

# UNION NEWS



LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION

Vol. VI. No. 11.

Thursday, April 24th, 1952

Twopence

## I.U.S. - Two Points of View

### FOR I.U.S. VISIT

Mr. GILBERT GRAY.

By the terms of the last referendum, British students are in a state of Fraternal Membership with the I.U.S.

Precisely what Fraternal membership and association implies is a matter for individual interpretation. It can mean what it says, or it can mean nothing. It can be a reasonable ground for exchange and understanding (without political unanimity) or it can be a never failing source of supply for non-co-operative excuses and evasions.

Many people have regarded the regular Executive meetings of the I.U.S. in Eastern Europe with suspicion and distrust. Now that a meeting has been planned for Great Britain, these same people are showing more suspicion and distrust than ever.

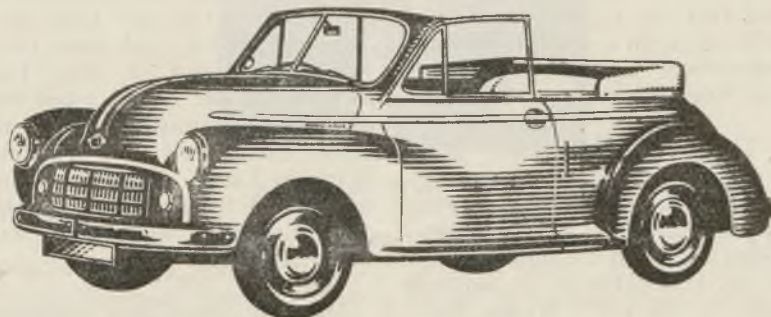
The last N.U.S. Council in London, in a hurried division—(based largely upon an officially inculcated stipulation of only one side of the case) decided by a narrow majority, not to sponsor an I.U.S. Executive meeting in this country. The President nevertheless ruled, that this did not prevent any particular member of the N.U.S. from offering their facilities for such an event. Thus in accordance with the twice expressed wish of the Union Committee this was done by Leeds.

Some say there is no difference between sponsorship and offering facilities. But there is. The fact that Leeds Town Hall has been used for Communist meetings and boxing matches does not make all the worthy Aldermen Bolshevik pugilists.

It is our own belief that in offering our facilities to the I.U.S. for their Executive meeting, we are acting fraternally. We are giving an opportunity for students in general and our own Union in particular to see for themselves the nature and composition of the I.U.S. We are earnestly striving to keep the door between East and West open.

Of course there have been some objections. For acting sincerely and after careful consideration, we have incurred not only the displeasure of part of the local press, but also, the clamorous though belated assault of one of the Union political parties. No doubt we shall weather the journalistic blast and withstand the puffs of the party.

### THIS MAY BE YOURS



THE MORRIS MINOR TOURER

Courtesy Pickersgill Publicity Service

The prospect of winning a Morris Minor Tourer, in immaculate condition with a mileage of only eight thousand, is to be the great attraction for this year's Rag Competition. Rag Committee are looking to this venture to provide a large part of the 1952 target—£6,999 19s. 11½d.

Thousands of tickets have already been sent out over the vacation to students living out of Leeds, and entries for the Competition are pouring into the Rag Office from all parts of the country.

Leeds students are distributing tickets to their friends and relations, and anyone else interested in winning a car or one of the fifteen attractive prizes which have been donated by Leeds firms.

Day and night expeditions are to be made to factories in and around Leeds which have given permission for students to visit works' canteens during round the clock shifts. Thousands of tickets have gone to offices and shops, pubs and garages, golf and tennis clubs.

Students from the other Leeds Colleges—the radiographers, the physiotherapists, the artists, musicians, architects, teachers and nurses and the girls from the "Pud. School"—are co-operating with us to spread the Competition far and wide. More than eight hundred pounds have been spent on making the Competition really worthwhile, and one hundred and twenty-five thousand tickets have been printed.

All competitors are asked to do is to make a donation of one shilling to the Rag Fund and to forecast, to the best of their ability, the amount of money collected for charity before 3 p.m. on the Wednesday of Rag Week. The last day for entries is Tyke Day—June 14th.

#### What YOU Can Do To Help.

Batches of tickets are still available in the Rag Office. If you know of any pub., club, shop or office willing to help Charity by distributing tickets let the Competition Organiser in the Rag Office know. All the help you give will swell the fund which we are able to distribute to medical charities and to those less fortunate than ourselves.

### AGAINST I.U.S. VISIT

Mr. MICHAEL COOK.

New readers start here: I.U.S. is the International Union of Students. N.U.S. is the National Union of Students. Union Committee is supposed to be the body which you elect to represent you and look after your interests.

Now read on:

Once upon a time N.U.S. ceased full membership of I.U.S. because I.U.S. was Communist dominated. Union Committee want to find out how Communist dominated the I.U.S. really is. This is described as being "enlightened and progressive" (I quote), of course the Committee must expect adverse publicity because people as clever as they are are always misunderstood. They refuse to be deterred by the fact that all previous negotiations between East and West have been strangely one-sided from the point of view of agreement, understanding and co-operation. Where U.N.O., the British and American governments and N.U.S. have failed, 13 enlightened members of Union Committee hope to succeed...

It was a Yorkshire Evening Newspaper, in a leading article headed "Innocents Abroad," which posed the question, "When will they grow up?" It is a pity that the Capitalist press have been so unsympathetic to the intrepid 13, because really they are being so progressive.

Anyway there it is, the I.U.S. Executive is holding its next meeting in your Union, on your invitation and for your benefit. If anyone accuses you of associating with Communists you tell them that it is only hospitality not sponsorship, because that is what the President told the press. If anyone tells you that it doesn't matter what on earth you call it you are still a member of the only University which is playing host to the I.U.S. You can tell them that it is a very enlightened and progressive to invite Communists to this country, because the Union Committee said so.

It is perhaps rather a pity that the Communists had not time to tell you about their decision. Still, they are very busy and they told nearly everyone else in the country about it. A statement was issued to the newspapers, the President wrote to every Pud. School and Training College in the kingdom, explaining what had been done on your behalf. It

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## Union News

LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION  
THURSDAY, APRIL 24th 1952  
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### Staff and Committee:

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Union News is not the official organ of the Union Committee.  
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## EDITORIAL

The decision of Union Committee to invite the I.U.S. Executive to hold their conferences in the Union Building has aroused a storm of hostile comment. The Union Committee members, nurtured in an atmosphere of a Christian and Liberal Society, assume that truth can never be vanquished in open and free discussion. In our opinion the present fallacy of this attitude lies in the fact that recent European history shows the weakness and folly of such a position. Some of the most able and notable liberal minded men on the continent have learned this lesson in prison and concentration camps, and others in despair have found refuge in suicide. If the delegates had been coming here to debate the merits of Communism and Democracy there would have been a case for the invitation, but to give them an opportunity to misrepresent is certainly inadvisable.

To invite the Communists to this University is to make a stab at the armour of the Western World which is putting on a bold front against Communism. Mr. Molotov, in 1947, in Moscow said, "We are living in an age, in which all roads lead to Communism"; we must see that these roads are blocked, and become impassable. We shall not do that by bringing out banners of welcome and laying down the red carpet.

Mr. Don Dallas, lately Reuters Correspondent in Moscow, writes in his recent book "Dateline Moscow,"—"At the first World Peace Congress in Paris, a British lawyer was reported to have caused a sensation by telling a hall packed with Communists and fellow travellers that if they genuinely wanted peace they should work for a peace settlement between the warring factions in China. His suggestion was greeted in frozen silence: delegates only applauded when they heard of Communist successes in their offensive. The lawyer withdrew from the peace movement on the ground that he would prefer to be an "artisan of peace, rather than a partisan of peace."

With these thoughts in mind we regret the decision of Union Committee to allow the I.U.S. Executive meeting to be held in this University in May. Why should we allow freedom of speech to those whose only motive is to destroy it?

## Without Prejudice

The Union has been unusually unquiet this vacation. There has been little movement except for the comings and goings of painters intent on transforming the Riley-Smith Hall. There has been the usual spring cleaning and the café floor has had its terminal good polish, in fact the whole of the floor space in the Union has undergone similar treatment. Just you try walking out of the café with your books under one arm, and a cup of coffee in the other hand, and at the same time busily talking to some attractive woman student, and there is a good chance you will end up in a vertical position, somewhere near the entrance to the Riley-Smith.

The Rag and Bone Trade seems to be on the up and up. I don't say this from personal experience, but every time I lodge myself in the silent recesses of my study, the air is suddenly rent by the cry "Wragg Bon." It is a mystery where they all come from with their small carts sparsely loaded, drawn by moth-eaten donkeys who would probably break their traces at the sight of a good meal. Nor is this all, for after this overture, the whole symphony of sound commences with the cry of the milkman and ends on a triumph note with the knocking on the door of the man from the Prudential. The remedy? Go to the Brotherton Library? Not on your life, you're no sooner sat down and studying hard when a carefree voice sings out "What about a game of Table Tennis?" I give in.

I learn from the usual unreliable sources that a grand Tennis Match is to be played next term, rivalling in grandeur and spectacle those held on the Centre Court. The participants are all notable Tennis players, they are: B. Black, G. Gray, M. Cook and G. C. F. Forster. The match may be held in the Riley-Smith and the players will be in fancy dress. There will be either a collection for the T.B. Fund or the usual prices for admission to events of this kind

will be charged, viz., £5 5s. 0d. double ticket. One cat watching a Tennis match the other day said to his mate: "my dad's in that racquet." I think this racket should be worth seeing.

There have been two dances held in the Union during the vacation, both of them fairly well attended, but it was noticeable that the students were the ones who looked lost in the crowd of non-University folk. The first dance was organised by the O.S.A. and a few of the old familiar faces were seen, somewhat careworn, as though they had been looking for a job since they went down, but in vain. The second was the dance asked for by Union Committee in order to meet the needs of students living in Leeds. Many of them didn't feel the urge to trip the light fantastic that particular Saturday night.

Many students have remained in residence, and the Brotherton has been comfortably full, although not many students really get down to it before 11 o'clock, and then with an hour off for lunch they work continuously till 5 o'clock. There has been plenty to occupy their nights whilst they have been living laborious days. Pantomime has finished in Leeds and there has been the choice of either watching a serious play at the Civic Theatre, or visiting a light musical at the Grand. At the Empire Laurel and Hardy have been playing to packed houses, giving as much delight to the audience in the flesh as on celluloid. Among top bands that have visited Leeds are Sid Phillips, Freddie Randal and Vic. Lewis. Neither has Leeds been forgotten in the world of sport, for the soccer semi-final replay and the rugby semi-final have both been played here.

Not many students have been doing paid work over the vacation, since there were only twenty vacancies and those were mainly with British Railways. Looking ahead to the summer

Continued on Page 6 Col. 1.

## THE CHEMISTRY BALL

Free drinks at the reception was an innovation which would have been enjoyed by all (if there had been a reception). Instead we found an alcoholic aquarium with plastered fishes round the walls and shoals of people washed up on the "bar" which separated those who were up the creek from those who had already passed into the sea of oblivion.

An opportunity for young blades to be floored by an oar was provided by the rowing boat which heeled over every time a would-be able seaman jumped aboard. Once on its side, however, the boat was a favourite spot for photographs—shots of our heroes on "The Flying Enterprise" are now on sale in the Union.

For those not overcome by sea sickness or other maladies, supper was provided in the dining saloons, a supper similar to that provided at most balls this year. There seemed little demand for the dessert (somewhat reminiscent of diesel oil), which was left "desserted" on many tables.

In H.M.S. R.S.H. we found a ship's mast "decked overall" from the yardarm with bunting while away on shore a tall white lighthouse, brought at great expense from Bishop Rock, winked knowingly at mermaids and old maids who waltzed by to the airs of the now familiar Vernon Yorke.

The Chemical Society, in their attempts to dilute the music took up a lot of time with a painfully slow set of elimination dances—jolly good fun for the few who danced to the end and won a kipper for their troubles—not so well appreciated by those who wanted to dance but had to wait. Some method will have to be devised to clear the floor more decisively at each break in the music if these are to remain popular.

Following our remarks about the massacre of balloons at the Miners' Ball, we were pleased to see that this time the balloons,

Continued on Page 5 Col. 2.

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## BLOCKHEADS IN LEEDS

By Tapio.

From the following strictures I hasten to absolve those few, staunch and continual supporters of all the musical events with which our yearly calendar is studded. I absolve, too, the many people who never attend any of these functions. They are missing a lot, one may think, but that is their own affair.

The sort of people I mean are the ones who fill the Great Hall to hear the Aeolian Quartet or Alfredo Campoli, and yet allow the Music Society consistently to perform before a desolate waste of empty seats; the sort of people who will pack the Town Hall to capacity when the Y.S.O. is delivering the good old classical favourites, and yet leave row upon row of empty seats to greet the conductor who has come all the way from Denmark to introduce a fascinating symphony by his great compatriot Carl Nielsen; the kind of people, I might add with some justice, who will crowd into the R.S.H. to see a popular Shakespeare play, and stay away in devastating numbers when lesser-known works are produced.

Whether these occasions are always uniformly worth-while is beside the point. The point is, how many people come to decide that for themselves?

Why, then? Is it the money? Surely not: when a free lunch-time piano recital was given by the University's Reader in Composition, playing one of his own works, the scene in the Great Hall was pathetic; I have seldom seen it emptier.

Perhaps it is a question of time? Not so: people rolled up in strength to hear the Aeolian, or Dennis Brain's Ensemble.

Is it the names, then? Ah. Now, then. It is my considered opinion, gentle reader to whom I am addressing these remarks, that you are dazzled by the famous name, by the magnetic virtuoso, by the well-known concerto or the popular symphony; that you "know what you like" but want what you know; that you fight shy of anything that you do not hear, or hear of, at least once a week on the radio, television or gramophone; that you are not confined to the University, if that is any comfort to you, but that people like you are multiplying rapidly in numbers throughout all Leeds, all Yorkshire, and in fact throughout all the country; that you are, in short, an unadventurous deadhead and a blockhead—and if you are a typical example of the "New Elizabethan" the outlook for the country is indeed grim. And the best of luck.

## PROFILE — G. W. RHODES



CAPTAIN OF ATHLETICS

This noted champion of the Common Man was born, as are most common men, at an early age; but he soon showed that he had all the earmarks of a most uncommon man. He was, for instance, Chairman of his school Debating Society at the age of 15; and two years later became Clerk to the House of the Leeds Youth Parliament, which at that time was the largest youth debating society in Britain. He won his school's Victor Ludorum Athletics Cup when only 14 and held it for four years, and captained his school football and cricket teams. One might think that these activities kept him busy enough at school, but in addition, he edited a youth magazine, ran a National Savings Group, became R.S.M. of an Army Cadet Battalion, and gained admission to the University to take an Honours Degree course.

On entering the Army, he rapidly rose from the ranks and preferred lecturing and organising training to the barrack-square antics of his cadet days. He represented Northern Command and Yorkshire at Athletics. Having served in the Regular Army and T.A. in the ranks, as a senior N.C.O., and as a commissioned officer, he has certainly seen a variety of life; but he now prefers a civilian life with some permanency attached to it.

Since coming up to the University his activities have been legion. He is Captain of the Athletics Club, and enjoys watching good Rigger and Tennis matches. But he considers snooker to be the most frustrating of games, because "a good near miss is worse than a bad shot." Having written for **Union News** for three years, he

has now been appointed **Tyke** Editor, where his ever present sense of humour should come in useful.

He has served on Grants and Welfare Committee, on U.N.S.A. sub-committee, and on several other committees in the Union. As members of the General Athletics Committee know, he does not like irrelevant and immaterial discussions when business has to be done (except on Rag Committee, which he considers good entertainment value). But his main interests are still debating and his actual academic work in the field of Social Science and Political Philosophy. He was awarded a University Scholarship for outstanding work in his Department at the end of Session 1950-51. As a speaker, he has represented Leeds in several Inter-Varsity Debates, has served on Debates Committee and has won several Union public-speaking prizes for both serious and humorous speeches. After winning the Freshers' Prize in 1949 he spent it on the book "First Steps in Public Speaking"!

All this impressive record speaks for itself, which makes my task all the easier. I need only add that, like all busy men, he always seems to have time to take on one job more; that he is forthright in his opinions and in his manner of expressing them (but he is tolerant and receptive of other's ideas). His friends are numerous and not confined to his own faculty or his own opinions. We look for great things from him; he has never disappointed us in the Union, having fulfilled all his functions with quiet efficiency, and he will not disappoint in his future career.

CHARLES KINGHAM.

## FILM CRITICISM

"Les Visiteurs du Soir" is a product of the Carné-Prévert team. Marcel Carné, the Director and Jacques Prévert the script and dialogue writer of such notable films as "Quai des Brumes," "Le Jour se Lève" and "Les Enfants du Paradis."

"Les Visiteurs" was produced during the German occupation, at a time when commercial considerations, due to a lack of competitors from abroad, could be disregarded. French production could as a consequence indulge in fantasies which normally it would not dare to.

The story is supposed to be based on a legend of the Middle Ages, according to which the devil despatched two of his creatures, played by Mmme. Arletty and M. Alain Clumy, to Earth to torment mankind. And so, right at the masterly beginning of the film we are shown the fatal pair insinuating themselves into a magnificent white plaster castle. One of the devil's servants, seeking to seduce the daughter of the owner, already betrothed to another, actually falls in love with her. The devil is outdone, love triumphs, and the lovers are changed into statues of stone.

The film has a literary flavour, with a fanciful story and characters. The film has a highly competent director, an excellent script and dialogue writer. The film has a tone of maturity in theme and acting which is rather less rare in the French cinema than elsewhere. The film has Mmme. Arletty, an actress of beauty and intelligence.

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## Agricultural Congress

The last time the Agrics. crossed the threshold of this Union *en masse* the building rapidly acquired the character and appearance of a farmyard. However, anyone under the impression that they scatter straw and F.Y.M. wherever they congregate would have no doubt been surprised if they had been up during the week of April 1st—5th. Agrics. could then be seen in a serious mood, determined to play their part in solving some of the many problems associated with their industry.

On Wednesday, the 2nd April, Professor N. M. Comber, President of the Agricultural Society welcomed more than 110 N.U.S. Agrics. from Universities and Agricultural Colleges who were in Leeds to attend their Seventh Annual Congress. This was the first day of a very intensive three-day programme, arranged by an organising committee of Leeds Agrics. Addresses by a variety of prominent speakers were heard, and the subjects were woven round a central theme — "Future Co-operation between Scientist and Farmer."

A practical farmer gave the opening address, and this was followed the same morning by a talk by an outstanding bacteriologist. A famous grassland expert and an eminent agricultural economist each gave lectures on the Friday morning. The afternoons were spent visiting outstanding farms in the Leeds area, each illustrating some special feature of West Riding farming—examples of an industrial dairy farm, rhubarb and horticultural holdings and a pedigree pig farm were seen. A special visit was paid to the recently acquired University farms.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Mr. Kingham's asseverations appear to be based on the assumption that I am responsible for the printing of the **Union News**. I do print a scurrilous version of "La Vie Parisienne" in my attic, but that is without Mummy knowing, she doesn't like me playing with gelatine.

Mr. Kingham may really believe I wrote Salvarder (sic) Dalis, apostrophe, full stop, "M"; and he may believe that in a fortnight I had forgotten Fritz Lang directed "M." For in the previous issue of the **Union News** I had criticised "M" and I had been as kind to it as Mr. Kingham would wish. I had discussed "Hangmen also die" as well, and used the word "masterly" to describe both films.

My remarks were on a short film of Dalis which was shown at

The weather was superb throughout the three days, but never better than on the Thursday. Setting off at 8-45 a.m. from Devonshire Hall, delegates made a 136 mile tour of the Yorkshire Dales. The beauties of the scene were appreciated by all, but, aided by Agric. Department lecturers, the delegates also obtained a very clear picture of the many difficulties that face the sheep and dairy farmers of this area.

The evenings were also fully occupied. The Annual General Meeting was held on the Wednesday, a discussion led by the Vice-Principal of the Royal Agricultural College and the Prof. of Agriculture at Aberdeen University took place on the Thursday, and on the Friday a Dinner was held in Devonshire Hall.

Although a strenuous Congress it was a great success and thanks are due to the staff of Devonshire Hall for excellent food and accommodation—essential requirements for the enjoyment of any function of this sort. The programme was not so full as to prevent delegates being shown the sights and pubs. of Leeds and after the Dinner Brian Frankland and his helpers wound up the Conference with some excellent student entertainment. The thirsts acquired as the result of the harmonious singing were quenched in the traditional manner, and tired Agrics. making their way to the railway stations next morning were bade a solemn farewell by the waving fronds of the Devon Palm-tree. This exotic plant had somehow left its indoor warmth and, standing shivering piteously in the quadrangle, struck a note of regret that the Congress was indeed over.

the same time as "M" in the Riley-Smith, which was I repeat, vulgar jabberwocky.

Mr. Kingham maintains that I lack the necessary imagination "for appreciation of a thoughtful realist film." I am afraid I cannot answer that, until I hear from the gentleman if he is a Nominalist of the school of William of Occam or whether he sleeps with Duns Scotus, or even that he actually does mean that I cannot appreciate a thoughtful film which teaches that "whatever is taught us by our senses is unreal, and what is real are universals," to quote the O.E.D. on realism.

The compositor of the **Union News**, who is strangely enough called Alfred Salvador Dillie, promises me—cub's honour—he will do better this time.

Yours, etc.,

YOUR FILM CRITIC.

## MAD MARCH HARES

The annual hostelling weekend of the Cross Country Club is quickly becoming a tradition, and this year's expedition to Linton in Craven was one of the most enjoyable yet held.

Cycling up Wharfedale to Linton on Saturday, 22nd March, was hard work, although the addition of a stone and a quarter of potatoes and mixed vegetables at Burnsall to one machine seemed to add strain only to 1944 vintage types. The Cycling Club will be interested and amused to note that the seven bikes involved had a total age of 97½ years.

Sunday's run was up through Threshfield and Skythorns over to Mastiles Lane *via* the Druid's Altar in "brisk," occasionally sunny weather. Crossing Gordale Beck, a circuit of Malham Tarn seemed indicated, if only to discover if "One Man's Poison" had actually been filmed from the Field Centre there. Then down towards Malham Cove and Village, calling on the Craven Pot-holders who are excavating at the Sinks just south of the Tarn. Their amazement at seeing five runners in white shorts and singlets was probably only equalled by the runners' surprise to hear that they had been engaged on their task for three years. Both groups must have been thinking "Why do they do it?" In Malham the pack horses Jane and Mauveen were waiting with more adequate clothing for the runners—Yorkshire folk are not as curious as is supposed or they would have

wanted to know what two girls were doing cycling round country lanes with five pairs of gentlemen's trousers in their carriers. Beck House provided a 4-course meal and—almost as welcome—a 3-hour laze by a roaring fire. Then off again (amid cheers from Malham's Sunday Trippers—plebian motor cyclists and Morris Eighters), up Gordale Scar and along the Beck, crossing Mastiles Lane and continuing northwards towards Littondale. Passing Parson's Pulpit on the right, the gallant band turned eastwards homewards, climbing to 1600 ft. across to Cote Gill, dropping sharply down it to the Valley Road and Hawkswick. Athletes preferring more temperate climates will be interested to note that the steep drop into the valley brought with it an almost physical shock as the colder air lying in the valley bottom was reached. The road run back to Linton was not difficult, though hard on the feet after springy turf. The old couplet is certainly true:

It ain't the 'unting on the 'ills  
that 'urts the 'orses 'oooves,  
But the 'ammer 'ammer 'ammer  
on the 'ard 'igh Road.

Then followed the complete destruction of the equivalent of one person's rations for 2 months in the most welcome meal ever tasted by man. One was glad that Circe wasn't there—but 25 miles of running power needs replacing.

It was a most enjoyable weekend.

"LONG JOHN."

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## CAVIAR (as usual) TO THE GENERAL

Once again, the plays presented by Theatre Group and associated Societies on the Riley-Smith stage towards the end of Spring term merit the above description. I hasten to add that this was not the fault of the productions themselves.

Tirso de Malina's "The Saint and the Sinner," produced by John Boorman for Theatre Group and Spanish Society, must have been an excellent play in its time. It is still well worth staging for its ideas and for the knowledge of human weakness which it displays; but the formalisation of some of its characters to stress the contrast between good and evil, and the rather tedious theological arguments, make it not altogether acceptable to modern audiences. None the less, Mr. Boorman's production hung well together, and certain scenes, notably that in which *Enrico* (played very competently throughout by Brian Leeds) is undergoing solitary confinement, were both effective technically and very moving. Very early in the play it became obvious what the inevitable ends of the two major characters would be, and after that the interest for the audience could only centre on the acting. Chief supports of Mr. Lees were Malcolm Rogers, whose *Paulo* was impressively ascetic but somewhat unconvincingly ruffianly; Peter Goodrham as a ruffling but occasionally gabbling *Galvan*; and Gordon Luck as the allegorical *Shepherd*, exuding unworldliness. The other players were almost all equal to the demands made upon them; but why, O why, was *Pedrisco* played like a pantomime comedian, and why was he allowed to try to steal so many scenes?

"Le Mariage de Figaro," played in French by members of (did you guess?) French Society, was a very praiseworthy attempt, but again, it could only reach a small audience—namely, those whose French was sufficiently fluent to enable them to follow the dialogue. The original was considerably cut, which tightened the action—a blessing—but so far as I could gather, no mention was made of the "Droit du Seigneur," which Beaumarchais made much of. However, Mr. Richard Coe's production, though not inspired, was careful, and his *Figaro* was a splendidly volatile figure—quite definitely a person whose business was intrigue and money. Anthony Armstrong's *Count* was peremptory and

jealous enough, and his *Countess*, Patricia Biggs, enlisted sympathy from the start. Pat Shaw's *Suzanne* made Figaro an excellent foil, and of the smaller parts Paul Corney's *Brid'oison* and the delightfully despairing little *Cherubin* of June Melling were outstanding. More might have been made of the opportunities for spectacle afforded by the Spanish dances, which, however, were lifeless.

From Mr. W. A. Hodges we expect nothing but artistic integrity and technical excellence, and his production of Frank Wedekind's "Such is Life" did not disappoint us. But the play itself is episodic by nature, the first half being little more than a series of vignettes to show the events in the life of the deposed *King Nicolo* of Perugia which contribute to his knowledge of, and eventual cynicism about, the world of bourgeois values. *King Nicolo* is the eternal artist—his position in the play is that of the artist in the conventional world. This is a concept difficult to grasp on one visit to the play; but the soundness of Mr. Hodge's production was itself an incitement to a second visit. Full use was made of effective lighting devices; the sets were the most ambitious we have seen on the Riley-Smith stage for some time, and were fully in tune with the spirit of the play. The acting itself was consistently good, the best individual performance being that of Joan Oldfield as *Princess Anna*. Her interpretation of *Pulcinella* in the "King's Farce" scene was quite brilliant. Raymond Gentle, as the exiled King, was sound, but seemed to lack presence—one tended to overlook him when *Pulcinella*, or the *Judge*, or the *Theatre Manager* was on the stage. Derrick Metcalfe played the *Judge* for laughs, and got them, but his *Procuress* was, in contrast, sinister and disgusting together. The *Theatre Manager* was played by Richard Courtney, as Richard Courtney; he also delighted us in the parts of *Mr. Pandolfo* and a *Landowner*. But altogether, the play lacked opportunities for sustained characterisation, so other individuals, who might have been more impressive in longer parts, cannot unfortunately be mentioned. This play, as a play, in fact, was all very well—but could not Mr. Hodges' undoubted gifts be employed on a play of greater immediate impact?

**THE CHEMISTRY BALL.** *Cont.* showering down from fishing nets, escaped immediate destruction and added colour to the scene, until at 2 a.m. we swam home.

## UNIVERSITY POLITICAL PROSPECTS

This session has been one of considerable political activity in the Union, six M.P.'s and several defeated candidates having spoken here already—this must surely be something of a Leeds record!

### Liberals Find Their Feet.

The Liberals' meeting addressed by Donald Wade, M.P., whilst not well attended, certainly indicated that the Liberal Society is here to stay. He gave a stimulating talk, and the Liberal Society members seem hopeful about their prospects, with a membership on the thirty mark. Rumour has it that the Conservative Association Chairman will buy the Liberal Society Committee drinks all round if, and when (and he thinks never!) they reach the 100 mark. Frankly, I think they will find further headway difficult now—birth is easier than growth in politics.

### The Advances of Labour.

I am inclined to think that Lab. Soc. committee will be eager to snap up the offer made to the Liberals' committee! They are wavering on the 100 mark, and are entering a recruiting campaign, which they hope will carry them beyond the membership of the Conservative Association. A recent article by Ray Bradbury in a local paper reveals that the Labour Society have gained much confidence recently, particularly in debates.

The visit of Denis Healey, M.P., was both interesting and informative.

### Conservatives Consolidate Their Gains.

The Conservatives seem to have concentrated recently on the political development of their

won members rather than on general publicity. They may have suffered setbacks in political debates, but they do look capable and confident enough to present the Government's case effectively. Leeds delegates appear to have taken a very active part in the National Conference of University Conservative Associations

### Socialist Society Springs Back to Life.

The Soc. Soc. suddenly came back into the political limelight by holding a well attended meeting addressed by Professor Bernal, and also a protest meeting against the new budget. But they are not making much progress in recruiting new members.

### Where is Comm. Soc.?

This session the Communist Society has moved from prominence to the background. I feel it is time we heard from Bert again—what about it, Comm. Soc.?

### Two Party Bias Predicted.

To sum up the prospects—and if you disagree, write and let us know!—Labour Society will probably advance in membership, the Conservatives should hold their position, the Liberals will find further progress difficult, and Soc. Soc. and Comm. Soc. may lose further ground. There are definite signs of a two party polarisation developing here, as in the world outside. As the 'Varsity has always been a forum for original and independent thought, let us hope this process does not develop too far.

"BACKBENCHER."

## COMMENT

We have more than one hundred Societies in the Union. All of them have had at least fifty supporters—they must have done or they could not have been launched in the first place . . . All most impressive.

## AUSTICK'S BOOK ORDER SERVICE BOOKSHOPS

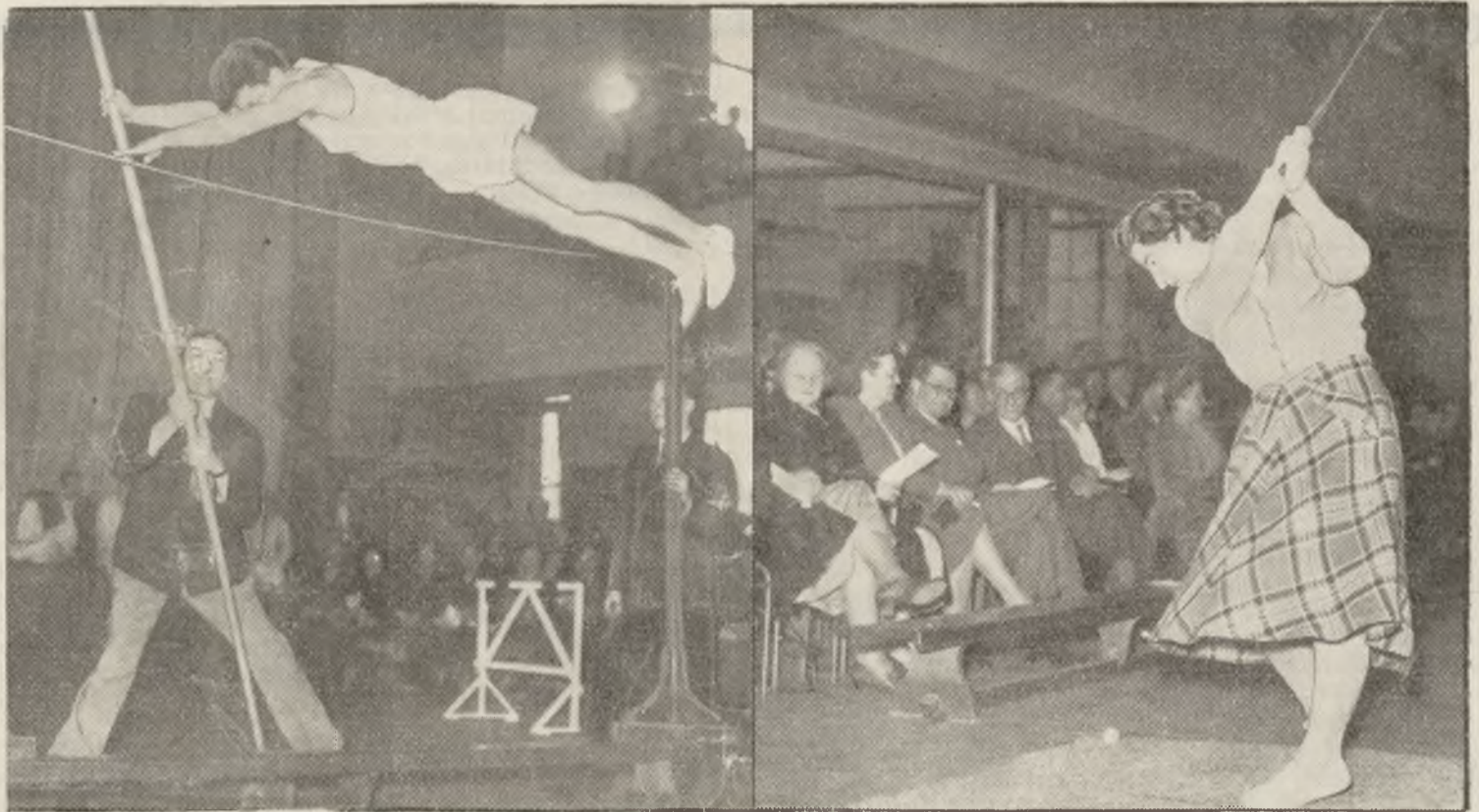
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25 COOKRIDGE STREET  
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Telephone: 22623

Now look at the real position. Some Societies, with a nominally respectable membership, are struggling to keep up the pretence of being active units in Union life. The Law Society has had as few as six members at a meeting. The Economics Society—with a University speaker invited, mustered only a quartet on one occasion.

Not content with all the P.T., recreational and sporting facilities available, Union Committee has now recognised a "Health Society." How many, I wonder, of the fifty people who signed the "supporters" form are going to attend the Society's meetings regularly? Religion in its varied and overlapping shades is represented in nearly a dozen ways. A Labour Society is not enough, we have a Socialist Society as well. The next will presumably be a Society for the promotion of Societies.

**Footnote.** . . . and **Union News** cannot rely on hearing from any of them unless their secretaries are gently kicked.



Courtesy "Y.E. News"  
 "Y.E. News" pictures a demonstration of recreative activities by Leeds University Department of Education in the Riley-Smith Hall. Left—A student shows how to do a Pole Vault. Right—A Golf Stroke demonstrated by a girl student.

## OUR SMALLEST ATHLETIC CLUB

The Leeds University Women's Swimming Club must be the smallest athletics club in the Union. When compared with the facilities available at Manchester University we are obviously at a disadvantage; but the facilities open to us do not justify the small numbers of the Club. Besides regular Club meetings at Leeds Girls' High School each Monday, from 5—6, Cookridge Street Baths are open to us free daily from 4—5. Therefore, as regards training time we certainly have the advantage over several other clubs.

Over the last four years the number of active members in the Women's Swimming Club has remained about constant. At the beginning of the year as many as 50 students may join the Club during Bazaar Days, but the majority of these are not seen again. During this year quite an interesting fixture list has been compiled, but the difficulty we have had in finding sufficient members willing to take part in these matches is reflected in our results. Apart from beating Liverpool University, whose club

has just restarted this year, and finishing equal with the Training College, we have lost all our matches. This includes being defeated by Durham University, whose team has remained fairly constant over the last two years, and whom we beat fairly easily last year.

In order to have a live athletics club of any description, it is obvious that there must be sufficient keen members in training to be able to supply a full team for fixtures. With the Athletic Clubs' Funds at such a low ebb it seems most unfair for a small and for the most part lethargic club to continue to demand a share of these funds for fixtures in which it is not really trained to participate, or for the hire of the baths in which so few practice. Unless during the remainder of the year the Women Students show themselves to be sufficiently interested to support a Swimming Club, I do not think that at the present time this Club is justifying its cost to the Union.

FRANCES M. CRISP.

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE.** *Cont.* vacation there are already signs that there will be too many students chasing too few jobs. There won't be much picking and choosing, and many will have to be content with long hours and a wage which won't jump much over £5. Still, beggars can't be choosers.

\* \* \*

Did you hear the story of the student who had a double-jointed Landlady? Every joint she went in, she had a double.

**AGAINST I.U.S. VISIT.** *Cont.*

probably saved a lot of trouble in the end, because if they had asked you, you might not have agreed.

To be continued?

That is for you to decide.

N.B.—If you don't agree with the invitation, don't make too much trouble, I did and the President wrote me a very nasty letter.

## Sym. JUDO

Although it may be a long time since those who peruse the back page of the **Union News** read anything of the Judo Club it is not because its members have fallen into a state of lethargy nor have they taken to alcohol to ease their aching bones. On the contrary the Club is enjoying a most successful season with a record membership and some very promising judoka.

So far the team has had six fixtures, two each against Manchester University and Manchester College of Technology and one each against Liverpool University and the Ebor Judo Club of York, Leeds being victorious on each occasion. There are two matches yet to be fought, one at home to Edinburgh Uni-

versity and the other away at Liverpool, and a third important date in the minds of the Club members is the week-end of March 8th—9th, when the Club will be visited by E. N. Doming, Black-Belt holder, of South London Judo Society. The most important event of the year will, however, take place next term when a team of three will go to London to compete for the Inter-Universities Cup, the contests being held in Albert Hall. In the past two seasons Leeds have been semi-finalists and runners-up respectively and this year we have high hopes of bringing the cup back to Leeds, although some strong opposition is promised, particularly from Imperial College.

IAN J. COOKE.

### HEADINGLEY PICTURE HOUSE COTTAGE ROAD

Thursday, 24th April,  
 "I Want You" (U)  
 Dana Andrews Farley Granger  
 Monday, 28th April,  
 "Scrooge," (U)  
 Alistair Sim Kathleen Harrison  
 Thursday, 1st May,  
 "The Light Touch," (A)  
 Stewart Granger Reine Angeli  
 Monday, 5th May,  
 "Encore" (A)  
 Glynis Johns Nigel Patrick

**BEER!**  
**TETLEY**  
**LEADS**  
 THE BREWERY  
 LEEDS