

UNION NEWS



LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION

Vol. 1, No. 10.

Thursday, May 8th 1947.

Threepence.

REPORT FROM LIVERPOOL

From the time the first suitcases and rucksacks appeared in Liverpool's Union, until the last of the various scarves, which had decorated the town throughout the week had fluttered out of sight, Congress can claim to have been a great success.

About 700 students from all parts of the British Isles and overseas, met to discuss "The Student, 1947." The agenda was extremely comprehensive—too much so! It was generally felt to have been too vast for much constructive work on any particular aspect.

The first Plenary Session was opened by a welcome from the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, who thought that N.U.S., as one of the largest youth movements in the world, had a great responsibility and a great part to play in establishing world peace, and wished Congress every success.

Telegrams of good wishes were received from several "V.I.P.'s," including the P.M. The V.C. of Liverpool welcomed us to the University, which we gather is the only one in the world built on the site of a disused lunatic asylum!

Col. Elliott, M.P. for Scottish Universities, spoke on "The Purpose of Higher Education." He considered education as an "absolute" to be pursued, even if it brought suffering. The pursuit of absolute truth, whether good or bad was the business of Universities. He also pointed out the dangers of a single patron and queried whether State control would allow for the laziness, as well as pure learning essential at Universities. The ensuing discussions shewed that the students did not agree with many of Col. Elliott's points, but took them to be in the nature of a challenge.

At another Plenary Session the President of I.U.S. spoke on the position of I.U.S. and the important part N.U.S. had played in its formation. He stressed the importance of inter-continental exchanges of students and the power of an International Union of Students in world affairs. Tom Maddison, Secretary of I.U.S., gave an outline of the work and purpose of I.U.S. Among his main points was the need for practical relief and merely not the passing of resolutions. This session was followed by commissions in which delegates from other countries gave an idea of the work and progress

of students and I.U.S. in their own countries.

Special commissions were held covering a wide variety of subjects, including the cost of higher education, student welfare and housing, travel and exchange, intellectual co-operation, relief, sport, youth and students.

The final Plenary Session and commissions discussed "The Student has a Union." It was agreed that the Union should be the sounding board of the students; that it should be student controlled, but that it should not be political, although political societies should form a part of the Union. Commissions discussing the apathy in practically all Unions could find no satisfactory way of breaking through it, since the causes seemed to be different in each case.

Possibly the high spot of the week was a speech by Henry Wallace, specially arranged for students. He expressed surprise at the progressiveness of British Universities.

Relaxing from the strain of discussions and commissions, students pursued with equal zest the other aim of Congress—the establishment of personal contact between students of different Universities. Some afternoon visits were arranged to factories and places of interest in and around Liverpool. Evening entertainments included a mock parliament, discussing "prohibition," enlivened by news of a budget announced in "another house"; and a debate "That Romance is dead in the Modern World," which was defeated!

There was also a sing-song, as well as the inevitable dances. The week was rounded off by a Ferry Boat Dance, at which several hundred students went waltzing, squeezing and boozing down the river. P.J.S.

DEGREE DAY

The peaceful torpor which spreads over the University during the Vacation, was broken by a Congregation of the University for the Conferment of Degrees on Saturday, March 29th.

The audience which filled the Great Hall was shown a colourful and impressive ceremony as the procession, gay with gowns and hoods, took its place prior to the speech by the Vice-Chancellor, which opened the Congregation. The Degrees—mostly in medicine and dentistry—were then presented to the slightly awed, but no doubt very proud recipients. After the ceremony there was a reception in the Union.

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS HARSHIPS COMMITTEE.

The Central Grants and Fees Committee of N.U.S. has recently split up into three sections, and has handed over to the hardships division all the work not covered by the Ex-Service and Teachers in Training Division. This means that it has been constituted:—

(1) As an information bureau. It is collecting as much information as possible about Ministry and L.E.A. award regulations, and will welcome all enquiries connected with these.

(2) To investigate any cases of hardship reported to it, such as delay in payment or inadequacy of grants. Please send any complaints, either direct, or through your N.U.S. representatives.

This letter has been received by the Grants and Welfare Committee who will be pleased to advise any student who is in receipt of a scholarship and who requires assistance.

N.U.S. is confident that this new Hardships Committee will enjoy the same measure of success as that achieved by the Ex-Service Committee.

For more information contact the Grants and Welfare representatives.

BACKGROUND

Specialization is one of the major curses of the highly complex society in which we live. There is no easy method of avoiding it, for the field of knowledge is so vast and a man's life so short that if he wishes to master his subject, he must specialise intensely and narrowly. The days when a scholar could proudly take all knowledge as his province are long since past. The modern scholar seems content to know more and more about less and less.

The University produces by a perfectly legitimate process its yearly quota of specialists—so many leather-chemists, so many licensed dentists and so many gas-engineers. Three or four years are a short enough time to transform a schoolboy into a fully qualified technician, and his course must be stripped of all but strictly technical subjects.

But a youth does not come to a University—even this one—to be so "transformed." He also comes to be educated, to become a man capable of understanding issues beyond those of the laboratory or library. The University can do little officially, as yet, to broaden the base of studies, and so the onus is thrown upon the student. He may seek to widen his background by taking part in student activities.

Most of the student societies are narrowly sectarian, which is as it should be. Professionally, the Soc. Dip. people's interests are different from those of the Miners.

There should be, however, some wider society in the Union, one to which all students would automatically belong (as they now do to the Debating Society). This society, in co-operation with groups within and without the University, should aim to provide a series of political, intellectual and social activities which would supply at least a background against which purely academic subjects would appear in perspective.

Such a society would perhaps help to combat the prevalent idea that this University is little more than a glorified Technical College.

MOMUS.

YOUR VIEWS ON THE NEWS!

LOOKING ON

THIS WEEK—MAY 5th.

Grand Theatre.

"Tess of the D'Urbervilles," with Wendy Hiller.

(After exams., Carl Rosa Opera Company).

Royal Theatre.

Guess what? you're so right. Pantomime.

Odeon.

"Black Narcissus," Sabu, Deborah Kerr.

Ritz.

"Woman to Woman," David Montgomery, Joyce Howard, Yvonne Arnaud.

Scala.

(Repeat performance)—"Jolson Story," Larry Parks, Evelyn Keyes.

Gaumont.

"Kid from Brooklyn," Danny Kaye, Virginia Mayo.

(Coming Shortly: "La Cage aux Rossignols," a French film with American sub-titles, don't miss it!).

P.J.S.

FESTIVAL

Have you planned your summer vacation? Don't know where to go?

A ticket to Edinburgh is the key to three weeks of incomparable musical and dramatic enjoyment. To those musically minded the mention of the Vienna Phil. with Bruno Walter, the Liverpool Phil., the Hallé, L'orchestre Colonne, and the Scottish Orchestra, will undoubtedly provide great attraction. Few Balletomanes would deny our own Sadlers Wells Company, with Helpmann and Fonteyn, a warm welcome. Opera, represented by the Glyn-debourne Company, is to be a daily event, whilst the Old Vic. Theatre are to give Shakespeare and a new play by Bridie.

The names Schnabel, Szigete, Primrose and Lotte Lehmann—each one an artist of the highest rank—adorn the programme of the first post war International Festival.

"Come to Edinburgh, the Mecca of the Muses."

Out of the 800 Questionnaires handed out with the last issue of "Union News", less than 15% were returned. We hope however that, small though this number is it represents a fairly general consensus of our readers' views.

The main criticisms were that too much space was devoted to Sport and Diary; but that there was not sufficient room for debates, music, Union Committee and Society News. As a result, only half the back page will normally be devoted to Sport and the extra space allocated to more reports on debates musical events and Society News, IF Society secretaries will send any interesting information to the Editor. With regard to Union Committee practically all important or interesting points are already reported under various headings, especially "This and That".

Among regular features, the crossword does not warrant the space it occupies, so will in future only appear, at the most, in alternate editions. In "Looking On," there was a universal demand for Previews and not Reviews. This will be done whenever possible, but otherwise only a list of plays and films will be printed. There was

a considerable difference of opinion over "Personalities," but it has been decided to continue this article, at least for the present.

To students who criticised the layout of the paper, we can only say: "We heartily agree with you." But whilst we only sell 1,500 copies at 2d. each we cannot afford anything else. Blank paper and large headings are cheaper than small print, and we cannot at present reduce them, as the Union is unable to increase our subsidy. For the same reason cartoons will be discontinued and photographs reduced to a minimum.

P.J.S.

NOTE.—Research students had their little fling with the questionnaire; if they have any news of universal interest we shall be very pleased to publish it.

FORUM FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.
IN THE RILEY-SMITH.

Monday (1-15).

Charles Chaplin in *The Champion* and *The New Janitor*.

The New Janitor was produced in Chaplin's Keystone Comedy days (1914) and *The Champion* was made a year later by the Essanay Company. Both are excellent examples of Chaplin's mastery of pantomime.

Tuesday (1-15).

L'Idée (France, 1934) is a "trick" treatment of a serious theme. Truth, represented by a naked woman, symbolises the conceived idea and its fortunes are traced in the hands of workers, financiers, etc. It is shown as living even when its creator is dead.

Marcus Lycinius (Italy, 1910) is a good example of the origin of "spectacle." The Mistress of Marcus becomes a Christian and her allegiance to the Way of the Cross converts him and they both suffer martyrdom.

Wednesday (1-15).

Tawny Pipit is a feature film produced recently in Great Britain but not of sufficient "popular appeal" to be shown widely. It is a simple story of an occasion when the Tawny Pipit was found to be nesting in England and of the adventures which come to a

quiet village. Typically English in both form and content it gives authentic background of rural life with beautiful photography of the English scene. Eric Portman plays the lead.

Thursday, (1-15).

Drawings that Walk and Talk is a composite film showing the history of the animated cartoon from its flickery beginnings to Mickey Mouse. There are excerpts from all the favourites: Felix, Bonzo, Popeye, etc., and two or three complete cartoons.

Hungarian Rhapsody is an early (1931) attempt (made in Germany) at fitting abstract patterns to music. Being in black and white it makes the mind dwell on the music-pattern-movement relationship without the obtrusion of colour.

Friday (1-0).

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (Germany, 1918. Director Rob. Weine) is one of the classics of silent cinema. What it represents is reality through the mind of a madman. Its distortions, in plot and setting, effectively mirror the broken and bewildered Germany of 1919. There are moments of superb direction and photography is good throughout.

VILLAGE WOOING

There are those who go to the play for the acting and those who go for the play. The former were disappointed whilst the latter found plenty to interest them in Theatre Group's presentation of G. B. Shaw's "Village Wooing." Mr. Baines and Miss Townson are courageous and enterprising; such rare virtues deserve our thanks and praise. But their acting lacks maturity and sureness. Luckily, Mr. Shaw's dialogue is almost its own justification, and its wit absorbed our attention.

It has been said that into a short poem a poet may cram all that is important in his work. Thus, the essence of Shelley seems to lie in his "Ode to the West Wind." How far this is true of drama is difficult to decide, perhaps because there are so few short plays. Yet "Village Wooing" does seem to show in embryo, the full length "Man and Superman." The theme is the same—the unavailing struggle of man to escape from his destiny in the form of a woman and the "usual consequences." The end is the same too—he does not escape. Shavian wit and the "Life Force" triumph together, and the audience seemed to enjoy the whole thing.

A.G.

Readers should note that subscriptions will be carried forward since we have not published the expected number of issues. Subscriptions will be accounted at the rate of 2d. per issue plus a small charge for postage.

Correspondents are reminded that all letters must be signed, although names will only be disclosed if the contributor so wishes.

Extracts from *Union News* may not be quoted in other publications without permission.

Subscription rate 3d. per issue, post free.

Next issue of *Union News* will appear in June.

DEBATES SOCIETY

Politics or
Religion
for

World Peace?

SOCIAL ROOM

8th May at 6-45 p.m.

What do YOU think?

RAG NEWS!

The Rag Committee has been elected for 1947, and Rag activities are now proceeding apace. As usual, the *Tyke* Editors are bemoaning the lack of suitable material but, as usual, the *Tyke* when it comes will be as full as paper-rationing will allow. Still more contributions, sketches and jokes are required, but please see that they are printable as any other kind, whilst amusing, cannot be accepted. This year it was hoped to recommence Rag Revue, but unfortunately this has not been possible, but all who volunteered are asked to give up their time to Rag itself. A house to house collection is being organised in certain districts in Leeds and volunteers will be required to cover these areas; every house in these districts must be covered and large numbers of students

are required to ensure that this is done.

Various competitions and raffles are being organised amongst them a beauty contest, open to all girls between 16 and 60, and it is hoped that prominent people can be persuaded to consent to be judges for this contest. The finals will be held at one of the dances to be held during Rag Week, of which there are several. Volunteers will be required to sell tickets for the dances and raffles, also to sell *Tykes*, and to collect, so it can be seen that every student is urgently required to do not one job only but several to make Rag Week the financial success it deserves to be.

Will students please note that the closing date for copy for the *Tyke* is May 14th, so try to prepare something for the *Tyke*.

GRANTS VICTORY

At a meeting of F.E.T.S. students, held on Friday, the 25th April, Mr. Mohun, speaking for the grants and Welfare Committee, was able to announce important new developments in the method of paying grants.

The new scheme (very similar to one proposed by the G. and W. Committee through N.U.S. earlier in the year) is quicker and easier than the old system . . . so much so that more than 600 students have received payments in the first week of this term.

Mr. Foster, in outlining the new scheme, pointed out that Form 018 (with its attendant delays) is now obsolete; the new form of checking incorporates the certificate of attendance. The F. E. T. S. student signs an "attendance roll," which is held by Student Section, completes the certification at the same time, and the cheque is then negotiable.

The speaker then emphasised the importance of students collecting cheques within ten days of the announcement of their arrival, as the Ministry of Education requests the University to return unclaimed cheques within this period.

Going on to announce important concessions in respect of wives' earnings, and vocational work, the Chairman, Mr. Mohun, emphasised the importance of the work done by N.U.S. in this field, and pointed out that we may regard the present reforms as being the first fruits of this labour.

Society Notes

Leeds Art Society.

An Art Exhibition has been arranged by the Leeds Art Society, and is now showing in the History Library. It should be of special interest to students of Leeds as it is an exhibition of student's work, leavened by a Holbein. The exhibition will be on show for most of this term.

Social Diploma Society.

During the last term the Society has been very active and versatile in its activity. It has several interesting speakers and wholesome teas, and on one occasion gave vent to dramatic talent through sketches illustrating—with tongue in cheek—the life of the social worker.

For this term, a dashing (well, they ought to know) young producer, Mr. Rex Tucker, from the B.B.C. will talk about "Putting a Play on the Air." This is on Thursday, May 8th, and all those interested are welcome.

Further activities are restricted due to exams., but the end of these will see a bus-load of Soc. Dips. off on a visit to Fountains Abbey. With this event, University life will, for some of them, end, but it is hoped that future Soc. Dips. will endeavour to keep alive the activities of the Society and also what remains of their tradition.

English Society.

At the A.G.M. on May 1st, the activities of the last two terms were reviewed by the Secretary, and new officers for next session were elected. The Society has, since its revival last year, held many successful and frequently entertaining meetings, varying from the lecture to the "free-for-all," and from dialect readings to poetry writings. It is hoped that soon the English Department, which is numerically the largest in the Arts Faculty, will also have the largest Society, without losing any of its activity and enthusiasm. The committee would remind readers that all students attending the University who are interested in our activities are welcome to membership in our Society and to attend any of our meetings.

G. of E. Society.

The Church of England Society has had an active life this session. Our Corporate Communion, held in Emmanuel Church, have had an encouragingly large attendance; addresses at monthly meetings have dealt with a wide range of subjects—devotional, topical, and missionary. At the last monthly meeting on May 5th, Commander Dixon, R.N., gave an account of the work of "The Mission to Seamen."

This is to be followed by the A.G.M. on May 12th, and possibly an excursion to a

cathedral city or some other place of special interest to church members.

Soc. Soc.

L.U.U. Socialist Society have commenced this term's activities with a series of discussions on "Why Socialism?" led by D. Kelly, the Chairman. The first lecture was held last Monday, May 5th, at 1-10 p.m., the next will be held next Monday, in the Large Card Room.

Keep an eye on the Notice Board for announcements of future meetings, all of which will be during the lunch-hour until after the examinations.

The committee would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members and Socialists the best of luck in the forthcoming examinations.

K.F.

Date for . . .

WHIT. SATURDAY

COME TO

LEEDS
REGATTA

Swillington Bridge at 2 p.m.

followed by

BOAT
CLUB

FLANNEL DANCE

(Riley-Smith Hall at 7 p.m.)

GRYPHON

Will be on

SALE

on

MAY 26th

Your help required after the exams.

RAG House To House COLLECTION

June 16th—June 20th

This is a new venture and it is hoped to make it a success

You will have the opportunity to collect in your own district and in your own time

Your Help is Essential

Details posted in the Union

More Copy for the "TYKE" needed immediately

L.U.U. SOCIALIST SOCIETY

"Why Socialism?"

A discussion on the subject

"THE CASE FOR SOCIALISM"

To be held in
The Large Card Room,
at 1-10 p.m.

on

Monday, May 12th, 1947.

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Gents, only worn for 6 weeks.

Cost price £20. - - - £17.

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Union News

LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION.
THURSDAY, MAY 8th.
1947.

Vol. 1, No. 10.

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Sales Manager - - - Tony Carter
Sports Editor - - - Tom Vickers
Societies' Editor - Kathleen Forrest
Ex-officio members :—
The Union Executive Committee
and the Editor of *The Gryphon*.

Reporters :

Keith Semple, Michael Sunderland
Margaret Allen, "Momus,"
Pamela Semple.

Business Letter

Dear Customer,

Our reaction to the news about the early date for examinations was much the same as yours. **Union News** staff has hibernated; that casual, devil-may-care glance, the glance of a newspaper man or a worn-out-by-a-Shaw-production actor, has disappeared from our faces as quickly as a briefcase will disappear from the front (or, more aptly, the foyer) of the Brotherton. Hence this single issue. It will not be the only issue this term; the notice in the Union, unable to withstand the bitter criticism that falls on the unconventional, was inaccurate; but it is the only one before June. The increase in price is for this copy only—but look at the wonderful inset!

We would like to thank all the people who posted their mail in our contributions box. By means of an ingenious filing system (each person has a dossier) we soon hope to start a large scale blackmailing organisation; copies of **Union News** will then be free.

Union News will be short of staff next year. If you feel that you have the ability, the prose style, the imagination, and the sense of tragedy that must accompany any attempt to express yourself in print—as, for example, in this editorial—go and see the Editor of the *New Statesman* or *The Gryphon*.

On the other hand if you have the knack of proof-reading without female assistance, we shall welcome you; if you haven't, bring her along too.

Besides the many services the **Union News** provides there is the **Union News** Marriage Bureau: lonely hearts in the J.C.R., beating hard with frustrated passion, should turn their attention to the room at the end of the first floor corridor. It is true that not all that there reside are free for all; but there is a Sales Manager who dreams of grapes—he is reputed to be the only living descendant of Bacchus—and a covey of sharp-nosed reporters whose curiosity—the quality for which they are engaged—should be sufficient recommendation to any pale wan lady of forgotten hopes.

So come and join us. . . .

Yours very sincerely,
Union News.

This and That

A STATELY PLEASURE DROME.

A reply from the recent Questionnaire asked for further details on the Refectory position; so in a very compressed form we will give you the latest developments. A three-storey Refec., seating about 1,000 students at once, is to be built in the grounds behind the Union. This will mean that one of the tennis courts will have to go and the other will be turned through a right angle. In time this Refec. may well become an extension of the Union, although this will certainly not occur within the academic life of any present student, not even Mr. Berczi! Since this Refec. will not be built for about five years the new Refec. is to be enlarged, we hope, by next session, although building and labour supplies make this doubtful.

THE SHAVING OF SHAGPAT.

The "sprucing up" of the many shaggy-haired individuals in this Union which, incidentally, formed one of the topics in the first issue of "This and That," is becoming more of a reality daily. Permits have arrived for the timber and there is quite a possibility of the Barber's Shop going up during the Summer vac.

MISSENDEN, EROS AND MORPHEUS.

Some of the atmosphere of quiet intimacy in the J.C.R. seems to have permeated into the cafeteria extension. It has become a popular hide-out for chess fiends and others engaged in subtle games, for whom the Caf. presents too much hurly-burly.

COLD FEET.

We have received numerous complaints from students who suffer from cold feet on getting out of a bath in the Union. We understand that the House Sec. is endeavouring to obtain some rubber bath mats.

CAKES AND ALE.

Many students will learn with regret that the Manageress of the Refec. is leaving us to get married. Miss Nicholson has served the students very ably throughout the difficult days of the war and we would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all students, to express our gratitude for her services and patience.

PAY AS YOU GROW.

The hope we expressed in these columns, in the last issue, for a reduction in tram and bus fares for all students has been dashed to the ground. The Leeds Transport Department also took pains to point out to students that, as far as they knew Leeds was the only city which made any concessions to students at all!

DRAMATIC NEWS.

Theatre Group are thinking of producing "This Way to the Tomb," re-entitled "A Day in the Brotherton."

UNION WOOS.

Cupid has apparently been among the procession of lost souls who stream in and out of **Union News** office. We heard during the vacation of the engagements of Peter Tillott (Editor) to Margaret Webster (Business Manager), and of Bill Baines (Willie) (Assistant Editor) to Hazel Townson (Sub-Editor). We wish them all they wish themselves! We now appreciate why it took so long to proof the copy!

POST HASTE.

Penny and Halfpenny stamps can now be obtained from the stamp machine in the Union, standing near the Riley-Smith. There is a collection box beneath, which we understand will be emptied at the hours stated, and not two days later. Incidentally if you pop a letter into the box, forget you haven't sealed it and put your hand in to get it out, you're likely to get a shock! Wire prongs project inwards just below the opening.

The present box will become a **Union News** Copy Box. Any letters to the Editor, articles, etc., should be left in it.

....RAGS, BOTTLES OR BONES!!

A number of students have left odds and ends in the Porter's Office from time to time. The place now looks like Tatter's Market on a busy Saturday. The House Secretary says this must cease! If the present junk is not cleared within a week it will go. . . .

A GREEN THOUGHT IN A GREEN SHADE.

We maintain that the G.A.S. should be awarded an honorary degree in Agriculture for the valuable work he has done in conjunction with the Bingley Agricultural College, in order to persuade the grass to grow up at Weetwood. With all the rolling, spiking, mowing, fertilising and dressing with which the grounds have been threatened, it will be a wonder if the grass ever grows at all.

KING'S REGS.

We understand that the rules and regulations of University Hostels are still irking many of their inmates. This has been brought to a head by a recent tightening up at Devon. As a result, a full discussion on the matter is to be held at the next Union Committee Meeting, unless a satisfactory solution has been reached by the Halls before then.

Two Wars

Prof. Jones, late Professor of Economics at this University, addressed about 300 students on "Two Wars, an Economic Consideration." Although he warned us that he was out of practice, somewhat like the first five players in the Worcester v. South Africa cricket match, he gave us an extremely interesting talk.

After painting a rosy picture of prosperity and freedom in the 1906-14 period, Prof. Jones then compared the unpreparedness of our economic position in the first world war, and the "trial and error" system of readjustment, with the almost immediate introduction of controls in the second war.

Of the inter-war period he felt that the world was influenced by the "psychology of war" and a lack of confidence in the future; which together with the trade cycle of unemployment, contributed largely to the depressions.

Our experience gained after the last war, in the rapid relaxation of controls and consequent inflation, and the slump of the late 1920's has influenced the continuation of restrictions since 1945.

P.J.S.

SOUNDING BRASS.

Some details about entries for the Musical Competitions in connection with the Prague Congress have arrived in the office. Further details about other aspects of the Congress are expected any day.

JUKE BOX AGAIN?

The new panatope, for which the Music Society have been agitating for some time past, should be here in a week or two's time.

PRESSING FOR A BAR.

Our endeavours to obtain a bar in the Union have produced some quite uncalled for publicity in the public press. Why the press should be interested in whether we have a bar or not, and how they came by the garbled story, which a reporter brought to the office one day last week for confirmation (he didn't get it), are questions quite beyond our ken.

FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF MUD.

The building going up in the Car Park is not a new Refectory as we would wish, but an extension to the Textile Dept. A new car park is being excavated on the West side of the Union in order to disperse the cars which at present prevent Edu. students from attending their lectures. (That's what they say).

SNOOP

LIVE LETTERS IN A DEAD WORLD

ACTS OR FACTS.

The Editor,
Dear Sir,

A few words in reply to Momus's article in the last edition of **Union News**. When the auditions for Sweeney Agonistes was held early last term, two women and four men turned up. This was discouraging but the reason was obvious enough, an immense amount of time had been put into the rehearsal of "Agamemnon," resulting in the latter's considerable success, but also in a considerable lag in the academic studies of most of the Theatre Group. Hence students were just not prepared to devote any more time to productions. It had been hoped to produce a three act play in March, to be produced by Miss Esme Church, but no satisfactory date could be arranged. However, one one-act and probably a three act play are scheduled for this term as well as play readings. But the moral is obvious; cut out the University and you can have plays ad. lib., if you want them!

Yours, etc.,
K.E.S.

To the Editor **Union News**.

Dear Sir,

During the Easter Vacation I was unfortunate enough to have a new despatch case, which had, incidentally, great intrinsic as well as monetary value, removed from outside the Brotherton Library. In addition, a slide rule and Physics note-book disappeared.

On making enquiries I found that although we are obliged to leave our cases outside the library, we do so at our own risk. I wonder how many of the hundreds of students who leave articles there daily are aware of this paradox?

I should be glad if you could spare a small corner of your paper to publish this letter as a warning to all users of the Brotherton Library. It would also be very interesting to learn if any others have lost property in a similar manner.

Yours sincerely,
D. MORTON
(Chemistry Dept.).

RAG REVUE.

To the Editor **Union News**.

Dear Sir,

An attempt has been made this year to revive one of the old Rag favourites, "Rag Revue." Unfortunately, after all the work which has been put into the show, it has fallen through, not because of lack of support, but because we have not been able to obtain a Cinema to present the Revue. Several Cinemas and Theatres were approached on the matter, and in each case the

manager was willing, but because of difficulties with bookings, or lack of accommodation, was compelled to turn the show down. Because of the nature of the show, it would not be an economic proposition to stage it in the Riley-Smith Hall, or in any other privately booked hall. The main revenue of the show was drawn from the sale of souvenir programmes, and it would not be possible to draw a sufficiently large audience to dispose of the usual number of 15,000 copies, which were needed to make the show a success. It is with great regret that I must inform you, and all the students who so kindly offered their services, that we cannot proceed with the Rag Revue; may I offer, through your columns, my sincere thanks for the offers of help, and the hope that next year we may be able to obtain a cinema, and start once again one of the most successful of our Rag activities.

Yours sincerely,
S. BINNER,
Rag Committee.

The Editor **Union News**.

Dear Sir,

While appreciating your "leader" on the Debating Soc. in the last issue of **Union News**, I feel I must remark on some of the points you made. I agree the standard of speaking has not been very high this year, but I think the Society has been more successful than you indicate in your article. In contrast with the past when debates were cancelled because there was no Quorum, or motions were either carried or rejected unanimously, meetings held during this session have been fairly well attended and, as the results of the voting show, subjects have been highly controversial. To help it on its way, the Debating Society needs publicity, and I deplore the fact that no mention was made in your paper of the debate on "University Decadence" or the Inter-Varsity Debate.

With regard to the Theatre Group, I heartily agree with Momus. The productions of "Agamemnon" and "Sweeney Agonistes" were excellent, but what of the freshers and other members of the Theatre Group who were unable to take part?

The Group will not always be able to rely on ready-made talent to maintain its high standard. There must be regular meetings of all its members.

At such meetings, lectures could be given on voice-production, lighting, make-up, acting, etc.: there should be frequent play readings; and the plays for actual production could be chosen by the "rank and file." Members should be invited to watch rehearsals, in order to learn how a play is produced.

In this way there can be built a really efficient and successful Theatre Group.

Yours faithfully,
JON RUMMELSBURG.

Leeds Art Centre.

The Leeds Arts Centre was founded at the beginning of 1945 after some discussion in the press about the need of some place where those interested in the arts could create and discuss. Most of those at the inaugural meeting were primarily interested in the formation of a civic theatre, but groups were also formed for literature, painting, films, and music.

In June, 1945, the Centre received an offer from the Leeds Corporation of the rent-free use of the semi-derelict Portland House, which was put into order by volunteers and opened by the Lord Mayor in November of the same year. On the top floor of the building is a little theatre for experimental plays. Public performances of more popular plays have been given in the Albert Hall and the Riley-Smith Hall, including *The Philanderer*, *Bird in Hand*, *I Have Been Here Before* and *Doctor Knock*. On the invitation of the Corporation, performances were given last year of *The Taming of the Shrew*, in the open air, and this year *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is to be given.

The other groups have all been active. The Fine Arts Group has sponsored numerous exhibitions, the Music Group recitals and talks, the Literature Group lectures, discussions, etc. Recently they have published the first number of a miscellany, containing poems, articles, stories and illustrations.

The Centre is democratically governed by an elected committee and though its efforts are still limited by lack of money it hopes to become more and more a means of uniting those interested in the arts in Leeds, and to present plays which could not otherwise be seen in the City.

Details of membership can be obtained from the Secretary, the Leeds Arts Centre, Portland House, Leeds, 1.

Leeds Concert Society

The habitually musical section of the community will require no information about the Leeds Concert Society. Others may never have heard of it, and it is for these people, particularly students, for whom this article is intended.

The Society has functioned for many years, but only for about ten years has the idea of a Summer Season of concerts been working. This summer season, formerly a series of four, nowadays of five concerts, is intended to bridge the long silence which intervenes between the winter seasons. Music performed is Chamber Music, often popular but more often interesting. In other words, it is possible to listen to music here which could not be frequently performed elsewhere.

The dates and artists for the following season are as follows:—
March 21.—Joan and Valerie Trimble (two pianos).

April 2nd.—Thomas Matthews, Denis Brain, Eileen Ralf.

April 17.—The Blech String Quartet.

May 1.—Trevor Anthony (Bass).

May 16.—Denis Matthews.

Students showing a Union membership card are admitted to the concerts at a cost of 1/-. This is a great concession of which students have taken small advantage in the past. The organiser of the concerts feel that the reason may be that students are not aware of the cheaper rate of admission, and have therefore asked us to broadcast the fact. Since the Concerts are in a large measure for the benefit of our students, better patronage for them might be expected.

LIBRA.

Union Muse

The questionnaire held
By the **Union News**
Has led to outspoken
But warranted views.
One bloodthirsty critic
Who seems to have got
A bee in his bonnet
Says: "Pip must be shot."
But I'm not.
Whilst one other reader
Who's not out to kill
Says: "Make the verse short—
And then shorter still."
So I will.

PIP.

★ SPORT ★

DAMPER ON CRICKET !

LEEDS U. v. Yorks. XI

Rain put an end to the cricket match between the University and Yorkshire on Tuesday, 29th April, at Weetwood when Yorkshire looked like making a big score. Halliday and Jakeman opened the batting for Yorkshire, and began quietly. It was cold and raining steadily, and the wicket was soft and easy paced. Thompson and Jones, the University opening bowlers, could get little life out of the wicket. Jakeman opened his score with a vigorous square cut off Jones for four. The Yorkshiremen soon warmed up and got the measure of the bowling, and the rate of scoring improved. Halliday played well in front of the wicket, driving and placing the ball accurately off the back foot; while Jakeman

punished anything short of a length with vicious hooks. At quarter to four the rain became heavier, and the teams came off. After an early tea Yardley and Thompson, the skippers, decided to abandon the match. Perhaps Mr. Yardley had memories of Adelaide's 110 degrees F.

Scores :

Halliday, not out	32
Jakeman, not out	39
Leg bye	1
Total (0 wicket)	72

Bowling :

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Thompson, J. L.	7	2	15	0
Jones	9	0	28	0
Mills	3	0	21	0
Smith	1	0	7	0

BASKETBALL

Last term the University Basketball team won all its six games, scoring 269 points against 96. Of the teams played, only Birmingham University has had any experience, and Leeds beat them by 20—19 at home, and by

32—13 away. The easy wins have led to a certain slackness in defence, which will probably show in the British Amateur Basketball Championships, in which the University, representing the West Riding, go straight into the quarter finals.

Inter-Departmental Basketball Leagues.

Division I.

TEAM.	Plyd.	Won	Lost	Drwn.	For.	Against.	Points
Medics.	6	5	1	0	73	32	10
Engineers	6	5	1	0	71	55	10
Lyddon	6	4	1	1	66	45	9
Textiles	6	3	2	1	62	65	7
Col. Chemists	6	2	4	0	71	78	4
Woodsley	6	1	5	0	79	88	2
Dental A	6	0	6	0	45	93	0

Division II.

TEAM.	Plyd.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For.	Against.	Points.
Mining	7	7	0	0	110	51	14
Dental B	7	5	2	0	90	35	10
Chemists	7	4	3	0	73	58	8
P.T.	7	3	4	0	89	81	6
H.O.R.	7	3	4	0	77	76	6
Devon	6	3	3	0	37	56	6
Agrics.	7	2	5	0	21	83	2
Fuel	6	0	6	0	14	61	0

TENNIS

A notice giving information on tennis courts in use, times available, and times bookable, is posted up in the case just inside the main door of the Union. Fourteen courts are, or soon will be, ready for use, four near the Union, two in Beech Grove, and the rest at Oxley Hall. The Union Porter will take bookings for the Courts, and will have for sale little-used match balls at reduced price.

SOCCER

The Soccer teams are carrying on with their League and Cup commitments, postponed by the bad weather last term. The University is in the semi-final of two Leeds League Cups, and cannot help feeling modestly hopeful, having beaten the favourites, Ardsley and Thorpe United, in the replayed quarter final tie by 5—1, the first defeat Ardsley have suffered in two seasons.

Olympic Games Film

A film of the Olympic Games held in Berlin in 1936, called the "Olympiad Festival of the Nations," will be shown in the Riley-Smith Hall on the evening of May 22nd. The film was taken from the copy held in the German Embassy in Carlton House Terrace, which was obtained by the M.O.I. when the contents of the Embassy were sold. The total running time for the complete film is three and a half hours, but the version which

is being shown here is an abridged version, omitting mainly the introductory and end sequences, and runs two hours. There is a commentary in English, spoken partly by Howard Marshall. The film is much more than a glorified newsreel. The effectiveness of some of the scenes leads one to suspect that they were privately rehearsed for the benefit of the camera. The film was shown for the first time in London recently, and created a very favourable impression.

Cross Country Club

Cross Country Club.

Last term was a very good term for the Leeds University Cross Country Club. The Club had five of the first six home against Sheffield; the first three home in the race against Liverpool and Durham; Haw and Birch were first and third respectively in the Northern Cross Country Championships at Newcastle; and of the three Leeds men in the U.A.U. team, Haw

(captain), Birch, and Day, the first two finished first and fifth respectively.

Team Placings.

Leeds 29	Sheffield	49
Leeds 38	Liverpool	60
	Durham	80
Sheffield United Harriers narrowly beat Leeds in the Northern Cross Country Championship.		
English U.A.U.	...	33
Scottish U.A.U.	...	45

Cricket and Athletics Fixtures.

MAY 10th.

Men's Athletics	v.	Manchester and Liverpool (Christie).
Medics. and Dentals	v.	Carnegie P.T.C.
University 2A	v.	Ministry of Works.
Employees	v.	J. and H. Fenner, Ltd.

MAY 14th.

University 1st Staff	v.	Selby C.C.
University 2B	v.	Leeds Technical College.
Employees	v.	School of Architecture.
	v.	Burras Peake Ltd. (6-30 p.m.).

MAY 15th.

Lyddon	v.	Mining (6 p.m.).
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MAY 17th.

University 1st	v.	Ben Rhydding C.C.
Women's XI	v.	Sheffield Teachers.
University 2B	v.	West Leeds O.B.
Staff	v.	Poole C.C.

MAY 21st.

Men's Athletics	v.	Leeds Training College.
Medics and Dentals	v.	Allerton C.C.
University 2A	v.	Bradford Technical College.
Mining	v.	Dentals.

MAY 22nd.

Lyddon	v.	Fuel (6 p.m.).
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MAY 24th.

Medics. and Dentals	v.	Thirsk C.C.
University 2A	v.	Adel C.C.

Sports Ground

Weetwood Sports Ground will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, and from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays for net practice and athletics practice.