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TRINITY NEWS

A Dublin University Weekly

THURSDAY, 1st FEBRUARY, 1962

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Commons Prices to go Up

RIISING COSTS TO BLAME

Deficit A "Staggering Figure"

THE Bomb has Dropped. The balloon has gone up. The lights are going out all over College. The Bursar has just announced the Board's decision to raise the price of commons to 4/6 as from next term. In an official release just circulated to the College Press, Dr. Chubb justifies the rise with a series of figures which could be of interest to those already no doubt planning a sit-down outside his office.

Since the last increase in the price of commons (1953), wages of the kitchen staff have risen 45 p.c. and the retail price of food about 20 p.c. Hard as it may be to believe, commons, far from being a profit-making enterprise, is actually run at a loss, and the Board has had to subsidise the resultant deficit to keep the price of meals at a reasonable level.

Now, however, the deficit has reached the figure of £7,500, and in order to ease the burden, the Board has been forced to take this regrettable but necessary step.

They had hoped that the increase in Buffet prices would have done much to offset the growing loss, but then the old inflationary spiral started acting up again, another wage increase for the kitchen staff was negotiated, and we were right back where we started from, if not further.

Statutory Privilege.

There is just one point which may occur to nasty minds, and

which it might be as well to forestall, before they go wasting their "Basildon Bond" Fellows, Scholars, and Sizars, who have their commons free, of course, do not dine at the expense of others. This privilege is by law a part of their salary, and is paid for from the general fund of the College.

And, if you look at it fairly, commons (apart from Saturday and Sunday, about which the less said the better) is about as good a four or five bobs worth as you'll get anywhere. It may not be lark's tongues and sturgeon roe, but at least it's wholesome, and there's plenty of it.



The head office of the E.S.B., whose proposal to demolish and re-build their offices in Fitzwilliam Street has caused widespread indignation. On pages two and three of this issue we publish interviews with the leading dramatis personae.

Vaccination Against Smallpox

NO SUGGESTION OF "GUINEA-PIGS"

AS you filed into the Exam. Hall last week to be vaccinated against smallpox, you probably noticed that some people were being done "M.P." and others "S," and you probably heard suspicious mutterings about "secret experiments" and "guinea-pigs." If you began to feel uneasy, you can relax. It is all very simple.

Dr. G. Bourke, of the Dept. of Social Medicine, told "Trinity News" that there was no question of a comparative test of this sort. He said that "M.P." and "S." (which stand, incidentally, for Multiple Pressure and Scratch) were two well-known and highly successful methods of vaccination. The only reason for alternating the two was to ascertain a few minor

details, e.g. to find which left the greater mark on the arm.

Dr. Bourke said that about 1,100 people had been done in the two days and his resources of vaccine had by no means been taxed. He stressed that this was not a mass-campaign, such as might be organised in an emergency. It was instituted by the Board as the result of a request from a number of students.

Finally, he asked "Trinity News" to convey his thanks to David Butler, S.R.C. President, and to the students who helped with the clerical side of the operation.

Library Improvements

Mr. Hurst, the Deputy Librarian, has just announced a new step towards improvement of the service in the Library. He intends to examine, over a period of about a year, which books are most used by readers, and he asks for the co-operation of everyone who uses the Library. A ledger has been put on the counter of both reading-rooms, and you are asked to note there the press-mark of books issued to you or unsuccessfully requested by you.

A Star is Born

NATIONWIDE
RECOGNITION
FOR THE J.D.

To watch television entails sacrifice for undergraduates—borrow money for a few bottles in a bar, or freeze outside a plate-glass window in Grafton Street. But it is worth everyone's while to make the effort at 7.15 on a Tuesday night, when Telefis Eireann presents "Postbag," a discussion programme featuring Dr. R. B. McDowell as a member of its distinguished panel.

In company with a school-teacher, a trade union official and a beauty expert, the Junior Dean considers questions sent in by viewers all over Ireland on all kinds of topics. He emerges as a polished and very engaging performer. The material, as always in such programmes, often descends to unbelievable fatuity, and even a boundlessly inventive wit would be hard pressed to keep the show entertaining. But the panel cope nobly with such questions as the favouritism shown to male customers by waitresses, and given a chance a real and vigorous discussion can develop. The Tuesday before last, for instance, a question on compulsory Irish found Dr. McDowell in a lone redoubt of dissent, standing out like a healthy thumb as he refused to pay lip-service to the myth of "The National Language."

Should you watch the show, do not be deceived by appearances. The Junior Dean's sartorial elegance before the cameras does not mean conformity, or any diminution of that individuality with which Trinity has been familiar for so long, and which Telefis Eireann is now presenting to the nation.

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S.R.C. MEETING

The agenda for the S.R.C. meeting to be held in Regent House next Monday at 7.45 p.m. will include a discussion of plans for the "Freedom from Hunger" week, further news about the Board's policy on rooms, progress report on the scarf scheme, an enquiry into fires and elections for the posts of Record and Correspondence Secretaries.

Hist. is Host with Most

THE last hurdle in the "Irish Times" Steeplechase was cleared on Wednesday evening of last week, when the Hist. played host to teams from faraway places with strange-sounding names, like Cork, Belfast, and Galway, as well as from nearer afield.

The Vice-Chancellor, Lord Rosse, was secured and secure as Chairman; and the motion was "That people have the Right to be Wrong," a motion designed to provide the maximum of testing for the competitors and the minimum of entertainment for the audience. Some speakers, however, e.g. Queen's University, managed to infuse a certain amount of light-heartedness into the desert of abstraction which prevailed, and it

was probably as a result of this that Michael Egan and John Murtagh of that university bore Diogenes north in triumph. Second was the Phil team of Hallam Johnston and Chris Wood, and Ian Blake of the Hist. was chosen as best individual speaker. The judges were Mr. D. Smyllie, Night Editor, "Irish Times"; Prof. E. A. Crawford, representing U.S.I., who organised the competition; and Prof. Stanford of the Hist.

TRINITY NEWS

A Dublin University Weekly

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Chairman:
John Watt.

Vice-Chairman:
Norman Sowerby.

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Godfrey Fitzsimons, Natalie Spencer, Alan Jones.

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Arthur Parke, Robert Hutchison, Michael Newcombe,
Derek Mahon.

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Paul L. Beale.

The ESB's Dilemma

The controversy over the E.S.B.'s decision to pull down its Georgian houses has now been raging for some months, and in that time it has ranged all over an enormous area of fact and fiction. The vigour of the discussion is welcome, but the unfortunate stage has now been reached where not only the wider implications, but even some of the immediate issues at stake are disappearing in the morass of opinion and argument.

The subject should interest us as Trinity students, with our own little corner of the 18th century tradition to be proud of, and it is in the hope of finding a way through the tangle of claims and counterclaims that "Trinity News" provides to-day's symposium of views from those most concerned, and most conversant with the facts.

The preservationist case has suffered as a result of several things — the gentle, faintly pathetic, ineffectuality of the Irish Georgian Society; the equivocal position of the Old Dublin Society; the virulence and sentimentality of writers to papers. But the basic mistake in all presentations of the case (even the reputable ones) is their aggressive attitude to the E.S.B.

The Board is an obvious and easy target, but has on the whole been unfairly attacked. Its case is very strong, and its conduct is bringing over Sir John Summerson was exemplary. In the final analysis, the problem is a financial one. If the E.S.B. had enough money, it would be able to acquire the adjoining land in Baggot St. and build another new office block, big enough for years to come, without disturbing Fitzwilliam Street. But within the limits of its budget the Board had no choice but to demolish the houses. Enough money to renovate them, buy new property, and to build there would solve the problem. The only place such money can come from is the Government, and the Government should provide it.

Thus to accept the Board's plea of necessity (and surely it is impossible not to) is not to accept the inevitability of demolition. Preservationists should now fight for the removal of that necessity, instead of denying that it exists.

Sooner or later, large parts of Georgian Dublin must fall down. Only determined action can save what is worth saving, and a decision must be made as quickly as possible on what is worth keeping. To preserve large public buildings is reasonable and usual. But Dublin is quite unusual in the amount of ordinary domestic architecture which has survived in the Merrion and Fitzwilliam Squares area, and now that town planning is again recognised as vital it would surely be madness to destroy this superb 18th century example of how it should be done.

People on both sides in the E.S.B. dispute agree on one thing—the urgent need for some overall plan. A Commission could be set up and every available authority and expert consulted before deciding what to preserve. The disputants agree on this point and there is no reason why the Oireachtas should be hampered by party considerations, should they discuss it. Agitation for a decision cannot start soon enough, and we hope Trinity's Senators will be in the van.

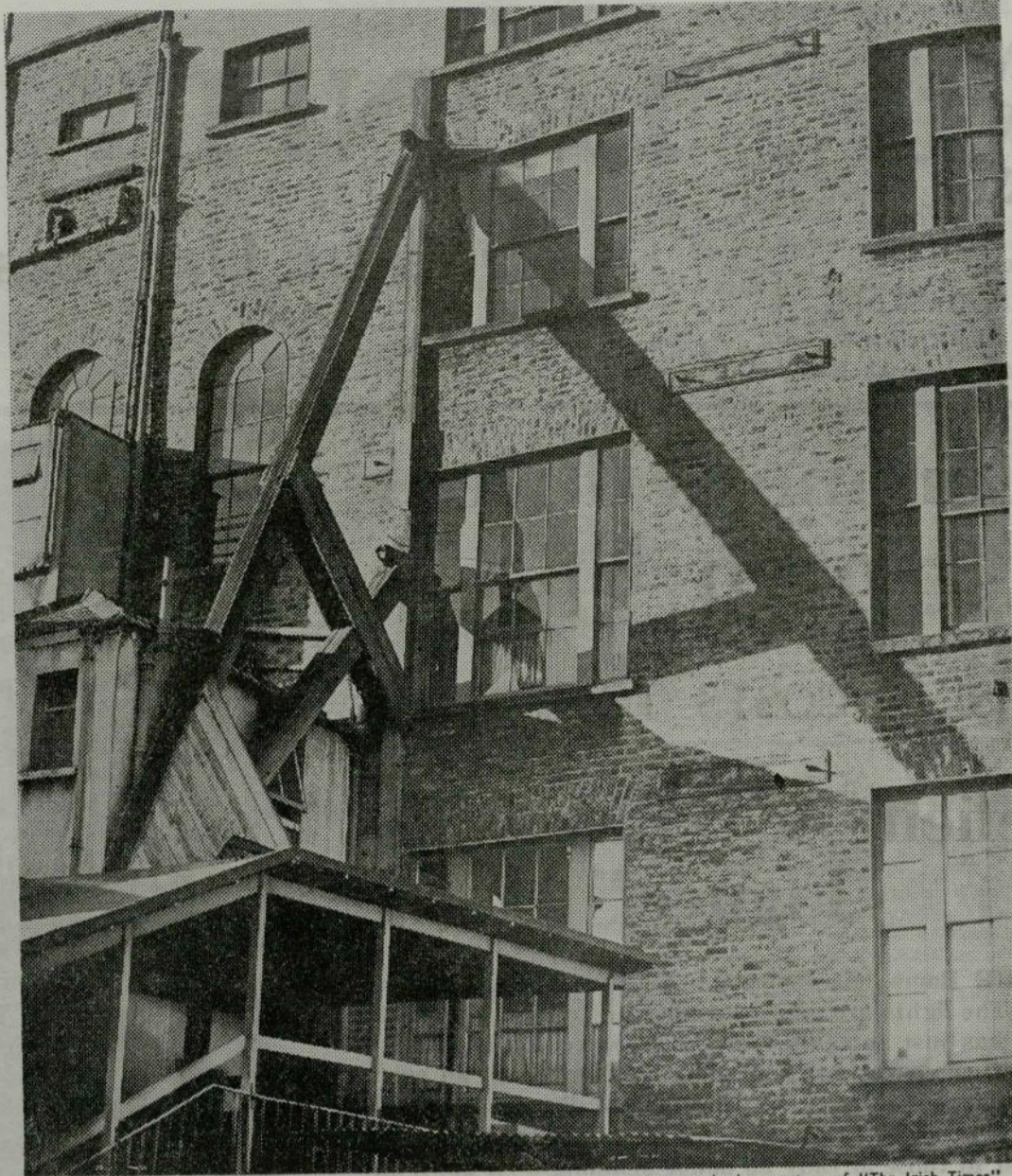
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Photographs by courtesy of "The Irish Times"

The other side of the coin: The rear of the E.S.B.'s premises

THE TWO FACES OF FITZWILLIAM STREET

Last year, THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD announced that they intended to pull down their offices contained in Georgian houses in Lower Fitzwilliam Street, and to replace them with a modern office block, because of an urgent need to expand. After protests that this would ruin the character of the area had been made, they invited

SIR JOHN SUMMERSON, the distinguished Georgian expert, to see if demolition could be avoided. Last December, Sir John's report was published. It stated that there was no practical alternative to demolition.

It was suggested then that LORD PEMBROKE, landlord of the site, might seek an injunction to stop any attempt at demolition.

THE IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY, in an attempt to raise massive public opposition to the E.S.B., placed a petition in the lobby of the Royal Hibernian Hotel, and asked EVERYONE to sign it.

THE E.S.B. FITZWILLIAM STREET PROTEST COMMITTEE, formed to fight demolition, organised a public meeting at the Mansion House earlier this month, at which one of the principal speakers was

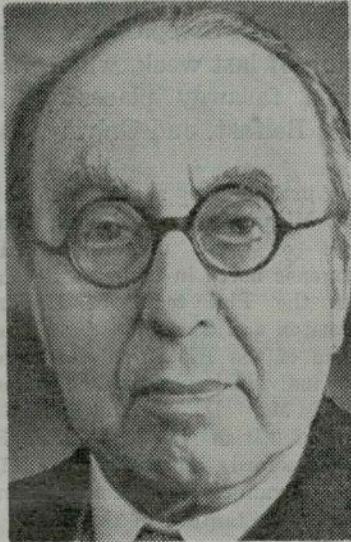
SIR ALBERT RICHARDSON, the outstanding British architect. Having inspected the premises, Sir Albert put forward a plan—that the houses be renovated and returned to domestic use, while the E.S.B. build a new tower on the unused space behind them. The cost of renovation he put at £6,000 per house.

Since then, DUBLIN CORPORATION has approved the E.S.B.'s plan, and a furious correspondence raged in the papers, with architects playing leading parts on both sides.

It might seem that nothing new could now be said on the subject. But by the industry of J. R. W. MASON, interviews with the leading personalities involved have been obtained for "Trinity News," and a careful reading of them all indicates that there may yet be hope.

SIR ALBERT RICHARDSON

Sir Albert Richardson, K.C.V.O., P.P.R.A., has advanced the plan that the E.S.B. vacate most of the lower Fitzwilliam St. houses, building their new accommodation in the form of a tower on the remain-



ing garden space. He estimates the cost of structural renovation and conversion back to domestic use at £6,000 per house. There are sixteen houses involved.

Sir Albert told "Trinity News":

"The main issue in this controversy is the interest of the general public in a heritage of beauty. Dublin, like Venice, has a charm denied to most capital cities; the mountains, the sea, the moist atmosphere blend the conventions of architecture and scenery in a way which is indescribable. This is recognised by ordinary folk to be a heritage common to all—do not despise it. Fitzwilliam and Merrion Squares form the most important contribution to the European manner of the eighteenth century. No one architect or particular individual was responsible for the charm and spontaneity of these productions of the craftsmen of the time. And no eighteenth century houses were

substantially built — does that lessen their merit?

"The plea to preserve the amenities is not made in any vain glorious mood, neither does it aim at placing one party against another. On the contrary, it has in mind the revitalising of a tradition which should form the basis of a modern movement without precedent. Restore the Irish Craft Guilds under the guidance of people from the universities, and those who have travelled, and are experienced in the arts. Use your own native materials—marble for instance—and build up your native crafts. But the moment anyone tries to commercialise, boycott him, Ireland with its stained glass artists, metal workers, small craftsmen, and painters, is ideally suited to become a centre for the arts. As Dryden says: "The wave behind impels the wave before..." But avoid at all cost what has happened in England."

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SIR JOHN SUMMERSON

1—What is your reply to the charge that you were called in to pronounce the last rites over the buildings in Lower Fitzwilliam Street?

I was simply called in to give an opinion and was given every opportunity to study the problem. Until I had done so I did not expect that I should advise against preservation.

2—Why did you not think that for the sake of the rest of the facades the buildings should be saved?

It has no special architectural coherence; it is not a planned facade nor an architectural entity. It is simply one damned house after another; this does not constitute architectural unity. It does not even constitute uniformity, for the houses are a sloppy, uneven series. I do see that for the sake of uniformity of character over a wide area there was some real point in considering preservation, but on balance it seemed to me wrong. It is nearly always wrong to preserve rubbish, and by Georgian standards these houses are rubbish.

3—Do you then think that the merit of Dublin architecture of this sort has been over-estimated, and that preservation

must centre rather on the large public buildings or country houses of the Georgian period?

I think the quality of these houses has been grossly over-estimated, but I would not confine preservation to major buildings. Planned groups of buildings even when perfectly plain can be very valuable. I would not, for instance, wish to see Merrion Square or Upper Mount Street disturbed. The trouble is that many people who want to preserve Georgian things lose all sense of Georgian values. I have seen the Place Vendôme and the Regents Park terraces mentioned as analogous to Fitzwilliam Street. If we come to think as loosely as that, preservation becomes sheer lunacy!

4—Did you form any opinion at all, whilst you were in Dublin, of what should be preserved in the Merrion Square and Fitzwilliam Square area?

No, I did not. That would require a very detailed study. I must emphasise, though, that such a study (of the whole Georgian area with a view to selecting the most significant portions) seems urgently required. It would not, I think, be reasonable to sterilise the

whole area, but control is essential. I am sure that many people would like to see a Government commission set up for this purpose. I would foresee the absolute preservation of Merrion Square and Fitzwilliam Square, and of parts of the adjacent streets. There are long stretches of negligible importance where opportunities for development might be allowed, but I would emphasise that it must be controlled development in order to preserve skyline, continuity of rhythm and general character. We do not wish Georgian Dublin to explode into a variety of personal "interpretations of the modern idiom." Discipline is the main virtue of the old; let us have discipline in the new.

5—Did you meet any of those bodies interested in the preservation of Lower Fitzwilliam Street, whilst you were in Dublin?

No. I made a point of meeting as few people as possible.

6—How did you go about your examination of the buildings? Did you have expert advice on their conditions at hand?

I was conducted round all the houses and given full information about their condition. But

the condition of the houses, although pretty bad, did not worry me. You can preserve anything if it is worth preserving. There are much more important things in Dublin than the preservation of Lower Fitzwilliam Street. What is the future of Henrietta Street? Here are houses of exceptional quality and rare historic interest. The same principles apply on the North side of the city as on the south, though I appreciate that this is a more difficult problem owing to the type of occupancy, re-housing needs and so on.

7—Do you not think the decision to demolish Lower Fitzwilliam Street minus two houses an extremely dangerous precedent?

It poses a problem which has got to be faced sooner or later, as it has been faced (or sometimes, alas, not faced) in every historic capital. Dublin is a living city and you cannot stop a living city from growing. Planning, rebuilding, and preservation have got to be considered together as aspects of the same problem, the problem of intelligent and civilised growth.

MR. E. DEALE Chairman of the Protest Group

1—Do you still adhere to Sir Albert Richardson's plan for the site?

We do not bind ourselves slavishly to the details of Sir Albert's solution. He came over to see if it was possible to preserve the buildings, and has established that it is. The houses should now be returned to their original use, as dwellings. The ground floors would be well suited to professional use by doctors, dentists or lawyers, especially the first; there is a big demand by doctors for consulting rooms in this district. The second and third floors would make admirable maisonettes, and the top floors could be boxrooms, or even flats. The demand for all these types of premises in this area is assured.

2—It has been said that Sir Albert's estimate of six thousand pounds per house for renovation and conversion is far too low, and that the real cost would be prohibitive. Do you still accept Sir Albert's figure?

We have checked the price with Dublin architects, and their estimates have been fairly close to Sir Albert's — close enough to show that it is not an unreasonable figure.

3—What is your reaction to the E.S.B.'s claim that the need for accommodation leaves them no choice but to rebuild in Fitzwilliam Street?

This claim is nonsense. There is plenty of unused space behind the houses. Car parking space could be provided under any new building, and the height limit is not an insuperable barrier. If more space is needed, the adjacent houses in Baggot St. — or at least their gardens — could probably be bought up, and plenty of room would then be available without disturbing Fitzwilliam St.

But why should E.S.B. use the most costly part of Dublin for mere office accommodation? Bord Failte have a case for this as they want to bring tourists into this 18th century square mile. E.S.B. could build far more cheaply elsewhere in Dublin. They would get a big sum for the 18 houses and would find buyers for their new building (behind) as there is great demand for office accommodation in Dublin.

4—Has the Protest Committee any views on the need for a plan covering the whole of Georgian Dublin?

The Committee, as such, has as yet no policy on this wider issue. But the general trend of opinion is probably in favour of a planned attempt to preserve as much as is practicable of 18th century Dublin. The only large old area in a good state of repair at present is that of which Lord Pembroke is ground landlord, in the south of the city. Lord Pembroke imposes stringent requirements in his leases, and is, in effect, doing the job the government should be doing in this respect.



MR. T. MURRAY Chairman of the E.S.B.

1—Is the reason for demolishing the buildings in Fitzwilliam St. purely financial?

No. The reasons are partly financial and partly a question of accommodation. The buildings, even if preserved, would provide only half the accommodation we must have.

4—Do you reject Sir Albert Richardson's plan completely?

Yes, we do. There are three main objections to Sir Albert's plan:

Firstly, such a tower would exceed height limits laid down by the Corporation for buildings in this area.

Secondly, it would leave no space to satisfy Corporation requirements for car parks (demanded of all new office blocks).

Thirdly, it would still not provide enough accommodation, would hinder full development

of the site, and would take up space at present usefully occupied.

3—What of Sir Albert's figure of £6,000 per house as the cost of restoration?

The figure is a gross underestimate. Our own experience in dealing with these houses tells us that more than twice this amount would not make a reasonable job.

4—Is there any chance of the E.S.B. acquiring adjoining property in Baggot St. and in James' St. and building there?

The Board does not envisage expansion into Baggot St. As an electricity authority it has no compulsory purchase powers to acquire such property.

5—Is the Board prepared to move elsewhere?

The Board is simply not prepared to, and indeed cannot,

vacate this site and split its headquarters. The cost of any such move would be an unwarrantable burden on electricity consumers.

6—Has Lord Pembroke made his intentions known to you?

The relations between landlord and lessee are not considered by the Board to be matters of legitimate public comment. Both parties must operate in accordance with the agreement between them.

7—Are the buildings so decrepit because of the treatment they received from the E.S.B.?

Definitely not. They were in poor condition when acquired. The Board has, in fact, spent considerable funds trying to keep them in usable condition pending rebuilding.

8—Why, then, did the Board acquire the property?

The Board had to have accommodation in the centre of Dublin and acquired these houses gradually from 1928 onwards. In fact, rebuilding was envisaged almost from the beginning. Rules for an architectural competition to provide a replacement were drawn up in 1938, but the competition was abandoned because of the war.

9—Will the Board DEFINITELY preserve the houses leased to it in Upper Mount St. and the two in Lower Fitzwilliam St. which are not to be demolished on this occasion?

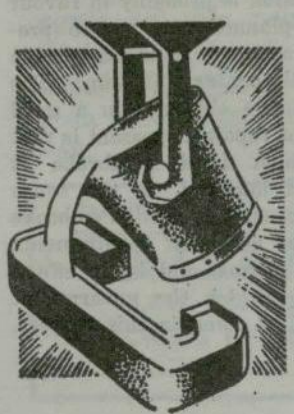
The Board's policy in regard to property occupied by it is to improve it and to preserve it as long as possible. There are no plans for rebuilding the houses referred to.

MR. E. DEALE
Chairman of the
Protest Group

CONSETT ?

never heard of it!

Surprising really, how many people haven't, considering that Consett Iron Company is one of the biggest Iron and Steel producers in Great Britain. Still, if you are in your last few months at Trinity it could be worth while finding out. Consett being a constantly expanding company, needs a regular injection of talent to keep it that way — that means "arts" men as well as natural scientists and engineers—if they are genuinely interested in an industrial career. Representatives from Consett will be at the Appointments Board on February 6th—why not go along and have a talk; they're quite human and they talk your language.



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MR. T. MURRAY
Chairman of the E.S.B.

Profile:

A LARGE personality, Bill Oddie has been at the centre of College life for a long time. He has contributed a great deal to Trinity, and undoubtedly deserves his position. However, most people prefer to interpret his obvious eccentricities rather than account for what produces them. Bill's colourfulness is the comparatively minor offshoot of an enormous vitality which demands a completely serious response.

Born in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Bill spent a few years at a council school where he led a gang which raided orchards and roasted potatoes in the woods. Later he attended a Non-Conformist boarding school with a strong Puritan tradition. He has wholeheartedly shaken off at least the superficial consequences of this. He came to Trinity in 1958, and is in his second year as a Junior Sophister, owing to a suitably Olympian attitude to lecture attendance. He studies English and French with a bias or perhaps prejudice in favour of English, in which his marks have been consistently high. A fine mind enables him to grasp the essence of an author immediately, and convey it dynamically in conversation or in exams.

His French is a more light-hearted affair. He approves of Voltaire, but generally fails to appreciate the ideas of foreigners outside music, and some of the lectures are at nine o'clock. Various Trinity activities have absorbed him, until the intensity of his attack has exhausted their potential. He was very involved in the Trinity production at the Gate Theatre of "The Beggars' Opera"—which, losing money, made a big impression. In his first term he played a ghost in "The Infernal Machine," but found the atmosphere of Players at that time what claustrophobic. He has been a disastrous treasurer of the Choral Society, and sings with it regularly. "Trinity News" has always relied heavily on his writing, but Bill neglected to become interested in it as a whole when occupying several menial positions on the staff.

W.M.O.'s reviews have always been extremely readable, his journalism of the first order. The signature means a personal and decided voice, expressing its likes with stimulating enthusiasm and

its dislikes with enjoyable disgust. When he became Chairman of "Trinity News" last term he thoroughly revolutionised the layout of the paper. He changed the page size, introduced five columns, chose the types and designed the page with a creativeness unprecedented during the career of the newspaper. He took care that photographs should be of a high standard and altogether made "Trinity News" easy to read and a pleasure to look at. Subject matter was slanted towards the arts, and the term dominated by his two fine articles on Berlin. Despite a rumour that he was skulking in Oldham at the time, he went to Berlin to make a radio-programme with other student-editors. Unfortunately some of his plans for "Trinity News" were frustrated by a lack of money. It mattered very much to him that the paper should be honest, entertaining and well written.

Bill has great talent but has aimed it at too many marks. He has played the trumpet, composed music which he prefers to forget, painted some large pictures, and begun a few brilliantly amusing short stories. His most finished achievements outside journalism are his conversation and his cooking. His standards are the continual reaction of excellent taste rather than evolved values. "Civilised" occurs again and again in praise of what he likes. Music, particularly Mozart, is a big part of his life.

He possesses a refreshing spontaneity of compliment and insult. A good memory and quick ear help to make him an outstanding mimic, but his mimicry is also remarkable parody edging into satire. His fun achieves the status of comment. Although undeniably soft-hearted and frequently sentimental, he has no time for affectation or the wrong kind of seriousness, the kind that forgets to enjoy things, also become an originator.

Photo by Peter Ryan.



**WILLIAM
ODDIE**

A broad Yorkshire accent and phrase dismiss such people to a degrading limbo. His mind demands interest and material all the time, whether from the Coffee Bar, the "Guardian," the Funnies, or Bertrand Russell.

In writing and in conversation he displays an inventive intelligence and unusual richness of language, savouring words and doing them justice.

But his responsiveness will never be translated into creativeness unless he concentrates, and part of the quality seems to prevent him from doing so. Art exhilarates rather than disturbs him, he is satisfied to exploit its forms instead of being impelled to explore them. He is completely equipped as a writer but not deeply disciplined. Without a doubt he is artistic and original; it remains to be seen whether he will

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I should be grateful if you would allow me space to thank the students and graduates who were so kind, at the end of last term, as to send me a collective letter of sympathy on my recent defeat at the Senate elections. Their gesture was one which I very much appreciated and for which I should like to express my warmest thanks.

I should like to add a word of appreciation, too, for the generous—over-generous—manner in which "Trinity News" dealt with the matter both editorially and in its news columns. The references to my record were overkind, but no-one in politics (or out?) objects to excess of praise!

Many thanks.

Yours truly,

18th January, 1962.

O. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

Martin Marprelate

For those of us engaged in what we sometimes fondly call undergraduate journalism, there are a number of occupational hazards. I have personally been the object of two bomb outrages, both perpetrated by the S.C.M., an extremist right-wing group, which I had castigated the week before.

I have also narrowly escaped unimaginable personal indignities at the hands of a muscular and inebriated rabble. But there is little in the armoury of the enemies of light and truth as deadly as one or two choice little expressions which have begun to become far too current these days. These gibes, two in number, have been employed about an amazing variety of people of late, and run as follows: (a) Pretentious (adj.) and (b) Pseudo-Intellectual (subs.). It is practically impossible to do anything these days apart from breathing without being called one or the other, or more probably both. Now, there is no denying that it is difficult to avoid taking some of the activities in which many undergraduates indulge too seriously especially if to the outsider what is entailed seems both lofty of purpose and obscure. The "Icarus" boys suffer most from this kind of thing, and they have my sympathy.

I have a suspicion that these phrases are heard most on the lips of people who don't do anything very much outside their course, health-giving activities excepted. I suggest three things—

1—Maybe a lot of people to whom this eighth deadly sin is

ascribed don't take themselves half as seriously as their accusers;

2—Even if they do, for God's sake what's wrong with that? At least they do something;

3—Such words as "pretentious," by over-use, become ineffectual when it comes to using them about things which really do deserve them.

*

It has come to the notice of this column that a new and terrible form of perversion is springing up in Botany Bay, and may lead to an outbreak of the dimensions of the great water-throwing epidemic of the Summer of 1961. This form of humorous diversion, my informant tells me, consists of assiduously collecting and hiding all paper, of any form, to be found in the lavatories of Botany Bay. The psychological implications of this practice are obvious. Water-throwing caused nothing more serious than temporary physical discomfort and possible apoplexy; it also demanded no small degree of skill. Paper-stealing requires no skill and repeated attacks may possibly cause great mental strain to its victims. The satisfaction these ruffians derive from this foul activity is difficult to understand. It is, of course, possible that the heady air of Botany Bay leads to mental irregularities of this nature; people who live in the Bay often have something a little odd about them. But whatever the explanation, the authorities should set an immediate investigation under way.

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We are also interested in meeting post-graduates and research men. Please contact your Appointments Board who will arrange interviews.

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Hallam Johnston and Susan Brooks, of New York City, who were married in Dublin just after Christmas. "Irish Times"

WELL DONE LARRY!

Sporting Briefs

Amateur international footballer, Robert Prole will appear on Irish Television to-night at 10.0 in a discussion on the amateur in sport.

Congratulations to C. W. Wilkinson on again being selected in the Irish Badminton team for the match against England.

The Soccer Club have been on tour in England finishing their preparations for the forthcoming Collingwood Cup competition. Goals from Lunde and Parry enabled them to defeat U.C.D. 4-3 in the first week of term.

The Secretary of the Bloodstock Society tells me that a constitution has just been drawn up for the Society. It is hoped to have a meeting in the very near future when the programme for the term will be arranged.

On Monday the Football Club's touring party left for their games in England. Oxford and Cambridge are among the sides they will meet. Apart from the regular members of the 1st XV, the team will include Mulrairie, Ryan, Fuller-Sessions, Boyde and Curry. An Easter tour in France has also been arranged by the Club and matches against Grenoble and Lyons will be played.

The Pavilion Bar is now open in term time whenever there is a major game in College Park from half-time until 6.45 p.m. Those who require its services for legitimate games should contact either of the Secretaries: R. Caldicott, 19 T.C.D.; T. Fuller-Sessions, 36 T.C.D.

BADMINTON CLUB

At the end of last term the Badminton Club went on a most successful tour of Scotland defeating Glasgow University and Edinburgh University 6-4 and 8-2 respectively. The club lost to Edinburgh Western Badminton Club 7-1 but this was a much closer match than the score indicates.

C. W. Wilkinson was unable to go on the tour as he was engaged in the Irish Close Championships. He is to be congratulated on winning the singles and the mixed doubles—an outstanding achievement. Miss N. Conway, who is a former international, will again be coaching the ladies on Monday afternoons.

Team—Men—Y. Y. Teh, V. Rasmidatta, H. A. Tau, and D. Halliday. Ladies—Misses M. Balding, L. Latta, H. Smiley, and A. Lowe.

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First Trinity "Cap" For 5 Years

THERE can be few rugby players to-day who have tried harder than Larry L'Estrange to gain an international cap. His enthusiasm and ability were rewarded last weekend when the Irish selectors picked him to play on the right wing against England in the forthcoming match at Twickenham and thus honour Trinity with its first cap for five years.

L'Estrange was educated at Blackrock College where he played alongside fellow international Niall Brophy in the school first team. He left Ireland to attend the University of Chicago but a year later returned to England for his National Service in the Royal Marines. Life as an officer was eventful for, as a parachutist, he saw action at Suez and Cyprus and as a sportsman represented the Army against the other services. It was after this experience that he came to Trinity to read History but he played rugby for his old school at first. A damaged knee put him out of the game for a considerable period and on returning he opted to join the Trinity Club. At first he could not find his best form and failed to get his Colours last year. It was after

Christmas that he started to improve steadily and at the end of the season he was the second highest try scorer in Leinster. This form has continued throughout this season as the honours have shown. He has represented Dublin in France and the Combined Universities against Scotland, been capped by Leinster three times and last Saturday played for the Probables in the Final Trial.

Although L'Estrange is a big man (over six feet and thirteen stone) he has a classical wing threequarter's style; an attractive, hard runner especially when near the line, with an elusive swerve. His selection is naturally a very popular one in Trinity and we all wish him well in his debut as an international.

1st XV ON WINNING RUN

The first game of the post-Christmas season was played against Palmerston on the 6th January. In a ragged but energetic game, D.U.F.C. lost 9-8. The reserve strength of the club was fully tested; the versatile Lea stood in at fly-half partnered by Conneally while Bourke, Langrell, Snow, Curry, Boyde and Leeson replaced the absent regulars. Lea scored all Trinity's points in this game by converting his own try and later landing a penalty.

A week later the College XV entertained Clontarf in the Park and had to field an even more hybrid side as the 2nd XV players had Cup commitments. All credit must go to the substitutes for displaying a great deal of courage if not skill to enable the visitors to be beaten 8-6; Stafford-Clark, Abbot, Donaldson and Martin were undaunted and performed with no respect for reputations. It was also good to see Robbins playing for his old club again. Pike and Abbot scored tries and Lea converted the second one to register a good win.

On the 20th of January Trinity, at last at full strength, played Blackrock and won well against last year's Cup winners. The powerful Bourke seems to have won a permanent place in the side as Bielenberg's partner in the

second-row, while Caldicott has reverted to wing forward at the expense of Baldwin. Trinity recovered well after being eight points down; Lea came into the line and fed L'Estrange who took his chance well and scored. Later scores were from Coker, a long-range penalty, and tries from Scott, L'Estrange and Powell. One other pleasing point was the discovery of a consistent place kicker. This has been Trinity's achilles heel all season but in this game Rees kicked three conversions to help his side win 21-16.

Last Saturday Trinity continued this winning run when they defeated Lansdowne 10-3 in the Park. In this rather scrappy game the team was slightly changed from the week before because L'Estrange was on duty in the Final Trial and Read and Beilenberg were injured. In a scoreless first half the forwards dominated the play with Trinity gaining most of the possession but good marking and covering especially by the Lansdowne back row prevented the backs from capitalising from this advantage.

The game opened up in the second half and Trinity went into a well-deserved lead when the ball bounced luckily for Coker after a kick ahead and he touched down near the posts. Rees kicked the conversion. This lead was nearly increased a few seconds later but Lea was tackled after a fine run of 40 yards just short of the line.

Lansdowne retaliated and after sustained pressure on the home side's line their scrum-half dropped a goal. Trinity fought off several further attacks and in the last minutes of the game Scott scored an excellent try and again Rees added the extra points. This was a good win that augers well for the side's tour in Britain and the Cup competition later in the season.

HOCKEY

Trinity—3; Pembroke—1

Trinity were, perhaps, a little lucky to win but this was a most encouraging improvement on previous displays. In the opening minutes a muddle in front of the Trinity goal let Pembroke in to open the scoring. Gradually Trinity found the tempo which suited them and just before half-time Heron levelled the score.

After the interval the game livened up and numerous attacks were made on the Pembroke goal. After one of these Trinity were awarded a penalty flick from which Varian easily scored. Although Pembroke fought back strongly they were unable to penetrate the home defence. Prestage made the game safe for Trinity when he picked up a loose ball in front of goal and scored with a fine shot.

It was pleasant to see J. McCarthy back on form and to see the forwards showing the determination necessary to score goals. E. Prestage had a good game and M. Varian excelled in the half-back line. The defence was sound but was apt to give away unnecessary short corners. However, this win was the result of good teamwork with excellent support being given to the forwards throughout the match by the half-backs.

BOAT CLUB

At the end of last vacation the prospective 1st and 2nd VIII's were training at Hammersmith under the coaching of Mr. P. Bradley and Mr. P. Holmes, the latter having rowed for Cambridge in 1960. These few days enabled the crews to settle down and cover considerable distances, something which is impossible to achieve at Islandbridge in so short a time.

After a few initial difficulties, the coxes who had not rowed on the Tideway before mastered the awkward conditions and Weinmann succeeded in changing sides and is now rowing powerfully on stroke side. The 1st VIII promises to be fast but it is unfortunate that the 2nd VIII, after showing much promise, has had to be disbanded as several members cannot row this term. Strict training started on the second Monday of term and the first event will be the Whyllie Cup at Islandbridge in March.

The Crew.

1st VIII—Bow, A. J. Jamison; 2, J. D. Spence; 3, L. T. Leonard; 4, I. Weinmann; 5, S. S. Newman; 6, C. R. Taylor; 7, A. Murdoch; stroke, J. V. Northwood; cox, B. Keatinge.

SAILING CLUB

The concerted efforts of sailing enthusiasts should see the six Fireflies in racing trim by the end of February, when trials will get under way. Those interested in taking part are asked to avail of the next few weeks to make themselves known at the boat store.

Who will make up the team is still anyone's guess, with three old Colours and several freshers with—to the other hopefuls—slightly alarming records; among these are F. Williams, British Schoolboy Champion, 1961, and his runner-up from Belfast, J. Nickson. This competition was sailed in Dragons under the burgee of Mudhook Y.C. and as Dragons have been chosen for this year's ANUSC races, these two have a good choice. Trinity will be defending this trophy which they won in Lough Long One Designs on the Clyde last year.

Those more interested in the Mermaids will be glad to hear that two suits of Terelyene sails are on order for this season. It is also hoped to race Stella again for the first time in three years.

Colonel May

(Trinity's Leading Tipster)

It is said that with the coming of Spring a young man's fancy turns to love; the Colonel suggests that it also turns to the prospect of landing the Spring double. The weights for the Grand National and the Lincoln have just been announced and already the Colonel has been inundated with requests for advice as to ante-post bets. These are still early days but Nicholas Silver with 10-10 appears to be the pick of the handicap. Tom Dreaper's Kerforo with 10-1 will certainly have support after her thrilling Thyestes triumph. The Colonel is waiting, however, and his Spring Double selection will probably come out just before the end of term.

Last term's profit was £27-19-0 and 4 of the Colonel's half-dozen to follow appeared in the vacation and won. The Irish scene will be particularly interesting over the next few weeks with Irish trainers finishing their preparation for Aintree and Cheltenham, and the Colonel will keep his clients in close touch with the latest information.

As regards this week's racing, The Penciller should prove a sound e.w. investment in the 2.45 at Wincanton to-day. The Nimrod Hunters' Chase at Stratford on Saturday should prove to be an epic struggle between Olympic Gold Medalist Larry Morgan on Colledge Master and Pride of Ivanhoe; the latter will probably win in a close finish. Tom Dreaper's Last Link is expected to keep up the good work at Leopardstown.

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