small but steady income provided to scratch away someone's misery and discomfort.

Can't we do a little more than wave, or ignore, those pitiful little tin boxes?

Yours,
BARRY HUTTON.

PRESS POST

VIRGIN?

DEAR MADAM, — On asking numerous people whether they believed the birth of Christ was a Virgin birth, I was surprised to hear that a lot of people were firmly convinced that he **was** born in this way.

Looking at it from a medical point of view and not being dogmatic in the slightest way this conception is highly improbable.

One interesting factor though is that if this Virgin birth did take place then genetically a male offspring is impossible because a female carries female characteristics only (the man carries both). Hence Christ would have to be female.

If we do not take this view and presume that Christ was sent by God the Father through the Holy Spirit, why the thorough explanation in the New Testament of the Virgin birth?

In other words, why make the concept of believing that Christ was sent by the Father through the Holy Spirit any harder to grasp?

Yours,
ROBERT N. WESTON.

NOT OUT?

MADAM.—We should like to support Mr. Nobody's plea for an "Out" Society, but does he realise that in writing to "Guild News" he has now become "In," and is thereby breaking the unwritten constitution of the Society?

What do other would-be Nobodies suggest?

"DOWN & OUTS."

P.S.—We realise that if this letter is printed we join Mr. Nobody in the ranks of the "In."

NO POINT IN FAVOUR

'Sadism and Snobbery' indeed!

DEAR MADAM,—I would like to make some observations on Peter Plant's article this week entitled "Sadism and Snobbery."

He does not forward **one** argument in favour of fox hunting, other than that it is enjoyable to the participants, i.e., the huntsmen and the hounds (he doesn't mention the fox). And this is self-evident anyway.

NOT BIASED

MADAM,—It was with disgust that I read the reply of C.N.D. to my previous letter. Such a blustering, forceful and offensive tirade is typical of extremist groups whether they be Fascist, Communist, Nationalist or what have you.

I will admit to an ignorance of the C.N.D. organisation and I would welcome an explanation. Also I am very sorry that they do not like my style of letter writing.

However, I would like to know what I am so decidedly prejudiced for or against. I am certainly not prejudiced for the bomb. I hope there are very few people either side of the Iron Curtain who find real contentment in possessing it. I do not agree with the principles of C.N.D. but I have no wish for it to be outlawed. Minority groups can do some good as well as harm. However, the reaction of C.N.D. to criticism was very extreme.

My "puerile stupidity" as they put it, is a real concern for the future of my country. Those "honest and dedicated people" have their opinions which we see plastered over the walls, so surely I am allowed mine which are just as genuine.

WHY, WHY ?

As in their letter they did not give any understandable reply, I ask the C.N.D. again: why should we put up with their civil disobedience? Why should they draw attention to themselves at the expense of others? Their actions are sure to provoke other extremists, i.e. Empire Loyalists, and sooner or later a riot will be started causing much more work for the police and hospitals. If they reply I hope C.N.D. will lessen the personal abuse and try to give me a sound answer.

Incidentally, I wonder how many of those who sat down outside Whitehall on the Saturday, joined the mob around the Belgian Embassy the following evening?

Yours etc.,
A. N. LANE.

APOLOGY FOR MURDER

DEAR MADAM, — I feel that the rather misguided and inhuman point of view expressed on the subject of abortion in "Talking Point" cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.

Your columnist sets out with what amounts to an apology for murder by assuming that all unborn children and infants up to a certain age (which he omits to mention) can be likened to animals and it is of little consequence if they are destroyed.

He seems to forget that all human beings are a special kind of animal anyway and that no one section of the race, whether they are more highly developed or not, have been given the right to exterminate other members of the race.

Two Kinds

The paragraph concerning the numbers of abortions occurring is entirely misleading as it suggests that there are only two kinds of abortion — therapeutic or criminal.

By far the majority of all abortions which are not induced for therapeutic reasons, are considered to be natural abortions. All living creatures are exposed to the possibility of death at any time in their life and this particularly applies to the unborn child in the first few weeks after conception.

Sweden has of course relaxed its abortion laws since 1946. Far from copying her example we in Britain should learn from her mistakes where it has been found that 59 per cent of legal abortions resulted in severe psychiatric disturbance following the operation. (Siegfried S. (1951) Schweiz. Arch. Neurol Psychiat. 67, 365). Also no less than 20 per cent of women who had been legally aborted had unintentionally become pregnant within one year of the operation, showing that at least one-fifth of the legal murders were completely and utterly wasted.

Barbaric Practices

I do not wish to comment on the Christian and humanitarian aspects of the problem as I am sure other readers will do this, but it will be seen from the above few brief facts that there is no evidence that such barbaric practices as Mr. Hugill suggests would be of the slightest value to anybody. Instead of asking our doctors to become public executioners it would be far better to tackle the problem from the angle of moral reform, better care for the unloved babies born, and a tighter control on back-street abortionists.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. GUNN.

Moreover, he comes out with some of the most nonsensical arguments against humanitarians that I have heard for some time; he does not like people criticising hunting when they have never taken part! Presumably Mr. Plant approves of murder, or is a murderer himself. And I'm fairly certain that Mr. Plant is anti-Communist, but I don't know whether he's ever tried living a Communist way of life.

I would have thought also that there is a more convenient tool for opening gates than a whip. In fact Mr. Plant's "arguments" is non-existent and most of his facts are self-evident.

On the other hand I would like to ask Mr. Plant what right he thinks he has to rear foxes in captivity, let them loose, and then take away their lives in a brutal manner?

Mr. Plant's article has an excellent title, "Sadism and Snobbery," which is an excellent description of this loathsome thing he does.

Yours etc.,
D. SIDDONS.

I WAS RIGHT

MADAM,—I was astonished to read Mr. Allin's letter ("Guild News," Feb. 23rd). While it is not for me to criticise medical gentlemen, it is essential that the person who contests my information is absolutely certain that he is right and I am wrong. Unfortunately, Mr. Allin seems to have quoted from an American survey that I mentioned in my article, without reading it for himself. I gather from his letter that:

(1) I had the facts wrong.

(2) I did not define what I mean by abortion.

I must reply that:

(1) I had the facts correct. The American survey that I quoted expressly stated that the estimates were for **induced illegal** abortions.

(2) I did define what I meant by abortion. Though it may have seemed that I placed a layman's interpretation on the meaning of the word, after two years of things medical by your own correspondent, "Tabes," I insist that I was fully aware of the distinctions drawn by Mr Allin.

I am sure that all will agree that the chairman of the B.U. Medical Society should be both well-informed medically and logical in his comment.

Mr. Allin, I fear satisfies neither of these criteria.

Yours, etc.,
D. HUGILL.

SMALL ADS.

MARLON'S "ON THE WATER-FRONT" tonight. How about you? Mech. Eng. 7.30 p.m.

B.S.A. BANTAM SUPER, 175 c.c., 1958, for sale. Excellent condition, new engine, tyres and brakes. With legshields, panniers, windscren, carrier, mirror, etc. Price £75.—Contact: Mr. G. Bhatt, Medical School (Internal Post).

YOUR FEET are wanted at ALDERMASTON. Obtain your marcher's form from Anne Petter via pigeonholes.

SUNDAY FLIC: "The Constant Husband" and "The Candlelight Murder," 8 p.m. Deb. Hall.

M&B
It's
Marvellous Beer

WE ARE DEMOCRATIC

Say Socialist Union Committee

IN reply to the allegations made by Messrs. Carlowe and Dantowitz in "Guild News" last week that the Socialist Union is dominated by Communists, a number of members have been writing in protest.

Tony Wakeling, the Secretary of the Student branch of the Communist Party, points out that only two out of eight committee members are Communists. This, he claims, reflects the feeling and climate of the society at the last A.G.M. when the committee was elected.

Whilst admitting that the executive members have their political differences, he states that the aim of the society is to provide a platform for all left viewpoints. That all decisions at committee level must be taken unanimously necessitates broad-mindedness on all sides.

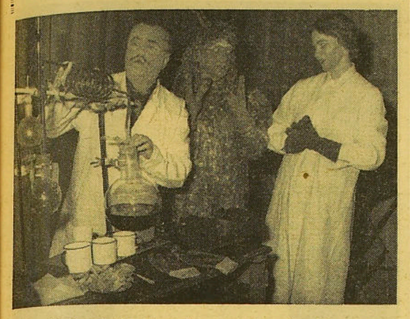
Although the Communists fight for their policy in the Socialist Union, as they have a right to, to suggest that the other six committee members are merely pawns is to do them less than justice.

Democratic

Four Committee members, who do not associate themselves with either the Communist or Labour parties, Abdul-al-Amir, Shirley Fossick, Megan Jones and D. Vir, also state that the affairs of the society are carried out democratically. They point out that the Labour Party members have always voted for the suggestions and proposals put forward by the Communists, but the society is not "dominated" by them. There has been no bias in the choice of speakers, they add, and if, due to any incorrect assessments there is a feeling to that effect, they point out that they are no more or less guilty than the members of the Labour Party whose co-operation the Communists have enjoyed throughout. They also mention that no unconstitutional decisions have been taken by any member of the committee.

The balance of programme in a society as broad as the Socialist Union will always be a matter of some controversy, but no doubt the feeling of the main body of the society will be expressed at the S.G.M. being held today at 5.15 p.m.

A PASSIONATE THING



"I chased him through a uranium deposit And now he's hiding in a heavy water closet."

WITH the Deb. Hall on Tuesday, 21st Feb. almost blacked out and almost full, and with these words coming from the stage you could be forgiven for thinking that a better than usual university revue was being presented. But no. It was the annual successful visit of the Intimate Opera Group to the Open Lecture.

The small performance was of "Hands Across the Sky," libretto by Gordon Snell (a sample seen above), music by Antony Hopkins (delightful music, sometimes intricate, always appropriate), production by Antony Hopkins, accompanied by Margaret Veal (pages turned by Brian Trowell).

Professor Neutron (Leyland White) unsuccessfully protests his love for Miss Fothergill, that's how he addresses her, his assistant (Ann Dowdall) who is in love with nothing but scientific experimentation until Squeg, a Thing (Stephen Manton), green and unexpectedly timid, arrives from outer space.

Miss Fothergill's passion and Professor Neutron's hatred cause Squeg to leave on a stolen rocket and a confusion about potions turns the professor into a Thing, and therefore the object of his assistant's love. They sing a final trio with Squeg shimmering as a satellite on the far side of the stage and another Open Lecture is concluded.

Rags and elections

RAG-TIME is here, at least as far as most universities are concerned, and with Presidential elections also in full swing the student population is being kept busy.

At **King's College, London,** there is a rumpus over an election mistake which resulted in a few students being unable to vote, while their neighbours at **University College** are rejoicing at the opening of a new refectory.

As a result of a Special General Meeting at **Leeds,** the students are calling on the authorities to investigate the accommodation situation; they want the abolition of the 11 o'clock curfew and the age restriction for flats. It is ridiculous that we are treated in a way based on an assumption normally reserved for inhabitants of H.M. prisons and mental hospitals, they protest. Their claim for reduced fares appears doomed, a transport official describing it as an impertinence, but after all, what self-respecting student could ask for a tuppenny child's, please.

Many at **Cambridge** are mourning the loss of Herb Elliott to M.R.A. although Elliott himself seems to be a little doubtful. Others appear to be giving that old skeleton, mental health, its regular dusting.

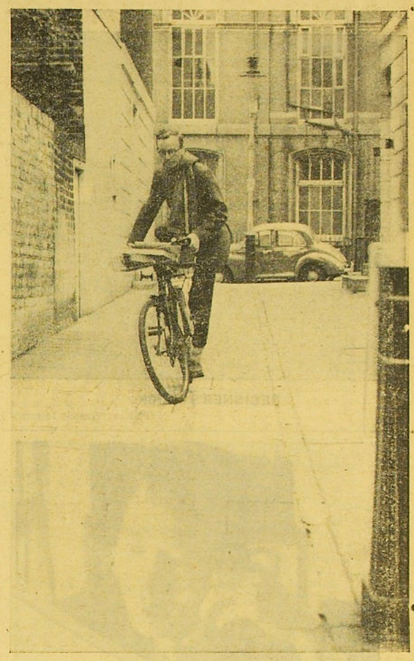
Durham on the other hand, is excited at the idea of a new eight-year building plan, but then they obviously have not experienced the joys of working to a symphony of road drills.

SURVEY

ST. FRANCIS HALL, in conjunction with "Guild News," is planning to hold a survey of the religious life of this University on Monday, March 6th. The purpose of this survey is to attempt to find out how many Christians, Mohammedans, Agnostics, etc. there are in this university, and to what denominations the Christians belong and how often they attend church.

How many Anglicans are there who never darken Ang. Soc.? How many "four-wheel Christians" who only enter church for the purpose of baptism in a pram, marriage in a car, and burial in a hearse?

BLIND ALLEY



...or way to the top?

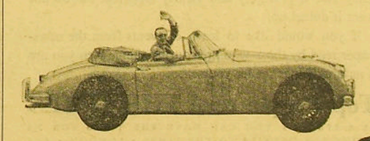
For science and engineering graduates a career in power is an investment in opportunity. No frustrating blind alleys here. It makes no difference whether you become an electrical or mechanical engineer engaged upon generation and transmission, or an engineer, chemist, physicist, mathematician or metallurgist engaged upon research and development. In an industry where demand is doubling every ten years, all ways lead to the top.

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THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD CEGB

GUILD DINNER & BALL

Friday, March 10th, 1961

Dancing to . . .

BILLY TERNENT & HIS ORCHESTRA
THE GUY RICARDO ORCHESTRA
THE MIDLANDERS' SHOW BAND
also the WEST INDIAN STEEL BAND

Breakfast 3.15 a.m.

Evening Dress — Tickets limited

Dinner Tickets: 50/- double, from Permanent Secretary.
Ball Tickets: 25/- double (inc. Buffet), from the Stewards' Office.

DON'T JUST LIE THERE — FIGHT BACK

by Tim Goodrich

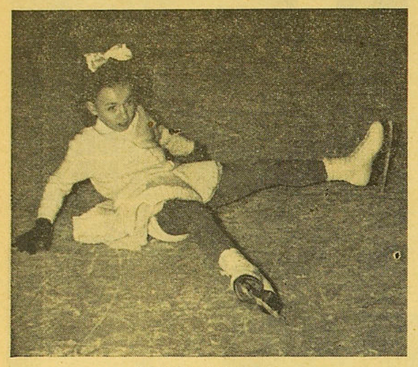
AT the beginning of last term some members of the Faculty of Law introduced themselves to a new form of escapism. Everyone who wishes to find some way out of Birmingham's tired greyness (apart from his own soul) must for ever be grateful to them. The name of this metaphysic is Ice-skating.

It is a philosophy with all the seductive charms of Moral Re-armament and all the physical thrills of the Outward Bound. And it is a philosophy which, like Moral Re-armament and the Outward bound, has become a vogue amongst the bored and the slightly insane.

The facts are surprising, from a Law student group of about eight going every Wednesday afternoon, the total number of University students skating each week has increased to perhaps 50, many of whom go in the evening. If proof is needed that the sport is becoming popular, it need only be added that Law students are no longer seen at the rink.

The popularity of ice-skating must, as with all other new movements, be traced to its ideology. Its value in physical terms is certainly formidable, as evidenced by the extraordinarily well-developed figures to be seen on the ice-rink at any time. But its attraction is not so much the physical as the psychological.

The ice-rink is a microcosm in which the universal struggle of Man against Man is once more played out. In this primitive environment men seem to return to the state of nature, each constantly seeking to acquire dominion over his neighbour. To protect himself from this new manifestation of Fellow Man, it is essential for the young skater to learn some of the basic concepts of Rinkmanship.



BEGINNER'S LUCK.

(Photos: "Sunday Mercury")



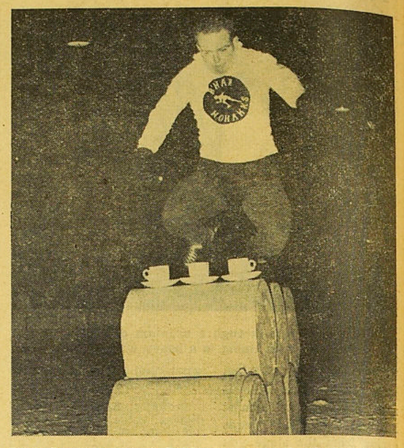
Severe fall

If the novice does not have time to study Rinkmanship in detail before his first visit, then it is best for him to use the "No, no—I'm just fine" strategy. The basic feature of this approach is to have a severe fall in the first few minutes.

The subject should lie prone until it is necessary for others to carry him out of their way. He should object to this with some carefully prepared disclaimers such as "Oh! there's nothing wrong—I just don't seem to be able to move my legs, that's all," rounding the thing out when he has reached comparative safety with something like "Well, let's hope gangrene has not set in anyway," uttered in a tone of false gaiety.

The strategy, however, is not without hazard. Perceptive skaters will use a counter technique known as "How do you stop these damn things?" from which the prone figure may receive several sharp cuts or even lose a finger or two.

To those who start with a deeper understanding of the subject the outlook is more varied, though hardly less challenging.



Denis Blundell, former British representative in European, World and Olympic speed skating championships.

The novice who begins to find himself feeling confident will encounter a large number of deflationary techniques, ranging from terrorism to the subliminal.

Deflationary

A common deflationary tactic is the "Come on—surely you can do better than **that.**" The novice who feels that he is at last grasping the fundamentals of speed skating will find himself passed by an expert cruising smoothly **backwards.** The expert will have a look of amused interest on his face and may even offer a few words of encouragement. This is best dealt with in the same way as the "Let us not pass our brother by on the other side" technique.

The latter is perhaps one of the most difficult techniques to combat. In it, the expert offers a few words of advice and instruction finishing with, "Now try it on your own—I'll watch you." Looking at your watch while he's talking or letting your eye wander to a pair of passing legs are not very effective here.

The best procedure is to let your instructor know that you are a dangerous man. Ask him, for instance, if you can hold on to his coat so as to get a sense of balance while you practise—if you have learnt rugby or ju-jitsu this can be very effective.

Offensive

For those who are not content with fight-backmanship, it is also possible to plan your own offensive. Some good groundwork can be put in before you ever reach the ice-rink. An excellent, if much used, strategy is to practise in secret before the First Visit, replying vaguely to the question, "This your first time?" "Well, I did try it once about four years ago."

The "Anything for a laugh" approach can be used too, but one must have a fund of aggressively-asserted remarks like, "This sort of thing is too pamby for me—like ballet almost" with which to back it up. But, the "I'm-not-too-good-at-this-sort-of-thing" approach, on the other hand, is not advisable for any but the most athletically outstanding. Indeed it is often apt to put the speaker **one down.**

More Advanced

Once you have mastered basic Rinkmanship you may progress to more advanced techniques. How should you appear tranquil when suffering from two sprained ankles? How should you behave when drenched in melting ice? How should you cope with the five-year-old who does a perfect pas-de-deux while you are picking yourself up? You will appreciate from what I have said that skating is not to be entered upon lightly. But if you survive hazards of fallen arches, concussion, sprained ankles, loss of limb, gangrene, pneumonia, and so on, it is a most rewarding exercise. It may not be too much to say that training in Rinkmanship is essential for a well-balanced personality.

The ice-rink is at Summer Hill, a short walk from the centre of town. You will need to get the 82 bus on the return journey. The charge (including hire of skates) for parties over 12 is 3/- each. A special sadist's ticket for spectators may be obtained by those who do not wish to participate.

People who make the news read it in The Times

THE sternest judgment any newspaper gets comes from those who see their own words and actions reported. They know what is true and what is not. They read The Times.

Such people are often the diplomats who speak for millions of their fellow countrymen. The ways of life they represent may not be those of this country; but they find them faithfully represented in The Times. They hold strong opinions, but not all of them hold the same opinions. So they demand a newspaper that does not twist the facts to suit a point of view. The one belief they share is that news itself is interesting and necessary. They like it promptly and clearly reported, but do not want it dolled up.

If you would like to learn of events from the newspaper read by those who are causing them, then you are a natural Times reader yourself.

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WAIT FOR IT!

THE Second M.B. is almost upon us once more. Presently another crowd of fresh, eager, utterly innocent Medics will be thrust upon the wards, ill-prepared to meet the snares and lures waiting for them. It is time to warn them of the Sirens in yellow and blue that lurk behind every bedpan. So here is a list of nurses to avoid :

(1) **Nubile Nurses.** Beware the furiously boiling dumplings! These nurses usually work in theatre where wonderful things can apparently lie beneath theatre gowns. Eyes can be employed to full advantage since the rest of the face is covered by a mask (luckily). But one touch of those heavy lips and you are lost forever, the scandal of the sluice-room.

(2) **Necrotic Nurses.** These have been blue a little too long; in advanced necrosis they turn purple or even green. To be avoided; they are slaves to a dull routine—beware lest you become part of it!

(3) The **"I like Medical Students"** type. Beware!

(4) The **"I don't like Medical Students"** type. Beware! **You** will be "different."

(5) The **"I like Spon McGrew"** type. Beware! It's you she's after!

(6) The **"I like nursing" type.** Beware! There's something wrong with her.

(7) The **adoring** type. Common among yellows. She sits in open-mouthed admiration as you do your routine duties. As you make the usual fool of yourself on ward-rounds the sympathy throbbing from the sluice room almost stifles you. Unfortunately they disillusion very quickly.

(8) The **"I've got a boy-friend at home"** type. Unspeakably dangerous!

(9) The **grumbling "pity me"** type. Spends all her time complaining about nursing, her work, the Sister, etc. A very subtle approach and if you are not careful you will spend the rest of your life comforting her.

(10) The **"could you shave this patient?"** type. Beware! It is you on that razor's edge!

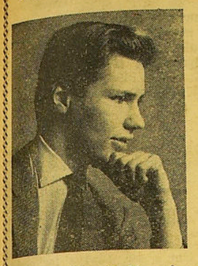
(11) The **'romantic' night nurse.** Run!

Take heed of these precepts and it might save your reputation, sanity and dignity—for a week or two!

The foregoing descriptions apply to the vast minority of nurses. Most are keen, efficient, hard-working—and rather dull. But there's always hope—and physiotherapists!

TABES.

Talking Point—7



TOO SERIOUS

The Editor received the following letter, from BRUCE P. ABRAHAMS, in answer to previous articles in this series.

MADAM, — Perhaps you might find a little space in your columns for the views of a reactionary.

Although your series "Talking Point" is well conceived, it only succeeds in the final instance in proving that students take themselves far too seriously, and yet not seriously enough. By this, I mean that as whole they spend too much time talking about the world at large, and too little in considering themselves in particular.

The myth of the 3 per cent has led many students, as yet relatively immature, to believe that their ideas and opinions are of importance to society. What they do not seem to realise is that they are very much the raw clay which is being moulded by society and, more especially, by teachers and politicians.

What knowledge have we, other than that given us by lecturers, and what real experience of the nature of the Life Politic, other than that which filters down through the medium of books, papers, radio, and the utterances of men who are more versed in the noble art of society? Before indignantly claiming our independence of thought, let us for a moment consider how much of our political or religious opinion is the product of our own knowledge and how much a rehash of what we have been told.

Hearsay

Those of us who are politically-minded, go and listen to visiting politicians; if we pretend to their party, we support them, and quote the party line; if we are against them we decry it. Some of us are "committed" to Moral Re-Armament, and others of us sneer at it. But all the time we are propounding argument and hearsay, very rarely fact.

The marchers of C.N.D., and the rioting students of Rome or Moscow, have one thing in common. They are all merely tools in the hands of politicians who are aiming at ends far beyond youthful ideals. It is not for nothing that the Russians have a University of Friendship in Moscow, to cater for 4,000 Afro-Asian students. It is not for nothing that it is always the students who are whipped up in the riots and the "anti" movements.

At the moment we are just suckers for any old idea or campaign that catches the eye or the emotion. And why are students such easy prey for the skilled manipulator? Simply because we are young, uninformed, inexperienced, and emotional rather than logical.

Not "in toto"

Although one might justifiably claim that the above examples hardly apply "in toto" to this country, or this University, they are indicative of certain tendencies which all students have, that they are the bright young guiding stars whose youth and enthusiasm will achieve Great Things.

This is not to sneer at enthusiasm, or idealism, or even students, of whom I am one. The Refugee Campaign, and the Congo Relief Fund are examples of what we can achieve if our energies are directed to an attainable goal. But the arguments for and against birth control, M.R.A. and the mass rallies of the C.N.D.-ites or the Mosley and anti-Mosleyites, all exhibit the same emotional fury, the same "sense of purpose," the same lack of **knowledge.**

No apathy

What then am I advocating? Not by any means parochialism or apathy. I certainly do not want a "Guild News" full of Chem. Eng. and Refectory meals. Nor do I want perpetual and fruitless debate on birth control, or the necessity for wearing gowns.

I only humbly suggest that before we, as a student body, fling any more pearls of political and social wisdom to the world, or march anywhere, or sit down anywhere, or throw stones anywhere, we consider ourselves first.

How much do we know for **a fact** about the cause we are supporting. When did it begin, what are its aims, who are the leaders, and why, why, are we supporting it? Facts, facts, facts. Not what the advocates tell us, or the enemies for that matter, but what the reality is. Whether it is birth control, disarmament, rearmament, for or against. And primarily we must look in on ourselves, and find out how logically we are behaving.

Let's see how far **our** morals and politics, judgments and opinions, stand up against clinical analysis. In this world only the truth, supported by indisputable fact, has any validity. Idealism, especially in politics, is at the mercy of the men who can manipulate.

Stop, think

Before we embark on the next round of ideals and weighty opinion, philosophy and prognostication, let us stop and think. Do we know, or do we only think we know, because we **want** to believe in the thing?

Being a student demands both understanding and humility. The place of the true student is to watch, observe, learn, and to make a balanced judgment based only on what we know is true for a fact, because the thing comes directly within our **personal** frame of knowledge or experience. Not to make high and noble-sounding statements about matters which, if we were honest, we would know we had only imperfect understanding.

There is plenty of time for committal. Eight years of adolescence and a couple of young adulthood are not very many. We have yet to sort out our own lives before we start on the world.

VISIT TO HARWELL

ON Wednesday, 22nd February, a party from the University Chemical Society travelled to Harwell and were shown some aspects of the research and development work that is undertaken at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment. Among many other interesting features they were shown the atomic pile known as Bipo which at present is the main source of isotopes, with the room where these are handled behind lead walls.

One of the most impressive sections was the alpha handling wing. Alpha particles are relatively harmless from a radiation point of view, but the maximum that can be taken into the body before serious damage is caused is only one microgram in the case of plutonium, consequently all handling is done inside glove boxes and once a box has "gone active," it is never opened except in a special enclosed area called the frog area where the operators wear a type of space suit with its own air supply. The difficulty of handling radioactive compounds was clearly demonstrated.

Underground Railway

MANY rumours have been circulating, concerning the purpose of the tunnel which is being constructed between the main building, next to the refectory and the Engineering Depts. Contrary to the wishes of some Engineers, this subway is not to facilitate their journeys to and from tea breaks in the Refectory.

In fact the tunnel, which is eight feet in diameter, will hold an electric monorail to transport heavy equipment and other goods between the main building and the Mech. Eng. and Chem. Eng. Depts. The goods platforms will be suspended from the overhead rail, with power pick-up from a second rail. The whole of the construction should be finished before next session.

The finished railway will then be used for some research experiments. With the conductor rail, various types of brush pick-ups will be tested. A second project is concerned with the breakdown, under working conditions, of the dielectrics use in high tension power cables.

Science column

Closed Circuit T.V.

AN interesting piece of equipment in the Physics Dept. is a closed circuit television system which is used in connection with the synchrotron. With this system visual observations can be made of triple proton deutron scattering. In this research direct observation is impossible because of the high radiation fluxes encountered. By television, information is obtained not available with counters, or any other method.

W.J.H.

COMET TO LYNEHAM

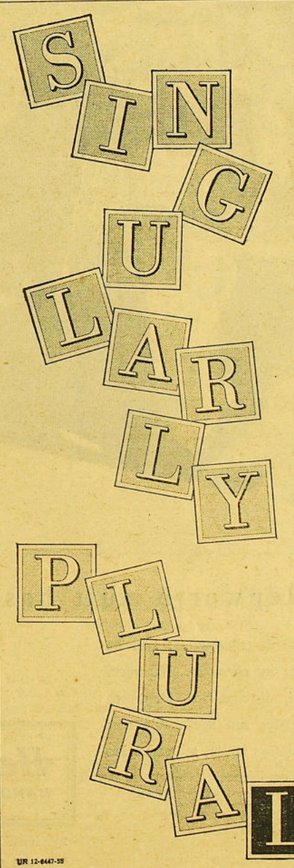
TO obtain wider experience of the Royal Air Force the Air Squadron has recently been affiliated to the Transport Command base at Lyneham, Wiltshire. This airfield which is in the process of being transformed into a military "London Airport" is a particularly suitable second home for Birmingham students, in that it is a hive of construction work.

The Squadron paid its first visit to Lyneham on Founders' Day, 40 members rendezvousing at Shawbury, from whence they were taken by Comet to Lyneham.

On arriving, the party was met by the Station Commander, who, in his speech of welcome, pointed out that the maintenance of a base of Lyneham's size was now big business.

From the airfield, Britannias, Comets, and Hastings depart to fly the routes of the world. Transport Command is as big as the largest airline with a safety record which is second to none.

Before the tour began the party dashed by coach around part of the 15-mile perimeter for a quick beer and lunch at the brand-new officer's mess.



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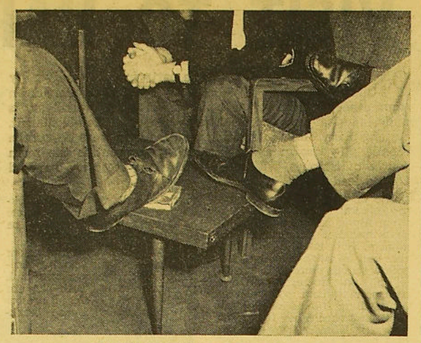
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DON'T DO IT

WE have a fine new extension—with fine new furniture. Unfortunately as this picture shows, some members of the Guild don't seem to know how to treat furniture.

Don't turn the new lounges into near slums by putting your feet on the tables, by stubbing out cigarettes on the floors and by marking the tables with coffee cups and beer mugs. In fact, treat the new wing as it deserves to be treated!



PUTTING THEIR FEET ON IT. (Photo: Burgess).



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BASIC FREEDOM

"ENGLISH people are ignorant of the European Convention of Human Rights" said Mr. Anthony McNulty, and by considering the size of his audience one is led to the conclusion that the cause of this ignorance is the disinterested attitude.

Mr. McNulty, who has been Secretary to the E.C.H.R. since its conception in 1954, was speaking on the topic, "A European Bill of Rights," at the Open Lecture last week.

Mr. McNulty explained that the E.C.H.R. differed from the U.N.O.'s declaration in that it confined itself to the basic human rights of freedom of thought and speech, and civil and legal privileges.

"The Convention has two main bodies," Mr. McNulty continued, "a commission and a court of appeal." The commission has the job of investigating all appeals to the convention and eventually declaring them admissible to the Court, or otherwise. Circa 85 per cent. of all cases registered were found to be inadmissible on grounds of incompatability, inexhaustion of local remedies or simply that the date of the cause of the dispute was pre-1954 and thus before the birth of the convention. For these cases the convention attempted reconciliation.

A topical case is that brought by a Mr. Lawless for alleged illegal detention by the Irish Government because of suspected I.R.A. activities. The Convention had found that the Convention had been violated and hence that the case was admissible, and that the Irish Government had rightly derogated the Convention, as it was a time of civil emergency. The case now stands before the Court of Appeal.

Mr. McNulty reiterated that tact and "Ultradiscretion" were essential in that "it gives a common constitutional status to all the citizens of countries which are signatory to the Convention."

QUIET, PLEASE

THE Tannoy system is once again in commission and the relative peace of the past few months is once more likely to be disturbed by frequent calls for members. Helpful as this facility is, the growth in numbers means a growth in those wanting to use it and a constant barrage of personal calls can be, and has been, a nuisance to other members.

Therefore, in the interests of relative calm, the use of the Tannoy will be limited to the following calls:

(1) Outside telephone calls.

(2) Outside visitors seeking members.

(3) Other special reasons which will require the permission of a member of Exec.

(4) Twice daily bulletins of society activities. These will be at 1.15 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. Any society wishing to advertise a function for that day must ensure that the necessary information is in General Office by 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. respectively.

GUILD PUBLICITY OFFICER.

SOCIALIST S.G.M.

THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of SOCIALIST UNION had to be changed to Thursday, 2nd March, at 5.15 p.m. in the Debating Hall, due to the Special General Meeting of the Guild which was held on Tuesday, 28th February.

SPORT

A READER WRITES . . .

DEAR SIR,—I feel that I must correct some rather obvious inaccuracies in your editorial entitled "New U.A.U. Plans."

In this article you state, "Now news has come from a recent meeting of U.A.U. representatives at Manchester of improvements not only in general administration, but also in the selection of representative teams and divisional championships." This seems to suggest that some decisions were actually formulated, which is incorrect.

The meeting was only attended by a minority of the U.A.U. member Universities, and therefore anything arising from it can only be in the nature of suggestions. It is only fair to say, however, that the suggestions concerning administration were approved in principle at a General Committee Meeting of the U.A.U. on Friday, February 24th.

At the same time I would like to point out that the U.A.U. office is grossly understaffed at the moment as they are unable to pay the high wages demanded by secretaries in the London area. Despite this they contrive to do an enormous amount of work, and many of the delays which are encountered are caused by clubs within the Universities omitting to reply to their correspondence.

Finally, with reference to your remarks concerning U.A.U. team selection, I cannot do better than repeat the remarks made by the Chairman of U.A.U. selection committee which are, briefly: "At all times teams selected for the U.A.U. are, in the opinion of the selectors, the best available, and neither the selection of players from Universities within the locality of the venue, nor selection in order to spread representation are part of U.A.U. policy.

G. TILDESLEY,
U.A.U. Sec., B.U.A.U.

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LOUGHB'RO SHOW CLASS

LOUGHBOROUGH 6, BIRMINGHAM 3

LOUGHBOROUGH are currently riding on the crest of a wave. Having dismissed such giants as Bishop Auckland and Corinthian Casuals from the Amateur Cup, they have, for the first time in their history reached the quarter-finals.

In the opening stages the University had several fine chances to snatch the lead but these all went begging. Loughborough, meanwhile, were playing quiet, contemplative soccer, finding their men with calm assurance and telepathic accuracy.

It was such a centre that brought Loughborough their first goal after 18 minutes. Inside-forward Moore, popping up on the right wing drifted a long ball across the Birmingham goal. Lake failed to hold it, and centre-forward Bowron was on hand to stab it home.

Their second goal, seven minutes later, resulted from a similar movement. Moore centred from the right and Gray, in trying to clear, could only skew the ball to Number eight, Bradshaw, who hammered it past Lake.

However, Birmingham were still in the picture. Their less-methodical style of play continued to bring them chances but, three goals in five minutes before the interval sunk them. First, Bradshaw fastened on to a poor clearance and bulged the net from 25 yards. Three minutes later Bowron stepped in to dispossess Lake, and the same player completed his hat-trick a minute afterwards, firing through a ruck of players.

During the goal-mouth skirmish, Sibbett went down in agony and had to be carried off. He was taken to hospital, where it was discovered that he had fractured his left leg.

A deficit of five goals and playing with ten men was a handicap which no team can overcome. But Birmingham stuck to their task manfully, even after Loughborough had gone further ahead when Brett had the misfortune to head an own goal.

Loughborough eased up after this, and a period of rather negative soccer ensued. A goal by Roper after 80 minutes gave Birmingham new heart. Five minutes from the end, a delightful chip by Roper was whisked first time into the net by Boddy and in the closing seconds he was unnecessarily brought down in the penalty area. Brett made no mistake with the spot-kick.



Gray (captain), McIntosh, Fleming and Boddy during training last week.

To no avail

Bristol 3, Birmingham 1

The W.I.V.A.B. Hockey Final, played on Saturday in Cardiff, resulted in a win for Bristol. The game, played on a muddy pitch, started in lively fashion, with Bristol notching an early goal.

Birmingham were playing well as a team and the Bristol goal was under constant pressure. Many good attacking movements were foiled, but Birmingham eventually equalised through Eileen Jaundrill, who had an excellent game against Nan Morgan, the new England centre-half.

Tension mounted in the second half, especially after a second goal by Bristol. Both teams fought hard and the Birmingham forwards produced some fine attacking movements with great tenacity of purpose. But Bristol broke away to score again.

WEIGHTLIFTING

THE Weightlifting team preserved its unbeaten record in the Universities Olympic League, when it defeated Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield at Manchester recently. The totals lifted, adjusted to allow for differences in bodyweight, were as follows: Birmingham 1,840 lbs.; Sheffield 1,737½; Leeds 1,605; and Manchester 1,110.

It was a great success for the Birmingham team: Howard Payne with 745 lbs., Bill Forshaw with 570 lbs., and Keith Wylie with 525 lbs., all set up personal records. Wylie pressed and snatched immaculately, achieving records of 170 lbs. and 155 lbs. respectively in these lifts, while Payne equalled his previous best with a fine 240 lbs. press.

In the jerk, Forshaw set up a new club record with 240 lbs., and Payne, after succeeding with 290 lbs., only just failed with two attempts at 300 lbs. All in all, the team lifted extremely well, for which much of the credit must go to its coach, Terry Merther.

GRANDSTAND FINISH

THE Hyde Park Road Relay, claimed to be the biggest in the world, was held last week-end. The University team travelled down full of expectation with a stronger team than those which placed them 5th and 6th in the previous two years.

The race consisted of six legs of the three-mile lap. Mike Down led off for the University in the record field of 86 teams, but, suffering from a bad cold, was left badly at the start. Although managing to come through over the last mile, he could never make much impression on the leaders, and finished a below-form and dejected 10th in a time of 15 minutes dead.

At this stage Birmingham were only very few seconds back on Loughborough and Manchester, and Pete Saville, although losing two places ran steadily to a record 15.22, and kept Birmingham in the hunt.

Determined Effort

Dave Spence now made a determined effort to close on the leaders, and running strongly came through to 4th with 14.58, and though it was not all that was hoped of him, he handed over only a few yards down on Loughborough and ahead of Manchester. Pete Roy moved off quickly and was soon past Loughborough into second place. His early efforts told, however, over the last mile and Loughborough repassed him. Still, his 15.3 was a very commendable performance.

We were now well-positioned in 3rd place and chances of actually winning seemed fairly bright with Dai Davies and Jim Feast still to run. But unfortunately most of the leading teams had kept their "big guns" to the last two legs. Davies, moreover, didn't run quite as well as expected, and his 14.50 didn't improve our position. Imperial College and Loughborough maintaining their lead with Manchester finishing only 50 yards behind us.

Terrific Pace

All now seemed set for a grandstand finish with Ron Hill of Manchester lying 4th, the runner-up in the recent Universities Cross Country Championships, and Mike Turner of Queen's Cambridge the winner of that race another hundred yards back, setting off in pursuit. Hill quickly caught Feast, and Turner going at a terrific pace soon joined the other two. Between them the three chased I.C. and Loughborough. Feast hung on bravely but couldn't stand Hill and Turner's pace over the last mile. In perhaps the most exciting finish of this race since its inception 13 years ago, Hill (14.8) outsprinted Turner (13.57) to win for Manchester. Only a few seconds back Imperial College just managed to hold off Feast, who with a last despairing effort forced himself past the Loughborough runner to finish 4th, in the fine time of 14.35.

Sports Round-up

INDOOR ATHLETICS

THE University Men's Athletic Club made an early start to the season with a four-sided match at Cosford. The result of the match was in doubt until the final event when, by virtue of good baton changing by Jim Jarvis, Phil Eastwood, Dave Wylde and Terry Gibson, for the University, we just managed to beat Midlands 'B' in the relay.

Thus the University won the match with 80 points to the 76 totalled by Midland 'B,' Loughborough College 'B' and Nottingham University were 3rd and 4th respectively.

Jim Jarvis won the 100 yards in 10.4 seconds and was a close second in the 60 yards. Robin Humphries and Dave Wylde each won their 440 yard races, as did Dick Walker in the 100 yards hurdles.

Dai Davies, though only finishing fourth, recorded a personal best time of 4 mins., 29.6 secs. in the mile, while Howard Payne, our international hammer thrower, convincingly won the shot with a distance of 43 ft. 0½ins. Maximum points were obtained in the pole vault, with Peter Curnuck winning with a height of 10 feet.

ROWING

IN the Midland U.A.U. Rowing Regatta, three Birmingham crews were entered. In the Scull fours division, the first crew encountered our old-time opponents, Bangor I. After a poor start, we hit back to draw level in a fine spirit which faded out just too soon and we lost by a canvas. Bangor went on to win the Championship by beating Manchester.

The second crew, rowing in the clinker fours division, beat Cardiff I and Bangor IV easily. In the third heat against Bangor III, we had a slow start but retaliated with a very strong finish, just failing to overtake them. We lost by two feet.

The third crew rowed hard in their first heat, but were outclassed by their opponents, Bangor II, who went on to win the second division.

DISMAL DISPLAY

BIRMINGHAM 3 pts., CARDIFF 6 pts.

AT half-time Birmingham might well have been two or three tries up. Long's hooking was fast and reliable, and the centres were breaking through with little trouble. Poor finishing, however, reduced all the efforts to naught, and at half-time Cardiff were leading 3-0, from a penalty following an unforgiveable error by Heitzman. He alleviated his own discomfort with a fine penalty in the second half.

But at this stage Garrett had resorted to working the touchline, and, despite two obvious hints by Jarvis, failed to see where Birmingham's match-winning potential lay. Even short penalties were wasted on touch kicks, and Cardiff finally scored the winning penalty 10 minutes from time.

This was a dismal display, especially in the light of the fact that Birmingham had so much of the first half play, and unless more confidence is shown by the troubled but obviously talented backs, they will doubtless lose the determination and thrust that they possess.

ENTERTAINMENTS PAGE

GIPSY QUEEN



The death of Antony. A scene from "Antony and Cleopatra." (Photo: Lisel Haas).

"LE nez de Cléopâtre: s'il eût été plus court, toute la face de la terre aurait changé." This famous Pensée of Pascal crystallises one of the points which the current production of "Antony and Cleopatra" at the Repertory Theatre attempts to stress. Antony's infatuation with the "gipsy Egyptian Queen" prevented his victory over Octavius, who later became the first of the absolute Roman emperors with whom began the decline of the Roman civilisation.

While not one of the finest possible productions of "Antony and Cleopatra," this is certainly a more than adequate attempt to expand the deeper issues surrounding the love affair of the two title performers.

Throughout the first scene, Elizabeth Spriggs makes a fine, mocking Cleopatra, with Antony submissive to her will and whims. The feeling that she is merely exploiting him extends throughout this scene, but gradually it becomes apparent that some, at least, of his feelings are reciprocated. The whole gamut of fickle, changing Cleopatra's emotions are excellently portrayed by this actress.

Antony, "who lost the world for love," is, in the first act, infatuated but still great. He realises his predicament but the attempts that he makes to escape from it are desultory and weak. Tony Steedman's performance as Antony defeated, then victorious, and finally despairing and suicidal, is accurate, and generally very good, but an unfortunate tendency to grunt in the middle of some of the most tragic and moving scenes, rather detracts from his characterisation. In fact, if there is any fault in this production, it is that an element of humour is allowed to appear, accidentally or deliberately, too frequently and in the wrong places.

The faithful, though shrewd and somewhat cynical Enobarbus is well depicted by Robert Marsden, who especially shines in his two best-known speeches, the one describing Antony's first view of Cleopatra, and the other his conscience-stricken death scene.

Bernard Kilby as a sometimes unconvincing and stereotyped Caesar, Brian Blessed as an ineffective and over-senile peace-making Lepidus and Arthur Pentelow as an adequate Sextus Pompeius took the other leading roles.

In order to facilitate the rapid changing of sets, necessary to present a coherent production of a play which ranged the whole Roman Empire, a revolving stage was used with excellent effect. The sets and lighting were admirably employed and designed to this end and were largely instrumental in achieving the appropriate atmosphere.

A trip to the wilderness of Sutton Coldfield is well worthwhile this week to see the Highbury Little Theatre's production of Tennessee Williams's "The Rose Tattoo." In this small theatre none of the electric tension of this play, set in an emotional and passionate Sicilian community, is lost. Phyllis Harris gives an especially moving portrayal of Serapina, the widow who worships the ashes of her dead husband.

DAVID VINE.

GHOST STORY

FOUR performances of "Intermezzo" by Jean Giraudoux were presented last week in Deb Hall by the Cercle Français. This modern play was an ambitious choice, and presented special difficulties. However, the production was an undoubted success, and a credit to the joint producers, Mike Reynolds and George Scott.

The play is set in a small village which is disrupted by the influence of a ghost. A supernatural atmosphere pervades the action, aided by the natural superstitions of the village people. The heroine, Isabelle, played by Ann Barratt, is captivated by the ghost, who represents for her the land of the dead, with which she is obsessed.

Giraudoux's characters are all larger than life, Le Maire (Gordon Kuphal), L'Inspecteur (Bob Oakley), the old sisters Mangebois (Judith Samson and Jean Blimstow), the village gossips, are all caricatures, and were well acted to enhance the effect of fantasy, though Gordon Kuphal was perhaps afraid to take this effect far enough and Bob Oakley allowed his own nervousness to show through that of the character. Barry Jones and Dave Miles as the Bourreaux, played their characters excellently.

Sweet and Ingenuous

Le Droguiste is the most natural character, and, while appreciating the fantasy in Isabelle's mind, is completely down to earth and eventually manages to bring her back to a mortal personality. Vivian Bishop played this rôle calmly and forcibly. Le Controleur (Tim Block), a young man in love with Isabelle, has almost the same savoir-faire as Le Droguiste and is eventually able to persuade Isabelle to choose him instead of the ghost.

Isabelle is a sweet, ingenuous girl motivated mainly by intuition, and Ann Barratt played the part a little too confidently and her longer speeches could have had more variation in tempo and tone.

The main fault with the whole production was a lack of lightness and delicacy. The set itself was well made, but too ponderous and realistic. The schoolchildren were most amusing but at times distracting, particularly in the last scene in which attention was not focused sufficiently upon Isabelle. She herself could have been in a more prominent position and the whole cast could have followed Le Droguiste more intently in his attempts to bring Isabelle back to consciousness. As it was, the maximum effect was not gained from the climax of the play.

N.H.

EXCELLENT WOODWIND

HUGO RIGNOLD conducted the C.B.S.O. on Thursday in an interestingly constructed programme in which Ravel's exquisite "Ma Mère L'Oye" was the highlight of the evening.

Throughout, the conductor secured excellent playing (particularly from the woodwind), and shaping Ravel's phrases most lovingly. All the delicate nuances of the score were revealed to the audience.

Right from the opening of the first movement of Brahm's First Symphony, it was clearly the conductor's intention to give a highly taut reading. The slowish speed he chose for the allegro section was perhaps suited to his ideas, but Brahms is also a lyrical composer.

The conductor was so preoccupied with the storm and stress, that he failed to uncover the beauty of these lyrical passages.

The second movement shows Brahms in his warmest manner and Mr. Rignold coaxed from his orchestra a sensuous web of sound.

The finale was excitingly performed (even though the tempo was somewhat mangled) but the brass did tend to dominate the proceedings too much.

A work by Stravinsky was also performed.

MARTIN BINKS.

RUSSIAN SYMPHONY

WHEN in 1945 the first part of "Ivan the Terrible" was released it was awarded the Stalin prize, but foreign critics were puzzled by it. Eisenstein had been one of the pioneers of realism in the cinema, his latest film had an epic quality, a larger-than-life approach, which seemed at variance with all his previous methods. Why, asked the critics, were the actors so like huge marionnettes; why was the make-up so formal; the movement so stylised?

It was obvious in the Mech. Eng. theatre last Thursday that many of the audience shared this bewilderment. It is perhaps difficult, in a society where one is taught to laugh at large emotions, where great drama is often dismissed as melodrama and where understatement is a virtue, to appreciate a work so gigantic and symbolic as "Ivan the Terrible"; but a University audience should surely be more receptive.

United Russia

Ivan was the first Russian king to unite Russia, which had previously been split up under the Boyar noblemen, and the whole work breathes a deep patriotism, a love for Russian land which is admirably echoed in the choice of music. Russia certainly has some of the best tunes, powerful emotional tunes which swell out like a Beethoven symphony.

The whole film is full of deep significance, the characters are like the figures from some gigantic fresco; one writer has remarked with much truth that when they move and speak it is as exciting as if a corpse had come to life, and as strangely meaningful.

The original scenario has the quality of blank verse, it is extremely poetic and this often comes out in the film: there are recurring images and phrases which create an incantatory effect. This was especially noticeable in the scene by the bier of Anastasia where three strands seemed to interweave, the words of the psalm, the attitude and grief of Ivan, and the political preoccupations of his advisers.

Artistry

Eisenstein uses his camera brilliantly, not a shot is wasted, and the artistry never becomes simply "arty" because each picture is justified by the general pattern. Many effects were only achieved after weeks of work; days were spent in arranging drapery in exactly the way which Eisenstein had visualised; paintings were analysed so that their essence might be captured on the screen.

Eisenstein was as discriminating in his choice of actors as is Bergman. Their magnificent faces complete his picture which assumes the proportions of a great baroque canvas, or a huge bejewelled Russian icon.

M.A.B.

FILMS

FLAIR FOR GOD

EVER since the Ancient Greeks established the concept of the Three Unities, unity of action has been accepted as a natural element of good drama, and still they make films like **"Elmer Gantry" (Odeon, New Street)** which just don't seem to know where they're going.

Elmer Gantry (Burt Lancaster), a travelling salesman with a flair for money, women and drink finds himself attracted by Sister Sharon Falconer (Jean Simmons), a travelling revivalist with a flair for Church, God and Religion. To a man like Gantry, the challenge is irresistible. Having had some experience of a theological college and the deacon's daughter, for which he was expelled, he feels suitably equipped for success in the fields of sex and religion.

Sex v. Religion

The film should have stayed with the sex versus religion theme. Instead, it gets tangled up with such angles as freedom of the press, corruption and religious hypocrisy, and questions whether revivalists should practise what they preach, belong to an established church and whether they can perform miracles as Jesus is said to have done. All this, though interesting enough, is too much for one film to handle. Feeling and sentiment run so high, that I was left wondering which side the director was on.

Distasteful

Jean Simmons made the best of a difficult part. Her business manager, Bill Morgan, and the good newspaper man, Jim Lefferts, who supplied the only element of sanity in the film, were adequately played by Dean Jagger and Arthur Kennedy. Burt Lancaster seemed thoroughly mis-cast. I was sickened by his forced hearty laugh and all-American boy grin which became so fixed I thought the wind must have changed.

Neither Lancaster nor the director, Richard Brooks, seemed to have settled Gantry's character. There were times when he bordered on the divine, and the whole film gets out of hand when Sister Sharon performs her miracle in a most distasteful manner and the tabernacle catches fire with such zest that it might have been raining petrol. The fire itself, in which the dear Sister is martyred like the sentry in Pompeii, must surely rank with the great fires of London and Rome.

Perhaps it helps to remember that this is a film of a book (by Sinclair Lewis), based on fact. Perhaps not. Anyway, the film should have forgotten the book. I came away intellectually weary and dissatisfied.

HARVEY JERVIS.

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