

UNION NEWS

Leeds University Union
Saturday, May 18th, 1963

SPECIAL 1d.
No. 4

Art and Folk-Song give Rag new look

TV coverage likely

Rag has got kulture this year. Campoli and Denis Matthews are appearing at the Town Hall, patronised by the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire. Same place, different time, is the much-talked-about and highly expensive Viennese Ball, lending a certain grace and tone to a week normally devoted to less gentle pursuits.

Less glamorous, less superficial than any Viennese Ball, and perhaps infinitely more important from the point of view of prestige, is an international art exhibition organised by Doug Sandle, Union Periodicals Secretary.

He has arranged for a dozen contemporary artists to paint on the theme "Red, White and Blue," and also several London galleries will be sending from five to fifteen works each, by British and foreign artists of international reputation.

T.V. and Press coverage is guaranteed, for the exhibition will be one of the most im-

portant held in the North for some time. The scheme has University backing, and will be of great value to Rag and to the University in general, even if it does not make a penny profit.

★
ROBIN HALL and Jimmie MacGregor top the bill in the Rag Folk Concert. They are well-known through their appearances on T.V., in particular B.B.C.'s newsmagazine "Tonight."

Also appearing is the Ian Campbell Group, whose billings on T.V. and in recent recordings have put them in the front rank of British folk-singers.

Other artistes to be featured if available, will be Jackie McDonald, Bridie O'Donnell and guitarist Bert Jasch.

ARE YOU A

HOP ADDICT?

1st and 2nd year (or even Post-grad.) hop-goers required to run Union hops next year.

Call, write or 'phone Entertainments Secretary,
Ian Morrison, via the Union.

RAG CHAIRMAN WANTED

(Man or Woman)

Anyone who wants to be Rag Chairman should give their name and qualifications to their best friend, who can then submit their recommendation in the normal way, through exec. to the Joint Committee meeting on 13th June.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must be prepared to sacrifice a year. Must be prepared to consider anything, and to take the blame when it goes wrong. Strong nerves. Be prepared to lose his friends.
N.B.

The proposal of yet another Law candidate will be frowned upon by the Law authorities, owing to recent publicity.

ELECTION BUNGLER ROUSES PROTEST

Returning officer absent again

By OUR ELECTION CORRESPONDENT

FOR the second time running, Union elections have been mismanaged due to the incapacity of the Returning Officer. Voting in last week's elections for Union Committee was delayed four hours because Returning Officer Pete Hall overslept.

Many students who had travelled down from Bodington Hall on Monday morning had to return without voting because the polling stations were not open. Candidates who complained to members of Executive were met with indifference. Hall had once again failed to appoint a deputy, and had left no instructions to Exec. members as to what to do.

Conservative Association chairman Dave Cooper who was elected, is said to have demanded that the election be re-held, but he later withdrew his request. The election was extended to Wednesday to make up for the lost time.

When interviewed, Hall complained of the "pathetic" turn-out of Union Committee members to man the polling stations. No more than six of



Merriman Gonzalez
Both re-elected

the 24 members turned up for duty.

The election itself resulted in a victory for no particular group or faction. Nine members of the old committee, an unusually high number, successfully stood for re-election.

The only possible grouping is the four 'diehard' Conservatives who were elected: Tim Olsen, Dave Cooper, Vera Beljakova, and B. B. Taylor. This caused many people to describe the new committee as "if anything, a bit reactionary."

Due to the fact that the election was held in the week



Walt Byrde
First-year candidates

before exams, there was an unusually low poll — 20 per cent as opposed to 37 per cent last year. Next year, all elections will be held during the second term to avoid this. The top candidate, Mike Gonzalez, was the choice of 58% of the electors. Last year's top candidate (Nigel Rodley) only gained 42.6 per cent. Full results are shown on the left.

Second in the poll was former NUS Secretary Dave Merriman, who has already completed two years on the committee. After two previous attempts, leading Union Communist and debater Alan Hunt was finally elected.

One surprise re-election was that of Hilary Forrest, who has only spoken three times in the committee during the whole of the present session. Her brother, Martin, was House Secretary last year, and she herself is the fifth member of her family to sit on Union Committee.

Only about 50 out of a possible 900 technologists and



Cooper Hunt
The political element

engineers cast votes during the three days of the election. Next year's engineer Union President Tony Lavender told Union News he didn't think it was significant. "Most engineers go into hibernation at this time of the year," he said.

Among unsuccessful candidates were a group from Labour Society, and CND leaders Gerald Kennedy and John Byrde. Union News editor Dave Motlow missed a seat by only 11 votes.

President-elect Tony Lavender was hesitant about describing the committee he will have to work with next year. "I think I shall be able to work with them" he said.

Next year's JVP, Ian Morrison was more outspoken however: "There's enough talent to lead the rest, but some of the rest have never done anything. Let's hope the stimulus of new status makes them do something."

HOW YOU VOTED

20 Open Seats

Elected	Votes	% of voters
MIKE GONZALEZ	655	57.9
DAVE MERRIMAN	564	49.8
RICHARD WAGNER	534	47.1
VALERIE BRADFORD	516	45.5
TONY PRITCHARD	504	44.5
DOUG SANDLE	492	43.4
TED ADDISON	491	43.4
ALAN HUNT	478	42.2
MELVYN EASTBURN	468	41.3
LESLEY WIDDOWSON	465	41.0
FIROZ KARIM	448	39.5
TIM OLSEN	426	37.6
DAVE COOPER	423	37.3
HILARY FORREST	416	36.7
PETER KENNEDY	394	34.8
VINCE MORAN	387	33.1
DAVID ATKINSON	356	31.4
VERA BELJAKOVA	350	30.9
NICHOLAS LILWALL	347	30.7
BRIAN TAYLOR	340	30.0

Not Elected

DAVE MOTLOW (329), ROBIN STUDD (311), SID SEROUSSI (308), STEVE MUIR (291), DANNY KENNALLY (275), JEREMY HAWTHORN (274), SUE BOVILL (272), SUE THOMPSON (270), NORMAN ELLIS (268), DEIRDRE FRASER (242), ANTHONY UDEN (241), GRAHAM BULFIELD (230), DAVE CLIFFORD (228), MAUREEN CORLETT (226), PAT FERGUSON (209).

6 spoilt papers

4 First-Year Seats

Elected	Votes	% of voters
PENNY WALT	417	36.7
JOHN SUTTON	407	35.9
HILARY PRICE	398	35.1
ANNA MILLER	343	30.3

Not Elected

JOHN BYRDE (331), JOHN QUAIL (330), GERALD KENNEDY (297), HILARY DUDDERIDGE (261), LYNNE PHEASEY (219), JOANNA THOMAS (202).

YOU CAN'T DO WORSE

FOR the second time running an important Union election has been grossly mismanaged. Last time it was the J.V.P. election, when Returning Officer Pete Hall was unfortunately ill.

This time he simply overslept. This if not excusable, is at least understandable. The main charge must be levelled against the incompetence of Exec., and the failure of Hall to appoint a deputy in the event of his non-appearance.

Union Committee and Exec. are always urging us to "take more interest in Union affairs," and to "use our votes." How much interest did they display in this election?

Questioned about the delay by Union News, Hon. Sec. Mike Fletcher

simply grinned, "Nothing to do with me," and a hostile Paula O'Neill snapped, "Those ballot boxes are not going out today."

The delay has inconvenienced both Union News and, more important, the electorate. The attitude of the outgoing committee, who could not even be bothered to man the polling stations properly, has been one of "I'm all right, Jack."

Next year's U.C. must do better than this. It will be enough simply to be capable of organising an election.

They seem very lucky to have been elected at all. Maybe they will give next year's bunch of candidates a better starting-price.

HOW CAN I BE CONSOLED?

This page of information and appeal was prompted by PETE HALL, who also collected and linked the material.

WHETHER you would normally read poetry or not, **READ THIS.** And while you are reading, remember that the man who wrote it was expecting to be put under house-arrest any moment. Separated from his wife and children, Dennis Brutus may already be under arrest.

*"When they deprive me of the evenings
how shall I word my inarticulate grief?*

*Think of the night-air, sweet with dew and stars
the moon a molten ingot's spilling-splash
plaque on the sky's glassed-ocean floor
the lamp-lit elegance of autumn oaks
preening in man-made accidental grace
—and this rat-ceilinged hovel on my head.*

*When I am prisoned from the evenings
how shall I speak my inexpressible grief?*

*I shall curl in the tight knot of the shrivelled worm
or, angularly bundled like a mangy cat,
huddle against myself for warmth
or grub in the leaf-litter of my autumn years
rustling foregone endearments in my throat
and seeking easement in remembered tenderness—*

*but how shall I mouth my unintelligible woe
and how shall I be consoled?"*

This is the man the Union has adopted and has promised to finance throughout his Law course at Witwatersrand 'open' University in Verwoerd's racist South Africa.

Is he just a poet? I asked him in a letter to give some details of his activities in South Africa. This was his reply:

DEAR PETER,

I had hoped that the material sent to you earlier via Abdul Minty would suffice — I'm not good at this sort of thing and find it rather difficult to give a balanced picture of what I do — there are so many odd bits.

Not all the things I do can be written about as well as some of them (I hope you won't find this irresponsible!) as there are lots of things I am banned from doing.

Perhaps it would help if I began by saying what are some of the things I am banned from:

Among others, the following:

From teaching (at which I made my living as a high school teacher for ten years in Port Elizabeth—teaching English, Afrikaans, mainly, also History, Geography and Physiology and Hygiene:

From writing and journalism—which I also did for a living: nothing I write or say can be printed or quoted on pain of a fine or a long stretch in prison (I think the latter is compulsory). From attending any political gatherings (I was active in the Movement for a National Convention two years ago, and other things).

From attending any gatherings where people have or may have any social intercourse.

From attending meetings of the S.R.C. at Wits University, to which I was elected, rather freakishly, since I was forbidden to address any meetings or issue a manifesto of my beliefs, and from which I have just resigned because of the weak stand on the S.R.C. in agreeing to run a graduation ball for the white students only, in spite of there being non-white graduates: It would not have affected me anyway, because of my ban on social get-togethers of any sort).

From leaving the Magisterial district of Johannesburg for five years — the period is meaningless, since bans are simply lifted and then re-imposed.

This cuts me off from my wife and children who are in Port Elizabeth, where I have my home—except for the exemption of ten days

—not likely to be repeated.

In addition I have to report to the Fordsburg Police Station every Saturday — in Port Elizabeth I had to report daily to the Security Police.

Banned from entering any township or factory premises in Johannesburg. Also from being a member of any organisation which discusses government policy, including presumably the bodies in which I do most work—the South African Sports Association (founder-secretary) and South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (of which I am president).

These are as many as I can remember offhand — and they should give you a fairly full picture.

I might add what you probably already know, that I graduated B.A. at Fort Hare, majoring in English (Distinction) and Psychology and that it was largely by accident that I enrolled at Wits. That one of my main interests is creative writing — I won a Poetry prize last year and have a volume coming out this year—which will not be on sale in South Africa. (I don't know if I will be able to see the proofs as this would be illegal!)

That I am associated with various publishing ventures — I have not yet had a specific ban debarring me from being associated with any publication, but it cannot be very far off. Also, I am not

yet under house-arrest, but this is bound to come.

Other personal details: Twice voted by a national non-white newspaper among the Sportsmen of the Year for my work for non-racialism in sport: Won the Chancellor's Prize of the University of South Africa for Bilingualism; writings published in Anthologies of African Writing in Danish, Finnish, Swedish (and I think, German).

"Peace News" — special issue on South Africa last year; "Western Mail" (Cardiff), "Comment" (Liberal Catholic Quarterly in New Zealand: various S.A. publications—(pre-ban) "Contact," "Fighting Talk," "Africa South," "New African," etc.

I know this is pretty jumbled, and does not cover some fields, but already I begin to feel as if I'm showing off—though perhaps A. has already given you an idea of the number of things I get involved in: anyway, this should be enough for now. Of course, if there is any further specific information you require, I shall be glad to supply it.

I would like, however, to indicate how I think we might establish contact in specific fields, arising from my interests: in these ways students at Leeds would be able to make ADDITIONAL AND VERY USEFUL contributions to the achievement in South Africa of the liberal ideas which they stand for.

I thought it better to put these on a separate sheet so that they could be given independent attention.

Yours,
DENNIS

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F.S.

I have not yet been able to buy all my law-books. Do you think it would be a good idea if I sent a list so that students might look around and see if there are any second-hand copies they could send me?

Perhaps this service of second-hand books could be extended to other needy students — some of them worse off than I am?



Front page from "Contact." Dennis Brutus is now banned from writing in it.