GUILD NEWS

3D

THURSDAY, FEB. 23rd, 1961 No. 589

Special General Meeting Demand

CUT-PRICE TICKETS ROW

108 sign petition

AS a direct result of last Monday's meeting of Guild Council, 108 members of the Guild have signed and delivered to the President a request that a Special General Meeting be held as soon as possible for the consideration of the following motion:

"That the Executive and members of Entertainments Committee, with the exception of the President and Vice-President, and, at Hops, the Senior Duty Member and the Master of Ceremonies, shall pay the full cost of attendance at all functions organised by the Entertainments Committee, with the exception of Guild Dinner and Ball."

A motion to the same effect was overwhelmingly defeated at last week's Council meeting. **Mr. J. O'Connor,** the Guild Treasurer, proposed it and said that his central contention rested quite simply on the principle that nobody should have financial privileges by virtue of his or her position as an elected officer of the Guild.

At present members of Executive and Entertainments Committee not only were able to reserve tickets before they were available to anyone else in the Guild, but they also paid less for them. Unless there was a large element of duty involved, as at Guild Ball, this was just a gratuitous "perk" and there was no justification for it. It produced a state of affairs that could only be called pernicious, and it was for this reason that he was proposing the motion.

Their duty

Mr. R. E. Taylor, Chairman of Entertainments Committee, spoke at length against the motion. Entertainments Committee, he said, were elected by Council to do a definite job, that of organising the Hops and Balls. It is their duty to see that every such function is run as efficiently as possible, and also to see that mistakes are never repeated.

Therefore, they must go to all the functions they organise both because of this moral duty and also because they each have specific tasks to perform: lights, sound, bar, buffet, band, etc., all had to have an eye kept on them and it was for this reason that members of the Committee were not asked to pay the full price for tickets.

The President of the Guild, **Mr. E. A. Goss** had left the Chair of the meeting so that he could speak against the motion on behalf of Executive having subsidised tickets for these functions. He disagreed with a previous speaker who had estimated that the present system cost the Guild about £80 each year.

Equitable

According to his own calculations the figure could not possibly be greater than £30. This £30, he continued, was not lost to the Guild even in material terms; for being a member of Executive was a costly business; every day there were phone calls and stamps and bus rides and meals that had to be paid for that would not have been necessary had the person concerned not been on the Executive.

All these little outlays were too small and too numerous to make it worthwhile claiming for them, and so the system of preferential and reduced-rate tickets was an equitable and pleasant way of paying back to Executive officers what they had to pay out because of their office.

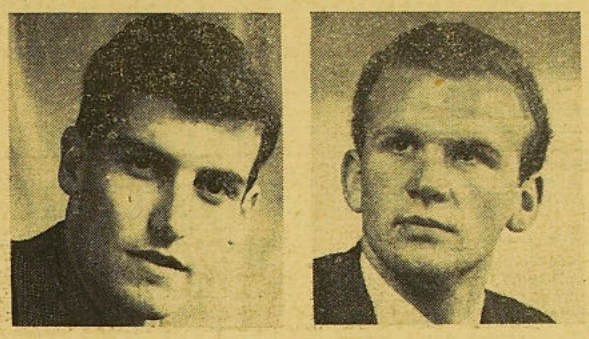
Undesirable

A member of Executive, **Mr. D. Mallion,** at once replied that not everyone liked music and dancing and that payment in kind could set a very undesirable precedent. **Mr. Arthur Large,** from the floor, said that the motion, if carried, would imply on Council's part a lack of faith in the integrity of the Executive and Entertainments Committee. Mr. O'Connor denied this and claimed that nothing that had been said against the motion affected the validity of its underlying principles.

The motion was then put to the vote in two parts, and Council voted heavily in favour of both Executive and Entertainments Committee continuing to have the right to attend Balls and Hops at cost price.

Next week

Several members of the Guild, including some Councillors, were not satisfied with the way things had gone at Council, and considering that the decision had been in no way representative of Guild opinion, came to the conclusion that a Special General Meeting on this subject should be called for. At this meeting, to take place next week, the motion will be proposed by Mr. T. A. Staples and seconded by Mr. P. L. Deitch.



Dave Mallion (left) and Roger Taylor (Chairman, Ents. Comm.), two of the speakers at the Council debate in question.
(Photos: Dolphin).

GRAND PRAM SLAM

"WANTED, a spare pram. Extra wheels a must." "Trog" Girdlestone of Carnival Committee put out this urgent plea for help last Thursday. The University pram-pushing team (First XV) irreparably damaged their chariot during demonstration runs for student-conscious I.T.V. and may be retired from the London-Leicester Inter-Varsity pram-pushing race.

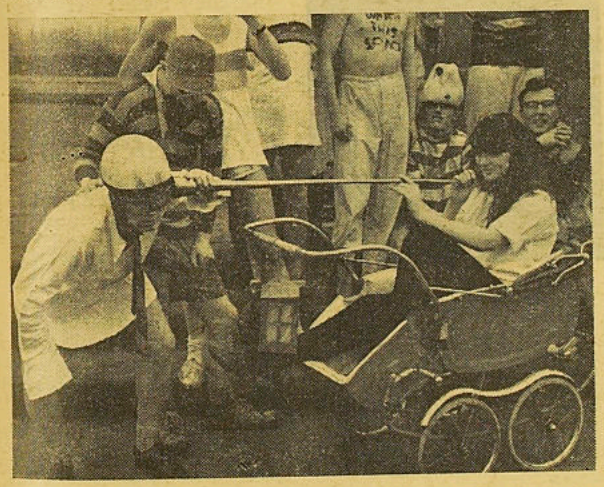
Starting from near Hyde Park on the evening of March 5th, runners head into the icy northern night on their cheerless trek Leicesterwards. Hysterical thousands will line the route as the exhausted bunion-beaters stagger to their goal on the following afternoon when they claim the prize—a barrel of beer from the Mayoral palm.

Rules

Interviewed by "Guild News," "Trog" gave tongue on rules for A5 tarmac punchers. No modifications to prams allowed; manufacturer's models only admitted; baby carts to be pushed, not pulled.

Each team will be master-minded by a coach carrying reserve perambulants. Average speed in other years passes 12 m.p.h. made possible by changing runners every three minutes. Forty seats will be available for spectators (cost approximately 10/- each); apply Carnival Committee.

We send best wishes to First VX (Chem. Eng. Unlimited) and their slack-muscled comrades of the Second. They run for the honour of Brum.



Pat Cushen helps our runners in blowing their own trumpet.

RED RUMPUS

Letter to the Editor

MADAM,—With reference to the comments on the "Observer's" presentation of the situation in Socialist Union, we wish to draw your attention to the following facts:—

(1) The absorption of the "Labour Students' Society" was **not** engineered by the Communists, but was jointly agreed by both societies. With this we agree that your criticism was partly valid.

(2) Socialist Union **is** dominated by the Communists and their sympathisers. Because of this the following circular is being sent to all members of Socialist Union:

"We, on behalf of a large proportion of Birmingham University Socialist Union members, demand that a Special General Meeting of the Socialist Union be held on Tuesday, 28th February at 5.15 p.m. in the Debating Hall, to consider the following resolution:

"That B.U. Socialist Union has no confidence in its present Committee; because of—

(a) the disproportionate representation of particular sectarian views.

(b) too many speakers being of one particular point of view;

(c) decisions having been taken unconstitutionally (decisions were taken by individual committee members).

"Thus, the aims of B.U.S.U. have been undermined, because of a particular political group which dominates the Society."

Yours, etc.,

M. I. CARLOWE.
S. DANTOWITZ.

MIKE TO CHAIR S.C.A.R.S.

THE SCARS held its first national conference in Birmingham last Saturday, attended by representatives from colleges in London, the Midlands and the North. It elected a national SCARS executive and decided on future policy with particular regard to the forthcoming conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

Of particular interest to Birmingham is the election of Mike Thickett (2nd year E.P.S.), as chairman of the National Executive, and that of Ahmed Mohammed (also 2nd year E.P.S.), who was elected Midland area representative.

The inauguration of a National Executive will help to co-ordinate the efforts of existing branches, and establish new ones.

Jewish Society Presidential Address
WOLF MANKOWITZ
2.30 p.m., on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26th
THE NEW COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE UNION

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

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

Plea for poker

MADAM,—It is exceedingly unfortunate that, since Victorian times, one of the most skilful and sociable card games has been received in this country with disapproval and prejudice. Poker is still regarded as "that depraved American gambling game," to be shunned in favour of the classic games of Bridge, Solo Whist, Gin Rummy, and, of late, Canasta.

This attitude is reflected in our fnternationally tolerant Union, where Poker is, we understand, categorically forbidden.

The ratio of skill to chance in Poker is higher than that of any other card game, including Contract Bridge. It must be emphasised that a level of skill is essential in Bridge, but a peak skill level is attainable after which the chance distribution cards dictate one's winning ability.

Chance

In the many variations of Poker, on the other hand, the play is essentially a clash of personalities and skill in the presence of a random yet statistically definable element of chance. Using pot limited betting, thorough shuffling, cutting, and a clean deck, it is the game for the connoisseur.

We mention betting here for it is at this element that most opposition is directed. Yet this is no more than the method of scoring in Bridge and is analagous in every respect to the requirement for scoring in all other card games.

Our appeal therefore is for a soul-searching, unprejudiced review of the merits of Poker, and for its recognition as a socially acceptable pastime here and throughout the country.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PARKINSON,
MICHAEL J. DEBENHAM.

Un-necessary ABANDONED

MADAM,—On Wednesday, the 15th, the new Arts block which has been in use for five months, was officially opened among exotic plants in the presence of some Guild councillors and various guests.

This block is just a plain brick box in which to work and has no other outstanding merit, as far as I can see, to warrant its receiving this opening. One might just as well open a bus garage. Surely enough money has already been spent on unnecessary interior fittings and exterior fancy paths without having an expensive opening as well.

A university exists because of staff and students, not because of its buildings. Money could be far better spent on improving accommodation facilities and perhaps on a few bicycle sheds.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. THOMSON.

MADAM,—Not only is the date of Carnival changed so that the entire second year of the Modern Language departments will be absent, but the means by which half Carnival funds are raised is also to be abandoned. This, we are told, is because it is felt to take up too much of student time.

As Carnival does not take place until after examination time this year, surely students will have more time than ever on their hands, and it was for this reason that the change of date took place?

Also, as those of us who sold tickets and programmes last year will know, 20 tickets are sold to every one magazine. Twenty tickets will fit easily into pocket or handbag, but 20 Carnival magazines will not!

Yours etc.,
T. ROONEY.

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"Talking Point" controversy continues

THE FACTS WERE WRONG

MADAM,—I was astonished to read Mr. Hugill's article, "The Best for Both," in "Talking Point ("Guild News," Feb. 16, 1961). While it is not for me to enter into argument on the ethical or religious grounds of such a difficult problem, when presenting a controversial article such as this, it is essential that the author is absolutely certain of his facts. Unfortunately, Mr. Hugill has placed a layman's interpretation on medical terms, and this misunderstanding nullifies his conclusions.

The term "abortion" to the layman means "criminal abortion" but, used in its professional sense, it means the expulsion of the products of conception before the 28th week of pregnancy.

In order to make the importance of this distinction, I should perhaps explain that abortion, the true incidence of which it is almost impossible to compute, may be divided into three varieties. These are the therapeutic, the criminal and the spontaneous.

Therapeutic abortion, which is also called "termination of pregnancy," is carried out by a surgical operation in cases where continuation of pregnancy is deemed to be a danger to life, or prejudicial to health.

Criminal abortion is that produced by the unlawful administration of drugs, by general violence, or by local interference. Relatively few women will subject themselves to illegal instrumentation, but self-administration of noxious pills and medicines is probably very common.

Spontaneous abortion, which is known to the layman as a "miscarriage," is the most frequent variety, accounting for between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of all pregnancies and is the type referred to in the American surveys. Foetal, paternal and maternal abnormalities often produce spontaneous abortion, but many have no known cause and indeed, the patient may be unaware of their occurrence.

I am sure that all will agree that in discussing this ever-popular subject only logical and well-informed comment should be heard.

"The Best for Both," I fear, satisfies neither of these criteria.

Yours,
J. R. ALLIN,
Chairman, B.U. Medical Soc.

Great God Macarthy

MADAM,—We have been suitably provoked by last week's Talking Point. If "Moral Re-armament" is God then so was Macarthy. For the writings of John Lester and those which are to be found in Moral Re-armament publications sound all too much like the proceedings of a trial for "Un-American Activities." Far from propagating peaceful co-existence this so-called ideology conflicts with it.

It sees only bad in Communism and appears to believe as much in the ultimate overthrow of the Communist Ruling Clique as does Mao Tse Tung in the ultimate rise of the proletariat in the West.

Ties with U.S.

If Moral Rearmament was a movement bent on the application of Christian ideals to everyday life, it's morality would be unquestionable. Unfortunately it appears to be yet another anti-Communist organisation, this time with an overlay of Christianity.

Its contribution to peaceful co-existence is surely limited by its intolerence, its humanitarian claims are narrowed by its politics, and its attempt to be the saviour of Western civilisation must be suspect by virtue of Moral Rearmament's close ties with the State Department and other vested interests.

We see in Moral Rearmament one more expression of the weakness of our civilisation because it draws its strength not from God, but from being "anti-something" which threatens from the outside.

We fear Communism no more than Jews, Catholics, and the "black masses" of Africa.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM SWEETMAN,
COLIN BEARNE,
DEREK OWEN

PROTEST

MADAM,—We, the undersigned, find it a matter for surprise that so unintelligent and misinformed a letter as that by A. N. Lane, published last week, should find its way into the pages of "Guild News." Mr. Lane deprecates the publicity given by the Birmingham University C.N.D. group to the civil disobedience campaign arranged for Saturday, February 18th.

In the first place we would inform him that the sit-down outside Whitehall has not been arranged by Direct Action—as he asserts—but by the Committee of 100 which is quite a separate body organised for this purpose.

In the second place we are astonished that anyone should be the victim of such blinkered prejudice and such puerile stupidity, that they should describe a group of honest and dedicated people as a "collection of beatniks led by an old man."

This is an evaluation that one normally associates only with the more sensational newspapers in this country (which live by selling tripe and triviality couched more or less in the language of Mr. Lane's letter), and not with the organ of supposedly intelligent and educated young people.

Yours etc.,
Members and committee of Birmingham University C.N.D.

REDS ARE INSECURE

MADAM,—I found Andrew Barrow's letter stimulating. Communism, he says, is aggressive and expansionist. But he fails to see, I think, that this has largely arisen out of its feeling of insecurity.

We are not easily convinced of fear, in other people especially when they are our political rivals or potential enemies. Both East and West are caught up in a spiral of fear which has led them to try to protect themselves by putting out extensive propaganda, by tremendous efforts to form buffer states and by building massive stocks of weapons.

Arms race

The fear is so great that the two giants will not accept any proposal from the other side for fear of losing face. There has not been an agreement since the war, although arms races in History have almost invariably ended in war. The choice is between the human race and the arms race.

Mr. Barrow himself demolishes the deterrent theory without realising it. He points out that the East has expanded and this has happened despite the so-called Western Deterrent. What use was it in Korea or Indo-China?

Any difference

He asks whether it would make any difference to our fate in a Nuclear War if we unilaterally disarmed. Surely Russia would not want to destroy us if we have no power to destroy them?

Like many opponents of C.N.D. Mr. Barrow attacks unilateralism without being able to offer anything in its place. He accuses the C.N.D. of being negative, nationalist and isolationist. What is positive in spending an ever increasing amount on armaments and what could be more nationalist than spending £160 million a year on nuclear weapons simply for "prestige"?

Support U.N.

If Britain followed a unilateralist policy she would have more energy and resources to devote to supporting the U.N., and would be in a very good position to begin to create trust.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GILLETTE.

PRESS POST

WHERE IS CHIVALRY?

MADAM, — At the risk of adding to the avalanche of correspondence which must surely follow the disgraceful letter from Messrs. Toghill and Fell, I write to assure you that their views are not those of all their sex.

It might possibly be excusable to question publicly the equality of the sexes, but these gentlemen have seen fit to proclaim their distaste "for 99 per cent. of the female population of this institution." This disgusts me. Where is the ancient spirit of chivalry? Does it survive only in the mixed departments of the cultured faculties?

By all means let these gentlemen deplore the illogicality, irrationality and fickleness of the fair sex, but to question their charms is tantamount to blasphemy.

In admiration, madam, of your supreme tolerance in publishing the most sacrilegious letter ever to issue forth from the department of Geology.

I remain your humble and obedient servant.
ROGER M. HUMPHREYS.

GUILD SERVICES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26:

8.30 a.m.—Holy Communion (Experimental Liturgy) followed by breakfast.

6.30 p.m.—Guild Service. Preacher: Rev. E. Long (Handsworth College).

Winner's Bad Timing

SOUR GRAPES CRUSHED

THE air was alive with expectancy as the chairman took his seat, announced the first motion, and introduced the first speaker. Mr. Kamruddin was soon on his feet proposing "This house shall drink when it likes," enlightening his audience on the ambiguities of our esteemed language, upon the implications of the word "drink" with, and without, respect to the alcoholic content.

Appealing to the obvious mass of intelligence present, he said that adultery would in no way be reduced by legislating that no man must be seen with a woman after ten o'clock, and much the same thing applied to drunkennness.

Mr. Wreford then sought to oppose the motion.

Post-mortem

This more or less took the form of a postmortem, for **Mr. Wreford** was clear that the motion was dead. It had died of natural causes, for the simple reason that it could not live. Having expounded the subtle difference between "purchasing drink when it likes" and "drink when it likes," a discourse which seemed somewhat out-of-order followed between the two leaders. Mr. Wreford asked what the "when" meant—any time of day, or any age?

Mr. Kamruddin's seconder appeared to be absent, or rather, didn't appear to be present, and so **Mr. Petty** continued for the opposition in transatlantic tones, commending the drinking regulations as establishing order and discipline for living fruitful lives.

With a dramatic entrance and a matching reception, **Mr. Reed** then arrived in time to second the motion, somewhat out of turn. He produced his documents (and his minutes, it was said) and apologised for his absence. He criticised his opponents vehemently and quoted Horace's wisdom on the three grapes of life, pleasure, intoxication and disgust. He expected the opposition would say much the same about the hop.

Cross fire

The house was restored from the intoxicating ideas of unlimited drinking time as the second motion was tabled: "This House believes that Science has grown too big for its boots." **Miss Doran** led the proposition with a plea for serious consideration, though this seemed too good to last. The damage had been done, and Miss Doran herself allowed a cross-fire on Justice and the law.

She admired science as a benefactor but deplored it as a dictator, which stung **Mr. Staples** into retaliation.

His speech, he declared, was part of a process of continual creation—no beginning and no end. Mr. Staples played for a time upon the meaning of the word Boot, with its various definitions, which, although admirably done, was of little constructive use. Having defined boot and science, he then sought the meaning of the phrase, which, he claimed, he had coined anyway.

Dark ages

For a brief period he reached more stable ground and put the reasons for the decline of the Roman Empire and for the Dark Ages at the door of complacency, there being no insatiables in pursuit of the unknowable.

By now Mr. Staples had run himself out of time, and he had just time to paraphrase Oscar Wilde . . . "Science is itself neither good nor bad—it is either ill-used or well-used."

Mr. Beatty, seconding the motion, found twenty-three reasons for his case but would only use two. He used two lines of argument, a transcendental line to satisfy the house, and a witty one to satisfy himself. Both seemed to achieve a similar end for he caused much amusement by comparing the scientist to an animal running into a tree, and having the world impinge upon it, and wondered whether hippopotami grew too big for their boots.

Class war

The outcome of this debate from the floor's vote seemed settled, and **Mr. Plant** insisted we were in a state of war. There was a war of status and a war of class; today nobody was middle-class yet everybody is middle-class. Although Mr. Plant could not accept the double-think of the proposition, he did at least think they meant well.

When the judges reached their decision, Mr. Reed emerged the winner, chased home by Mr. Kamruddin, while the third place went to the proposer of the second motion, Miss Doran.

MECH. ENG. MODELS

AS part of their course some of the final year Mechanical Engineering students undertake special projects in the design of new machines. Two of the designs put forward by last year's students have actually been constructed and and the finished structures are now installed in the Department.

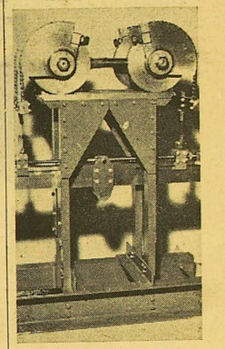
Science column

The machines were made last July by 2nd year vacation students from Birmingham University at the Stafford works of the English Electric Company who offered facilities to the students for this work. The two machines, each designed by a group of three students, are a remotely controlled straining frame and a test rig for the cold bending of pipes. They were originally designed with a view to their use in the research of the Department and are certainly not merely an ornament although they are highly specialised machines.

A third machine designed by the final year students but constructed outside the Department is already in use.

This is the first time that student designs have actually been made and it is hoped that further facilities for constructing such machines will become available.

W.J.H.



THE TEST RIG BUILT BY STUDENTS.

(Photo: Arthur Burgess)

THE SILENT SIT-DOWN

Brum contingent squat in Whitehall

AT approximately 4.20 p.m. last Saturday, 18th February, Bertrand Russell and the Rev. Michael Scott rose from where they were sitting on the pavement in Whitehall, and tried to nail the following declaration on the door of the Ministry of Defence :

"The nuclear powers of East and West are holding the world to ransom. It is time for the people to act. Today we are taking positive action against the insane nuclear policies of our Government. We demand the immediate scrapping of the agreement to base Polaris-carrying submarines in Britain.

We demand the complete rejection by our country of nuclear weapons and all political alliances that depend on them . . . We call upon people everywhere to rise up against this monstrous tyranny. We call upon scientists to refuse to work on nuclear weapons . . . We hereby serve notice on our Government that we can no longer stand aside while they prepare to destroy mankind."

IN SILENCE

They were allowed to present the petition and then they resumed their position with the other demonstrators, who (almost 6,000 in number according to the estimate of the chief marshal) formed a solid ring round the Ministry of Defence, in places covering the whole of the pavement up to the road, and themselves ringed by many hundreds of police.

The demonstrators sat for the most part in silence, some staring straight ahead, some reading books.

At one corner a group of students made tea on a portable stove. There were people in duffle coats and jeans, priests in frock coats, small babies in the arms of their parents.

Old people and young people, weak and healthy, had joined in mutual protest against nuclear weapons, and they sat silent and unmoved at the spasmodic appearance of Empire Loyalists driving round them in vans and shouting vociferously: unmoved too when one counter-demonstrator sprayed a group of them with a soda bottle, or when another threw an egg at Lord Russell; unmoved also by the proximity of so many burly policemen and the ominous sight of a fire-engine being driven slowly past.

IN SYMPATHY

The sit-down had begun at 3.25 p.m., after the assembly at Marble Arch, after the march of 10,000 people to Trafalgar Square, after the speeches there of Dai Davies, Hugh MacDiarmid (the Scots poet), the Rev. Michael Scott, and Bertrand Russell; and after the march from Trafalgar Square to Whitehall by those intending to break the law.

While the protesters were sitting down, the rest of the 10,000 original marchers staged another march by the Houses of Parliament in sympathy, then dispersed.

Then all was quiet until 5.45 p.m., when Lord Russell rose and followed the huge banner round Whitehall to the accompaniment of tremendous cheering from his fellow demonstrators who rose in concert and followed him round singing "For he's a jolly good fellow," straining at the cordons of police, and then, as he drove away, dispersing jubilantly in every direction until Whitehall was as quiet and peaceful as it normally is at 6.30 p.m. on a fine and warm Saturday evening in February.



THE SHORT ART

by John McVeagh

THE column, crushed by the population pressure of too much copy in too little space, must be short this week. Your columnist had plans . . . a survey of nurses . . . another diatribe against Birmingham . . . a brilliant exposition of what is wrong with medicine . . . more scandal . . . another sporting success (but, alas, where?) . . . and so on.

But all these feasts rest in the future; the news is that the medical school still stands and life goes on. Your correspondent must sink back into the ooze of the Q.E. pond among the drowsy goldfish, not to rear his ugly head for another week.

But next week there might be that (super colossal) survey.

TABES.



Nothing else
is Apache on Guinness
Have some now!

GUINNESS—HIM STRONG

G.E.3463.B

GOGGLE-BOX FOR WACKS?

Liverpudlians want T.V., not lectures

WHETHER or not in the end it will be successful, the idea of a staff-student group is spreading.

In Liverpool the newly-formed group has already declared that lectures are out of date and should be replaced by film and TV shows, that more informal meeting-places like coffee-bars are needed and that terms should be shorter. No doubt those universities who were contemplating having their own staff-student groups will now think twice about it.

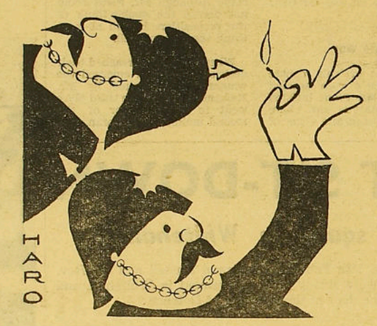
In **Cambridge** the problem seems to be not for students to meet staff but for men students to meet women students. It has just been announced with a flourish of trumpets that Churchill College Council has decided to admit women as guests at high table. Some of the avant-gard have speculated about the possibility of **undergraduates** eventually being allowed to introduce women guests into Hall. Cambridge is struggling into the twentieth century.

False whimsy

Everywhere we hear of the Congo. **Bristol University** are having an intensive appeal on behalf of the starving. A considerable body of University opinion is in favour of diverting a portion of the Rag Collection for the aid of Congolese children. There seems, however, to be something a little in the vein of false middle-class whimsy in the decision to appeal to the guests of Bristol Valentine's Ball to "build up a heart-shaped mound of coins in the centre of the floor." Perhaps there was a toast to the Congo drunk in champagne as well.

Power-mad

Guild politics always excite a certain lack of interest. In **Southampton** the new President has "sailed smoothly into office without so much as a rustle of opposition." This is no doubt because of his disarming honesty. When asked what his motives were for standing for President, his answer was "Lust for power." Or perhaps no-one knew there was an election on anyway.



O elusive Paul Jennings!

THERE ARE 284 Jenningses in the London telephone directory. But he isn't one of them. I once knew a regiment that had six Jenningses. But he wasn't there either.

Paul Jennings lives at East Bergholt, has a wife, children and a regular column (called Oddly Enough) in The Observer. If you don't know him, it's high time you did.

If you do know him don't sit back just yet. I have a problem for you. Can *you* think of a better word than 'elusive'?

You can't call him 'incomparable'. He positively invites comparison. He is, for example, as funny as twenty comedians and three times as enlightening.

He isn't inimitable either. People do imitate him. And not only his style—his Weltanschauung (or way of looking at the world) has had a considerable Einfluss (or influence).

Early on, Jennings discovered the basic conflict between People and Things—a battle as universal as the Sex War, and much funnier to write about. Would you trust the inside of a car? Or a typewriter? Or an Italian water-tap? You shouldn't, but if you must, at least arm yourself with the Jennings reports on the way these Things can annoy, confuse and embarrass People.

Yet Skram backwards

No, elusive seems to be the word. Jennings seems to have a strange knack of finding things that other people wouldn't even think of looking for. Did you know that the Danish for King Kong is Kong King? (Kong means King in Danish). Had you realised that the innocent-seeming town of Marks Tey was Yet Skram backwards?

Another thing. If you have anything like Jennings' luck, you may well buy The Observer 26 times a year, yet never see him. Elusive to the last, he appears only every other Sunday.

All in all, it's quite a good idea to take The Observer every week. It's the only way you can be sure of not missing Jennings—and Profile, Mammon, the Feiffer cartoon and all the other good things that make Sunday morning so bearable in fortunate Britain. **J.B.L.**

Talking point—6

SADISM AND SNOBBERY



by Peter Plant

Sixth in a series presenting controversial points of view on social, moral and political questions

TODAY people do not ask you if blood sports, and hunting in particular (presumably because it is the only one of which they have heard or can bring themselves to talk about) are cruel and sadistic—they tell you so. No longer is it a possibility, it is a fact. It is a mystery to me where they got it from, and probably to them as well, but somehow, somewhere, they've got it—In the land of Nod I shouldn't wonder!

There are more misconceptions about foxhunting than about any other human activity. Foxhunting, according to those who know nothing about it, and, unfortunately, they corner me every day, is an inhuman, snobbish anachronism practised by dull, unimaginative people, like myself, monotonously uniform in their habits, and enervating in their conversation.

Perhaps you wouldn't believe it but there are still people about who think that hunting is confined to wicked squires riding arrogantly over the few acres (unsold to speculative builders or unsnatched by Councils) remaining to a curtseying, forelock-touching tenancy. No. I beg you pardon, peasantry. In fact, hunting is today firmly in the hands of the middle-classes—but then anything to do with the middle-classes is bad. Are you middle-class by the way?

TOO DEMOCRATIC

Hunting has now become like racing, which is as democratic as death: "On the Turf and under it, all men being equal." Today there are more packs of hounds and more people who hunt in this country than ever before. I do hope this does not mean we are gradually all becoming more sadistic. Perhaps I should here regret to say that there are more hunt pony clubs, and more young people being taught to ride and hunt properly than ever before—I realise, of course, that our population has increased.

Foxhunting began just over 200 years ago and has had its greatest support from the farmers whose land has been hunted. The yeomen weren't flogged into submission you know! In fact, today hunting relies on the goodwill of the farmer and it is surprising how few do not like a meet "at their place." Many of our farmers themselves follow hounds, and strange to say the ranks of the anti-army are filled with town-dwellers and not country people.

Those who are anti-hunting are so mainly because of prejudice and base their opinion on what they have heard from others. The accusers are people who don't hunt, but what is more surprising is the fact that the vast majority have never done so. I do wish critics would hunt first and criticise after; I don't know one who has.

SYMBOLIC

Whilst our critics fulminate against "Teddy boys in pink coats" they say nothing whatsoever about coursing and beagling — sports giving the antis a far stronger case I should think, but since I have never taken part in either I had better leave them to another writer. This "chip on the shoulder" attitude has its origins in history, when the horse was the symbol of wealth and power, and the horseman was regarded as the oppressor. It is the insensate attitude of the mob in the French Revolution who decided that in future traffic would go on the right of the road because the horseman was mounted and hence rode on the left. It has nothing to do with cruelty to animals.

It is the same with the hunting attitude. The critic is too concerned with his own social grievances to concede that topboots keep the legs dry and warm and are polished with the same stuff and for the same reason as shoes; that a scarlet coat greatly helps those, like myself, who have got left behind to rejoin the hunt; and that the purpose of carrying a whip with a crooked handle is to open and close gates and not to flog one's horse with.

EXPERIENCE

There is perhaps no need for me to say that a day out hunting is a great experience, the aim of those riding to hounds being to have a good chase and to keep foxes under control; it is not a sinister ritual. The fox is killed in an instant by hounds which go for its throat. Once dead the fact that it is eaten by hounds is irrelevant; no animal is interested in what happens to it once dead, a privilege reserved for us human. A pig when slaughtered has its throat cut, a death as swift as that of any hound-killed fox. I really see little difference between a poodle feeding off breast of horse and a hound off breast of fox.

In conclusion I think I can assert that like the rich, the antis will always be with us, except in matters concerning what they call blood sports. The best that can be said for some of them is that they mean well; yet "He Meant Well" must be about the worst epitaph you could give to any man.

SPORT

NEW UAU PLANS

EFFORTS to streamline the administration of University sport are really on the move. Only last week in this column the proposal to form a British Universities Sports Federation was aired.

Now news comes from a recent meeting of U.A.U. representatives in Manchester of improvements not only in general administration, but also in the selection of representative teams and divisional championships.

The selection of U.A.U. teams has long been a subject of controversy amongst University players. Up till now the policy of the U.A.U. has generally been to make their sides as representative as possible, giving every affiliated University its fair share of representative honours. At the same time there has been a marked tendency to pick players mainly from the locality where the fixture is to be held.

This obviously is not good enough. No wonder that the U.A.U. complains it can't get the best fixtures. So will it do so until the standards are tightened up and the strongest possible teams fielded. Financial worries are continually dogging the U.A.U. too. These could be greatly alleviated if spectators could be attracted to the representative matches. This can only happen with an impressive fixture list.

The new suggestions, then, are obviously a move in the right direction. Basically they aim at improving methods of selection so that full strength teams can be chosen. In the first place, the meeting recommends that sub-committees be set up in all the Universities to put forward the names of players to the U.A.U. for final selection. This would replace the present system which often relies on the decision of one person—the captain of the club involved. It would also ensure that only worthy candidate were put forward.

It is also suggested that trials should be held for some sports, such as the major team games. These trials would replace the one representative fixture, and final team selection would presumably be entirely based on them. This too is also a very good idea and can only make the process of selection a much fairer thing altogether.

The quicker these proposals are acted on the better for the sportsmen involved and the U.A.U. itself. The present system is not only out of date but incomprehensible.

58 out of 75 eliminated in rally

BLACK MOUNTAINS DOOM DRIVERS

"A RATHER high average speed was expected," commented Mr. M. D. Pickering, a seasoned Monte Carlo driver, at the finish of the Motor Club's 5th Annual Welsh Rally. Tough it certainly was, for only 17 of the 75 starters managed to finish the course in the half hour late period allowed.

The competitors arrived at The Forge Garage, Hagley early on the evening of Saturday, 11th of February. The cars, stripped of all unnecessary parts and extensively modified, were scrutineered. At 9.45 p.m. the first competitor left, the others following at one-minute intervals, in the attempt to cover 300 miles by the next morning.

Timed by sealed watches, and navigating by grid references, the motorists took the main road to Hartlebury, and then turned to the side roads which led south of Hereford to the Black Mountains. Tired, but enthusiastic, the still surviving crews took an hour's rest in Brecon before departing into the Eppynt Mountains. From there they followed country lanes around the north of Hereford and so back to Hagley for breakfast, the event being rounded off with a speed driving test.

Winner

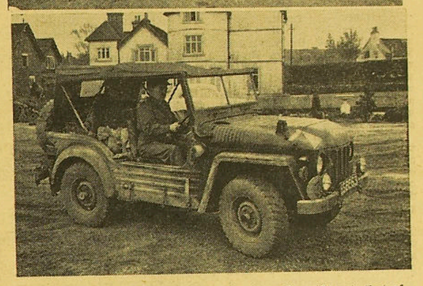
Overall winner was another Monte Carlo driver, J. B. Smith of the Sunbac team in his Baby Austin. The only other car to visit each control was that of C. R. Aston in his amazing SAAB, and he proved winner of the under 900 c.c. saloon class. Of the large Army contingent only Major D. G. Twist completed the course in the time limit; this must be put down to comparative inexperience and no doubt they will do much better in the future.

In spite of a number of accidents, the rally was a resounding success, and all congratulations must go to the hard working officials of the Motor Club.

Results

Best overall performance: **J. B. Smith** and **B. Hughes** (Austin 7) 390 pts. Sports cars: **T. S. Baker** and **Dr. D. Ross** (Sprite) 990 pts. Saloons up to 900 c.c.: **C. R. Aston** and **G. Cooper** (SAAB) 420 pts. Saloons over 900 c.c.: **N. A. Spencer** and **C. P. Young** (Standard) 1,750 pts. 4-wheel drive vehicles: **Major D. G. Twist** and **G. W. Jones** (Champ) 7,090 pts. Team award: **Coventry Godiva Motor Club.**





Two of the vehicles which took part in the rally. (Above) that of C. R. Russell and (below) that of Maj. D. G. Twist.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

BADMINTON

IN the W.I.V.A.B. Badminton Final, held at Manchester on Saturday, February 18th, Birmingham, for the second year running, met and beat Manchester. Expecting a fairly close match the Birmingham girls played good, concentrated Badminton, and trounced the Manchester team 9-0.

Miss Barbara Parish (Captain), and Miss Mary James, our first pair, had three good victories, as did Miss Heather Blaine and Miss Chi Chan. Miss Marilyn Rowlands and Miss Jill Watson also won quite easily.

The opposition played well but could not compete with the extremely good performance of the six Birmingham girls.

JUDO

IN a recent triangular match, held between Birmingham, North Staffs. and Loughborough, the University Judo team were not at their best and lost to both Loughborough and North Staffs.

In the first match against North Staffs, the University lost three contests, Davies and Jack losing their bouts by holddowns and the Birmingham captain, G. Lawson being thrown cleanly by his North Staffs. opponent.

The match against Loughborough was a much closer thing, Loughborough winning by 3 points to 2½.

G. Lawson had a fierce and bitter contest in which he found himself off the mat several times and having his fingers bent in a way that Nature did not intend.

SQUASH

W.I.V.A.B. Team Championship

THE women beat Bristol University in the final 2-1, Miss Hayham lost in a close exciting match (3-2), though she played well.

Miss Sadler played very well and won in three games in a match which was rather one sided.

Miss Harrison closely won the fifth game 10-8 in a match later dominated by nerves.

SMALL ADS

SEE YOU at the **DODO HOP**, Founders Room (Gt. Charles St.), 23rd Feb.

RAILWAY SOCIETY — Special General Meeting—Thursday, March 9th, at 6.30 p.m. in Committee Room 1. **INLAND WATERWAYS** now within the scope of the Society; two new members to be elected to the Committee to represent this new section.

WOLF MANKOWITZ speaks at Jewish Society Presidential Address, Sunday, 26th February at 2.30 p.m. in the New Council Chamber, The Union.

SUNDAY FLIC: "Picnic," starring Kim Novak and William Holden. 8 p.m. Debating Hall.

FILM SOCIETY: Eisenstein's "Ivan the Terrible: Part 1" and "Jardin Publique"; Thursday, 23rd Feb. at 7.30 p.m. in Mech. Eng.

KONNI ZILLIACUS on Nuclear Disarmament in Committee Room 3 today—5.15 p.m.

SOCCER SHAMBLES

Leicester 1, Birmingham 1

TO say that this was a disappointing result is something of an understatement, for the game was little more than a soccer shambles. Although Leicester were a vastly improved outfit since their visit to Birmingham last term, they were still inferior in general ability to the visitors.

One thing can be said for the Birmingham team—they are gentlemen. They would never dream of hitting a man when he's down. A goal behind after six minutes, and being given the run around by faster, more skilful opponents, Leicester were down, down and nearly out.

But being kind souls at heart, Birmingham did not like to take advantage and so eased off, even to the extent of allowing Leicester to equalise after 35 minutes.

The two goals were the only highlights of this rather colourless game. After six minutes McIntosh ran through the Leicester defence like a knife through butter to put Birmingham one up. Leicester drew level when a corner was cleared to the outside-right, whose centre was rocketed into the roof of the net before Atkinson could move.

Ill-mannered

The second half developed into an ill-mannered affair as both sides started complaining about certain of the referee's decisions and their team-mates' inefficiency. Leicester came more into the game after the interval, and so desperate did the Birmingham position become that they had to resort to unjustified appeals for a penalty.

Birmingham showed a tendency to rely too much on the ubiquitous McIntosh. It was left largely to him to create the openings, and he was the only forward on the day with a reasonable shot at goal. While no one in the first XI played brilliantly, no one played badly, and they will probably do much better against keener opposition, which will bring out the best in them.

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ENTERTAINMENTS PAGE

BITTER SWEET

FREDERICO FELLINI'S avowed purpose in making "La Dolce Vita" (Futurist) was "to put a thermometer to a sick world which evidently has a fever," a world which he calls the new Bohemia and which is composed of "a conglomeration of journalists, photographers, and café society, all buzzing about in motor cars."

It is possible that an Italian audience might gain more from this study than an English one, in the same way that surely only an English person could appreciate the full flavour of "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning." But I rather doubt this, for the new Bohemia is an international phenomenon, with which we are conversant, if not by personal experience, at any rate through the medium of the press and in particular the gossip column.

Sensation-seeking

Fellini follows throughout the episodic story the fortunes of a young journalist who lives, with many others, on the vices and scandals of this world. He is, we are told, capable of better things, but is caught up in this whirlwind society of people in a state of complete disenchantment whose only occupation is sensation-seeking.

The whole film is an illustration of complete inability to communicate; there is in particular a magnificent caricature of a completely self-obsessed film-star by Anita Ekberg, who guys herself cheerfully.

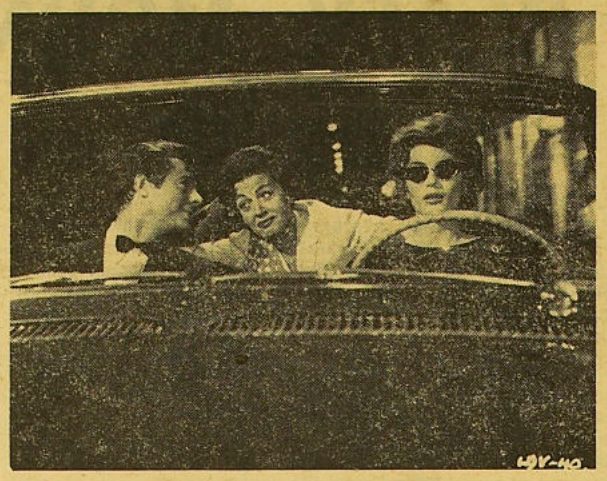
The fragmentary, aimless nature of the society is echoed in the treatment of the film which suffered badly, however, from underpruning. Fellini has used his camera indiscriminately to create a candid, realistic effect, but too often the sequences are over-long and carelessly presented. A good deal of this long film could have been advantageously left on the cutting-room floor.

Caricatures

In the end the main problem in interpreting "La Dolce Vita" is whether it fulfils its aim, to give a genuine social comment on a sick society. In many respects the angle of the film resembles that of the gossip column much more closely, presenting us with scandalous goings-on which are meant to excite as much as to disgust.

No norm is established in the whole course of the film, no moral intention is evident in the drawing of characters who are rather caricatures than real people. Only the girl who calls in vain across the water in the symbolic ending seems to represent Fellini's rather nebulous conception of a standard against which we might judge this bitter-sweet life.

The "New Statesman" last week described **"Saturday Night and Sunday Morning" (Forum, New Street)** as a product of British neo-realism. Now this is a very stilted phrase in which to describe a very simple thing —a film about working-class people made with understanding and commendable attention to detail.



Maddalena drives Marcello to a midnight rendezvous—a scene from "La Dolce Vita."

Not much to get excited about in that, you might think, for indeed the idea is straightforward enough. But it is a melancholy fact that in the British and American cinema-world of today there remains precious little of life as it is lived; instead we are usually presented with a tarted-up version which is 50 times slicker, smarter and more cut-and-dried.

True, this film does not state a problem and solve it, it has no world-shaking significance. "I'd be bored you'd be bored . . birth, copulation and death" said the poet. If you would be bored stay away; but these are the stuff of which life is made, and here they are dealt with candidly and competently.

This is a minor film it is true, but the care with which it has been made, and its main virtue of authenticity make it one of the most hopeful to have come out of the British studios for some time.

M.A.B.

Tour de force

THE Beethoven concert given by the C.B.S.O. on Sunday was conducted at very short notice by Harold Gray deputising for Colin Davies who was indisposed.

The slow introduction of the "Leonora No. 3" overture was disappointing. Mr. Gray did not achieve any tension, possibly because he took it too quickly. Apart from some solo woodwind passages being obscured, the rest of the overture was well performed.

The Austrian pianist Ingrid Haebler was the soloist in the 2nd piano concerto, and she delighted the capacity audience by her neat and graceful account of the solo part. Unfortunately, the orchestra failed to match her light approach, the opening ritornello being roughly played.

The 7th Symphony turned out to be the tour de force of the evening. Only in the Allegretto movement could Mr. Gray be faulted in his choice of tempo; surely this was too slow. However, the string timbre was excellent, not only in this movement, but throughout the symphony. One other criticism; the gradual crescendo in the recapitulation of the 1st movement lost its effect by being started too loudly.

This was indeed Beethoven at his fieriest, and the conductor well deserved the ovation he received at the end of the concert.

MARTIN BINKS.

Vicious Circle

Essay in duplicity

THIS week, I am able to recommend, albeit belatedly, another worthwile film aptly entitled **"Circle of Deception" (Odeon, New St.).**

The film starts as it ends, soon after the conclusion of World War II. The circle of deception, revealed in one long flashback, involves Lieut. Paul Raine (Bradford Dillman) in an ingenious intelligence operation devised by Captain Rawson (Harry Andrews), assisted by Lieut. Bowen (Suzy Parker). Raine and Bowen fall for each other just before he is dropped into occupied France in 1944.

The tragedy for Bowen is that she knows that Raine has been selected as an agent likely to crack if captured and tortured by the Nazis. The idea is that Raine himself should believe the plans with which he is "entrusted" so that his genuine confession will persuade the Nazis to act to their detriment.

Little depth

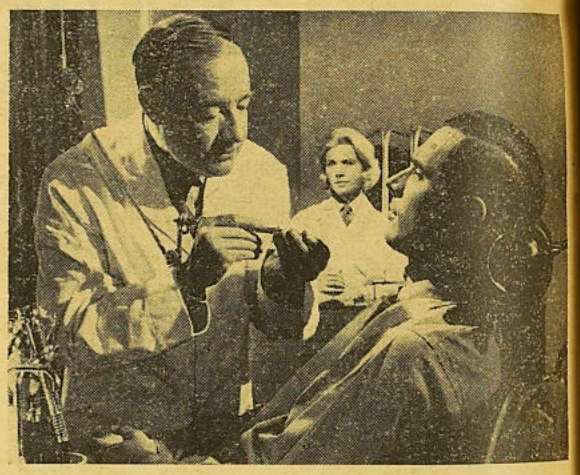
Such is the plot and as such, is treated with care and taste, especially the torture scenes which could so easily have been the usual spectacular sadism. Unfortunately the dénouement is nigh, and we have had little of the character stuff which might have given the film the depth it seemed to lack. Harry Andrews is the somewhat conventional intelligence chief, ruthless, efficient and thorough, a man without second thoughts or chances. At least his scheme is original.

Suzy Parker has little opportunity to be other than adequate. On the credit side, I found the German interrogation officer an interesting piece of work. He gave me a sense of security, quite false, on Raine's behalf. It was good too, to see the Germans revolted by their own torture methods.

No time

This is the sort of attention to detail which puts a film in the running. Unfortunately this film didn't run far enough. Time wasn't given to Raine the war hero, Raine the broken man. It wasn't enough for me to see him mocking at his medal, knocking back his bottle and locking out his girl from his life. The end left rather too much to my imagination.

HARVEY JERVIS.



Raine is fitted with the poison capsule. A scene from "Circle of Deception."

CAMBRIDGE ON TOP

THE Semi-final of the Inter-University Jazz Federation Competition held in the Deb. Hall on Wednesday evening, 15th February, was won by the Cambridge University Jazz Band, with the Simeon de Franco All-Stars *(sic)* from Oxford's Modern J.C.—placed second, and the Excelsior Jazzmen from Birmingham, third.

The judges, Charles Fox and Alun Morgan, rated the Cambridge band above the Oxford (self styled) experimental unit simply because the Oxford group had no individual soloists who could match the brilliance of Dave Gelly (alto) and Art Theman (tenor).

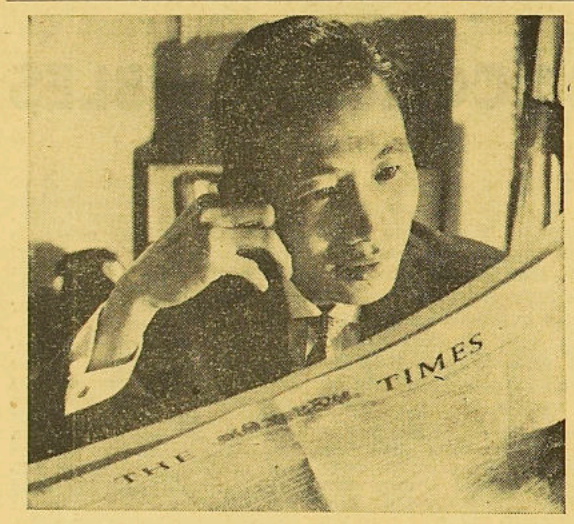
Martin Williams was praised for his trumpet tone, for his good lead, and for the way in which he played his few solos. Don Campbell was judged best clarinetist at the contest.

In fourth place (but not in the final) were the N.U.R.K.S., probably as much to their surprise as to everyone else's. Most of the partisan audience had ruled out the possibility of their achieving any success after the banjoist had discovered that not only one but both of his instruments were out of tune; and after the front line openly displayed their disappointment at their own performance.

They were unfortunate in having to follow the Leicester Savoy Orpheans who "defied criticism" with their rollicking, brilliant comedy which included an uproarious take-off of Acker Bilk.

The Second City Jazzmen were unexpectedly produced to play while the judges were arriving at their verdict; and Birmingham's last triumph of the evening came when Eddie Matthews, now a member of our Education Dept., was featured as guest trumpeter in a captivating performance of "I can't get started."

Now we must wait to see if the Excelsior Jazzmen can play another three tunes with the same élan and with as great success in the Final of the Competition.



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