

UNION NEWS

Leeds University Union

No. 192.

Friday, October 6th, 1961

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CRISIS CONTINUED

Widespread Digs Shortage

Yacht for London?

NEWS STAFF

THE crisis in student accommodation, it would appear, is not restricted to Leeds. Reports from many colleges and Universities throughout the country speak of increased difficulty in finding digs and flats. Lodgings offices in most Universities are so hard pressed that they have had to find many new landlords during the first week of term.

Leeds, as one of the largest University towns, has been amongst the worst hit areas, but at Sheffield two hundred students were without rooms last week, and in Southampton the position was hardly better. In London it has been suggested that a yacht moored on the Thames be used to house some of the many students without lodgings.

In Leeds there is a general feeling amongst students that inflated prices are being charged for rooms and flats. One overseas student was charged £5 per week for bed and breakfast before term started although he is now paying £4 per week for full board, the standard price for women's lodgings.

concerning lodgings. Union President Macarthur remarked that he regretted that landlords should be so pre-occupied with making large profits.

No Comment

When asked for her reaction to the call to withhold the 7/6d. administration fee, Miss Abell replied "What is the phrase? Oh yes, no comment."

She denied that additional staff might help the Lodgings Office during their busiest weeks, and was critical of the non-cooperation of many students who do not reply promptly to letters concerning lodgings.

She suggested that a solution to one problem—that of students who are uncertain whether they will be returning because of examinations to be retaken—was for such students to book accommodation and then cancel it if they did not return. If a landlady insisted on a retaining fee, whether they were returning or not, they should find somewhere else.

None of the small number of students who had paid their lodgings bill by Wednesday afternoon had withheld their administration fee. Alan Andrews said that this did not disappoint him, since his proposal affected only a small number of students anyway, but he hoped that all such students would deduct the 7/6. The proposal, he said, was certainly not merely a gesture.

Stronger Action

The situation is obviously very critical and with increasing numbers of students each year it is going to become even worse unless immediate steps are taken to find more and better accommodation. Since the predicament is not peculiar to Leeds alone but to many of the large University towns it would seem that Government action and not only University measures is necessary.

A common argument amongst landlords is that during the long vacation rooms are often unoccupied for nearly three months. Some landlords have gone so far as to suggest that students go home for the weekend. In answer to the article in Tuesday's Yorkshire Evening Post

Red Square Demonstration

A PARTY of twenty "Ban the Bomb" marchers, including a London medical student, were, on Tuesday morning, given official permission to demonstrate in Red Square, Moscow.

This will be the first demonstration of its type to be held in Red Square. On Monday, they had demonstrated outside a Soviet army barracks, on the outskirts of the city. They distributed explanatory leaflets to the soldiers. The march originally started in San Francisco.



How many will have a roof over their head?

CHANGE IN REFECTORY SERVICE

THE change from the a-la-carte menu which was in service in Refec. last session, to the present table d'hote system, has meant amongst other things a reduction in prices. It has also had the result that instead of being able to choose from a variety of foods (all differently priced) the students eating in Refec. are now restricted to a limited number of set meals.

Whether the system stays or not is up to the students however, for Catering Manager, Mr. Greenhalgh, is prepared to revert to the old system should students urge Executive to such a move. Paula O'Neill, Catering Secretary, pointed out however, that if the old system is brought back, then prices will automatically go up, and urged that students bear this in mind when contemplating any complaints.

RISING COSTS

The reason for the change was that last year the cost price of meals rose significantly and this was not only due to increasing market prices or labour

costs but to "those people who came into Refec. for a meal of cheese and biscuits." Because of those only wanting small snacks much of the prepared food was left over and had to be thrown away. Mr. Greenhalgh is quite sure that under the present system he can prevent much of this wastage and is also confident that should the system be retained he will be able to reduce the number of staff. He pointed out that the Catering Dept. did not need to make a profit but merely cover costs if possible.

On Wednesday he introduced yet another change which was to set a minimum price of 1/8d. for the main

course with a separate charge for soup or sweets.

This week so far he has not been able to tell if the experiment has been a success or not and told a reporter that it will be a month before the results can really be assessed.

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UNION NEWS



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EDITORIAL

DURING Private Members' Business at Sunday's Freshers' debate, the motion was put that students who had received little or no assistance from wardens in finding accommodation should withhold their terminal 7/6 Lodgings Office fee. It was carried by an almost unanimous vote of over 700 students.

This 7/6 supposedly goes towards the cost of issuing the fortnightly cheques to landlords and to the salaries of the office staff itself. Regarded as a sole factor, it is difficult to see why the administrative cost of this office should be borne by the student, whilst those of the Fees Office, Bursar's Office, etc., are not.

However, it is merely one of the many irksome features of the lodgings system of this University, which has in recent years come more and more under criticism. It now threatens to present an ever-more acute problem as the number of students continues to grow.

Many students have, this year especially, received very little help from the Lodgings Warden in finding accommodation. Others have found the addresses given them so unsatisfactory that they have found digs for themselves. The students naturally do not

feel inclined to pay 7/6 to the Lodgings Office for "services rendered". The only service that the Lodgings Warden is called upon to perform in this case is that of visiting the accommodation found by the student and approving it, the cost of transport en route being met from the student's contribution.

Thus, as regards actual assistance in finding lodgings, many students do seem to have a real cause for complaint about the 7/6 fee. With regard to administrative costs, however, the situation is somewhat different; and the question arises of whether the system of payment to landlords through the University is both necessary and desirable. This system causes a great deal of unnecessary administrative work for the University. However, it does provide a guarantee of payment to the landlords, many of whom, from recent reports in the local press, seem to think that students have little to do with their money but to drink it or smoke it.

The most satisfactory solution would seemingly be to retain the present system, but to transfer the surely not exorbitant cost of issuing the fortnightly cheques from the student to the University.

FEES BOYCOTT APPROVED

Union News Reporter

A motion, calling on all those who have received no help from the Wardens of Men and Women Students in Lodgings to withhold the termly 7/6d. normally paid to those wardens, was carried by an overwhelming majority in Private Business at the Freshers' Debate.

The motion was proposed by Alan Andrews, seconded by Malcolm Totten, and supported by Education and Welfare Secretary Irene Millward and Union President Brian MacArthur. Speakers pointed out that, though Miss Abell had addressed them as "chicken," "ducks," "poppet" and "nibbit," she had not assisted their search for adequate accommodation. Brian MacArthur appealed to all students paying £4-10-0 or £5 for accommodation to see him so that such extortion could be taken up with the authorities. Irene Millward supported the motion "because," she said, "this is something you can do." One dissident was Miss Penelope Turton-Hart (Union Committee) who said that Mrs. Sledge was only part-

time, was very busy and sometimes found her job impossible.

Interviewed by Union News, Alan Andrews said: "The charging of a fee to students who receive no help from the lodgings wardens is simply exploitation. I am asking our members to refuse to be exploited, by withholding their 7/6d. and explaining why they are doing this." Asked if he did not think there was a case for a general boycott in view of the overall accommodation situation, Mr. Andrews replied: "Yes, there certainly is a case. But we should hear from the Vice-Chancellor's committee fairly soon and I hope this is going to result in a real improvement. The committee has been meeting over the last six months so they ought to come up with something. We ought to wait a little longer so that we can see what they have to say."

Five Actors and their Melodrama

by Vivienne C. Welburn

THEATRE GROUP started the new session well from the point of view of audience participation with their Freshers' Conference play "Three Actors and Their Play" by Michel de Ghelderode. The dramatic merit of the work however is more doubtful.

The play is constructed in three parts—a prologue and epilogue and the "play" itself is obvious melodrama and was correctly produced as such by Frank Cox. The audience however made no differentiation and seemed intent on reading double meanings into everything though one can scarcely blame them with such profundities as "Can we find the courage to live?" being thrown across the footlights.

The theme of the play—or what little one could gather amidst the paper darts and the like—was Pirandellian—the play within a play convention used to indicate the interlocking of fantasy and reality. It seemed to be confused however and dangled precariously between the farcical and the tragic. The result in production was melodrama with full audience participation. I would not condemn this. The profundity of the play was not such as to make it blasphemous and one had the rare theatrical experience of audience and actors being at one and both thoroughly enjoying it.

The acting, if it can be called such, was good with a magnificent tongue-in-the-cheek performance by Mike Mayfield and sample specimens of the Grand Manner from Sandra Wood and Stuart Hagger. Ray Crossley, unruffled as ever, made a natural prompter.

The set was familiar to those conversant with the underground regions of the Riley-Smith, but fitted well into the atmosphere of riotous gaiety, being simple and unorganized.

It is always difficult to choose a play for the Freshers' Conference and to my mind this production was not a particularly good representative of Theatre Group's work. They are a serious, hard working group of people who dedicate all the time and energy they can afford to their theatrical work. I hope that many people will attend future productions and participate as fully in dramatic experience as this weekend they did in a melodramatic one.

Labour Soc. by far the Largest

NATION-WIDE public opinion polls have shown that today the Conservative Government enjoys less popularity than at any time in the last ten years. This is being reflected in the numbers joining the various political societies of the Union, and it is obvious from these that Conservative stock is hitting an all-time low.

By Monday evening the Conservatives had gained only 34 members, while the Labour Society could boast of three times this total, and even the Communist Society were only slightly behind with 29 members. Although the Conservative total will certainly show an increase during the next few days, it is not likely to compete with that of the halcyon days of the Association when Bateman and Eastham took the chair and the total membership was often as high as 150.

Mr. Fred Kidd, the Chairman of the Conservative Association, did not at first seem to be aware of the serious position, and remarked that the Association had never been more flourishing at any time in its existence. He admitted that the Association had its troubles, which included the resignation of the Secretary, but considered that the Session's well-balanced programme of M.P.'s and Coffee Parties would make up for other difficulties. Mr. Kidd stressed that the Conservative voice would still be heard in Debates. He attributed the large membership of Left-Wing groups to what he called "twisted thinking," and the unpopularity of his own Party to the Government's failure to take stronger measures against members of the C.N.D.

FILMS SHOWING THIS WEEK

- A.B.C. Two Women* Sophia Loren, Vittoria de Sica.
- GAUMONT Doctor in Love and Thirty Nine Steps.
- MAJESTIC Guns of Naverone Gregory Peck.
- PLAZA The Trapp Family.
- ODEON Goodbye Again Ingrid Bergman, Anthony Perkins.
- TATLER Ballad of a Soldier* Murder A La Carte.
- TOWER Not as a Stranger (Robert Mitchum) and The Hound of The Baskervilles.

Film news will be back next week.

First Speaker for European Soc.

LABOUR M.P. Roy Jenkins is to visit the union on October 12th. He will open the first meeting of a new union organisation, European Society. Formed following a seminar of people from universities all over Britain, the society's first aim is to function as a centre of information on all aspects of European movement.

To this end, it has organised an exhibition to be held in the university from October 10th to 12th. The society hopes to show something of the work of the many organisations at present working in Europe.

Soon after Roy Jenkins' visit, Tory M.P. and former miler Chris Chataway will be attending the society. He will be followed by Christopher Hollis.

Whilst the Common Market is naturally one of European Society's interests, it is not the only one. The society will try to inform students on the political, economic, sociological and cultural movements of Europe as a whole.

Negotiations are under way, in collaboration with the Foundation Européenne de la Culture (Amsterdam), for an exhibition of the work of young European artists. This exhibition too would be held in the university.

The society also hopes to organise talks by members of the university staff on specialised subjects.

Special Visits by Old Vic

SO great was the demand for seats last year when the Old Vic players visited the North that this year they are to make two special visits.

The last time they visited Leeds many applicants had to be turned away. To compensate somewhat for a possible recurrence of this, the group is to make two special visits in addition to their ordinary programme. The extra production will be "Twelfth Night" and "Mourning becomes Electra."

The theatre is regarding the additional programme as something of an experiment. Should results prove satisfactory there may well be larger visits in future years say the Old Vic.

At Monday night's performance for Romeo and Juliet, more programmes were sold at the Grand than have ever been sold before. Patrons even asked for programmes after the play had ended. The printers have received emergency orders for more copies.

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TRAINING COURSES are provided at a number of universities, including general courses in social casework and special courses in child care. Candidates for the one year courses beginning in October each year must have university qualifications in social science. There are also somewhat longer courses specially designed for graduates in subjects other than social science. More applications from men would be welcomed.

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8.00 — 12.00 p.m.

Sunday, October 15th
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2.00 — 5.00 p.m.
Jazz & Poetry from Edinburgh Festival and The Festival Hall
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8.00 — 12.00 p.m.

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Forrest and Eastwood Attacked

SIR.—Mr. Forrest (St. John), just what is the matter with Caf that you should sneer at it when addressing the Freshers? Okay, it isn't pretty to look at; so what? Many people use it, and they all care about this Union just as much (if not more) than you do. It just so happens that they aren't interested in the least with narrow-minded social-climbing and power-seeking prestige. Since even Christ visited the Republicans and Sinners, perhaps St. John (F) could pop his nose in Caf occasionally.

Mr. D. G. F. Eastwood, Sir. Congratulations on your funny speeches, but why do you dress in a long black gown? Traditionalism and Oxbridge aping may be deep-rooted in the

Vulgar

SIR, I really must protest at your continued policy of printing in full detail the vulgar outbursts of some of the members of the Union. Your caption under the photograph of Mr. Bull in last week's Union News verged on the blasphemous, and it seemed most unnecessary that you should print it. I am not so naive as to imagine that such language is not in common use among a large number of people, but nevertheless I deprecate most strongly the publicity that you give it.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY C. BETTS.

Letters

University Senate, but I thought the Union didn't respect this relic of snobbery.

Macmillan says, "England has a classless society"; it seems he cannot say this of our Union. It looks like the Festerers of Caf against that lot upstairs.

Yours in the struggle against them.

Caf et Eria.

(Name and address supplied).

● Shown this letter, Martin Forrest and David Eastwood had no comment.

"Letters to the Editor" is a regular feature in Union News. All letters for publication should be posted to The Editor, Union News, Leeds University Union, Leeds 2, or handed in at Union News office to reach the Editor no later than 9 a.m. of the Monday before publication day.

The Editor reserves the right to select letters for publication.

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LABOUR SOC. Return of "Paths of Glory", Monday, 7.30 p.m. R.S.H.

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The Rise and Fall of the Old Vic

WITH the arrival at the Grand Theatre this week of the Old Vic company, the question arises once again of the serious decline in dramatic standards which this internationally-renowned company has suffered during recent years.

Those who remember their tour production of *Macbeth*, which visited Leeds last November, will agree that while it may well have entertained the many school-children in the audience, as an animated version of a well-worn set book, it could hardly be described as anything more than a cheap and uninspired run-through of the play, spiced with the star names of Barbara Jefford and Paul Rogers as a sop for the dramatically-undernourished provinces.

Costumes were extraordinary in their variety of period and style, while many of the performances, including those of the two leads, were conceived on a level of the minimum amount of exertion necessary to impress what they presumably considered to be an undiscerning provincial public. The production was smooth and slick, but lacking in any real conception of the play, and, sad to say, this performance was only typical of the usual offerings in recent years from the Waterloo Road.



Paul Rogers and Barbara Jefford in a scene from last year's "Macbeth"

History

Let us consider for a moment the recent history of the Old Vic theatre, tracing its decline from the brighter times between 1945 and 1948 when the

Vic rightly rejoiced in its yet current reputation as a major theatrical company of international stature. During those years such actors as Laughton, Richardson, Olivier and Gielgud headed a succession of companies which often outclassed those of the

Stratford Memorial Theatre of the same period. Laughton's performance as Henry VIII, Prospero and Bottom, Gielgud's immortal Hamlet and outstanding Richard II, and in particular the fabulous reign of Richardson and Olivier, which reached its climax in

by
FRANK COX

their production of *Henry IV Part I*, with Richardson's definitive Falstaff and Olivier's memorably fiery Hotspur—all those memories contrast sadly with current standards in this theatre.

Even with the instigation in 1953 of the five-year Folio plan, in which all the plays in the First Folio of Shakespeare were to be performed within a specified time, the productions were of an appreciably higher standard than those of recent years. Such names as John Neville, Barbara Jefford, Claire Bloom and Robert Helpmann gave a quality to the performances which is sadly lacking today. Above all, the unifying influence of the Plan meant that a steady stream of established and more-than-competent actors and actresses succeeded in maintaining the standards of the previous decade.

Change

The change came in 1959 with the successful completion of the Plan on a triumphant note, with a glittering production of *Henry VIII* with Harry Andrews as the King, John Gielgud as Wolsey, and Edith Evans as Queen Katherine. The Vic, for years comfortably, steadily and indeed commendably working through the works of Shakespeare, was faced with the exciting possibilities of a branching out process. To have succeeded, it should have maintained the same sense of purpose which had carried it so successfully through the Folio Plan but this was not to be in evidence.

Haphazard excursions into the realms of Shaw, Shelley and Restoration Comedy had an adverse effect on the structure of the company, and the result was a falling-off of acting and production standards. Paul Daneman saved them from obscurity in the 1959-60 season with his *Sir Toby Belch*, the Fool in *King Lear*, and several other fine performances. But the decline was precipitated by his departure nearly two years ago, and since then the company has relied on occasional good performances from Alec McCowen and the ever-faithful Barbara Jefford, together with the promise of two younger members who created the title roles in the original production of *Romeo and Juliet*, to be seen in Leeds this week—John Stride and Judi Dench.

Optimism

It may seem unwise to insist on the appearance of established stars in the Old Vic company, but in fact without a hard core of these names the Vic has proved itself unable to meet the requirements of being London's leading classical theatre, and has thus found itself replaced by the Aldwych Stratford repertory.

The one note of optimism in this otherwise pessimistic story is struck by the production mentioned above. Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*, for this is a production of an outstanding kind, and merits the attention it has had lavished upon it. Some may feel that Zeffirelli has not conceived the play in a sufficiently Shakespearean way, so that the last act does not fit with the rest of the production, but but no-one can deny that a production with its vigour, organisation and sheer theatricality is the answer to the Old Vic's urgent problem: that only by employing exceptional producers or really first-rate actors can the standards of the theatre be revived to the immediately post-war level.

CONFERENCE IMPRESSION

by A Fresher

MY impressions of Freshers' Conference have been varied. Some are good—as the Union Debate Sunday night—and some are bad—as running back from a Faculty Dinner in the rain without a raincoat or umbrella.

As an overseas student, my Freshers' Conference started Thursday, when an orientation programme for overseas students started. The talks were concerned, naturally, with the difficulties involved in being a foreigner with an alien native tongue. Having been in England for three weeks already, I was—and am—fully aware of the difficulties involved in communication. Whatever you may think to the contrary—American is definitely a foreign tongue. Thanks to Dr. Still on Friday morning the mysteries of socialized medicine were partially cleared up.

One piece of advice to the freshers coming after me—don't leave home before all registration blanks have been received. This can result in chaos. I know! I never did find my group, and ended up at the General Sciences Faculty Dinner. Tea-time on Friday was a welcome relief to sit down and try to think and organize my thoughts on the addresses I had heard and the first real Englishman I had met. I must confess that having already been a first-year student in America, and having already been given the words of warning on work and play, my main interest has been the people I have met.

FRANK TALKS

A free Saturday afternoon the morning's interesting and in places rather frank talks and the Freshers' Hop that night provided more time to meet the people I shall be living with in Hall and the people I shall be in classes with this year.

For me, besides meeting the people I shall be associated with this year, the high point of the organized entertainment was the Union Debate on Sunday night. Once or twice I found myself verbally slashed to ribbons, but the debate was extremely witty and very well executed. I hope they will have other similar debates throughout the year.

A Freshers' Conference is designed to introduce the newcomer to a university, to the people, organisation, and the customs of the particular university. Where the emphasis is placed in this conference depends on the aims of the university. And what is got from the conference depends on the fresher's ideas of what a university is for. To me a university is an experience in life, while it is at the same time a preparation for life. The courses we follow and study and learn about are certainly important in our future lives. But what we learn of life outside of books is sometimes even more valuable in determining our future success in life. This "course" is based on people and learning to get along with them.

Here I am glad for a Freshers' Conference where we can get acquainted before classes start and we go into hibernation to study our respective courses.



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YOUR VOICE AT COUNCIL

The Function of N.U.S.

NOVEMBER 17th. This is the date of the 1961 November Council of the National Union of Students. The Union has in its membership 100 Universities and University Colleges, 107 Training Colleges, all the Colleges of Advance Technology, 18 Regional Colleges, 40 Area Technical Colleges and many colleges of physical education, art, drama, agriculture, music and adult education.

The Union accepts into membership those colleges which have a self-governing student body, and the majority of whose students are pursuing courses of not less than one year's full-time study, the entrance standard of which is not less than 5 subjects at Ordinary Level. The governing body of the National Union is the Council which meets twice a year and is attended by some 400 delegates and observers from constituent Colleges.

This Union, as one of the largest constituent members, will be sending 11 people to Margate and these people will be your representatives. They will attempt to make your views known on the many and various motions on the agenda.

But do you know who these people are and how they are elected? Nominations come before a meeting of the N.U.S. sub-committee and are ratified by Union Committee. N.U.S. sub-committee also proposes motions to be put forward and it is at this point that one realises that it is seldom that a motion is presented for consideration by an ordinary Union member.

Regrettable

This is indeed regrettable but it is to be hoped that some are forthcoming this year, for the motions proposed, if passed or rejected are not just a statement of concern expressed at a national level but they affect very directly, every local union and constituent organisation.

A glance through the N.U.S. Policy Statement makes interesting and informative reading and I would like to include some motions taken directly from this document because they concern us all as students.

"Council welcomes the steps taken by the Ministry of Education towards the implementation of the Anderson Committee Report. Council regrets however the failure to abolish the means test and calls on the Minister to re-consider this decision at an early date and calls upon all Unions to continue to press for such reconsideration."

Last November Leeds took part in the Student's Grants Week organised by the National Union and we gained considerable support for our "abolition of the means test" demand. We are continuing the war with the Ministry again this year and it will continue until each and every student is given the maximum grant. This country is

by
MARY SQUIRE
Senior
Vice-President



ERIC SCHUMACHER
A Vice-President of N.U.S. and a past president of Leeds University Union.

looking to the universities for leaders and teachers of the future; if it is not prepared to meet its obligations by giving them sufficient grants to live and study, a radical re-appraisal of our standard of values is needed.

The following motion, passed less than a year ago, is a constant subject for concern:—

"Council notes that an increasing proportion of students is required to live in lodgings and that, as a result of the deplorable conditions in many official lodgings, many students face serious economic and academic problems which have an adverse effect on their course of study. Council again stresses its belief that the provision of adequate residential accommodation is the clear duty of the relevant authorities and instructs the Executive to make its concern at the present trend fully known to them."

It is obvious that intensive study at university requires the maximum amount of peace and quiet; emotional and nervous disorders in students are frequently the result of accommodation problems.

The economic hardships are difficult to assess. In any society men have their pride as individuals and many students will prefer to live in a cheap room and eat one meal a day than make an official complaint about their situation. And when some students have cars; can afford to drink and paint the town red it does not help those impecunious students who will suffer further because any genuine sympathy for the student body understandably declines.

The National Union of Students is also a member of the International Student Conference and as such endeavours to support other national unions where solidarity is a vital and useful force. One of the most important items of policy was laid down in November of 1957 when the following motion was passed:—

"This Council reaffirms its opposition to segregation in all places of higher education and pledges itself to the principle of equal opportunities of education for all human beings regardless of race, colour, creed, reli-

gion, politics and other provisos. It notes with grave concern the continuing segregation policy of the South African Government, and the recent manifestations of this policy in certain of the Southern States of the U.S.A. This Council stands firmly in its belief that the only criteria which should be employed in selecting students for higher education should be those of ability and academic achievement."

Students have since reiterated this policy and will continue to do so until the evils of discrimination are hounded from all corners of the world.

The Robbins Committee on Higher Education received evidence from a number of educational interests and among those invited to submit evidence was the National Union of Students. In his foreword to the N.U.S. memorandum Mr. J. Gwyn Morgan commented: "Two basic factors must concern the National Union of Students at this time; a desire to ensure that all young people capable from benefiting from any course of higher education, should be able to enter on that course to the mutual advantage of the community at large; secondly, that the conditions attached to the status of a student shall be such as to encourage young people to enter upon a higher educational course rather than to dissuade them. It is our firm belief that the practical adherence to the above principles is in the interest of all sections of our national life and for a real investment in the future."

The National Union has also submitted written and oral evidence to the Committee on University Teaching Methods set up by the University Grants Committee. What is so encouraging about both these memoranda is not that they are documents of outstanding importance but that students are now considered responsible enough to be consulted on matters affecting them.

On November 17th delegates will be debating motions that will affect us all as students and as individuals. Get to know what is to be debated; bring your ideas forward and let your voice at Council be heard.

IN LOCO PARENTIS

For most of us, coming to university means getting away from home. It means standing on our own feet entirely for the first time. It means making decisions in our private lives on our own responsibility. Mum and Dad are no longer there to consult or coerce. At least, this is what one feels it ought to mean, but the reality is not always like this

Sheltering behind the classical phrase, *in loco parentis*, the university authorities take it upon themselves to fill what they regard as a gap. The sad thing about all this is that, instead of taking as their model a liberal, tolerant parent of 1961, they imitate the attitude of the most reactionary Victorian parents, which would appear ridiculous if it were not for the unpleasant effects it has on the private lives of people who have frequently been used to a much greater understanding.

It is still the case that women students in halls of residence in their

first term are expected to request permission to be out after 8 p.m. And woe betide any of them who don't get back before 11 (or 11.30 on Saturdays—who says universities are free from conformist pressures?). None of this repressive and restrictive legislation applies to men students, and, while it should be said that one or two halls wardens do not perpetrate all the atrocities the rules expect of them, the fact remains that there is a clear assumption that women are less mature and less responsible than men. This assumption remains to be proved. Indeed no adequate justification has been provided for this straight legislative discrimination between men and women students.

Union President Brian MacArthur has said that the Vice-Chancellor's committee on accommodation is soon to report. Whatever this committee says the Union's attitude on this and other lodgings regulations is perfectly clear and there should be no wavering in rejecting whatever recommendations are not in line with Union policy.



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AUTUMN BOOK NUMBER
PART I

New books, reviewed by distinguished critics including:

- Stephen Spender**
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- J. R. Ackerley**
- William Plomer**
- John Morris**
- Philip Hope-Wallace**

Other features in this extra-large issue include:—

"SHALL WE THROW THE DREDS AWAY?"

in which **David Holbrook** discusses the neglect of children without academic ability and describes his own efforts, successful he believes, to encourage such children to use words and to express something of their selves.

"ATHENIAN DEMAGOGUES — 1"

The first part of a talk, by **M. I. Finley**, lecturer in Classics at Cambridge University, dealing with the Athenian democracy of the late sixth century B.C.

"IS THIS THE ANSWER?"

Sewell Stokes, a former Bow Street probation officer, enquires into Detention Centres — the new treatment for adolescent offenders.

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Where are the Staff?

*I am not yet born; rehearse me
In the parts I must play and the cues I must take when
old men lecture me, bureaucrats hector me, mountains
frown at me, lovers laugh at me, the white
waves call me to follow and the desert calls
me to doom and the beggar refuses
my gift and my children curse me.*

THE University staff should be an important factor in creating an atmosphere in which the student can realise his potential. In three short years one is taken from the traditional conformist spirit of school life, thrust into the wide and often frightening experience of university and finally precipitated back after graduation into a society believing largely in the standards one left behind at school. This can be an uncomfortable traumatic experience in which the staff, because of their wider experience, could assist. But do they?

This article will concern itself with two aspects of the present inability of the staff to perform its true role. Namely, their failure to teach and

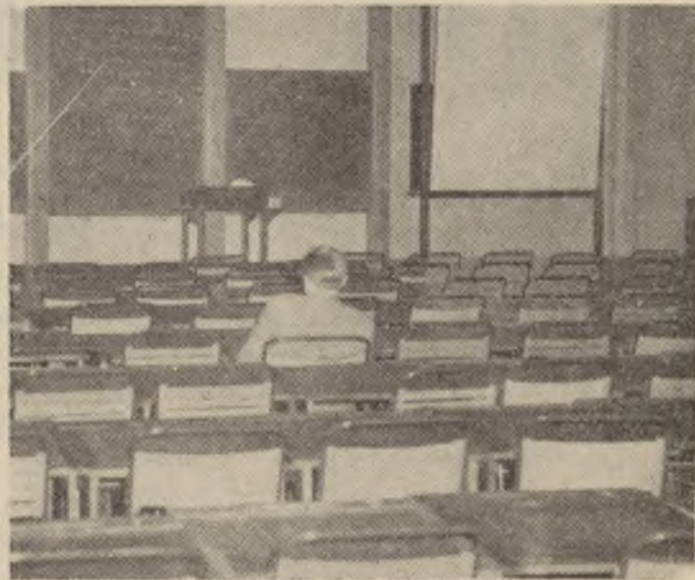
their inability even to see the resultant problem of student mental stress and tension.

The university and union, including Senior and Junior Common Rooms, should provide a community spirit which does nothing but facilitate the development of our 7,000 student and staff members. And this at a time when staff all over the country are criticising the increased size of university populations. "We are now scraping the bottom of the barrel." Yet in 1961 the Provincial University Unions are demonstrating by their intelligent and articulate activity that this is just not the case. Indeed this phenomenon is despite rather than because of staff assistants. Let us

examine the situation in Leeds, a University where it is widely accepted that the Student Union is the most active in the country.

Some measure of staff participation in student life can be gained by merely counting the number who come into the undergraduate union. Never in any one year have more than fifteen visited the Union regularly. It is regrettable that all these are from the departments of the humanities, for these are the very departments in which some tutorial work and relatively small lectures allow the student to get to know the staff. Elsewhere, classes are too big and tutorials non-existent, thus preventing any but the most strictly formal relationships with the staff. Even of these fifteen mentioned, how many come regularly to debates and meetings organised by the Union? How many are prepared to join the societies or even see what is going on during Bazaar Day?

And what of the large Science and Technological side? Here students work long hours, often with com-



Maybe the staff are too involved in research to bother teaching . . . and lecture halls become empty.

pulsory lecture attendance, and no tutorials. One may have a moral tutor, whom one sees three times a year at the most. Apparently this tutor is supposed to help in sorting out student problems. Just who is going to tell some person who they do not know or even respect that they

are in the family way, or what have you?

The only chance these science students have of widening their experience is by studying late at night after their commitments to their departments have been fulfilled. It is a difficult task, and to the great credit of many scientists it is often accomplished. But again, no thanks to the staff—only to our Union, and the energy and spirit of the individual student.

Both Arts and Science staff are, strictly speaking, unable to teach. They have had no training to assist them, and the majority seem able only to read from notes or, in a few cases, books. There is a general inability to inspire the student with the excitement for progress and the search for truth with which one generally associates the word "university." Maybe the staff are too involved in research to bother with teaching. But often they are even found lacking in the very facts of their own subject. Objectivity is an essential, yet it is with a monotonous regularity that the errors of Oxbridge are reflected in our own departments. Just as Oxford has no Department of Sociology, so the economist of Leeds who wants to ask "why?" in his first year is referred to the "set book." No questions please. No wonder the student just gives up and lecture halls become empty. All one has to do is borrow last year's lecture notes; they will be precisely the same this year. Exam questions will ask for facts. No theory, or basic understanding of the subject is required. The only factor which can counter this is the student himself. One is reminded of the student who, after being criticised by his tutor for putting forward a particular idea, said, "If you can't grasp the idea, our minds just aren't on the same level." The sad and wild part is that this was true.

Real Independence

Depending very much for an explanation along these lines is the general university attitude to the union "across the road", which says: "Let them have Rag, but as soon as they start asking for real independence, whether in demanding freedom from restrictions in flats or halls, or in the right to criticise University Senate decisions, then we must clamp down."

But let us look at the effect of all this on the student mental health trouble. How much is due to bad environment created by this staff attitude. Approximately 15% men and 20% women students see a doctor during their three years. Many more must have to face these problems on their own, or with the amateur assistance of their friends. Drugs are not uncommon in the university, neither are severe mental breakdowns. Just what does anyone hope to achieve by either keeping quiet about this, or by a ten-minute chat with a student a couple of times a year?

When problems exist, you don't just say "Let's treat them when they arise"—you ask why they arise. And if the environment producing them needs altering, then alter it. But we are traditionalists, and averse to change; perhaps this attitude is worst illustrated by the very existence of Devon Hall and the number of Science students who want to change their course, or who just give up and go home. The point is not to talk about this, nor just to show the reality of the situation, but to change the system which is producing some disillusioned and unhealthy people.

The paper will make further and more detailed investigations into these areas of university life, and will not hesitate to print the facts whatever they are.



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GOD AND THE ATHEIST

Faith and the Unbeliever

GOD evokes nothing from the atheist, except perhaps a tinge of sorrow at the misfortune for those to whom the word is significant. An agnostic pleads uncertainty in the matter; he does not know. All believers are agnostics. They transcend the problem with faith which thus differs from mere opinion or knowledge.

So important is God to the believer that he is willing to create this special category, Faith, in order to convey his burden, and in so doing he creates all sorts of linguistic problems for the philosopher, who, in the name of objectivity, is unwise enough to deal with the incomprehensible.

Agnosticism is the basic position for all of us. People who think it bold, avant-garde, or profound to say 'I am an agnostic deserve therefore the reply 'Aren't we all?' To declare oneself in the matter of religion one must deviate either to Theism or Atheism.

The Theist is willing to acquire paraphernalia in return for promises and threats, to be implemented in a world perfectly real because utterly intangible, truly everlasting because truly inconceivable. Religion is natural; the believer is in the majority. True, by this is meant that religion has a long, if ugly, history, and that even today where there is conformity, then there is said to be normality. Atheism is a sophisticated position, pure sophistry even. But the atheist deserves our respect. He may not be a wicked man, although he be sinful. To avoid awkwardness about the connection between man and wickedness the theologians in eager anticipation have condemned us all out of hand—original sin. But some men are more wicked than others in spite of the universal and inescapable defect. Worse still we as believers tend to make moral judgements about our fellows whilst ignorant of where they stand on God.

Moral Judgement

But wait; the atheist makes moral judgements about believers. What right has he to do this and on what grounds can we justify our agreements or disagreement with him, when there is no common ground between us? For in the last analysis, if nothing else, God is, to the believer, the source, the necessary source of moral standards. Without Him there would be none, and therefore no guidance from his priesthood, and such matters as a nuclear holocaust to his greater glory. But of course, there is no problem about morals at all. Where the atheist and theist agree, it is because both are similarly guided by the Same Voice. Where they differ, it is because in the one case Satan has conquered, temporarily, the Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent Force—a difficult feat indeed. Of if you refuse to consider the devil, the omnipresent may be absolute on one side at a particular time.

But is it fair to burden the atheist with the stresses and strains of these powerful forces even when he cannot discern them, and steadfastly refuses to do so? There is no logical or physical evidence with which to persuade him, or the job would not need doing. One can always try the modern approach. "You atheists are the products of certain unfortunate socio-psychological elements in your background. The believer is not so conditioned."

"I am sure you are correct," says the atheist, "but how do you know?"—"Faith." But this is the point at issue, so we are no further on. Which only goes to show that in these matters there can be no real arguments. For centuries the denominations have been striving to forget their differences. This raises problems about the meaning of the word "real" in this context, but one must not digress. In the past, a penchant for

such tournaments produced the Inquisition and the auto-da-fé. Now, it may be reported happily, all that has been replaced by bull-fighting, motor-racing and the gambling industry. There are some damned atheists, unfortunately, who dislike the innovations as much as their predecessors. They complain of the degradation of human beings.

The atheist has no quarrel, basically, with the extraordinarily imaginative and diverse phenomena of theology, liturgy, and political ideology with which clever theists have cumulatively tried to surround their God in a never-ceasing battle to anticipate the exposure of inconsistencies by the masses who might thus be lost to the cause. The fact that the masses have never bothered has been missed. This is not surprising, since the invention of dogma is a lengthy business best done away from the common herd.

Living Hypocrisy

The atheist may begin to doubt after experiencing the living hypocrisy, both lay and clerical, of a denomination. In this respect religion is often the most prolific breeding-ground for atheists. One hopes that, forced by the unpleasantness of contact with the religious institutions to consider a fresh approach to life, we may see a new movement of individuals thinking for themselves, sick of their former sickness—submission to an irrational authority.

The atheist may be a communist or anti-communist. In the former case he has probably substituted one religion for another. He may be anti-communist, but his reasons will differ from those of the believer. The atheist is not concerned with wars of religion, however disgusted.

In fine, the atheist is a human being and often a gentle "soul", without believing he has one. "Now is the riddle of existence solved by existing for ever."

The problem is not why things are, but that they are at all. There is less need for analysis and more for an occasional sense of wonder at man's universal predicament. A common beginning and a common end. How hard it is to transform this equality of pre- and post- existence into a few score years of self-reliance and self-fulfilment growing naturally out of respect between man and man.

Politics, Life and Action

HOW often has it been said "Keep politics out of the Union"?

The union has a life and a government of its own and politics is the art at once of government and of life in a community. Any decision taken by Union Committee, any speech on Union policy, is consequently a political decision. No-one brings "politics into the Union." It has always been an inseparable part of Union life.

What governs one's decision in life and in Union matters, and are they separable? Everything that a person might say or do is dependent entirely on their personal philosophy of life. Thus a Christian or Atheist, Socialist or Conservative, behaves, talks and acts according to the morality of his particular ideals. No-one, except perhaps a machine, can act against his personal convictions. And he should not be expected to do so. No-one then brings socialism or conservatism or apathy to the Union—these attitudes are merely manifestations of the type of people who go to make up our Union.

DICK ATKINSON examines the question of whether it is possible to keep politics out of ordinary Union affairs.

about the Bomb." This is a development of the last four years. It is gaining momentum. And remember it is these people who do press for students' rights and liberty, both in this country and internationally.

Politics and life and action are inseparable. You should be proud that Leeds is setting the pace in student thought and creation. We produce nearly twice as many magazines as any other provincial university. We have also a far greater number of these "political animals" than other Unions. Indeed, when the all-white South African choir arrived in London last year to start their tour, they were told that if they met moral

opposition anywhere then it would be in Leeds.

No-one should be ashamed of standing up and saying "I believe." We are in danger of using these words belief, principle, ideal as terms of abuse, merely because they are so often used by people who are stepping beyond convention.

Leeds is now a symbol of youth and energetic radicalism. It is the centre of life and controversy. There is nothing interesting in unity, it is diversity and individualism and creation that this university and union stand for. This column intends to do nothing but uncompromisingly stimulate this growing sense of life, and humanity, and the accompanying deep thought on what the human condition is and ought to be. Every one of you is slap in the middle of the struggling birth pangs and turbulence of this search for a new morality. Let no-one hesitate to contribute to the realisation of this great potential of Leeds University Union.

"Religion Christless, Godless—a book sealed;
Time's worst statute unrepented;
Are graves from which a glorious Phantom may
Burst, to illumine one tempestuous day."

Arrogant

It would be arrogant and pretentious to accuse those with views either to right or left of the average of introducing politics to the Union. The average, the uncommitted, have a conformist policy of their own. And everyone who steps out of the convention is immediately labelled by them. Those who conform are wise, noble and normal, but those who step out of line and call for progress and radicalism (those to right of average finally disappeared with D. Harmer) are termed "unconstitutional," "political" or merely wierdies. This emergence of a large group of people who are supposed to be more political than the rest of the Union merely because they are more radical or socialist than the rest of the Union has an interesting origin.

Post-Suez

They are the post-Suez, post-Hungary generation. People no longer have to face a militarist training in conscription. These are the people who were reared in the atmosphere of re-birth of English culture, with John Braine and Arnold Wesker. They are the people who say with Louis MacNeice, "Let them not make me a stone and let them not spill me. Otherwise kill me." No "tall walls can wall" them. Theirs is a belief in life and individualism that no bricks can destroy.

No accident then that all literature art and poetry to come out of England in the last six years has been produced by people who are socialists. No accident, either, that all the thirteen magazines of this university are firmly rooted in the ideals and sophistication of socialism, or that all this "action and politics" is created by people who say "Do something about Africa, about starvation,



... they say "money burns a hole in your pocket." So if you have to live on a shoe-string surely the sensible way to hold on to what little you've got is to keep it in a bank. Anyway, that's what I do, and since I opened an account I've managed to make ends meet and even save a bit. At my bank lots of the customers seem to be students like me. Perhaps it's the friendly atmosphere that attracts people of my age . . .

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WEETWOOD AWAITS

By The Sports Editor

Sportorial

BACK from Sofia, Bulgaria, after representing Britain in the World Student Games, come Jennifer Lee and Brian Anson, Leeds' two representatives.

Jennifer swam in both the hundred yards backstroke and the medley relay, which took place in the Bulgarian capital's new, heated, 50m. pool. In the backstroke event she came fourth against strong opposition in her heat, though she put up a faster time than Britain's other representative in the event, Heather Scott, who took the British Universities Title from the Leeds swimmer in the Wales Empire Pool last term. In the relay event with Chris Gosden, Heather Scott and Jean Hendry, Britain gained fifth place in the final.

Bronze for Anson

Anson, who despite being harassed by muscle injuries last season managed 9.6 seconds for the 100 yards, was one of the most successful members of the British party, gaining third place over 200 metres in the time of 24.1 seconds, behind Mihalyfi of Hungary, and Smouha this country's other entry in this event.

While we all cannot hope to be picked to compete abroad, we can at least do our uttermost to see that U.A.U. and other representative sides have a fair sprinkling of Leeds sportsmen and women.

LACROSSE

The Old Firm

THE men's Lacrosse team, having gained promotion into the second division of the North of England League, has suffered less than usual loss from graduation, which is not in itself a matter for boasting. Thorley and his men are looking forward to the improved competition now available, trusting that the new members (and Weetwood's second-half fog) will again provide inspiration to the old hands.

THE green expanse of Weetwood is ready to receive the spikes and studs belonging to a vast array of athletic talent that we hope will keep the name of Leeds to the forefront of University sport.

Prop forward, Clive Phillips, who again represented his native Cornwall on Saturday, succeeds Colin Nash as this year's Rugby Club Captain. Around his enthusiastic leadership will be built this year's pack, which will be without Jennings, Nash, Gilbert and, of course, French—now playing in the Northern Rugby League for mighty St. Helens.

In spite of these losses—and their absence cannot be taken too lightly—Phillips is optimistic about this season's prospects for his team of no particular stars.

Re-construction

In the pack, Gomersall, a Yorkshire trialist hooker, Fleming, Bridge and Coleman, will again be available, but it would appear that a new second row will be needed. Of the backs, Absalom, Williamson, Able, Bingham and Williams return. U.A.U. full-back Williams will not be available, and a good deal of re-construction will have to take place before a three-quarter line is formed.

The new captain was quick to emphasise that it is not a question of filling up positions which have been vacated, but of building a team which will combine effectively.

Experienced Freshers

Eight of last year's successful Hockey team are back, including last year's captain and English Universities' player, Derek Mills, who vacates the captaincy to allow Neil Haddon to take over.

De Jonge, Harvey and Bourne are no longer available, though several experienced freshers, including some from the Commonwealth, appear all set to take their places.

"We should at least equal last year's record of losing, only after extra time, to an outstanding Nottingham side in the U.A.U. championships," claims the optimistic Haddon.

Team Spirit

There are in the Soccer club about fourteen people who have had first team experience, backed up by a strong nucleus for the other club teams. Membership is approaching

the two hundred mark, and Freshers include about half a dozen with county experience.

The first major event comes this Saturday with the White Cup-tie. In the world of inter-University football, the chances are brighter than for many a year, and Jim Edwards was quick to emphasise that a tremendous team-spirit has been built up, and is still there from last season.

TAKING TO THE WATER



DOWN BY THE ZUYDER ZEE

An annual fortnight in Holland is the usual final event in the session for the Sailing Club. The area visited was Friesland, home of the Friesian cow, situated to the immediate north east of the Zuyder Zee. The suitability of this venue for sailing is indicated by the fact that it is over five times the size of the Norfolk Broads and is liberally dotted with lakes up to ten square miles in area.

Before setting off there was some discussion about hiring an outboard motor. MOTOR—never—we're supposed to be sailors—enough skill not to need one—anyway it costs extra. MOTOR—admission of defeat—going to rough it—not many places good sailors can't go—anyway it costs extra.

This year the Club will start a training scheme in order to bring all members to a higher standard.

Success Recipe

"There's nothing to stop us being the most successful sports club in the University," declared Stewart Harris, this year's captain of the Cross Country Club. "We have the potential and a tremendous enthusiasm—the ideal recipe for success."

However, almost all of last year's first team members are still in the club which means that it is not outside the bounds of possibility that the senior Christie and U.A.U. Championships, which the club narrowly missed winning last year could be Leeds' again.

The HOWARD HUGHES

Column

THE burnt child dreads the fire, and the scalded prophet whose revelations prove false slowly learns to tread on more cautious ground.

This time last year, on the strength of the Rugby Club's rampant march to U.A.U. glory, I boldly stuck my neck out with a sharp, dogmatic thrust. The big three, the Soccer, Rugby, and Hockey Clubs, were going to sweep the board.

Instead we were forced to be reluctant witnesses of one of the most depressing seasons in memory, with only a few ephemeral moments of success by the Hockey Club to lift performances out of the gloom of mediocrity. The Rugby and Soccer Clubs were sunk without trace in the U.A.U. and Christie competitions. Admittedly the latter did do a little to restore their shattered prestige by winning the Yorkshire Old Boys' Shield, but to the critical eye of the university soccer fan was very much an 'also ran' compensation.

This must not be allowed to happen again. Leeds is a fine university, and our sports facilities, particularly the playing fields of Weetwood, do us proud.

Disillusioned

Far too many players are allowed to escape the early season net. Some of their performances do not receive the credit they deserve at the trials, and it may be a matter of weeks or even months before their potential is brought to the notice of the team captains. Some of them, disillusioned, disappear into the relative obscurity of intra-mural sport, and their services are lost to the University for good.

What we want at Leeds is players who have to fight for their places, who know that there is always that certain someone just below him who is more than ready to answer the knock of opportunity.

So long as a player is not retained in the first team for services rendered in the distant past, so long as the "well I know Jack's not been playing well this season, but he's a good bloke" frame of mind is not allowed to remain, then I think Leeds could cause quite a few shocked faces on the other side of the Pennines this year.

a man
must make his
opportunity
as oft as
find it

...FRANCIS BACON

ABILITY AND AMBITION you certainly have. But you need training and opportunity if you are to make the most of one and realise the other. Management training at Hedley is acknowledged to be among the best there is. It is based on the principle that every man who joins us is an individual with a contribution to make. So responsibilities are assigned early. And opportunity? Our policy of planned growth and progress means that we are always looking for the right men to take on new responsibilities. To get the right men, we make all our promotions from within the organisation. With Hedley, you can reach high places while you're young. And the challenges offered in a progressive business make life stimulating. In other words, you can enjoy the travelling as well as the arriving. Ask your appointments officer for more information, or write to the Recruitment and Training Manager at the address below.



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