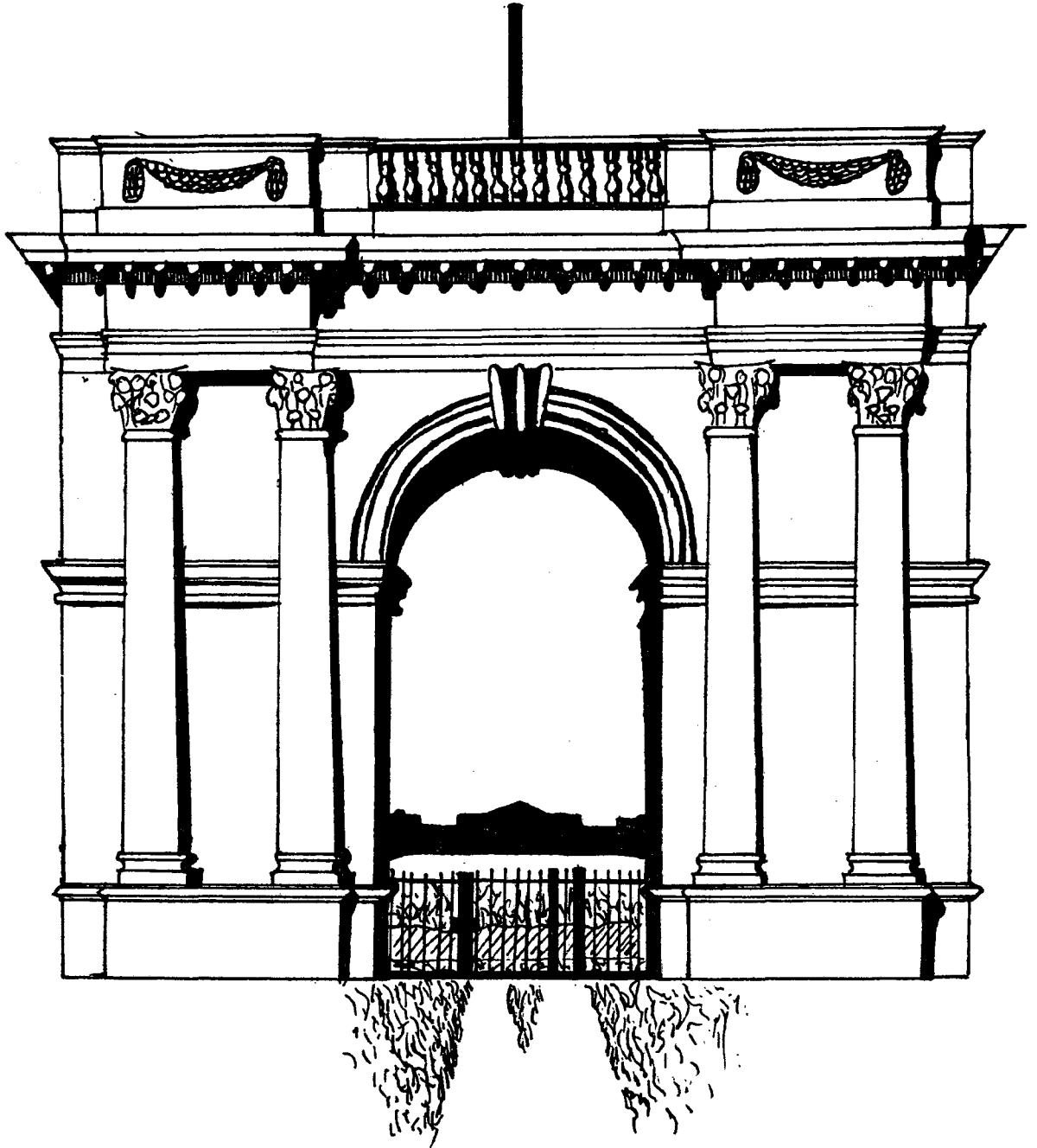


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THE STOIC

July 1974

Number 153



Vol XXVI
Number 2
July 1974

THE STOIC

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Frontispiece:

EDITORIAL

A sentence from an army recruitment advertisement which occupied a full page on several occasions in the national press recently sticks in my memory. The basic message of the advertisement was that most businesses considered a short-service commission in the army to be at least as good a qualification as a degree, and the particular sentence was to this effect: "You may not end up with a detailed knowledge of medieval French literature, but you will have learnt a lot about what life is really like." Leaving aside the claim that three or so years in the army is a lesson in "what life is really like", I should like briefly to consider the other question raised—that of the value of a detailed but somewhat narrow education at higher level.

Specialization really takes place after O-level, when most people begin a two year course in three, and only three, subjects. The prospective scientist will learn little of English literature, and none of that of other countries, while the historian or linguist will learn nothing of the scientific developments which are revolutionizing modern life. Arguing along these lines, many feel that education becomes too narrow, or at any rate becomes so too early. They claim that A-level courses should be designed to give a broader education. But this I believe to be wrong.

For we must choose between being "jacks of all trades" and masters of one. What is gained in breadth of knowledge is lost in depth, and the age is long past when a man could claim to be well-educated in every branch of learning. But this does not mean that it is impossible now to be well-educated; the 'intellectually curious' will become at least conversant with any number of subjects outside the set academic curriculum, but, at the same time, that same curriculum will provide an education in a few more or less connected subjects to a more advanced level. And if 'A'-level is still to mean 'advanced' level, specialization is necessary.

JOHN PARTINGTON

The Octagon Cascade

Michael Porter

SUMMER 1974

The Jubilee is dead routine carries on. After the summer celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Stowe it was predictable that for some, this, the 51st summer term, should represent something of a hangover. An anti-climax to its predecessor, it is true that it has not been a noticeably outstanding term but this does not mean that nothing has been happening. Stoics and Masters alike, with the sobriety of looming exams, have resumed their routine rôle and it is only the more self-indulgent Stoic who would criticise this existence.

We welcomed the return of Mr and Mrs Drayson, refreshed from their Easter tour, and Mr Arnold, who spent last term on a sabbatical in Cambridge. At the other end it is pleasing to note that, unlike most summer terms, there are only two departures from the teaching staff. Mr Macoun, himself an Old Stoic, leaves us for Canada and we wish him and his wife every success. His presence as Head of the Geography department and on the fives court will be greatly missed, but his influence will be remembered. Mr Jacottet leaves us after only two terms to get married, whether as a direct result or not is unclear, and we offer him our congratulations. Congratulations, too, to Mr and Mrs Larcombe, on the birth of their son, Richard. Although there are only two masters leaving several major changes have formulated on the teaching side: Mr Stephan retires from his position as Senior Tutor and Second Master at the end of next term but continues as Classics Tutor. Mr Clarke, who is having a sabbatical term in the Spring, returns as Senior Tutor and English Tutor. Mr Adams is appointed Second Master. Mr Theobald takes over from Mr Clarke as Housemaster of Grenville, and Mr Potter from him as Housemaster of Nugent.

On the recommendation of the Chapel Committee the whole School attended, somewhat apprehensively, a Communion service at Coventry Cathedral. There were obvious contrasts between the Cathedral and its service and our own, perhaps the most significant being that because of its size and grandeur the effect of a personal service was lost. The Cathedral itself, only 10 years old, is elaborately and beautifully decorated and it was generally felt that this was an extremely worthwhile experience.

The question of co-education has been considered at Stowe for several years now and next term sees Stowe 'co-educational' with the arrival of four girls—well you have got to start somewhere. They will be joining as day girls in the Lower VI and if all goes well should be joined by several more in future years. We look forward to their arrival.

For the second year parents were invited to attend the School Ball and the number present was an indication of its success. The summer summoned up all its characteristics for the occasion and the atmosphere was one of complete relaxation. Thanks must go to Masters and their wives, who accommodated boys' partners, sometimes at short notice, and to co-ordinator Mr Mee for all his efforts.

A somewhat unwelcome addition to the landscape has been the appearance of two ramps on the Oxford Drive. Designed to thwart would-be racing drivers it would appear that they have caused more trouble than their purpose is worth. Conscientious car owners will be pleased to hear that they have now been drastically diminished. Another, less controversial, renovation has been that of the cascade, which were in danger of decay. This, and other improvements, is a further sign that Stowe, grateful for its beautiful surroundings, doesn't intend to let them fall into disrepair.

Almost complete too is the reconstruction of the Old Biology Laboratory in the Power House Yard. Renamed 'Bruce House' and given a lick of paint it is now the residence of Mr Mead and his family, who seem to have adapted themselves to the open location.

The middle of term saw the newly redecorated Roxburgh Hall as the scene of a one-night performance of 'A Master's Mess' and 'Erpingham Camp'; in which the acting (talents?) of masters and their wives were ruthlessly exploited by Producer Mr Potter. Both halves of the evening were uninhibited and highly entertaining and both revealed a good deal of ability. The producer and actors certainly achieved their aim of giving everybody a good laugh, while

enjoying it themselves at the same time. Thanks must go to Richard Neufeld, who has done the stage lighting in the Roxburgh Hall for the past five years, for his usual excellent lighting. Concerts this term have been of a very high standard with a piano recital in the Queen's Temple by Francis Watson, and several others in the Roxburgh Hall. There have been House Art exhibitions from Temple, Chandos and Cobham, all of which were outstanding.

The Epicurean too made its once four-yearly appearance with its characteristic flavour of satire. Although much of its likely content had been absorbed by the fortnightly publication *The Middle Voice* there was still much to be found. Perhaps though the material was a little too subtle for a Speech Day publication to be fully appreciated.

Sport has had its successes this term but on the whole the results have been mixed. The 1st XI has won 2, drawn 4, and lost 4 at the time of going to press. There is a danger of complacency if success comes too easily and we must ensure that our abilities are tested by talented opposition. Success is worthwhile in so far as it is a measure of real skill and determination.

In the Jubilee year we did look back and assess our past achievement and it gave immense pleasure to see that a young school had done so well. But now, a year later, let us look to future achievement and not rely on the past, so that after a hundred years the pleasure will be greater still.

RORY KNIGHT BRUCE

THE SCHOOL SHOP

It is probably time that, once again, members of the School were told what happens to the supposedly huge profits made in the Shop. These are by no means as large as common opinion suggests but, although the Shop is not run primarily as a profit making concern, they do exist and are distributed. When making grants the Shop Committee first of all makes sure that the money is not given to something that should be a charge on normal school funds, but to what might loosely be described as "Boys' Welfare". The more boys taking part in an activity which applies for help and the more those boys are prepared to help themselves, the more generous we tend to be.

However, since the last report in these pages, rising prices and difficulties in obtaining supplies have had a considerable effect on the Shop as on all retail traders. In recent months the Manager has had to buy what is or will be needed when it is available at a price often above the selling price of the stock it replaces. As a result we have had greater expenses and larger stocks, and far smaller profits for distribution.

So, temporarily at least, the days when we could donate £6,000 towards the Swimming Pool are past and instead we are contributing smaller amounts to more varied objectives. As well as regular subsidies to Chapel Reading and Natural History Society Prizes we have recently been able to pay for the new equipment in the Gramophone Room, a table-tennis table for Nugent, a television aerial for the Blue Room in the Sanatorium, and many other minor items. A grant was also made towards the refitting of the 1st XI scoreboard, a bridging loan was made to help in the purchase of some items from the Marquis of Buckingham's dinner service (at present in the Gothic Library but soon, it is hoped, to be on permanent exhibition for all to see) and, as a result of our stall at the Jubilee Fair, over £160 was paid to the Central Fund.

None of this would have been possible without the unstinting services of Mr and Mrs Craig and their assistants to whom all the shop's customers owe so much. Therefore, although our prices may not always compete with supermarkets, who can often sell items for less than we pay for them, remember that this is your shop and that your expenditure on Cokes, Mars bars, groceries, clothing and sports equipment can help to make life more bearable for you in more ways than one.

M. F. FOX

A.M.M.

A.M.M. (© 1962)—Old Stoic of the best possible kind of course!—has been one of the most committed men at Stowe since he joined the staff in 1970. Apart from running the Geography Department, he has involved himself in a multiplicity of different school activities. He has given Fives a new lease of life—there are more boys playing the game now than ever before and in the last year the First and Colts teams, particularly the latter, have recorded most satisfactory results against “specialist” schools and clubs. The Young Farmers Club, the Geographical Society (formerly the Cosmographers), and the Stowe Golf Club have each benefitted from his attention and organising ability, and, in addition, practically every school sport has received his willing support at all levels—he is a grossly under-rated cricketer and hockey player, especially by himself!

But Stowe’s main debt to A.M.M. is for the work he has done in the Geography Department. Geography has formed part of the curriculum since the School’s foundation but it is only in the last two years that a proper Geography Department has been established. Although the idea was not new, it required the planning talents and determination of A.M.M. to bring it into effect. He started campaigning on the day he arrived and, in spite of his colleagues, he has overcome innumerable problems and finally reached his goal almost single handed. As Head of the Department he has also had to cope with the changing moods of the examiners, requiring him to reorganize most of the geography courses taught in the school; he has been an influential member of the Rugby Group of Geographers and as a result Stowe’s Geography Department is now highly regarded among member schools; and finally his most onerous, and certainly his most expensive task has been chairing departmental meetings, and as a result he is emigrating to Canada!

A.M.M. takes up the post of Senior Geography Master at Ashbury College, Ottawa, in September, leaving behind him a void which will be hard to fill. Our best wishes for a successful future go with him, his wife and ever increasing family, together with our thanks for all he has done in his all too brief career at Stowe.

OBITUARY

GEORGE HENSLEY

George Hensley was introduced to Stowe a quarter of a century ago when he was contracted to repair the wall in one of Stowe’s State Rooms. He spent the remainder of his life in devoted service to the School. A skilled mason, his exceptional craftsmanship was fully turned to preserving and restoring the grandeur of the buildings. Nothing seemed too ambitious or intricate for him to tackle.

Formerly a sergeant in the R.E. and a veteran of Dunkirk, George was a forceful and extrovert personality and he enjoyed joining in everything going on. No staff party was complete without his gravelly rendering of “Any Old Iron”. Despite suffering a serious accident to his foot in the service of the School, he was an active and enthusiastic golfer and swimmer. At home he displayed remarkable artistic talent with his painting ability. He prided himself, justifiably, on his home wine making activities; it always gave great pleasure to George to proffer, and indeed to his guests to receive, a glass of one of his well matured vintages.

George showed immense courage and a characteristic unflinching refusal to accept the inevitable during his final six months of illness. In this he was unflinchingly supported by Edna, his devoted wife, whose bravery, cheerfulness and encouragement won the unstinted admiration of all who were privileged to know them. Besides his widow, he leaves behind a daughter and grandson.

He will be sadly missed by all.

SPEECH DAY

Once again the Speeches and Prize-giving were the centre-piece of the day and, after last year’s less formal gathering, a large number of Stoics, Parents and Old Stoics assembled on the South Front. Mr Anthony Quinton (T 1942), Chairman of the Governors, welcomed the Chief Guest, Mr E. J. Callard, Chairman of I.C.I., and invited the Headmaster to speak.

The Headmaster’s Speech

The Headmaster welcomed the guests and, especially, Mr and Mrs Callard. He congratulated I.C.I. on their £2 million profit this year and suggested that as Mr Callard was a keen gardener “he could do far worse than contemplate following in the footsteps of Capability Brown . . . and joining us here as a voluntary gardener.”

The Headmaster congratulated Colonel Sir Tufton Beamish (T 1935), a Stowe Governor, on his elevation to the peerage as Lord Chelwood of Lewes in the County of Sussex, and made special reference to the death of George Hensley, for 25 years a stone mason at Stowe. An obituary appears elsewhere in the magazine.

He then regretted the departure of the Geography Tutor, Mr A. M. Macoun (© 1962), for a teaching post in Ottawa, referred to various internal changes to take place in September, and thanked “Mr Stephan for the splendid job he did in running the school during my absence last term.”

Turning to School events during the last year the Headmaster mentioned the continuing programme of restoration in the grounds and gave “a kaleidoscopic hotch-potch of Stowe happenings”, which are reported in this and earlier editions of *The Stoic*. He announced the decision to accept four girls into the School in September, and referred to the new Stowe Estates and Sports Club, the profits of which would help to defray the enormous cost of running the School.

The Headmaster mentioned the increasing cost of an independent education, and said:

“And what we must now do is to ask ourselves quite seriously and quite sincerely whether there is any justification in preserving schools like Stowe. We have now completed our first 50 years. Like the cricketer who has completed his 50 or his 100, we must now take fresh guard and take stock of the field around us, and set to with a will to complete our next 50. What we should now be doing is to thank God for the past and look forward to the future. To ask ourselves whether we do have something in the independent schools which is worth preserving; whether we do have, or ought to have, a conscience about privilege—it is certain that some of our boys do. Whether it is worth fighting for survival, and whether indeed we can survive. The fees at our schools will, I am sure, before long be £1,500 a year. In the United States, in Canada, in Australia, they are already near £2,000 a year. In all those countries the number of parents who are prepared to pay that money to send their boys to independent schools is declining. In this country at present there is still a very great demand for places at our schools. Our lists are closed until 1978, and if I have to turn a boy down he does not find it too easy to find an alternative school to take him. If the Direct Grant schools are forced to do so, a good many of them will become independent and as things stand at present with this great demand, they should be well placed to do so. Some have already done so with considerable success.

“At this present time no political party has a clear educational policy. It is sad to see the Labour Party, which in its beginnings had men of deep social conscience, now thinking only materialistically about education. Schools must be living communities, and not just part of an experiment in education. Politicians have, for example, decided to extend the school leaving age to 16, and yet I have not heard one schoolmaster who thinks this is a sensible move. There are, after all, a good many young people who would choose voluntarily to stay on, and their progress is now hindered by those who seek to disrupt and destroy. Education has become a political game and the politicians have lost their way in a mist of educational theory.

“The time has come for all schools which aim to set high standards to propose a pattern and a philosophy for education which meets the needs of children, parents, teachers and the country as a whole. There are schools which are too large, where there is a lack of communication between teachers and parents, and teachers and children; this is not an attempt to knock down the comprehensive idea, but we must all seek to evolve a positive philosophy about the nature of a school, about what constitutes a happy atmosphere which is conducive to learning. We should seek to show that liberty is more important than quality, and that British schools should continue to concern themselves with the whole nature of children; they are not just people to be crammed with facts. The independent schools must seek to offer a lead. There are, of course, many good State schools, and we hope there will be more, but the problem in the meantime for an independent school must be to provide an alternative of excellence. This is not so much a matter of competing, but one of setting the highest possible standards to attract parents and to make it worth their while to spend these large sums of money on their children’s education.

“What helps towards excellence? Our *size* helps us to offer a personal service. All of us should know the real meaning of caring for individual boys—*size*. Our whole set-up offers *participation*—*participation* by every boy in the school in the wide range of activities outside the classroom—music, drama, sport, community service—*participation*. And, thirdly, we offer in all our schools, boarding perhaps more than in day, *time*. *Time* for a boy to be involved in all these activities. We are rich in *time*; time for activities, time for personal relationships, time to become a person. And, above all, in independent schools we have the authority and the freedom to proclaim that the school lives by certain standards. We are able to lay emphasis on such things as truthfulness, honesty, courtesy and service to others. These are the things we must preserve and nourish. J. F. Roxburgh said some 50 years ago: “A school must have its own character, with no imported pattern.” It is not so easy in 1974 to step out of line with the general pattern of society, with the drive to make everything the same and everyone equal. As another Headmaster said recently: “In the welfare state, society has become increasingly non-competitive, cushioned, equal, all-found and all-decided. As the system increases its hold over us, we find signs of increasing rejection and discontent especially among young people who have been brought up in this system. The spoon-feeding, cossetting and limited incentives of a welfare state conflict with the evolutionary need and produce a widespread frustration.” This is what a school like Stowe must not accept. This is why those in authority in this school and others simply must have the courage to say ‘No’ to constant demands for everything to be made easier. This is why, for example, we must continue the tedious, wearisome and nagging business of stressing the need for tidiness of appearance, punctuality, good manners, responsibility, reliability, accountability, and not just give way to the cry ‘everyone else is doing it, why shouldn’t we?’ I hope it is true to say that this school is run on common sense. Most boys accept this quite happily. It saddens me when a few, the hidden minority, do from time to time seek to disrupt the sensible and reasonable way of life in the school.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the time has come for me to leave off and give room to our Chief Guest. May I just conclude by saying this? My wife and I enjoyed enormously our world tour, and are extremely grateful to the Governors for allowing us to take last term off. Much as we enjoyed the countries we visited, we found nowhere we would prefer to live than in England. We visited no schools we preferred to our own school, and no way of life to our way of life. We found nowhere the green fields and the villages. We found only friendliness and real interest in the school and in England and enormous kindness at the hands of Old Stoics in Africa, Australia, Canada and the Bahamas. We found amongst so many people a longing to see England again, or perhaps for the first time. We found a genuine sadness among so many people for the economic troubles of the Old Country; but economic crisis, or no, we were pleased to be home and to hear how well the school had been run in our absence. And here I would say again that we owe a very great debt to Brian Stephan, Second Master and Senior Tutor, who carried the burden of responsibility during last term. Everyone told me how well the school had run in my absence. Perhaps I should go away again.

“Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.”

Mr E. J. Callard’s Speech

“When I was the age of the youngest of you sitting down there, we lived in rather a different kind of world. Things were a good deal quieter and slower. There was no television, and even radio was in its infancy. There were cars, of course, but they were ponderous machines and tended to boil over when going up hills. Aeroplanes were still quite a curiosity—the first non-stop trans-Atlantic flight hadn’t been made many years before. If you wanted to travel you went by ship or train, and a very long time it took.

“Around the house there were differences too. There were no detergents to make washing-up easy, no drip-dry clothes made from synthetic fibres, buckets and bowls were made of galvanised iron instead of polythene, and because there were no plastic surfaces, floors and tables had to be scrubbed to make them clean. If you fell ill, say with pneumonia, your chances were not nearly as good as they are now, because there were no antibiotics. Nor did we have then the jabs you get now to protect you against diphtheria and polio.

“All these things, and an awful lot more, have changed in my lifetime. We whizz about in aeroplanes as a matter of course, we sit in front of our television sets watching men walk on the moon, and we take all the great medical advances for granted. But even more interesting, I think, is the fact that boys have changed since my day.

“I don’t mean that we looked different when I was a boy. We were much the same size and shape, we were more or less as clean, but we were less aware of what was going on in the world. I suspect that all of you know a good deal about the world’s problems, from television and newspapers, from your school work, and perhaps even from experience of doing your own kind of voluntary service. You know that there are people starving in some countries, that there are great social and political problems in others, and that here at home we have our own difficulties, such as strikes, drug-taking, overcrowded mental hospitals, the balance of payments and goodness knows what else. You not only know what is going on, but you want to do something about it, and you are not shy about questioning the values of the old fogies of previous generations who stand up and talk on Speech Days. I think this kind of discontent and this kind of questioning is a good thing, but I am not sure that the answers your generation arrives at are always the right ones.

“What we all want is a world where everyone has a decent standard of living and the same rights as his neighbour, regardless of colour and creed. Some people think they can bring this about by marching and protesting. But I must say I cannot see how waving banners or kicking policemen will solve any of our problems. Then there are the people who express their disgust with the state of the world by opting out altogether. But again, it is really not going to be much help if you evade the issues and retire to Afghanistan or Nepal.

“These attitudes may spring from a feeling of frustration; you see the need for a just world but you cannot see how to bring it about.

“Perhaps the answer is much simpler than you think. If we are going to have better social services, more hospitals, houses and schools, and if we are going to give financial and technical support to under-developed countries so that they can achieve a better standard of living too, then we need the resources to do so, or the extra money to spend. This is an industrialised country, so the task of creating this money falls mostly on the shoulders of industry, which is the main creator of new wealth.

“It is really as simple as that. The future of our society—and that means your future—depends very much on how well our industries perform, on how successful and efficient they are. I think this connection between industry and the welfare society is worth driving home, because some people get confused about it. They cannot see that making chemicals or making cars has anything to do with building a better world. Now, I must admit that we could at a pinch do without cars, or do without polytetrafluoroethylene that stops the eggs sticking to the frying pan. But what we are really making in industry is goods which earn money, or profit.

“This word ‘profit’ will shock you terribly if you think of it in terms of bags of gold that end up in private bank vaults. But of course profits don’t get locked up, they circulate. They create

more jobs, more spending power, new industries—more wealth—and all the while the Government is taking its cut in the form of taxes. And it is from these taxes that much of the money for our hospitals and schools and foreign aid comes.

“Each year industry in this country produces twenty-seven thousand million pounds worth of goods and services, which is almost half the total national wealth, and pays one eighth of the total of direct taxation. It provides employment for nearly ten million people who share seventeen thousand million pounds in wages and salaries, which is taxed again in the hands of the recipients.

“No one in industry need ever doubt then, that he is doing a useful job. I will not pretend that many people enter industry with the feeling that they are going to reform the world. They take up research, or engineering, or selling, or labour relations because they see these jobs as an outlet for their skills and talents. But if the world is going to be made a better place, it is these skills and talents that will provide the means with which to do it. In science-based industry, particularly, there are also opportunities to contribute even more directly to the welfare of mankind. New medicines, new ways of increasing food production, and discoveries and developments in many other fields, are helping to make life easier for millions of people.

“Some of you may be afraid of industry because you see it as an inhuman system that will crush your individuality. Certainly, when I started work things were run on rather regimental lines. There were people who gave orders, in no uncertain terms, and other people who carried out these orders. One of the most important discoveries made since then is that no human enterprise run on these lines can be really successful. No man, however good his pay, will work happily and efficiently unless he can see some point to what he is doing and unless he can contribute his own ideas about how the job is organised and carried out, and no fair-minded employer should expect him to. He is not looking just for a living, but also for a sense of satisfaction and achievement. In this kind of industrial system individualists are not only welcome, they are badly needed; we need people who will question and probe and be restless to make things better. Industrial companies come under fire these days, particularly if they are successful, big, or multinational but few critics seem to bother to think where we would be without them.

“Public schools, too, are under question, sometimes because they are said to be divisive in social terms. There may be some case for saying that the basis of entry is mainly through ability to pay, and so those that can't pay can't come, but it is after all due to the thrift and effort of our parents and grandparents that some are able to be here today. And what is wrong with thrift? I have much enjoyed the experience of both public school and industry. In industry I have not found the products of a public school to be divisive through their subsequent influences. I have found many who did not go to a public school to be so.

“So, let us continue to question: but let us only decide on the basis of evidence, real scientific evidence, and not be drawn into disputes by unreliable and emotional dogma. Maybe, in that, is something of what education is all about.”

THE STOIC

In view of increasing production costs it has been decided to publish *The Stoic* twice rather than three times during the year. Henceforth, the magazine will appear in December and July.

MUSIC

Sunday, March 24th, 1974, at 8.00 p.m. in Chapel

BACH: MASS IN B MINOR

STOWE CHORAL SOCIETY AND ORCHESTRA, conducted by David Gatehouse

To produce a work of such grandeur and complexity as the B Minor Mass with mainly amateur resources is a remarkable enough achievement at any time; to produce it under such difficulties as beset last term, with recurrent 'flu sabotaging rehearsals, bears witness to a no less remarkable blend in Mr Gatehouse of faith and determination. The demands of this magnificent work, as of all contrapuntal music, make no concessions to the sloppy or incompetent; awkward moments in homophonic music can sometimes be slurred over, but if Bach is not done well he sounds terrible. I thought this performance a sheer delight from beginning to end. Obviously one could find fault here and there; the balance between orchestra and chorus was not always perfect, the brass in particular being a little heavy; there was some lack of clarity in the 'Credo' and some shakiness of rhythm in the 'Confiteor' and the 'Sanctus'; the tremendous pace taken in the 'Gloria' led understandably to momentary confusion; the various vocal lines were sometimes unevenly emphasized. But these are trivial criticisms when set beside the totality of the performance, the vigour and excitement of the greatest choruses—the 'Kyrie Eleison', 'Cum Sancto Spiritu', 'Sanctus', 'Hosanna in Excelsis' and the beautiful 'Dona Nobis Pacem' which closes the work.

I must confess to finding the solo parts of the Mass much less moving than the choral, but that is merely a matter of personal bias, and clearly their calmer and more reflective musings form an integral part of the intricate pattern of the whole. The effectiveness of the soloists varied, I suspect, according to one's seat in Chapel, and listening to them from the side I was at some disadvantage. The two most attractive solos are given to the alto, namely 'Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris' and 'Agnus Dei', and Elsa Kendall sang them with touching dignity and richness. The bass is unlucky in being faced with the only relatively dull piece of writing in the whole work, 'Quoniam Tu solus sanctus', and Ian Caddy's rendering was also rather dull and unclear; his other solo, however, 'et spiritum sanctum', was an altogether finer performance, sung with confidence and warmth.

With the sublimity of its conception and its masterly union of formal design and original inventiveness the B Minor ranks among the noblest products of the European mind. Its emotional impact is akin to the cathartic effect of high tragedy. It is not any exaggeration to say that this performance achieved that effect. To Mr Gatehouse himself the chief credit must clearly go as the guiding and controlling spirit; from all the others involved in this excellent performance it is fair to make mention of the Queen's Temple Singers, whose experience and loyal efforts provided the core of the work, and of Mr Drayton both as playing the harpsichord continuo and as largely responsible for the organization of the whole enterprise.

B. S. STEPHAN

Saturday, May 25th, 1974, at 8.00 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC, conducted by Maurice Miles

It was a pleasure to attend this concert, as the orchestra was talented and undoubtedly well-practised at their music. The Gabrieli Sonata for brass, which was heralded by the programme as an appropriate opening piece, justified this description, being performed with sensitivity and precision. But perhaps the most beautifully played work of the evening was Vaughan-Williams' 'Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis' which was performed with quiet dignity but nevertheless with an appreciation for its wide emotional range; the strings achieved a wonderfully rich sonority in the climaxes.

Yet the Sibelius Violin Concerto proved even more inspiring and impressive, largely due to Michael Bochman's magnificent performance of the solo part. His virtuosity was manifest,

and his rendition was powerful yet sensitive. His tone was particularly beautiful in the rhapsodic lines of the beautiful contemplative slow movement, and the finale was vigorous and jubilant. Mr Bochman's playing was of great skill, and often outshone the admirable orchestra.

As their final piece, the Royal Academy chose Elgar's Enigma Variations; though it was played competently and with moments of real insight, it somehow failed to equal the standard set by the first half. One hesitates to say that the choice was over-ambitious, but the performance sometimes suffered from lapses in clarity and ensemble. Yet the finale captured the majestic force and strength of Elgar's music.

The concert was undoubtedly a great success: of the Stowe Music Society orchestral concerts I have attended, this remains *sui generis*.

KARAN THAPAR

Saturday, June 1st, 1974, at 8.30 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall

SPEECH DAY CONCERT

STOWE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA, conducted by David Gatehouse

This concert was unusual in that it included three concertos performed by members of the school; Howard Goodall was the soloist in a Handel F major Organ Concerto, Paul Rivalland, Jonathan Kermode, and George Barwood each took two movements of the Bach Double Violin Concerto, and Hugh Richards played Haydn's C major Cello Concerto. In addition, we also heard an avant-garde piece especially composed for Stowe by Christopher Wintle, and a selection from Mussovsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition".

Rather a marathon, in fact, and with only a few weeks of rehearsals the orchestra coped with the vast amount of music with a varying degree of success. The orchestral playing was only rarely polished and was sometimes rather ragged; the string sound in particular was rather thin, perhaps unavoidably when one considers the scarcity of good string players in the school at the moment. But any school orchestra has its limitations, and it is a creditable achievement that these performances were never less than enjoyable to listen to.

The standard of the solo playing, however, was much higher and the highlight of the evening was for me Hugh Richards' fine performance of C major Cello Concerto. Haydn's concertos tend to be fairly mild and undemanding technically; this work, only discovered in 1961, is definitely an exception, requiring a high degree of virtuosity. This was a vigorous and full-blooded performance, perhaps a bit too much so at times. The soloist's technical command was very much in evidence, particularly in the lethal passage-work in the finale, and his tone was consistently full and rich.

Intonation was the main problem in the Bach Double Violin Concerto. On the whole, the outer movements were more successful than the slow movement, rhythm and ensemble both being good. This work is nearer to the baroque concerto grosso than to the classical concerto, and it is to the credit of the three soloists that they merged so successfully among themselves and with the orchestra, with none of them attempting to dominate the others. Howard Goodall's Handel Organ Concerto, though less memorable as a piece of music, was also enjoyable and thoroughly competently performed.

Christopher Wintle's "Commentaries" consist of a series of very short pieces for flute, violin, clarinet, cello, and tape, although the latter did not arrive in time for this performance. One hesitates after only one hearing to criticise the work for lacking coherence or for seeming to be merely a collection of random, unconnected noises, as a closer knowledge would probably reveal that this was not in fact the case. This was, however, unfortunately the impression communicated to the audience, although the piece made pleasant listening. The selection from Mussovsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" was appreciated rather more; particular mention should be made of Andrew Scott's saxophone playing in the haunting "The Old Castle", and of the brass section in the triumphant finale, "The Great Gate of Kiev".

FRANCIS WATSON

Saturday, June 8th, 1974, at 8.15 p.m. in The Queen's Temple

PIANO RECITAL by Francis Watson

I could review this recital in two possible ways, by treating it either in the context of school music making or by approaching it as a rendering of great music. Were I to adopt the former approach I should merely be in the position of giving it unqualified praise. If, therefore, I do not praise unqualifiedly it is because the performance rose above anything one would normally expect in a school context and must in consequence be given a fully critical review.

Francis Watson showed a rare grasp of mood in the Brahms and Schumann pieces. The inward quality of the Op. 117 Intermezzi was beautifully conveyed, as well to some extent as I have ever heard. Their yearning yet withdrawn mood was skilfully sustained and the technique admirable. In the 'Carnaval' the sheer technical difficulty is much more to the fore and many a well-established pianist has come to grief over some passages. There was no need for anxiety on this occasion and at the same time there was no feeling that sensitivity was sacrificed to display. The lightning changes of mood were vividly conveyed and the climaxes dramatically executed. If there is one slight quibble about these two pieces it is that there was no point at which the music was allowed to be simple. But perhaps the need for any of it to be "semplice" is open to question.

The Beethoven Sonata in F minor was I think marginally less successful than the more romantic pieces. Francis Watson's grasp of mood seemed perhaps better than his grasp of the large scale architecture of the sonata. Not that it was in any way an unenjoyable or inadequate performance, indeed there was much fine playing in it, but that almost indefinable element of wholeness seemed to elude it despite the obvious continuity between movements. In fairness I should say that I have never yet heard, except in the imagination, a performance of the "Appassionata" which did satisfy me in this respect.

Altogether the evening was a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

J. C. A. BROWN

MUSIC CLUB

So far this term we have had only one meeting, a most interesting and informative talk by Michael Edmonds, Esq. on Wagner's 'Ring'. Unfortunately Eric Bravington had to cancel a talk on the London Symphony Orchestra's recent visit to China, owing to ill-health. Later in the term we hope to have a concert given by members.

FRANCIS WATSON

THE BAND

Last term's band report inexplicably found itself between the covers of that noble literary periodical, *The Middle Voice*, so here is a review of the past year.

This year the Band has performed twice. The first occasion, before speeches, was as usual well received. The other concert was earlier in the year and was shared with the girls of Oxford High School. The concert was a success both socially and musically, with some brilliant solo performances from the girls. We hope to repeat this experiment on a larger scale in the near future.

Over the past year many senior members of the Band have said that they consider the music performed by the band to be too simple and dull. What these people must realise is that the only way to make progress is to work hard and show enthusiasm for the work. These two assets are sadly lacking from the band at the moment.

ANDREW SCOTT

SOCIETY

This term has seen both the founding of the Battle Society and, it seems, the demise of one or two older established societies. With the advent of exams, some societies tend to drift into inaction, and although some never function during the summer, I feel it is well worthwhile trying to maintain a small interest in these societies during this term, possibly by simply holding one meeting, so that next term's new secretary and new members may acquire a little knowhow and become more enthusiastic respectively. Although new societies always seem to be springing up, this is no excuse for others to fade away, and I would like to see all societies operate 'all the year round' rather than in one or two terms only.

MARTIN VEY

CHAPEL

We have welcomed the following as Preachers in Chapel this term:—

The Bishop of Worcester; the Revd Canon Bryan Green; the Revds Michael Rees, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Cambridge, and Hywel Thomas, Secretary of A.C.C.M.; and Norman St John Stevas, Esq., M.P.

On the first Sunday of term the whole School paid a visit to Coventry Cathedral to take part in a Service of Holy Communion.

In addition to a collection in Chapel for Christian Aid, which realised more than £44, a Bread and Cheese Lunch was taken by practically the whole School, and a sum of £108 was sent to Christian Aid as a result.

J. E. C. NICHOLL

THE STUDY GROUP

This term we have had a series of talks on themes from the Acts of the Apostles, which have proved most interesting and relevant. Meetings are held usually after Sunday Chapel in Mr Vinen's room, to which anyone is of course most welcome. Our thanks go to Mr Vinen for the loan of his room and for the vast quantities of coffee and biscuits he supplies, and to Mr and Mrs Nicholl for being our hosts at a most enjoyable tea meeting.

FRANCIS WATSON

STOWE COMMUNITY SERVICE

The eighth complete year of Stowe Community Service has been marked by the publication of a 24 page booklet, *Understanding*, giving a record of our work. The booklet gives an account of the various aspects of the help we provide and explains the immense need for community service today. It is called *Understanding* because it sums up the basic nature of our work.

The present routine services such as lawn mowing, log delivery and decorating have all continued smoothly but because they are routine there may be a tendency to under-estimate them; we will have mown over a thousand lawns by the end of this term; last winter we delivered fifteen hundred sacks of logs; and we decorated fifty houses last year. Also entertainments such as outings, vegetable delivery, the village bus service, provision of bedding plants (we distributed over 6,000 last year), the S.C.S. News and of course visiting, which remains by far the most important part of our work, have all run successfully.

One of the most important local developments this term has been the formation of the Queen's Head Club in Chackmore. Many thanks should go to Mr Price, the publican of the Queen's Head, and his wife for providing the impressive party for the old people of the village which sparked off the idea. Until that time there had been no social gathering in the village so that people became unnecessarily isolated. They now run the club themselves, completely independently of Community Service; we merely provide transport and any other help we can when they ask us for it. The problem of isolation and therefore loneliness in Chackmore has to a large extent now been solved. We only hope, the idea will be applied elsewhere.

There has been considerable expansion in the entertainments field recently with the Christmas Party a bigger success every year and over 800 people wishing to go on outings this term. Two new house entertainment projects having been started: Lyttelton's party and Cobham's Children's Home entertainment. Lyttelton members of Community Service organised a tea party and afternoon entertainment for about twenty pensioners, the aim being to provide a relaxed social gathering and get them out of their homes for an afternoon. It was a great success and, we hope, will be repeated. Cobham House provided a much enjoyed afternoon for members of a Children's Home; they spent the afternoon boating on the lake and swimming, had tea and finished the evening playing football and seeing a pop concert in the Roxburgh Hall. There is not much opportunity for these children really to enjoy themselves and they were still talking about the event several weeks later. We are trying to encourage other houses to organise their own entertainments: it is something which everyone enjoys but it is very difficult to persuade people to try it.

Community Service is not designed to be purely a Stowe concern; there is a need for help throughout the country and many areas are in even greater need than Buckingham. This term the enthusiasm for Community Service has spread more than ever before; Mr Theobald has been giving lectures to many schools and institutes namely: Sevenoaks, Solihull, Eton, Worth, Canford, Haberdashers' Aske's and a residential conference at Worcester; the Duke of Edinburgh spent a short while talking about and looking at a small exhibition of our work and a Jewish Trust has shown interest as a result of the Speech Day Exhibition. We have even had a letter from the equivalent of the Department of Education in Kuala Lumpur wanting to know about Community Service in schools.

Next term is going to be a difficult one for us because of the unusually large number of Community Service members that are leaving this term: we hope to be able to persuade more boys to join, if only for one day a week, at least to find out what it is like.

We would like to thank everybody who has continued to give us support in the form of covenants and donations, and for the generous help they have given.

BILL BEETON

THE PINEAPPLE CLUB

Trips to the Club have continued as usual this term although a shortage of group leaders has meant that not as many trips as last term have been possible. Visiting the Club is a very important contact for the School and I hope that next term we have more group leaders so that many more boys may have the chance to see the Club.

ALASTAIR GORNALL

THE XII CLUB

As this was to be a busy term for everyone, the XII Club arranged for its meetings to take place early in the term. The first meeting was in April, when John Dunn read a paper on 'The Life and Times of Leonardo da Vinci'. He illustrated his paper with slides, pictures and readings of da Vinci's letters. At the next meeting, in May, John Lloyd Morgan and David Scowsill

gave an illustrated talk on Spain. They highlighted the politics of the Civil War years, and the literary and artistic work inspired by that period. For its last meeting, the Club looks forward to a talk on 'Adam and Eve and the Artists' by Dr J. B. Trapp of the Warburg Institute.

KARAN THAPAR

THE LIBRARY

During the last two terms a fair variety of books has been purchased, ranging from J-Y. Cousteau's underwater explorations to Barry Cunliffe's "Iron Age Communities in Britain". We have acquired the latest set of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, which represents a considerable outlay and careful treatment is therefore requested.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following generous gifts: eleven books in the "Kings and Queens of England" series, edited by Antonia Fraser, presented by an anonymous donor; five books on Germany and modern German History, presented by His Excellency the German Ambassador; and "Tin-Glaze Pottery" by Alan Caiger-Smith (T 1947), presented by the author.

Finally a word of thanks for the valuable help given by the two Prefects of Library, P. J. Westeng (B) and S. C. P. Ireland (B), and by all the Library Monitors, especially those who have served for two terms or more.

H. D. MARCUSE

Monitors: C. J. Pasold (B), E. O. Bailey (T), J. R. Shingles (G), K. B. Thapar (C), T. J. Aisher (C), A. J. Henry (Q), J. R. Barclay ma. (G), G. C. M. Fenwick (W), T. J. Beevor (L), R. de C. S. Montagu (N).

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

There have been two meetings this term. The first consisted of a paper by P. J. Partington on "The Eleusinian Mysteries", about which, in fact, there is remarkably little known. The second, which happened to be the two hundredth meeting of the Society, was graced by the presence of a speaker from outside the school, Professor P. J. Parsons. He gave a talk on papyrology, and brought some papyri with him to illustrate his lecture. Papyri form the casements of history, and from them we can glean an informal glimpse of life in ancient times. He succeeded in convincing his fascinated audience that papyrology is not merely the study of 'antique laundry lists'.

JOHN PARTINGTON

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The Society has met once this term and Mr M. J. Macoun (G 1933), father of our present Tutor, spoke on British dependencies. These are few and far between, the most notable being Hong Kong, British Honduras and the Falkland Islands. Mr Macoun's job was to visit the dependencies in the capacity of reviewing the police force, however small, at each place, and he spoke from his experience in Honduras and the Falklands. The meeting was an entertaining one on a very 'off-beat' subject.

Sadly this term sees the departure of Mr Macoun, our excellent Tutor since 1970. We wish his family and himself all the best in Canada. He hopes his successor will run the Society more efficiently! In fact this need not be the case and would be difficult. Informality has been a notable feature in the running of the Society.

MICHAEL RITCHIE

THE GEOLOGISTS

SPRING TERM WEEKEND

Once again we were lucky enough to be able to use the Harrow School Field Centre ("Nanoose") at Wool in Dorset and sincere thanks are due to Robert Key of Harrow School for this privilege. The idea of a weekend away during the term is always attractive (not least to the master in charge) even if it does involve a little work, and the whole 'A' level set was keen to perform a faunal migration and sample a drop or two of Wessex ale.

Miss Craig supplied us with vast amounts of food (the physical needs of geologists are as other men only more so) and we piled into a minibus and aimed vaguely towards the lower sharp end of England. The weather, by special request, was superb for the whole weekend and the coast from Lulworth Cove westward looked absolutely magnificent, with even our resident philistines muttering faint praises. They may not remember the geology, but they'll never forget the scenery.

After a day examining the structures, rocks, fossils and geomorphology from Lulworth Cove through to Stair Hole, Durdle Door and Scratchy Bottom (where else in the whole world can geology be so enlivened by place-names?) we made our ritual pilgrimage on the morrow to Charmouth. The beautiful, pyritized ("fool's gold") ammonites are found here, but the collecting has deteriorated recently (due to school parties perhaps?) and only a few good specimens were found. M.W. did, however, find a fossil jaw-fragment of an ichthyosaur (a marine reptile from the "Age of Dinosaurs" that outwardly resembled a large fish) and this is now in the school collection. We had much more success at localities along the shore of the Fleet Lagoon behind Chesil Beach and many fine fossils now enhance our teaching collections.

On the final day we visited a large working quarry in the Portland Stone and saw some of the giant ammonites, suitably named Titanites, for which these beds are famous.

EASTER FIELD COURSE: 23rd—28th MARCH

Our conservatism showed again as we gave the University of Exeter the benefit of our company and wallet-contents for a second year.

A great deal of work was crammed into a five-day trip, including coastal work near Torquay (Hope's Nose and Saltern Cove), on Dartmoor (Hay Tor, Leusdon Common and mines near Warren House Inn), around Okehampton (Meldon and Knowle Quarries) and many other places.

Among the high-lights of the trip were M.W.'s successful compass navigation in the fog around the base of an invisible Hay Tor (he's still trying for his Duke of Edinburgh's Cardboard Award), a visit to the very fine Pengelly Cave Research Centre at Buckfastleigh, and Patrick Filmer-Sankey's incredible map-reading (the rumour that when he is Prime Minister all signs saying "Wells five miles" will be removed is entirely without foundation).

Perhaps the greatest single success, however, was the choosing by M.W. (a little trumpet-blowing!) of a hall of residence occupied by a large number of girls, as some of the party will undoubtedly testify!

Personnel: Patrick Filmer-Sankey, Tom Mytton-Mills, Martin Palmer, Robert Montagu, Pete Robinson, Michael Falcon, Jonathan Ritchie, Tony Fane, Jonathan Gray, Jim Toomer, Pete Westeng, Tony Pyfrom, Pete Slater.

M. WALDMAN

THE NUCLEUS

Due to the pressure of 'A' levels, we have only had one meeting so far this term, when M. P. Patel gave an illustrated lecture on 'Telescopes', after which members had an opportunity to look at close-ups of the moon through one of his instruments. We look forward to a lecture by D. J. Hobson later this term, and also to our centenary evening when Mr Dennien, the first President, will be coming up to give a talk.

ADAM DOBLE

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

After a period of mysterious inactivity during Mr Arnold's absence last term, the Society emerged from retirement in May. Maurice Isaac, Headmaster of Latymer Upper School, spoke at what may be described as 'length' on the subject of "John Strachey and Ernest Bevin: Socialism and Labour between the Wars", which by his own admission "unfinished", was nonetheless both interesting and informative, the subsequent discussion being wide ranging but pertinent. The Society is deeply indebted to Mr and Mrs Mead for their hospitality on that occasion.

We hope to enjoy rather more activity next term, but details are as yet undisclosed.

GEOFFREY CUBITT

THE MODERN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

This term we have had a series of extremely interesting and varied talks and films on Chilean, Spanish, Russian and French topics. At our first meeting we had a talk by David Scowsill and John Lloyd Morgan on 'Impressions of Spain' followed by a talk on 'A Visit to the Soviet Union' by Mr Bennetts, both of which were very well illustrated by slides. For the second meeting we were fortunate enough to hear R. F. D. Pring-Mill, Esq., an Oxford don, who gave a fascinating and superbly illustrated talk on the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who was a personal friend of Mr Pring-Mill. At the third meeting three films were shown; the first was on Marcel Pagnol, the second on Marseilles, and the third on two Provençal towns. Apart from the dramatic All-American sound track on the last film, the evening was generally enjoyed and was particularly useful to the A.E.B. French set. Although the Maison Française in Oxford did not have much to offer, the O. and C. French set saw a superb performance of *Cyrano de Bergerac* in one of the colleges while another group saw Brecht's *Threepenny Opera* at the Playhouse. We hope however to make more use of the Maison Française next term.

J. A. BENNETTS
CHRIS MALLET

SCHOOL TRIP TO MADRID – EASTER 1974

Last Easter holidays about a dozen Stoics and eight Kimboltonians left Victoria Station for Madrid via Newhaven, Dieppe, Rouen, Paris, Orléans, Bordeaux, Hendaye, Irun and Burgos. Our first day was a guided tour of some of the sights of Madrid—for example the Prado Museum which contains one of the world's finest art collections. We then drove to El Palacio Real which in itself contains many individual museums, including one for tapestries and another for clocks. Next we briefly looked at one of Madrid's three universities before seeing La Plaza Mayor, La Puerta del Sol, La Plaza de España, Plaza de Toros, Fuente de Neptuno and the Retiro Park, which, in its 300 acres, has a boating lake, woods and a rose garden.

After a leisure day we went to Toledo where a Roman Circus can still be seen and the old city walls. Toledo was so prosperous in the medieval times that Carlos V chose it as his capital for a time. We visited the Iglesia de Santa María La Blanca (a XIIth century Moorish building, originally a synagogue), La Casa del Greco, the Cathedral and the Alcazar, the scene of a heroic defence in the Civil War, by 1,000 of Franco's men under Colonel Mocardo. During the course of the 72 day siege his son was captured and threatened with death unless his father surrendered. In a few words over the telephone the Colonel told his son to commend himself to God and to shout "Viva Espana!" just before he was killed. The son was later shot.

The following day we went to El Valle de los Caidos. This is dedicated to the one million people who died fighting for the Falange Party, formerly commanded by José Antonio Primo de Rivera, until his death at the start of the Civil War. There is a three-hundred metre long basilica, carved out of the granite hill, whose altar is directly beneath a 173 metre high cross. The same day we



His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visiting the Community Service Stand at Green Park



Hauling an assault boat out of the Octagon Lake



Reproduction mid 19th century percussion pistol made by James Cunningham



Pottery Panda made by T. D. Mitchell

went to the magnificent monastery-palace of El Escorial, built for Felipe II from 1561-1582. It is now an Augustinian monastery. Worthy of mention are the library (with 100,000 books), the chapel and the rooms containing the tombs of all Spanish kings, queens, princes and princesses. On returning to Madrid we went to a bullfight in Monumental. Two days later we boarded the train to take us back to England.

CHRISTOPHER DRAKE

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday Extras have flourished this term and the wide variety of members' interests followed then was reflected in the Speech Day exhibition. One room was devoted to the Society, this year's theme being Nature Conservation. The first prize was won by Charles Shackleton's knowledgeable display of Lichens, the second by David Joyce's carefully researched work on Beetles and the third jointly by Phillip Vey and Stephen Wild for their studies of mammals. Another room was filled with sixth form biology projects and included a very popular wine tasting stall run by Zymase. A measure of the day's success was that over 200 copies of the *Grebe* were sold at the exhibition. The Society's journal was produced on the school's new printing system and many people commented on its high standard.

The Common Bird Census has been carried out for the seventh year under Mr Lloyd's guidance especially helped by John Lawrence's capable identification. Some 60 nest boxes in the Reserve have been inspected regularly by a party organised by Stephen Bartlett. The moth trap has been in continuous use under the watchful eyes of Ernest Meyer and Patrick Wilson. The Wednesday gardeners led by Jonathan Rose and Charles Shackleton have worked the Biology gardens into fine shape. In the greenhouse there is even a specimen of *Vitis vinifera* in fruit which may be of use to Zymase!

Expeditions have taken members to Fingringhoe Wick in Essex on Field Day and for a Sunday to B.B.O.N.T.'s Warburg reserve at Bix near Henley. A small party heard that doyen of naturalists, Seton Gordon, talk on the Golden Eagle and the term's general meeting saw the R.S.P.B. film *The Lonely Level*.

The Biology Laboratories seem to be full of N.H.S., freshwater tanks, small mammal traps, hundreds of seedling cowslips, moths and butterflies on setting boards—all is as it should be.

CHRISTOPHER DRAKE

NATURE RESERVE

Summer is never a time for new projects and we have tried to keep the Reserve as quiet as we can. The Wednesday party has had a busy time keeping the weeds at bay in the young hedgerows. The new stretch of Quickthorn planted last term has been watered regularly and most has survived this very dry year. Our pump and hosepipes have been invaluable. The older hedgerows are now quite well established although we have yet to record a bird's nest.

Regular mowing has kept the paths open and the re-engined C.S. scythe should help to keep other areas cut as hay rather than mown as grass. This should help a richer flora to develop. An interesting experiment was initiated in the New Piece by spraying a small area of grass with a growth retardant chemical. Despite initial browning of small areas the plants now seem healthy and distinctly smaller. If this is successful the procedure may be used elsewhere in the grounds. This should help cut down the time spent in mowing.

The swans have bred again on our lake bringing off five young. Our five semi-tame 'mallard' have survived although they have not bred successfully. Now, in mid-June, a pair of tufted duck is lurking among the reeds. Perhaps they too are nesting.

JAMES HANKS

THE FORESTERS

Much of the forestry work done during the past three months, by professionals and boys alike, has been in Stowe's avenues. At the Chackmore end of the Grand Avenue more of the old trees have been felled and many young ones have been planted out, while closer to Buckingham the Forestry Commission has been conducting a controlled experiment on the over-mature elms, testing the efficacy of inoculation against Dutch Elm disease. Inside the grounds we have completed the western part of the Jubilee Avenue by planting a second line of plane trees on the terrace walk between the Lake Pavilions and Venus. At its eastern end, beyond the Bell Gate, we have continued clearing the verges of stumps and undergrowth, and most of it is now level enough to be mowed. For this project, which was entered in a Tree Planting Year competition, Stowe has won an award from the Department of the Environment.

Another party has been working alongside Tom Hearn at the Octagon Cascade, recovering stones that had fallen into the mud, stocking out roots and suckers from the bank, and clearing the reeds which had grown across the lake in front of the waterfall.

For the last weeks of the term we turned to more orthodox forestry, brashing a plantation of spruce at the far end of the Grecian Valley.

G. B. CLARKE

THE TROUT HATCHERY

Of the 5,500 brown trout which we bought at the beginning of last term, we had lost only 800 by the beginning of the Easter holidays. This was as well as we have done in six years thanks to the recirculating system, which has proved very effective for the hatching and alevin stages. In the holidays however we lost over a thousand fry due to the interruption and reduction of the feeding routine. This term things went smoothly with few deaths until a heat wave coincided with the exeat, when the temperature reached an excessive 22 degrees Centigrade in the trays and we lost approximately six hundred fish in two days, unfortunately tending mainly towards the bigger ones. Normally at this stage the fry have been moved into the 'trough' but this year we had to postpone the move until the end of June as we could not complete the wood and polythene tank in the Stone Yard room until then.

We hope that the trout will be able to survive the heat better in this 'trough', as the water flow is greater and the surface area is larger. Also we hope to purchase a small automatic feeder for the holidays and a refrigeration unit to counter the problems we have experienced so far this year. These fish will be kept there until they have grown to around five inches when they will be moved to the Oxford Water for breeding and stocking purposes.

Thanks must go to Brian Martin and Bill Revell for their kind and patient assistance with the Hatchery over the years.

EDWARD CORBETT

THE POLITICAL CLUB

The Political Club has been pushed into the background this term by the outdoor activities of summer. The only scheduled meeting, at which Tam Dalyell, Labour M.P. for West Lothian, was to be guest speaker, had to be cancelled when a 'three-line whip' necessitated his presence at the Commons and his absence from our meeting. This term, therefore, has been spent in re-organising the Club's internal structure. James Cunningham and James Macnamara, who did a truly wonderful job in making the Autumn and Spring programmes a success, have retired. The new appointments are Paul Salmon as Chairman, Rajiv Bendre as Secretary, and Richard Lord as Treasurer. Mr Chapman, as President, continues of course to lend us his invaluable support and guidance.

RAJIV BENDRE

THE CORKSCREW SOCIETY

This term has finally seen us forge a link with the Société Gastronomique—after all what better way to complement our wine than with food? This was brought about due to the kind hospitality of Captain J. S. Stewart and his wife, who gave us a Wine and Pâté Tasting at their home in Olney on May 26th. Captain Stewart, who is Chairman of the Northants. and Bucks. Branch of the International Wine and Food Society, came to the Rioja meeting of the Society last term.

The combined party arrived at Grange Farm at about 4.00 p.m., and we were treated to a luxury tour of his beef farm in the back of a trailer. Captain Stewart had prepared the six different pâtés himself, and had chosen the wines to go with each one. An enjoyable evening was had by all—not least because Captain Stewart's daughter was there.

The Tuesday previous to this visit saw the return of Peter Reynier, Esq., who gave us a talk on the wines of the Loire. He seems to keep the School running in more ways than one, as he supplied the parents' wine for the School Ball—though not the Italian "wine" which the average Stoic was subjected to. We were very pleased to see Claude Morny, Esq. (B 1932), Secretary of the I.W.F.C., who kindly donated two books to the Corkscrew's collection. Mr Reynier, who in a short space of time tried to instil a great deal of expertise into members, almost gave up and went home when someone insisted that Sauterne came from the Loire region.

Having paved the way, with the excellent hospitality of Captain and Mrs Stewart, the Corkscrew now eagerly awaits the medieval banquet, which the Gastronomes are going to provide for us in the Queen's Temple at the end of term.

The success of these two meetings reflect the continued enthusiasm of our President, Mr Lloyd, and we would like to thank his wife for dining our guest speakers so magnificently.

DAVID SCOWSILL

HUGH CARNEGIE-ARBUTHNOTT

LA SOCIETE GASTRONOMIQUE

We have only managed to have two meetings so far this term. Our first one of term was held at the Headmaster and Mrs Drayson's house with Francis Watson as our cook. A very heavy meal but a successful and delicious one. Unfortunately the second meeting was not so successful. With Mr and Mrs Dady as our hosts, Dominic Cole cooked a very splendid meal but it was not quite what he intended. The rum babas were rather similar to cement, but soaked in rum they were enjoyed and eaten by most.

We were invited by the Corkscrew Society to a Wine and Pâté Tasting afternoon at Captain Stewart's farm at Olney. A very educational trip around the farm and a meal of pâté, cheese and fruit afterwards made the day a very interesting and worthwhile one.

We hope to have a summer banquet at the end of this term in the Queen's Temple. We intend to invite our hosts of the past two years and the Corkscrew Society, who we hope will come armed with wine.

Christopher Mallett has been appointed as next term's secretary.

JOHN LLOYD MORGAN

ZYMASE

This has been a fairly inactive term for almost all members. Some dandelion and some nettle wine has been started, and there is a great deal sitting brewing at the side. Dr Hornby very kindly held a dégustation at his house at the end of last term, where comments on each other's wines were exchanged. Some wines too were put out on Speech Day to be tasted by any parents who were interested. Both events seemed to be successful although a few uncomplimentary remarks were made.

After a relatively uneventful term I would like to thank Dr Hornby for his kind organisation and help during the term.

DANNY KINAHAN

THE BATTLE SOCIETY

This term at Stowe saw the founding of another Society—The Battle Society, the aims of which are to re-enact Civil War Battles. It was decided that Stowe should become a division of 'The King's Army of the West', who rival the Roundhead Association in the battles.

We were fortunate enough to be able to watch these two armies in fight in a re-enactment of 'A Battle for Abingdon', early in the term; this gave us an idea of what was involved. We hope very much to take part in a battle ourselves soon, and for this we shall require further members. Also this term we had a film and talk by Charles Colvile, a keen member of 'The King's Army', and the brother of the Chairman of our Society.

Next term we hope to have talks by Trevor Lake and Peter Young, both leading Royalists. I would like to thank Mr Nicholl and Mr Wild, who have helped us to form the Society, for acting as Joint Presidents.

MICHAEL TOBIN

STOWE SOCIETY OF CHURCH BELL-RINGERS

This term has not been as successful as earlier terms due to the lack of interest displayed by our members, but we hope that the same interest can be conjured up again by the new members as was shown by some of the members a few terms ago when the belfry was re-painted.

We must thank Richard Yates who has very kindly come up to Stowe every Thursday and taught all those who were interested in the art of bell ringing with some very successful results and we hope that next term we can put this new talent to good use. Unfortunately at the end of this term we will be losing Nigel Boyle, who has been in charge for the last three years, and Shaun Ulyett, who has seconded him. We wish them both luck in the future.

I hope that next term we can undertake a new project to improve the already excellent facilities and to repay the parish in some ways for the kindness shown by them to us.

JOHN SMITH

STOWE KARTING CLUB

This term the Club got off to a good start with a new lap record set by Duncan Salvesen and, closely behind, Robert Synge. The Club has now bought (after much searching) a new frame giving us a complete kart whereas earlier we were borrowing the frame very kindly lent by Mr Meredith.

Unfortunately since this purchase the kart has been ill-fated; the calamities started with a flat tyre and then difficulties in starting which thoroughly spoilt Field Day at Rye House Stadium in North London.

Since that time we have been unable to get the kart started and now our engine is in bits and waiting a vital spare part which we hope will right the difficulty. Much credit must go to Johnathan Boldero whose patience and perseverance has been invaluable in the servicing of the kart.

We have now been lucky enough to acquire a disused airfield at considerable expense, but due to its proximity (within about ten minutes' drive from Stowe) we are able to make frequent visits although this asset has not yet been used to the full.

Finally a thank you to all those who have helped the Club especially Mr Meredith whose help in the running of the Club is invaluable.

JOHN SMITH

THE MOTOR SPORT CLUB

This term has not been one of the most active for the Motor Club since the famous McLaren and Hesketh teams visited Stowe last term. But in the life of the racing driver this is by far the most busy part of the year. So far this term we have had a lecture from successful two litre racing driver Martin Raymond. We have also had three films from the Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company about the Indianapolis 500 race of America. The Club also had an expedition to the Hesketh Grand Prix Team's factory at Towcester.

We would like to thank Mr Adams and Mr Meredith for helping with the Club. Also we should like to thank Robert Synge for helping, founding and keeping the Club going as he is leaving the School at the end of this term.

JAMES PENROSE
ROBERT SYNGE

THE MODELLING CLUB

This Club started off as a Thursday Society activity, and has thrived for a year or so now, under the ever helpful hand of Mr Brangwin.

Boys have been making models from plastic kits to six foot balsa gliders.

However this term there has been a large swing towards the water, with the appearance of four radio controlled model racing boats. The art of racing is yet to be perfected. We have had some fine runs by Martin Selby-Lowndes, who has probably the fastest boat at the present, followed by Jules Hydleman and myself. The latter have had some excitement of other sorts; from small boats to swimmers diving in after them! Alisdair Jessel's boat made a short appearance, however it is now back on the drawing board.

It has been an interesting term indeed, and we hope to see more craft in action next term.

NEILL ORR

THE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Our programme this term has been somewhat curtailed by examinations, which involve many of our members. The first expedition this term was to a Steaming Sunday at Quanton Road on 26th May. We were sure that this was going to be an adventure when thanks to the expert map reading of Mr Salter we succeeded in taking a wrong turning. Anyhow we were able to see the derailment of a seventy-wagon train at Verney Junction. At Quanton Road we took advantage of our membership tickets which allow us unlimited travel on the steam engines. We were able to purchase plenty of 'railwayana' at the side stalls.

The other expedition this term will be to Didcot on Sunday, 30th June when there will be a Steaming Sunday organised by the Great Western Society.

ROBERT LAW

HOUSE ART EXHIBITIONS

Several Houses arranged exhibitions this year, and it was good to see so many contributions by juniors in almost every House. Lyttelton displayed paintings and pottery in the Roxburgh Hall foyer to coincide with their House Play. This was a small exhibition with a particularly high standard of paintings by D. J. M. Cole and S. A. V. Holmes. C. M. F. Howse arranged a modest exhibition in Grenville earlier this term. This was followed by a preview party which made a splendid opening to the Chandos exhibition. Paintings, drawings, and pottery by both

juniors and seniors made up the largest exhibition held so far this year. Works of particular note were contributed by J. D. I. Barker, J. C. Paltenghi, C. D. Chance, P. Boyadjiew, C. T. Part, J. Kreeger, M. S. Hoppen, S. T. Wild, P. D. Wilson, and C. D. Montgomery. The works were displayed in the entrance hall, corridors and Chandos library by an enthusiastic house led by J. D. I. Barker. Temple sited their fine display of paintings in Plug Street. Thought and consideration were given to the use of every available wall and the work of J. Dunn and R. M. Wheeler made up the greater part of this well ordered display. One was inspired by the quantity, and equally the quality, of the paintings done by these two boys. The most recent exhibition was arranged by T. J. Aisher and P. M. Hugill in Cobham House library. This was a smaller show than Cobham usually put on, but their high standard of work was maintained. A large number of drawings was contributed by both juniors and seniors. Water colours by A. R. D. Hobbs and pen drawings by N. A. P. Leto were particularly enjoyable. Hugill and Aisher contributed the greatest amount of work. Hugill's watercolours of Stowe and the photographs of Aisher's mural in the sixth form centre were of particular interest. Before the term ends we look forward to displays planned by Grafton and Walpole.

W. ST A. R. DADY

WORKSHOPS

It has been a busy year with an average membership of some 110 boys. Many have made the maximum possible use of the facilities and gained a great deal of satisfaction, from designing and making, a wide range of objects.

Some interesting projects have been undertaken in the Metalshop; J. MacD. Cunningham won the John Holland prize with his carefully executed reproduction mid-19th century percussion pistol. A two-stroke petrol engine, for eventual installation in a 'Go-Kart', has been painstakingly modified and rebuilt by G. M. Zambellas. The Lower School prize for Metalwork was awarded to T. H. M. Fenton for his work on a small steam engine. Many other boys have worked enthusiastically and with a satisfactory degree of success on a wide range of model engineering work.

The junior boys have been very active in the Woodshops and an interesting range of furniture has been made. There is a resurgence in canoe and boat construction and there are many signs that this will continue. It was difficult to single out one boy for the Lower School Prize but it was awarded to C. D. Bird for his fine work on a wide range of projects.

Work during the early part of the year by the more senior boys was not quite so outstanding and the Friends of Stowe prize was not awarded. There are signs that this is now changing and a number of excellent pieces are being made. It is a pity that the prize winner must be nominated so early in the term.

M. F. ACTON

C.C.F.

This has been a "Free Year" for the C.C.F. with no inspection, so that Field Day was only that. After some alarms about the supply of transport the Special Training Section visited the Parachute Training School at Abingdon, having first indulged in a fierce dawn battle, which awoke far too many innocent non-combatants. Some of the R.N. Section visited Greenwich while the rest sailed at Banbury. The Proficiency Company camped at Claydon, and the R.A.F. Section spent the day at Brize Norton.

At the time of writing, practices are going on for the Coldstream Cup and preparations are being made for Annual Camps at Catterick, Royal Air Force Lyneham and at various Naval bases.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Adventure Training was held at the beginning of last holidays and based at Warcop. Strangely enough for the area we had no rain for the whole of our stay and the sun shone for the greater part of every day. Training started on the afternoon of our arrival with a mild map-reading scheme on the moors to the North of our base and built up to a 36-hour scheme at the end of the week, by which time we had learnt a great deal about finding our way in desolate country, pitching our tents so that we spent warm and comfortable nights, and how to survive on Compo. rations. We had also developed an unerring homing instinct, when time allowed, towards the nearest establishment that served crisps and other home comforts with which to supplement our diet.

During the week we spent three days in the Lake District doing some hill walking, and learnt, whilst ascending Helvellyn by way of Striding Edge, that vertigo is no respecter of rank or age. In the hut at Ambleside we also came to realise that R.S.M. McKeown, who has an unlimited source of energy and amusement, had not been exaggerating in his tales of the officers' snoring habits. "As soon as his head touches the pillow, he's straight into low gear."

A great deal of planning and administration was needed to make this camp the success that it was, and I am sorry that so few boys took advantage of it. I strongly recommend all members of the C.C.F. to go on Adventurous training as soon as they have the opportunity.

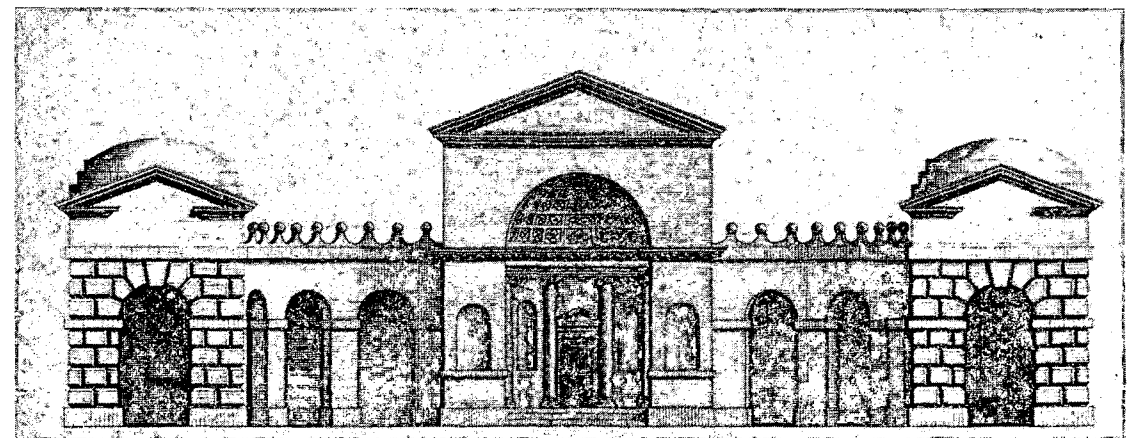
CHARLES FURNESS-SMITH

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

This term saw the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to the Award Scheme in Buckinghamshire. Richard Theobald took a small party over to Green Park for the reception. They much enjoyed the change from school routine and H.R.H. showed considerable interest in the Community Service Stand where he stayed for five minutes or so chatting to those manning it.

Frank Hudson again organised the Field Day trip to the Peak District. All Groups seemed to be working together most efficiently. Certainly they had all completed their routes by lunchtime on the Monday. Preparations for Skye are well advanced—even to the booking of sleepers. We have about a dozen non-D. of E. boys coming to the camp as well as three Old Stoic Golds. If the weather is as good as it was up there in April we should have a superb time.

G. M. HORNBY



SPORT

CRICKET

THE FIRST XI

With two matches still to go the season's record reads—Won 2, Lost 4, Drawn 4, with one match abandoned. By recent seasons' standards this has not been a good year and it has been frustrating for Stowe supporters to witness a potentially strong side never quite doing themselves justice. All members of the side succeeded on occasions but at the same time no-one has been really consistent. One is left with the impression that the Stowe 1st XI has not yet met a superior side (except perhaps the O.U. Authentics) but neither has it played up to expectations.

However, there have still been some promising performances. Henry, who is currently top of the batting averages with 31.7 runs per innings, and Selby, have scored two 50s each, and Dawson, Corbett and Hayward one each. Henry and Hayward together with Singh (second in the averages) have shown the greatest degree of consistency and it is heartening to record that they and Corbett (technically the most promising of all) and Wadsworth (hardest striker of the ball) will be here for the 1975 season.

Bowlers' performances are often affected by the number of runs they have to bowl at, and as a result, this year, the more spectacular bowlers such as Pyfrom and Ritchie, particularly the latter, have had to be used sparingly. Accurate medium pace and off-spin bowling has therefore been preferred in most matches. Selby has been the most economical with an average of just under 2.5 runs per over, closely followed by Dawson 2.65 and Mytton-Mills 2.78. It must be said that Dawson has more often had the most difficult task—his 105 overs only cover 7 out of the 11 matches (an average of 15 overs per match) and much has depended on his ability to "keep one end tied down" when the batsmen have been in full flight. Selby's 15 wickets and his position at the top of the averages are well deserved and he has improved his bowling very considerably this year. Mytton-Mills has been just as effective but he has been reluctant to give himself enough bowling. Hayward has developed well and with a little more pace and accuracy could be a most formidable opening bowler next year.

The team's performance in the field must be regarded as patchy, particularly with regard to catching (except perhaps for Corbett's slip catching)—as so often happens "the balance of fortunes in matches are tilted by catches", and in several games this season the balance has been tilted against Stowe—enough said! The ground fielding however has generally been efficient—of particular note is the throwing of Pyfrom and we are unlikely to see a cricket ball projected with similar velocity at Stowe for many years to come! Special credit must be given to Wadsworth for his wicket keeping. He donned the gloves for the first time this year and has taken 15 catches and let through only 22 byes in 8 matches.

A detailed match report has doubtful value but the following summary should be of interest. A convincing win against Buckingham Town C.C. was an encouraging start, highlighted by Dawson's 5 for 33 and Corbett's 53. An unexpectedly strong Cirencester side was denied any chance of victory by some strong resistance from Henry and Hayward following a brief mid-order collapse, and in the next match Stowe were denied a possible victory against the Free Foresters, who were struggling at 108 for 8, when rain stopped play. The Bradfield match was one of those "might-have-been" games. In the two hours before lunch their second-wicket pair carried the score to 140 for 1 but in the hour and a quarter after lunch, seven Bradfield wickets were captured (3 to Hayward, 2 to Pyfrom, 1 each to Dore and Mytton-Mills) for the addition of only 41 runs. However, in the Stowe innings the opposition bowlers started to take command and with 40 minutes of play still to go Stowe had collapsed to 98 for 9 with only Corbett (30) and Wadsworth (34) doing much to stem the tide. It was then that the tail in the form of Ritchie (31) and Pyfrom, began to wag—the score progressed to 139 and the

time to 6.22 p.m. when Pyfrom's wicket was thrown down while the luckless batsman was recovering his crease after backing up the last ball! A good start against St Edward's by Dawson (53) and Hayward (38), was followed by Henry's undefeated 54, allowed Stowe to declare at 172 for 6 but the two and a half hours of play remaining was not long enough for Stowe to dismiss more than seven St Edward's batsmen. A series of dropped catches did not help our cause at Radley, where the only performance of distinction was Selby with 3 for 26 and then 55 runs—the game finished with our last pair together and we were more than fortunate to escape with a draw. We were again in a similar situation against a strong Stowe Templars side on Speech Day but a welcome return to form was seen the following week when Stowe, set to make 158 to win by the Cryptics, reached the target with 5 wickets to spare. Local knowledge was valuable at Bedford where we were put in on a strangely 'dead' wicket—few Stowe batsmen could cope with a ball that never rose above knee height and only 79 runs were scored. The Bedford opening batsmen played forward to every ball (as Stowe should have done) and reached 49 before they were split—the next four wickets fell quickly but not quickly enough to give Stowe any last minute hope of a dramatic victory. Hayward (30) and Selby (57) helped Stowe to a modest 150 in nearly three and a half hours at Oundle, but some competent batting by the opposition, on a good wicket, gave Oundle victory in the last over.

One hopes that the final two matches of the season will give the results record a more balanced look—in any event this season has given valuable experience to new members and, I hope, some enjoyment and satisfaction to those in their final year.

Team: Old Colours: T. O. Mytton-Mills (C) (Capt.), A. J. Henry (C) (Vice-Capt.), P. G. Dawson (C), A. L. Pyfrom (C).

New Colour: M. J. Selby (C).

T. M. Corbett (C), J. M. Hayward (C), J. C. Ritchie, ma. (L), D. M. Salmon (C), B. N. Singh (C), J. R. Wadsworth (L).

Also played: J. H. G. Carr, ma. (C), G. D. G. Carr, mi. (C), T. L. Dore (C), J. R. C. Harris, ma. (C), M. D. Langdon (L), D. C. H. Taylor (C).

		Inns.	n.o.	Runs	h.s.	Av.
Averages: Batting: (100 runs +)	Henry	10	3	212	57	31.7
	Singh	7	2	117	27	23.4
	Hayward	9	1	182	57	22.75
	Selby	8	0	157	57	19.63
	Corbett	10	0	173	53	17.30
	Wadsworth	9	1	114	34	14.25
	Dawson	10	1	108	53	12.00
		O.	M.	R.	W.	Av.
Bowling: (50 overs +)	Selby	81	16	199	15	13.27
	Mytton-Mills	60	11	167	10	16.70
	Dawson	105	30	278	16	17.38
	Hayward	123	28	343	13	26.46
	Pyfrom	70	24	264	9	29.33

Results: v. Buckingham Won by 7 wickets
Buckingham 101 (Dawson 5 for 33)
Stowe 102 for 3 (Corbett 53)

v. Cirencester Drawn
Cirencester 166 for 6 declared (Dawson 3 for 70)
Stowe 86 for 5

v. Free Foresters Abandoned
Free Foresters 108 for 8 (Dawson 3 for 34; Dore 3 for 21)

v. Bradfield Lost by 42 runs
Bradfield 181 for 8 declared (Hayward 3 for 71)
Stowe 139 (Wadsworth 34)

v. O.U. Authentics Stowe 151 (Selby 39) Authentics 152 for 6	Lost by 4 wickets
v. St Edward's Stowe 172 for 6 declared (Henry 54 not out; Dawson 53) St Edward's 120 for 7	Drawn
v. Radley Radley 209 for 6 declared (Selby 3 for 26) Stowe 158 for 9 (Selby 44)	Drawn
v. Templars Templars 177 (Pyfrom 3 for 45) Stowe 127 for 9 (Henry 57)	Drawn
v. Cryptics Cryptics 157 for 8 declared (Mytton-Mills 3 for 32) Stowe 159 for 5 wickets (Hayward 57)	Won by 5 wickets
v. Bedford Stowe 79 Bedford 82 for 5 wickets (Dawson 3 for 28)	Lost by 5 wickets
v. Oundle Stowe 150 (Selby 57) Oundle 152 for 4	Lost by 6 wickets

THE SECOND XI

At a time when cricket in the School has been enjoying increased popularity, teams like the 2nd XI are likely to benefit more than others, as the depth of talent increases in proportion to the fashion. For example, the decisions of "Jock" Campbell and Mike Langdon to handle the willow and leather again combined with the younger talent of such people as J. R. C. Harris somewhat altered the tone of the weekly selection sessions. Selection actually took place instead of just a re-write of the names from the previous game in a different order.

More important, the standard of the cricket has been better than the previous two years, and I am sure that R. J. G. Dillon-Mahon (O.S.) will know what I mean!

Having said that, it is a fact that the season nearly set off to a poor start. Batting first against Wellingborough the score was 51 for 8 within a short time, but Toomer and Hopkins (both stalwarts from previous seasons) decided to put bat to ball so that the innings closed at a more respectable total of 135. Stowe then turned the tables on the opposition with some fine bowling by Forbes Adam but were just unable to complete the job successfully.

With a moral victory under their belt the side then strode on to real success against the Royal Latin School, a school always keen to beat Stowe if they can. Some good swing bowling by Harris shot them out for only 52 and then despite some good tight bowling, Rolls and Campbell were able to ensure victory.

There followed in the next game performances that many will want to forget. Against St Edward's nobody really played to the conditions and so Stowe left them a rather easy target to aim at. Again Harris was the star performer but even his efforts were not good enough.

For some reason the match against the Templars always brings out the best in the 2nd XI members. The Templars' total was again high at 226 for 6 declared, in spite of some good fielding. Forbes Adam bowled well again, too, and Sugden, who one feels must be a good prospect for future years. However, sound batting performances by Butt, another young cricketer with some considerable potential, skipper Campbell, who showed he is prepared to hit any ball hard in the

cause of getting runs, and Langdon, who gave a display of both control and flamboyance at the crease, brought the Stowe total to a respectable 170 for 8 at the close.

The game of the season that had just about everything was to follow next. By mutual agreement it was decided that the match should be restricted to 40 overs per side. Who would have thought at the commencement of those 80 overs that a memorable game was to follow! Despite a rather shaky start Bedford took their score to 125—their last wicket falling on the last ball of the last over. Stowe made a firmer but slower start, but then crashed to 36 for 5 wickets with less than half the overs remaining. All looked lost, but Langdon was again to show us the way to do things. He picked out the bad balls, despatching them smartly to the boundary and gave due respect to the better ones. Although he finally went with the total at 96 his performance left no doubt in the minds of the remaining batsmen, Dore, Sugden and Forbes Adam as to what had to be done. And they did it, timing it (?) to such perfection that the writer himself was almost half way up the pitch as the final ball of the match was bowled. With the winning run to make Sugden snicked the ball to the wicket keeper, who dropped it and with Forbes Adam already three-quarters of the way down the track the game was won. A tremendous finish to a game enjoyed by many more than just the participants.

A good season then to the date of writing with the strong chance of further successes against Oundle, Radley and Mill Hill. The younger players of the side, though, might learn something by reviewing some of the performances of Campbell and Langdon, because next year somebody else will have to show the way.

M. P. POMPHREY

Team from: J. A. M. B. Campbell (W) (Capt.), M. D. Langdon (L), J. R. C. Harris, ma. (C), M. P. Patel (B), J. C. Toomer (L), S. B. Hopkins, ma. (C), D. C. H. Taylor (C), C. T. Rolls (L), J. H. G. Carr, ma. (C), P. R. Rivalland (C), N. A. G. Butt (C), C. D. Forbes Adam, ma. (C), G. H. B. Sugden (T).

Also Played: T. L. Dore (C), B. N. Singh (C), D. M. Salmon (C).

2nd XI Colours awarded to: J. A. M. B. Campbell, J. R. C. Harris, ma., M. D. Langdon.

3rd XI colours awarded to: C. T. Rolls, N. A. G. Butt, C. D. Forbes Adam, ma.

Results:	v. Wellingborough	Away	Drawn
	Stowe 135 (Toomer 35 not out; Hopkins 30)		
	Wellingborough 40 for 8 wickets (Forbes Adam 5 for 8)		
	v. Royal Latin School	Home	Won by 6 wickets
	Royal Latin School 52 (Harris 4 for 8; Campbell 3 for 13)		
	Stowe 56 for 4 wickets (Rolls 23 not out)		
	v. St Edward's	Home	Lost by 4 wickets
	Stowe 45		
	St Edward's 46 for 6 wickets (Harris 5 for 17)		
	v. Stowe Templars	Home	Drawn
	Templars 226 for 6 wickets		
	Stowe 170 for 8 wickets (Langdon 38 not out; Butt 29; Campbell 21)		
	v. Bedford	Home	Won by 1 wicket
	Bedford 125 (Harris 5 for 24)		
	Stowe 126 for 9 wickets (Langdon 42; Sugden 21 not out)		

THE THIRD XI

This season has seen a marked upswing in the number of players keen to be a part of the team. This has been very encouraging after the paucity of manpower and correspondingly poor performances of last year. It has also unfortunately meant that a number of "old faithfuls" (and indeed a number of new ones) have been unable to gain a place in the side as yet.

P. J. Westeng, a successful veteran of 3rd XI cricket, has been chosen to captain the team this season, and he will be well supported by a highly enthusiastic group of players. Five fixtures

have been arranged and two of these have already been played. The match against St Edward's was a rather dull affair, with Stowe making little effort to go for a win after St Edward's had declared at 121 for 7. The only high spots as far as we were concerned were a good spell of tightly controlled off-spin bowling from Forsyth-Forrest (4 for 14 in 5 overs) and a solidly unbeaten innings of 36 from Sugden, who has now ascended to the rarefied heights of the 2nd XI. At the close we had reached 82 for 6, having played over-cautiously, perhaps as a reaction to our defeats of 1973.

Our game against Bedford was in complete contrast, being full of excitement from the very beginning. We put Bedford in to bat and very shortly they were 25 for 5 due to some good opening bowling by Peach (3 for 10) and Shirley-Beavan (2 for 25). We were unable to consolidate our advantage, however, and Bedford eventually reached 72 all out.

Thirty-five minutes after tea Stowe had lost its first six batsmen to a good swing bowler for the grand total of eleven runs, and disaster loomed close, with not a drop of rain in sight and one and three-quarter hours left for play! It was at this point that Richardson and Blackburn formed the partnership which saved the match. Blackburn (that well-known hockey goalie and *Middle Voice* sports columnist) played with great solidity and meticulous care, while Richardson, using the bat more in the style of Babe Ruth than Don Bradman, showed considerable flair in playing some very strong strokes on the offside. He was eventually caught behind the wicket having made 29 runs, including 5 boundaries, and the score was 49 for 7. Hugill then arrived and made a well-constructed 15 runs before being bowled. Falcon then joined the monolithic figure of Blackburn, who by then had scored 8 runs in 80 minutes, and struck the winning runs.

All in all a show of fighting spirit and determination which gladdened the writer's heart and considerably elevated his blood-pressure! We look forward very much to the rest of our matches listed below. It may be of interest to note that for the first time in recent years we will be able to produce a 4th XI, although they will have only one match this season, against Radley.

M. WALDMAN

Teams so far from: G. H. B. Sugden (T), J. W. Johnstone (L), P. J. Westeng, ma. (B), P. M. Hugill (C), S. C. Heald (T), A. R. M. Blackburn (C), M. H. Forsyth-Forrest (C), D. J. Salvesen (C), C. M. Drake (W), A. Falcon mi. (C), J. H. Shirley-Beavan (G), C. F. Peach (C), P. R. Rivalland (C), J. C. Toomer (L), J. E. Hawthorne, ma. (G), S. N. B. Richardson (L).

Results:	v. St Edward's	Match drawn
	St Edward's 121 for 7 declared	
	Stowe 82 for 6	
	v. Bedford	Match won
	Bedford 72	
	Stowe 73 for 8	
	v. Oundle	
	v. Radley (3rd and 4th XI's)	
	v. Mill Hill	

THE COLTS

Rather more boys than in recent years have chosen to play Under 16 cricket and this fact is reflected in the much improved standard of play and in the happy atmosphere within the club. It is still not easy to accept the situation which forces talented boys to make virtually irreversible decisions between tennis and cricket when they should be capable of finding time to play both, and to benefit from both. However the Under 16 cricketers are a cheerful collection and as is the way with cricket the abilities of the few successful performers have disguised the failings of the others. Net practices and games "in-the-middle" have been sensibly undertaken and for the most part conscious efforts have been made to improve. There is still a disappointing lack

of hardness in some of the play in matches. Several members of the team have not applied themselves to the winning of matches as urgently as they might have done, and consistently good results will not be forthcoming until the players learn to fight for every run, field as if they really meant to stop the opposition scoring and bowl with all the 'devil' and accuracy at their command. This rather sloppy attitude almost cost us victory against Oakham and denied us the win we should have achieved at Bedford.

Carr has captained the side well and has looked a batsman of considerable class. It is always a surprise when he gets out, and one sees no reason why he shouldn't grace the 1st XI for several years. Stephens has supported him well with some typically gutsy batting performances and as an increasingly effective and busy wicket-keeper. Mitchell has ability both with bat and ball, but appears to be totally devoid of any determination or any desire to improve. This is a pity, for there is no doubt that if he decided to give more to the game he'd get a very great deal from it. Other valuable rôles have been played by Burton with his hugely spun but rather mild leg-breaks, by the pace of Lord and Maitland-Heriot and by Parker, Johnstone and Rowntree in the field.

In the first match, apart from Carr, we were outclassed and deservedly beaten by a very compact Bradfield XI, but things went better against St Edward's, Oxford, and Oakham, in spite of the collapse of the middle of our batting. A disastrous hour in the field virtually presented the match to Oakham before Scowsill, aided by an excellent catch in the gully by Rowntree, broke an impressive stand with his first ball of the season. After some positive batting at Bedford we were denied by a resolute opening stand of 65 when some really sharp fielding and determined bowling were noticeably absent.

However if the lessons of the first part of the season are fully taken to heart, one hopes that in the remaining matches the XIs will be seen playing to the best of their considerable ability and achieving the good results that are within their range.

J. S. M. MORRIS

Team: The following played for the 'A' XI:—G. D. G. Carr mi. (C) (Capt.), R. A. Burton (C), T. J. Maitland-Heriot, mi. (C), M. A. N. Tomlin (C), C. M. Johnstone (C), T. P. H. Stephens (L), C. J. Rowntree (T), N. A. S. Duthie (G), M. S. Parker (C), R. D. Lord (T), P. C. Sisson (W), J. Scowsill mi. (T), R. J. C. S. Mitchell (W), R. T. Lewis (B), S. C. Fraser (L), S. D. Kelway (B).

The following played for the 'B' XI:—C. P. J. Wightman (C) (Capt.), R. S. W. Bell (C), A. Braimer-Jones (G), S. Alper (C), C. St. J. Dickson (T), N. A. Coates, ma. (C), T. J. Issaias (L), C. T. C. Standeven ma. (L), M. D. Smith-Bingham (C).

Results:	'A' XI v. Bradfield	Lost
	Stowe 129 (Carr 62)	
	Bradfield 132 for 2	
	'A' XI v. St Edward's, Oxford	Won
	Stowe 114 (Carr 29, Stephens 47)	
	St Edward's 95 (Burton 4 for 57)	
	'B' XI v. St Edward's, Oxford	Drawn
	Stowe 132 for 8 (Mitchell 39)	
	St Edward's 98 for 7	
	'A' XI v. Oakham	Won
	Stowe 156 (Mitchell 30)	
	Oakham 128 (Carr 5 for 43; Scowsill 3 for 12)	
	'A' XI v. Bedford	Drawn
	Stowe 155 (Carr 44, Mitchell 61)	
	Bedford 137 for 7	
	'B' XI v. Bedford	Won
	Stowe 156 for 6 (Bell 47, Tomlin 33, Braimer-Jones 33)	
	Bedford 50 (Smith-Bingham 5 for 4)	

To be played: 'A' and 'B' XIs v. Oundle
'A' and 'B' XIs v. Radley
'A' XI v. Rugby
'A' and 'B' XIs v. Mill Hill

THE JUNIOR COLTS

After only three out of seven matches have been played, it is obviously impossible to write a report on the season. This therefore, of necessity, must be more of an assessment of potential. There appear to be no outstanding players but all are striving to improve their standard of performance. Competition for places is thus keen as each player knows that there is someone ready to take his place.

The first match came so late that we were caught on the hop by our match-hardened opponents and skittled out for no apparent reason. In the two other matches that we have played so far the batting has had a much more solid reliability and the bowling at all times has been varied and steady and sometimes penetrative.

Taking a more long-term view, there are a considerable number of boys who can bat correctly and well and who just need some runs to give them that indispensable self-assurance. Of bowlers there is an almost embarrassing wealth including a very promising crop of spinners, a very welcome sight. Only the fielding is disappointing. Most of the team can catch the straightforward catches well enough but there are few natural movers and throwers and very few seem prepared to throw themselves about at all. In short, there is little zest.

Still, whatever the outcome of the remaining matches, this is a very promising side who should do well for themselves and for school cricket in the years ahead.

The following have played so far: S. D. Kelway (Capt.) (B), S. W. Allport (B), N. W. A. Bannister (L), J. A. Barratt, mi. (T), C. D. Bourn (C), J. A. F. Currey (C), L. D. Dalzell-Piper (C), C. P. M. Douglas (T), B. G. Few Brown (C), T. D. Forbes Adam, mi. (L), S. A. V. Holmes (L), I. L. Park (T), D. F. C. Thomas (C).

Results: v. St Edward's Lost
Stowe 48
St Edward's 51 for 2
v. Bedford Drawn
Stowe 136
Bedford 111 for 9
v. Oakham Won
Stowe 169 for 6 declared (Kelway 65)
Oakham 106 (Few Brown 3 for 7)

The Second Eleven has shown considerable enthusiasm and fielded with great zest. The batting looks rather fragile but nonetheless the only match played to date resulted in an exciting win.

Team: M. R. Banister (Capt.) (B), N. E. Ancsell (C), J. N. Barnard, ma. (C), T. S. Bradley-Williams (C), C. B. Calkin (L), N. J. C. Harkness (T), P. T. James (C), H. M. Lloyd (T), N. E. Luddington (C), I. L. Park (T), C. J. Pooler, mi. (T).

Result: v. Bedford Won
Stowe 56
Bedford 37 (Park 6 for 11; Calkin 3 for 6)

P. R. BOWDEN
S. J. SUTTLE

THE UNDER-FOURTEEN XI

The U.14s have had a disappointing season. They have been soundly beaten by Ashfold, Wellingborough and Cokethorpe, and gave a good account of themselves only against Bedford. Bedford declared at 160 for 5 after only an hour and a half's batting, but in reply Stowe were actually 115 for 2 with nearly an hour to go. At that point, however, Trower fell for 58 and Worsley for 40, and Stowe slumped to 147 for 9 to hold on for a draw.

Apart from Trower, who looks sound and well-organized, and has scored 127 runs in three completed innings, the batting has looked alarmingly frail. The bowling looks a little more promising, with Orr, Mitchell, Trower and Harvey all contributing usefully at times.

D. G. LENNARD

Team: J. R. Harvey (L), C. T. Trower (B), A. E. H. Worsley (C), R. M. Horrocks, mi. (C), J. C. Haas (G), P. N. Orr, mi. (G), T. D. Mitchell (T), C. J. Lindner (B), G. R. Coates, mi. (C), J. C. Bowman, mi. (B) F. D. G. Mezulanik (C).

ATHLETICS

This year it was decided to build for the future by fielding a full Under 15 team in all school matches. The results on paper have not been spectacular but the experience of keen competition early on in athletic careers will pay dividends later. Three of our U.15 athletes have done well: Sheldon in the high hurdles, Allen in the pole vault and high jump, and Selby-Lowndes in the high jump. The latter two have qualified for the All England Schools Championships.

In the senior age group (Under 20) we have so far beaten only Mill Hill but good performances have been recorded by Rollit Mason, Naylor, Hydleman and Falcon. Rose, who is still Under 17, has competed in the senior team in school matches and has acquitted himself well in the high jump and the high hurdles. In both of these events he has been selected for the All England School Championships.

In terms of matches won, the Under 17 team has been the most successful with victories over Oundle, Mill Hill and The Leys to date. The stalwarts of this group have been Walford (100 metres), Staheyeff (javelin and discus) and Bowman (sprint and hurdles) with good support from the rest of an enthusiastic team.

The morale of the Club has been high throughout the season and the good spirit has been due in no small measure to the example set on the track by the captain, Falcon, his able secretary, Hydleman and the other senior members who have encouraged those less experienced in the younger age groups.

My thanks to Mr Jacottet for his help and support—not to mention the stimulating political warm-ups on the coach to away matches!

R. DAVIES

1st Team Colours were re-awarded to: P. A. Rose (W).

1st Team Colours were awarded to: M. Falcon ma. (C), T. J. Rollit Mason (B), L. J. Hydleman (B), K. C. Naylor (W).

2nd Team Colours were re-awarded to: N. Elmslie (C), N. P. Staheyeff (C).

2nd Team Colours were awarded to: R. W. Knight Bruce (C), P. N. Leonard (C), R. P. Maitland-Heriot ma. (C), D. J. Hobson ma. (C), J. H. Walford (G), D. A. Bowman ma. (B).]

Results:

- May 14 Bucks. Schools A.A. Area Sports at Stowe
May 16 v. Marlborough and St Edward's, at Stowe
Open: 1st Marlborough 142 pts; 2nd St Edward's 108 pts; 3rd Stowe 98 pts
U.17: 1st Marlborough 141 pts; 2nd St Edward's 85 pts; 3rd Stowe 79 pts
U.15: 1st St Edward's 92 pts; 2nd Stowe 55 pts
May 18 v. Malvern and Denstone, at Malvern
Open: 1st Denstone 117 pts; 2nd Malvern 101 pts; 3rd Stowe 53 pts
U.17: 1st Malvern 99 pts; 2nd Denstone 86 pts; 3rd Stowe 85 pts
U.15: 1st Malvern 136 pts; 2nd Stowe 99 pts
May 21 Bucks. Schools A.A. District Sports, at Stowe
May 25 Achilles Relays, at Oxford
No finalists
May 30 v. St Paul's and Mill Hill, at Stowe
Open: 1st St Paul's 113 pts; 2nd Stowe 104 pts; 3rd Mill Hill 80 pts
U.17: 1st Stowe 102 pts; 2nd St Paul's 78 pts; 3rd Mill Hill 73 pts
U.15: 1st St Paul's 122 pts; 2nd Mill Hill 90 pts; 3rd Stowe 61 pts
June 11 v. Eton and Oakham, at Eton
Open: 1st Oakham 111 pts; 2nd Eton 85 pts; 3rd Stowe 78 pts
U.17: 1st Oakham 189 pts; 2nd Eton 89 pts; 3rd Stowe 68 pts
U.15: 1st Oakham 121 pts; 2nd Eton 87 pts; 3rd Stowe 64 pts
June 13 v. The Leys and Oundle, at The Leys
Open: 1st The Leys 114 pts; 2nd Oundle 91 pts; 3rd Stowe 79 pts
U.17: 1st The Leys 104 pts; 2nd Stowe 94 pts; 3rd Oundle 81 pts
U.15: 1st Oundle 104 pts; 2nd Stowe 91 pts; 3rd The Leys 90 pts
June 15 Bucks. Schools County Championships, at Eton
Rose, 1st in U.17 High Jump
Selby-Lowndes, 1st in U.15 High Jump
Allen, 1st in U.15 Pole Vault

June 22 v. Berkhamsted and Rugby, at Berkhamsted

Open:
U.17:
U.15:

July 5-6 All England Schools A.A.A. Championships, at Shrewsbury

New School Records: Under 17 High Jump: P. A. Rose 6 ft 0 ins.
Under 17 Javelin: N. Staheyeff 167 ft 10 ins.

SCHOOL SPORTS 1974

WINNERS

House Challenge Cup: Bruce.

Open:

100m.	L. J. Hydleman (B)	11.8 secs.
200m.	L. J. Hydleman (B)	24.5 secs.
400m.	L. J. Hydleman (B)	54.0 secs.
800m.	K. C. Naylor (W)	2 mins. 10.2 secs.
1500m.	M. Falcon ma. (C)	4 mins. 23.5 secs.
110m. Hurdle	P. Leonard (C)	18.0 secs.
400m. Hurdles	P. G. Dawson (C)	61.9 secs.
2000m. Steeple	M. Falcon ma. (C)	6 mins. 38 secs.
High Jump	D. M. Salmon (C)	5 ft 0 ins.
Long Jump	J. P. Paterson (B)	19 ft 8½ ins.
Triple Jump	M. J. A. Ritchie (T)	39 ft 11 ins.
Pole Vault	J. S. Shepherd-Barron ma. (W)	8 ft 0 ins.
Shot	T. J. Rollit Mason (B)	35 ft 3½ ins.
Discus	T. J. Rollit Mason (B)	116 ft 0 ins.
Javelin	T. J. Rollit Mason (B)	161 ft 8 ins.

Under 17:

100m.	J. H. Walford (G)	12.0 secs.
200m.	P. A. Rose (W)	24.9 secs.
400m.	D. A. Bowman ma. (B)	55.5 secs.
800m.	N. S. Vans Agnew (T)	2 mins. 13.8 secs.
1500m.	N. C. McLoughlin (T)	4 mins. 40.6 secs.
100m. Hurdles	P. A. Rose (W)	14.6 secs.
200 yds. Hurdles	P. A. Rose (W)	26.1 secs. (New Record)
1000m. Steeple	C. J. Terrett (B)	3 mins. 21.3 secs.
High Jump	P. A. Rose (W)	5 ft 6 ins.
Long Jump	G. H. Charlton (G)	17 ft 9½ ins.
Triple Jump	N. G. M. Salour (C)	37 ft 9½ ins.
Pole Vault	H. F. Inglessis (W)	9 ft 0 ins.
Shot	N. P. Staheyeff (C)	37 ft 11½ ins.
Discus	N. P. Staheyeff (C)	108 ft 9 ins.
Javelin	N. P. Staheyeff (C)	133 ft 2 ins.

Under 16:

100m.	N. G. M. Salour (C)	12.7 secs.
200m.	N. G. M. Salour (C)	26.9 secs.
400m.	N. G. M. Salour (C)	57.7 secs.
800m.	A. C. Roxburgh (W)	2 mins. 20.9 secs.
1000m.	W. G. Cubitt mi. (T)	2 mins. 58.6 secs.
High Jump	G. D. G. Carr mi. (C)	4 ft 11 ins.
Long Jump	N. G. M. Salour (C)	15 ft 10 ins.

Under 15:

80m. Hurdles	N. G. B. Sheldon (T)	14.2 secs.
100m.	S. D. Kelway (B)	13.1 secs.
200m.	S. D. Kelway (B)	27.6 secs.
400m.	S. D. Kelway (B)	60.6 secs.
800m.	J. R. Allen (G)	2 mins. 26.6 secs.
High Jump	M. E. W. Selby-Lowndes (G)	5 ft 3½ ins. (New Record)
Long Jump	M. E. W. Selby-Lowndes (G)	16 ft 6½ ins.

THE TEMPLE OF CONCORD AT STOWE

THE FIRST NEO-CLASSIC BUILDING IN EUROPE ?

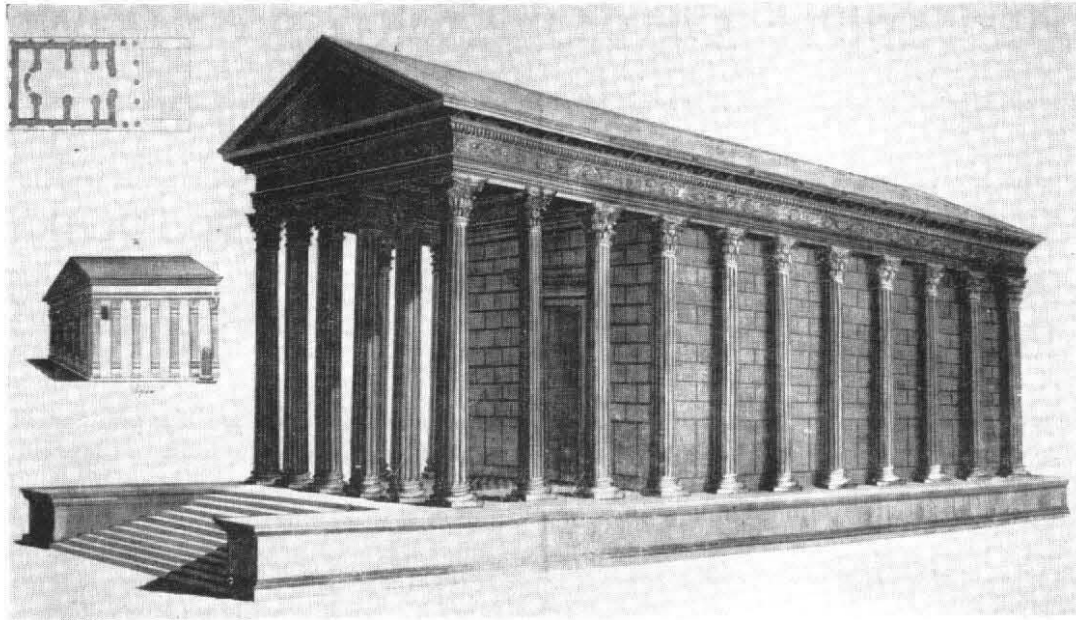
This article first appeared in "Country Life" and is reprinted, with minor alterations, by permission of the editor



1—The surviving front portico of the temple

During the last twenty years a great deal has been done to restore the landscape at Stowe and its buildings, and this will continue, but one of the worst problems is presented by the Temple of Concord and Victory, which even in its present, dilapidated state appears to be an unrecognised landmark in European architecture.

The temple is an important feature of Stowe's famous garden and is quite large. It is—or rather one must now, alas, say was—a peripteral Ionic temple with a six-column portico. The sculpture in the pediment is by Scheemakers. The temple was designed in the late 1740s, and research soon to be published shows that the roof was going on in 1749. This is the end of the Burlingtonian period but the temple is quite definitely not "Palladian". It is perfectly Classical and its original name was the Grecian Temple. It would not indeed be called Grecian now. It is inspired rather by Roman models, but in the mid-18th century nobody quite understood the distinction



2—The Maison Carrée at Nîmes, Roman temple of the first century A.D.



3—The Temple of Concord, c. 1920



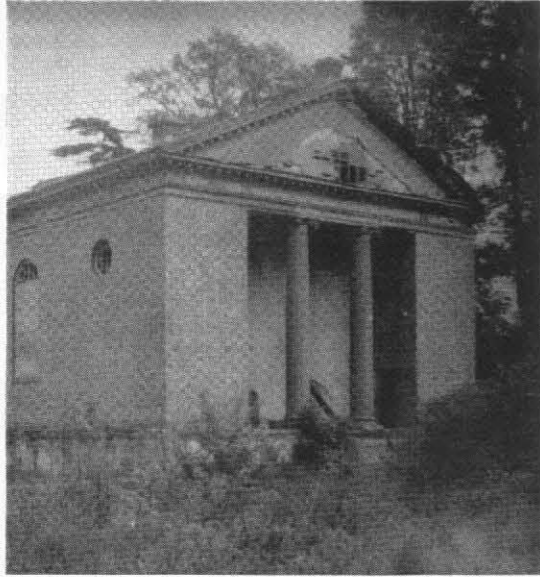
4 and 5—Two plaques, one of plaster and the other of stone, by James Lovell

and it is clear at least that the building was intended to be “Antique”. It faces down a tree-lined vale that is still known as the Grecian Valley.

Here then is something of clear neo-Classic intention completed in England in 1749. Surely this is remarkable. It is well before the “Age of Adam”, or anything in France. It was in 1749 that Madame de Pompadour’s brother, Abel Poisson, later Duc de Marigny, made his fact-finding journey to Rome and Naples, and it is usually from this French journey that the beginning of neo-Classicism on a European scale is dated. But Stowe’s Grecian Temple had its roof on before ever Poisson set forth.

Stowe’s owner during the first half of the 18th century was the first Viscount Cobham. The Grecian Temple was the last of his many garden buildings and he died just as it was finished. He had no son and was succeeded by his nephew Richard Grenville, who in 1752 became Earl Temple. Grenville had been on the Grand Tour and while in Italy had evidently developed a strong interest in ancient architecture. He returned home on his twenty-first birthday, in 1732. Two years later the Society of Dilettanti was formed and Grenville joined it. Clearly he was a neo-Classic pioneer and there is good reason to believe that it was he who designed the Grecian Temple for his uncle. The Stowe guidebook of 1788 gives the temple to William Kent, but this, for several reasons, is really impossible. The guide also says that the design “nearly follows” that of the Maison Carrée at Nîmes. This is inaccurate, the Maison Carrée being Corinthian, the Stowe temple Ionic, but there is a good deal of resemblance, and when we remember that Lord Temple’s grand tour had taken him, after Italy, through France, it appears probable that he had seen the Roman buildings in Provence. This gives some reason to think that he designed the Stowe building, but there is another, stronger reason. During the 1750s Temple was painted by William Hoare of Bath with his hand resting on a plan of the Grecian Temple. Why should he be shown thus if he did not design it?

Here then are several reasons why the temple must not be allowed to collapse. It is a handsome thing in itself, it was probably designed by a talented amateur and it may be the first neo-Classic



6 and 7—The back view of the temple and the ceiling of the front portico, showing the serious dilapidation

building ever put up anywhere. Lord Temple changed its name from 'Grecian' to 'Concord and Victory' in 1763. His sister had married William Pitt, the Great Commoner, in 1754, and in fact Pitt and Temple had been friends from boyhood up. In Pitt's famous ministry during the Seven-Years' War Temple, with the office of Lord Privy Seal, had been his able lieutenant. The change of the Stowe temple's name was intended to celebrate, so far as might be, the victories won by the brothers-in-law for an ungrateful king. The interior of the temple was decorated by the Italian architect Giambattista Borra, who worked at Stowe during the 1750s. Half the ceiling has gone but a series of plaster plaques on the walls are intact. They show in allegory the victories of the war and are by the sculptor James Lovell, who signed a pair of similar stone plaques in the ante-temple and did much work elsewhere at Stowe.

We come now to the recent history of the building. When Stowe School took it over in 1923 it was still in tolerable order, but it was not very useful and money could not be spent on it. It was used at first as a fencing school but was not very satisfactory. Meanwhile money had to go to new essential building. From the first the Governors had intended to build a school chapel and this they succeeded in doing, on an impressive scale, within the first decade. But a very strange thing happened. To prop up, as it were, the massive wooden ceiling of the new chapel all the side columns from the Temple of Concord were taken down and put up again inside the chapel. It is very odd that the idea of doing such a thing, in his own new building, ever entered the architect's head, odder still that the then Governors did not veto the idea immediately, oddest of all that the Headmaster, who had the highest regard for the beauties of Stowe as an educational advantage, made no protest—if indeed he made none. Be this as it may, the thing was done. It must however be remembered that the intense interest in, and concern for, the Nation's architectural heritage that is so satisfactory a feature of our own times had, in the 1920s, scarcely begun. The late Christopher Hussey, who did so much by his writings to reawaken English interest in the beauties of England, published his first book, *The Picturesque*, in 1927, and this was perhaps the turning-point. Meanwhile the Temple of Concord survives, bricked up round three sides. Some years ago the School redecorated the interior and began to use the building as a small concert hall. But the roof was already in a parlous

state and almost immediately the ceiling fell in. Only the front portico, and that dilapidated, remains fit to be seen.

Things at Stowe are now very different from what they were forty years ago. For a considerable time there has been a preservation committee, and a covenant has been made with the National Trust to maintain for ever the greater part of the garden with its ornamental buildings. Fifteen have already been completely restored, two are being repaired at the time of writing. The most spectacular piece of work so far has been the restoration of James Gibbs' Gothic Temple, as reported in the conservation number of *Country Life* (June 1st, 1972). But conservation costs a great deal of money and the Temple of Concord remains the largest and least tractable problem of all. If nothing is done fairly soon the building will go beyond repair, but that will not be the fault of Stowe School, as the school is now. The present authorities are more than anxious to restore the building, but where does the money come from? School resources cannot be used for such a purpose. The Historic Buildings Council has given much help in the past and will doubtless continue its good offices, but the bulk of the cost must be collected by the School from well-wishers outside.

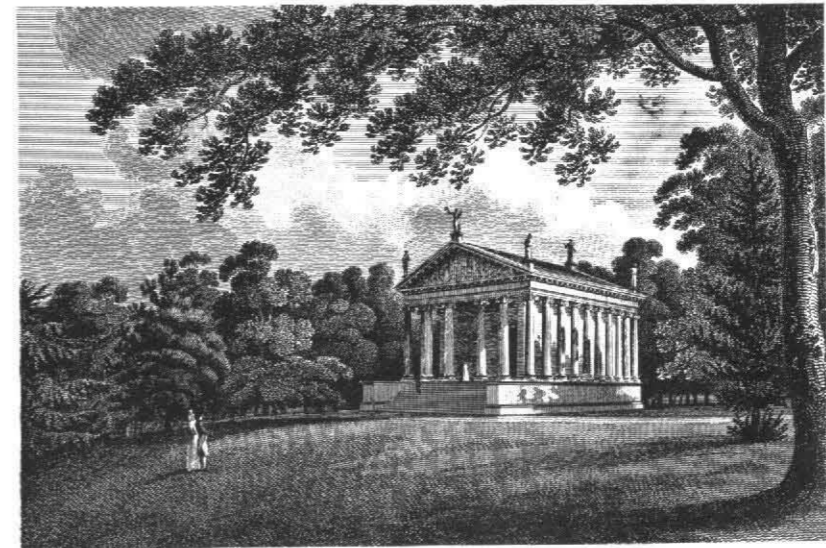
1975 will be European Architectural Heritage Year. If, as is here suggested, Stowe's Temple of Concord and Victory really is the first neo-Classical building ever put up, then it is an important item in the European heritage and must not be allowed to collapse.

MICHAEL GIBBON

The historic interest of the Temple of Concord is discussed in greater detail in chapters XII and XVIII of *The History of Stowe*, by G. B. Clarke and M. J. Gibbon, which appeared in *The Stoic* in March 1971 and July 1973.

See also Michael McCarthy, "James Lovell and his Sculptures at Stowe", *The Burlington Magazine*, 115 (1973), 220-232.

Illustrations: 1, 4, 5, 7, *Country Life*; 3, 8, 9, R. & H. Chapman; 2, Royal Institute of British Architects; engraving, T. Medland (1797).





Michael Gibbon's article leaves the reader in no doubt of the deplorable condition of the Temple of Concord and of its desperate need for repair, but he also makes it clear that during the past few years the Landscape Committee has been very active in the work of rehabilitation of the landscape and buildings in other parts of the gardens. The last report in *The Stoic* on this work was in 1967 and it is time that this was brought up to date. The following buildings have been repaired since 1966:—

Cobham Monument. Repairs to damage by lightning consisted of the renewal of the cupola on the top and extensive reconstruction and re-facing of the base. It has not so far been possible to replace the lions on the base.

Queen's Temple. On the outside of the building the stone cornice and balustrade of the roof and the balustrade of the terrace were made good. Inside, the columns were reconstructed, all the plasterwork repaired and the room redecorated.

Pebble Alcove. The stonework was consolidated and pointed, the roof renewed, and the pebble decoration completely restored.

Temple of Friendship. The whole structure was made safe in its ruined condition; exposed brickwork was repointed and the roof of the portico renewed.

Lake Pavilions. The steps were re-built and the stonework repaired. The plasterwork was made good and redecorated throughout (see plates 8 and 9, above).

Gothic Temple. This was the most ambitious undertaking so far, consisting not only of thorough structural repair of roof, windows, stonework, etc. but also of conversion to living accommodation for the Landmark Trust. The elaborate heraldic domed ceiling was repainted.

Fane of Pastoral Poetry. This was preserved from further deterioration by consolidation of the stonework.



Shell Bridge. The whole structure was consolidated and new shells fixed.

Grenville Pillar. The lead figure was repaired and re-erected; the capital and inscription were renewed and the base was repaired.

Palladian Bridge. The stonework, roof, and plaster ceiling were repaired throughout.

Cascade. The vegetation was removed and the whole structure made sound.

Ha-Ha. A stretch of the ha-ha between the Temple of Venus and the Lake Pavilions has been repaired and where necessary re-built. This is a small portion of an enormous task which will be continued if funds become available.

Hermitage. Work has recently started to avert further possible collapse.

The cost of this work has been in the region of £80,000, and it has been supported by continuing grants from the Historic Buildings Council, usually amounting to 50% of the cost. For the remainder the Landscape Committee has had to rely on contributions and benefactions from many sources. These include school activities, such as the proceeds of the Queen's Temple concerts, the sale of guide books, and entrance fees from visitors. Old Stoics and former masters have been specially generous, some with single donations and some with covenanted subscriptions to the Friends of Stowe Trust. But the greater part of the money has come from public and charitable bodies and we record our gratitude to the Buckinghamshire County Council, the Pilgrim Trust, the Landmark Trust, the Leche Trust, and the Ernest Cook Trust.

Skill and craftsmanship are as important as finance, and a special word of appreciation is due to Tom Hearn, who came to Stowe eight years ago as general foreman for Messrs. Norman Collisson and is now, after his retirement, still actively engaged in caring for the garden buildings. He has been responsible for practically the whole of the work here described and has, in fact, done an astonishing proportion of it with his own hands.

HUGH CREIGHTON



10—Earl Temple with the plan; mezzotint after a portrait by William Hoare

GOLF

Spring Term

The season started in the usual flurry of rain, sleet and snow and four matches were played in preparation for the Woking tournament in the holidays. At this stage it was a question of therapy required to re-shape swings flattened and truncated by hockey and to adapt Palmer's cover-drive for use on the fairways, but two good wins were recorded. A team went up to Leicester to attempt to qualify in the Aer Lingus Schools Tournament and performed creditably. The four players actually had to miss two periods of afternoon school, to the great indignation of a certain chemistry master, but it is hoped that their exam results will not suffer too greatly.

Results:	v. Ellesborough G.C.	Lost	1—5½
	v. Sandy Lodge G.C.	Lost	2½—3½
	v. Buckingham G.C.	Won	2—1
	v. Old Stoics	Won	4—2

Teams from: J. R. Gray (C), M. Ridley (T), C. J. C. Boardman (B), M. J. G. Palmer (B), P. S. C. Wood (C), J. H. A. S. Vivian (C), N. H. J. Gray (C), M. A. Johnstone (C), P. G. Clarke (L), G. G. R. Paine (T), S. W. Allport (B), D. B. Franssen (G).

The Micklem Trophy, Woking Golf Club, April 10th—11th:

The Stowe team wore an unusually inexperienced look at Woking this year and, after a close and exciting win in the first round, never really looked like unseating the holders, a strong Harrow five. The match against Charterhouse produced a typical Woking finish. J. Gray came up against the immaculate Bradley in form and was soundly beaten, Ridley, playing well, was always ahead of Richardson and Vivian finished strongly after being two down at the 11th to win 2 and 1. But both Palmer and N. Gray had to go down the 19th to settle the result, Palmer having won four holes in a row after being 4 down with 5 to play, but Gay then produced a birdie 3 against Palmer's 4 and it was left to Gray to find the winning point for Stowe. Against Harrow the Captain found his best form against the unsteady Warman and won comfortably, but the other four Harrovians drew steadily ahead to win.

Results:	v. Charterhouse	Won	3—2
	v. Harrow	Lost	1—4

Team: J. R. Gray (C) (Captain), M. Ridley (T), M. J. G. Palmer (B), J. H. A. S. Vivian (C), N. H. J. Gray (C). Reserve: C. J. C. Boardman (B).

Summer Term:

An extensive programme of matches once again enabled a large number of boys to gain valuable experience with sufficient success to cause us to look to the future with some optimism. The 100% record in inter-school matches is very pleasing, but at the same time it would only be right to congratulate the Fathers on a rare victory! Nor must we omit to mention the unique achievement of the Chiltern Medical G.S. 8th pair, both of whom holed in one during the course of their game against Barnes and Durrant; even so, the Stowe pair fought their way to a halved match—no mean feat in the circumstances.

A. M. VINEN
C. S. JUNEMAN

Results:	v. Ellesborough G.C.	Home	Won	6—3
	v. Haileybury	Harpenden	Won	5—3
	v. St Edward's	North Oxford	Won	7—1
	v. Northampton County G.C.	Home	Won	7½—4½
	v. The Fathers	Home	Lost	6—7
	v. Oundle	Church Brampton	Won	5—3
	v. Sandy Lodge G.C.	Home	Lost	2½—3½
	v. Monmouth	Tadmerton Heath	Won	5—1
	v. Uppingham	Kettering Road, Northampton	Won	2—1
	v. Old Stoics	Home	Won	6½—4½
	v. Buckingham G.C.	Home	Won	5½—3½
	v. Chiltern Medical G.S.	Home	Won	5—3
	v. Radley	Huntercombe	Won	3½—2½

Teams from: Those listed under Spring Term, plus: E. O. Bailey (T), A. D. Barker (G), T. P. Barnes (C), A. C. C. Chater (C), S. J. M. Cobb (C), M. D. M. Davies (T), P. W. Durrant (W), P. S. Edward, ma. (C), D. M. S. Fyffe (B), W. M. Graham (B), P. C. A. Grint (T), D. R. H. Hinds (T), J. E. Horrocks, ma. (C), D. K. Mumby, ma. (T), A. E. S. Osborne (G), P. J. A. Rhodes (C), B. T. Robinson, mi. (W), G. H. B. Sugden (T), M. H. Warren (L), S. L. Westeng, mi. (B).

LAWN TENNIS

It is not easy at this early stage to give a full account of the season, but a short résumé will have to suffice—leaving next term for a proper report.

We started the season hopeful that we would have an unbeaten summer, and in the event this proved to be correct when we had our full team available. Unfortunately a few of the team thought that they should put themselves before the school and declined to play in important matches, and this, coupled with the fact that others were unavoidably away at interviews etc., meant that we lost two matches which would almost certainly have been won had we been at full strength.

D. P. Scowsill and P. W. Saunders were a very good first pair, though not outstanding enough to guarantee three matches against the best opponents. Nevertheless they bore the brunt of the encounters, and always acquitted themselves with distinction. Although Scowsill continued to have some difficulty with his service action his general play was very good, while Saunders played steadily and improved continuously as the season progressed—and fortunately he will still be at Stowe next year. The rest of the team depended on who was available on the day, and was selected from P. A. Low, S. K. P. T. Greenley, R. F. A. Dobbs, V. W. R. Hill, M. G. Lockhart-Smith and A. B. L. Foux. Amongst these players, Lockhart-Smith and Foux were a very good combination and they always justified their second pair position. They played intelligently and had some good wins. Greenley improved tremendously as the term went by, and showed a great deal of patience and stability in his game. Low and Hill were a good team, and although a little brittle when under pressure, they never lost to a pair of inferior ability. Dobbs came into the team on several occasions, and apart from a tendency to overhit he never let anyone down, and showed that he has plenty of potential.

D. P. Scowsill was an excellent captain who contrived to get the best from his team both by precept and also example, and I thank him sincerely for all his hard work in the administration of the game over the last two years when he has been both Captain and Secretary.

The Colts team, captained by J. Scowsill, was the best for many years, and has so far been unbeaten, and bearing in mind that four of the team are still of Junior Colts age, this was a great achievement. Scowsill and Horlock proved to be superior to any pairs they played against, and will obviously be a force to be reckoned with in senior tennis. They combined both flair and ability—and perhaps more importantly they also have the will to win, which is sometimes sadly lacking these days. Kinahan and McCalley at second pair always played well and had an excellent record to show for their efforts. It is noticeable that they also enjoy their tennis considerably. N. Chapman and Ward, mi., who became third pair after a few matches, repaid the confidence shown in them and won some memorable matches. As they are of Junior Colts age they will have another season at this level. Grove and Cooper were unfortunate that the team was so strong as they demonstrated that they were a good pair whenever they were called upon to represent the school. Brown and Arnold also played well for the team.

The Junior Colts team, like their seniors, are also unbeaten up to the present, and players like Osborne, Lillingston, Carr, mi., Loup, mi., and Bottari all played well for this team.

A full report of the teams and results will be given in next term's *Stoic*. In the meantime the results were as under:

1st VI:	v. Radley	Won	5½—3½	v. Uppingham	Lost	3—6
	v. R.G.S. High Wycombe	Won	6—3	v. Oundle	Lost	4—5
	v. St Edward's	Won	8—1	v. Old Stoics	Won	7—2
	v. Marlborough	Won	5½—3½	v. Wellingborough	Won	6—3
	v. P.S.O.B.L.T.A.	Won	6—3	v. Oakham	Won	8—1
Colts VI:	v. Radley	Won	7½—1½	v. Oundle	Won	8—1
	v. R.G.S. High Wycombe	Won	7½—1½	v. Wellingborough	Won	4—0
	v. Marlborough	Won	5—4	v. Oakham	Won	7—2
	v. Uppingham	Won	7—2			
	Junior Colts VI:	v. Uppingham	Won	4—0	v. Oakham	Won

Finally may we remind any Stoics who may be in the vicinity that support at Wimbledon would be very much appreciated during the weeks beginning 15th July and 22nd July which are when the B.S.L.T.A. and the P.S.L.T.A. tournaments are held.

P. G. LONGHURST

SAILING

The Sailing Club recommenced its activity as usual this term with last term being occupied with the maintenance of the boats. We have been lucky with the weather this term, and the standard has increased most satisfactorily.

The team has a good record of five matches won, two lost, and the position of third in the other.

The following sailed in the Team: S. J. Marshall (C), M. J. G. Curwen, ma. (C), B. A. Mackintosh (C), S. C. Curwen, mi. (C), J. L. Young (B), J. D. Hanks (C), P. Symes (S), P. M. Brocklebank (W).

Results:

v. Aldenham, Harrow, Haileybury	Away	Third	v. Radley	Away	Won	3—0	
v. Oundle	Away	Won	2—1	v. Bloxham	Home	Won	3—0
v. St Edward's	Home	Lost	1—2	v. Uppingham	Home	Won	3—0
v. Rugby	Away	Won	3—0				

HENRY CURWEN

SCULLING

This year has again been rather disappointing for so far we have only taken part in one regatta, Wallingford. King and Forbes took part, but although they entered with high hopes, both failed, in difficult conditions, to win their first round. We had entered for Chalmore regatta but this was cancelled through illness, and our entry for the Reading Junior regatta never came through. Grafton won the House matches for the third year running and King won the individual plate. The Eton boat has unfortunately been out of order because new gates were unavailable but it is hoped they will be ready for next year. Finally we would like to thank Mr T. J. Brangwin who is leaving in the autumn. This will be his last summer and his enthusiastic coaching has been invaluable.

MATTHEW KING

ARCHERY

This term's beginners are the best of all the crowds who have attempted the sport. Boys such as Law, Roxburgh, mi. and Bushell have made considerable progress this term, and, as a result, were all chosen to shoot in various school matches. Law, along with S. A. Saunders, and J. M. Bray will be shooting in the Buckinghamshire Junior Championships.

The first match this term was against Forest School on Saturday, 8th June, after a night of pouring rain. When we arrived after a two hour car journey, we found that the Forest team had departed from the school the night before because of too much rain, and they had forgotten all about us! We got back here, rather upset by a whole wasted day.

On Sunday, 9th June, the match against Bedford College was won, team members including P. S. Rolland (Captain), J. M. Bray, Law, Roxburgh, mi. and as a consolation for the previous day's disappointment, Bushell shot as well. There are several more matches this term not including various competitions.

All these things, however, would not be possible without the unfailing co-operation of Mr Arnold who has already this term driven us hundreds of miles to our various meetings, and we must thank him wholeheartedly for all he does to keep the Archery at Stowe such a friendly and pleasant sport.

SIMON SAUNDERS

SHOOTING

Unfortunately this year the shooting team started the season somewhat shakily, due to the cancellation of the usual three day practice at Bisley in the Easter holidays. However, in our first match, at Bisley, though bad weather and a howling wind prevailed, the cadet pair shot very well, coming seventh out of 25 with a score of 110, and the VIII came eighteenth with a creditable score of 439.

Our second, and only other match to date—the Midland Schools meeting at Kingsbury, near Coventry—was, however, somewhat of a disaster as far as weather was concerned. The wind was very gusty, and continuous heavy rain and hail did not help. Only six schools took part, and the cadet pair coming fourth once again did better than the VIII, who came fifth.

There are certainly some promising young shots, who will be able to prove themselves at Bisley in the forthcoming Ashburton Meeting at the end of term.

TOM GREEN

VIII: S. L. Green, ma.* (Capt.) (G), T. C. Green, ma.* (Secretary) (W), E. Sowerby (C), J. Bissill* (C), R. Fowke (L), N. Orr, ma. (G), A. Drew (B), N. Shannon (W).

Reserve Pair/Ninth Men: T. O. Smith, ma. (C), G. Winnington-Ingram, mi. (L).

Cadet Pair: A. Green, mi. (G), A. Jessell (G).

* Colours.

SWIMMING

For the first time in my experience the swimming teams were able to start training at the beginning of the term. The new pool had been closed since the end of November, so the initial advantage that should have been ours was lost, but as a team we were keen and raring to go.

Both Senior and Junior groups contained 18 members, perhaps a rather unwieldy number. The Senior Team was basically very strong in depth but the Junior Team had only one established U.16 swimmer left from last year, and two recognised U.15 swimmers, none of these with swimming colours. The rest of the 18 comprised a complete cross-section of ages and abilities, all hoping for a place in the team. We seemed certain to fare badly in the Juniors.

Training was something quite new to most of the younger swimmers and they found it very hard going in the initial stages, but in our first match, against Bradfield, we met a team who had obviously done still less and we disposed of them summarily.

St Edward's, still smarting from the beating we gave them last year, were well-primed for revenge and we lost the first four events while settling into our stride in our first away match in a rather difficult pool. We recovered well and thereafter never lost an event.

I think it was at this stage that the team began to feel they were just too good to be true, despite my warnings of things to come. Fortunately, matches against Rugby, Dean Close, and Oundle, all away matches, put things into proper perspective with both Seniors and Juniors losing in each case and getting a very good idea of the standards possible from boys who train regularly every day and work together as a team throughout the year rather than just in the summer term. We were well-beaten in these matches but never disgraced, and both teams continued to improve their personal best times very satisfactorily.

Harrow and Aldenham were not sufficiently good to cause us much of a problem although Aldenham should be a different proposition next year with the heating of their pool. Carmel College had their own problems and in the end could not manage to raise a team of sufficient standard to justify a match against us.

Speech Day gave us an opportunity to inaugurate a match against the Old Stoics. This was a rather haphazard affair this year, and more in the nature of a trial run. We were pleased to welcome a number of Old Stoics and pleased to beat them, although Ashcroft (the 1965 record holder in the Butterfly event) kept his nose in front and gave the Old Boys their only win. I hope that we can now work with an Old Stoic Captain, draw up a programme, and run a well-organised event next year.

Entering the Bath Cup and Public Schools Relays for the first time in six years we were placed 23rd and felt well-pleased. Unfortunately the event is held on a Friday, and an objection by a Tutor to boys in their 'O' or 'A' level years missing two periods on a Friday afternoon means that Stowe may not be able to enter this competition against other Public Schools in the future. This would be a pity as the experience for the six members of the team was in itself an education.

The final inter-school match was a triangular against Malvern and Cheltenham and gave us a triumphant end to the season with first place in both Seniors and Juniors, good swimming by all the team members, and four school records broken.

The North Bucks. area trials were held at Stowe, for the first time ever, on Thursday, June 20th and as a result the following Stowe boys will be representing North Bucks. Schools in the County Finals at Amersham on Friday, July 5th:—

Senior U.19:		Junior U.16:	
100m. Breaststroke	R. Atkins, J. Johnstone	100m. Breaststroke	A. Bird
100m. Backstroke	R. Bickerton	100m. Backstroke	C. Villiers
100m. Butterfly	S. Bartlett	100m. Butterfly	A. Lomas
100m. Freestyle	A. Mackay	100m. Freestyle	A. C. Low
4 × 50m. Individual Medley	J. Shepherd-Barron	4 × 50m. Individual Medley	A. Chater

Senior Team

We welcomed Brian Simons to the swimming fold this year. Brian is another Australian and has taken over from Brian McKittrick. He has done an excellent coaching job with the team this season, and has had to suffer as much good-natured banter as his predecessor.

The Senior Team with the addition of the best of last year's quite good Juniors was a very strong team in depth of talent, fortunately so, in view of the number of injuries and accidents sustained by members in activities other than swimming.

Andrew Mackay (T), the captain, at last managed to dip under 70 seconds for the 100m. crawl, and then improved steadily to a consistent pattern of times in the 67-68 second region, just a fraction outside the school record for the event. The secretary, Robert Atkins (G) outlined his supremacy in the 100m. breaststroke with a series of school record times, culminating in 82.5 seconds, and was beaten only once during the season. He also "filled in" nobly in other events where key swimmers were ill or injured.

The other record breaker in the Senior Team was Bickerton (T) in his first year for the seniors. Bickerton repeatedly whittled away the 100m. backstroke record to an eventual 78.5 seconds. He was an indispensable member of the team in relay events, and above all never lost his event when there was a fighting chance of holding on.

Apart from a last minute improvement by M. Knight (C) who took the school 50m. Butterfly record in 34.3 seconds we were still relatively weak in the butterfly and individual medley events, although it was noticeable here that failure was due not to poor technique but still to lack of training and experience. To swim a 4 × 50m. individual medley is still regarded as an amazing achievement at Stowe, although in schools such as Rugby and Oundle boys may swim half a dozen in the course of any training programme. S. C. Bartlett (T) and J. V. Mumby ma. (T) are still in contest in this field, and J. Shepherd-Barron ma. (W) who looked set for an excellent season unfortunately rarely swam for us due to illness and a combination of other circumstances.

We should like to thank Andrew Mackay and Robert Atkins for their work and enthusiasm during the year. We shall be sorry to lose them but hope they will return as Old Stoics to be beaten on Speech Day in 1975.

Team trunks were awarded to M. Hoppen.

Junior Team:

In the Junior Team, S. Guyer ma. (♄) as captain, swam consistently well in the breaststroke events, returning a time of 89 seconds for the 100m. on a number of occasions, a mere fraction outside the Junior record.

Much of the burden fell on A. Chater (C) and D. K. Mumby mi. (T), the two U.15 individual medley swimmers. Mumby had a relatively poor start to the season, then, just as he was emerging to play a leading rôle he had a cycling accident and the Junior Team were left struggling for survival. Chater, who saved many a situation for us, and swam, at some time, every individual stroke, was called on to bear the brunt of the events, and was well backed-up by A. R. Bird (T), an U.14 with two more seasons as a Junior ahead of him.

Bird established himself as an outstanding young breaststroke swimmer, pursuing a two years older Simon Guyer relentlessly and always getting closer, eventually taking the U.14 school record in 93 seconds for the 100m. As an individual medley swimmer Bird still has a long way to go by Oundle standards, but his rate of progress in the other strokes has been so promising that he must be a force to be reckoned with in future Stowe teams. He also broke the U.14 school record in this event, the individual medley, in a time of 89.0 seconds for the 4 × 25m.

A. C. Low (C) proved quite outstanding in the front crawl event and promptly broke the Junior 50m. record held by Bickerton, with a time of 30.5 secs. Always winning, or close to winning over 50m., his times over 100m. were really quite slow, and it is only now towards the end of the season that Low is at last fulfilling his rôle here and beginning to push the other schools in this event. He has great potential as a front crawl swimmer and another year as a junior. He could be beating the senior freestyle swimmers next year.

Have we at last found a butterfly swimmer amongst the juniors? A. D. Lomas (C) has the determination and the strength and the ambition, and is rapidly developing the style. He tackles 100m. with more endurance than the seniors, and next year, still a junior, he should be laying the ghost of our butterfly discrepancies.

There were many other good performances in this Junior Team, notably by J. Guyer mi. and Yeoward (both ♄) in breaststroke, and by P. Marsh mi. (T) who was rather over-shadowed by Low in the front crawl. The one gap in our performances lay in the backstroke event. Hosking (C) shows good promise as an U.14 but so many others tried and failed. The field is wide open here for any young swimmers who can beat 40 secs. for the 50m.

Team trunks were awarded to: S. Guyer ma., A. Chater, D. Mumby mi., A. Low, A. Lomas, A. Bird.

Results for 1974:

	<i>Seniors:</i>	<i>Juniors:</i>
v. Bradfield College	Won 62—26	Won 56—34
v. St Edward's	Won 54—41	Won 44—41
v. Carmel	Carmel withdrew	Carmel withdrew
v. Rugby	Lost 25—50	Lost 27—48
v. The Leys	Won 52—39	Lost 42—49
v. Harrow and Aldenham	{ 1st: Stowe 2nd: Harrow 3rd: Aldenham	{ 1st: Stowe 2nd: Aldenham 3rd: Harrow
v. Old Stoics	Won 29—16	
v. Dean Close	Lost 48—58	Lost 30—65
v. Oundle	Lost 27—51	Lost 26—52
v. Malvern and Cheltenham	{ 1st: Stowe (61) 2nd: Malvern (30)	{ 1st: Stowe (73) 2nd: Cheltenham (58) 3rd: Malvern (31)

These are our best results for a good many years and show the rise in standard of Stowe swimming in the few months that the indoor pool has been available to us. The trend should continue.

F. A. HUDSON

THE STOWE BEAGLES

This term, despite the fact that there is no hunting, we have by no means been inactive. In addition to the routine kennel-work, we have built a new puppy run, and have rendered and painted the new lodge. We also hope to repaint inside the main lodges.

We have entered runners in the Oakley Foot Beagles and Stowe Beagles foot point-to-points. Our own, which was held near Preston Capes in the northern part of our hunting country, was run successfully, for the first time by our supporters club. A clay pigeon shoot was held in conjunction with this.

We took some of our hounds to the South of England Show at Ardingly, with some success, winning one first, one second, three thirds and two fourths. We hope to go to the Border Counties Show at Bulth Wells, and as usual to the East of England Show at Peterborough.

Three good litters of puppies have been born so far this year and another two litters are due. Last year's puppies will be judged at the Puppy Show at Stowe on July 13th. This will be followed by our Annual Hunt Ball in the evening.

P. Herbert has been appointed Master for the 1974-75 season and D. J. Jacobs has been appointed a whipper-in.

During the past season D. M. Salmon (C) and R. G. Pooler, ma. (T) were Joint Masters, with P. Herbert (L), J. M. Elworthy (L), A. T. C. Green mi. (♄) and R. S. W. Bell (C) as whippers-in. Many thanks also to D. J. Jacobs (W), J. F. M. Davies (L), A. J. S. Black (L), A. I. T. Hay (L), D. H. Samuelson, mi. (L) and J. R. Arnold mi. (L) for their invaluable help at the kennels throughout the term.

RICHARD POOLER

HOCKEY

The Oxford Festival April 1974

Stoics on hockey festivals, like those on field trips, travel to their destinations with some firm object in mind. However these outings usually end up with everyone doing less than a modicum of this aim and indulging too freely in the better things of life. Although this was not quite so true at this festival the hockey tended to be below the normal standard. As Stowe had been absent from the festival for two years, only three members of this party had experienced a previous festival and the problems of playing hockey at 10.00 a.m. feeling slightly 'fragile'. The aim of any festival is to end the season in a merry spirit and to play some friendly hockey, in that order. In the words of the coach one came 'to lead the life of an undergraduate without the strains of work'. Whether all undergraduates lead the decadent, carefree life that Messrs Langdon and Lockhart-Smith experienced, remains to be seen, however it could be said that everyone enjoyed themselves.

We came to the festival having not lost a school match the entire season, and although it had been a successful one on paper, the team never reached its full potential. In the four days we played one match a day and unfortunately, lost one, drew two and won the remaining one quite convincingly. Our performance was by no means sparkling, but as stressed at the beginning of the festival we came essentially to enjoy ourselves.

ANDREW GARBER

Results: v. Canford	Won 4—1
v. Uppingham	Lost 1—2
v. Felsted	Drawn 2—2
v. Greshams	Drawn 3—3

OLD STOIC NEWS

Sir Tufton Beamish, M.C., D.L. (T 1935) has been made a life peer and has taken the title of Lord Chelwood.

J. M. L. Bevan (B 1937) has been appointed High Sheriff of Mid-Glamorgan.

J. A. Burrows-Watson (© 1945) has been appointed by the National Trust the Administrator of Erddig, near Wrexham.

R. G. G. Carr (C 1971) has gained a Hockey Blue at Cambridge.

Lord Kennet (W 1941) has been appointed to head a Community 'Think-Tank' on the problems that could confront Europe in 2000 A.D.

Colonel B. M. Knox, M.C., T.D. (B 1934) has been appointed Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County of Ayr.

D. G. Lucas (G 1972) has gained a Golf Blue at Cambridge.

MARRIAGES

C. C. F. Bouchier (C 1961) to Diane du Sablon on 11th February 1967.

S. R. Edwards (W 1966) to Helen Lesley Boucher on 14th April 1972.

H. F. St H. Jeune (T 1958) in May 1974.

J. S. Lawrence (C 1946) to Elizabeth Mary Bower on 5th December 1969.

P. E. S. Lilley (C 1954) on 18th August 1973.

R. J. McDonagh (© 1965) to Caroline Aylwin on 1st June 1974.

BIRTHS

To the wife of:

C. C. F. Bouchier (C 1961) a daughter on 7th June 1971; a son on 25th September 1973.

J. A. Burrows-Watson (© 1945) a son on 16th July 1972.

C. P. Dubois (C 1963) a son on 1st May 1974.

D. J. Easton (W 1959) a second son on 17th April 1974.

C. J. de Mowbray (C 1962) a daughter on 1st May 1974.

P. D. Norman (C 1959) a son on 17th November 1973.

E. R. F. de Plumpton-Hunter (W 1945) a son on 8th May 1974.

R. T. R. Wingfield (W 1958) a son on 9th February 1974.

DEATHS

G. A. Coutts (B 1927) in 1967 of leukaemia.

J. K. Foy (C 1929).

R. I. Fraser (© 1937) on 26th March 1974.

G. Garrod, who taught at Stowe September 1939—July 1940.

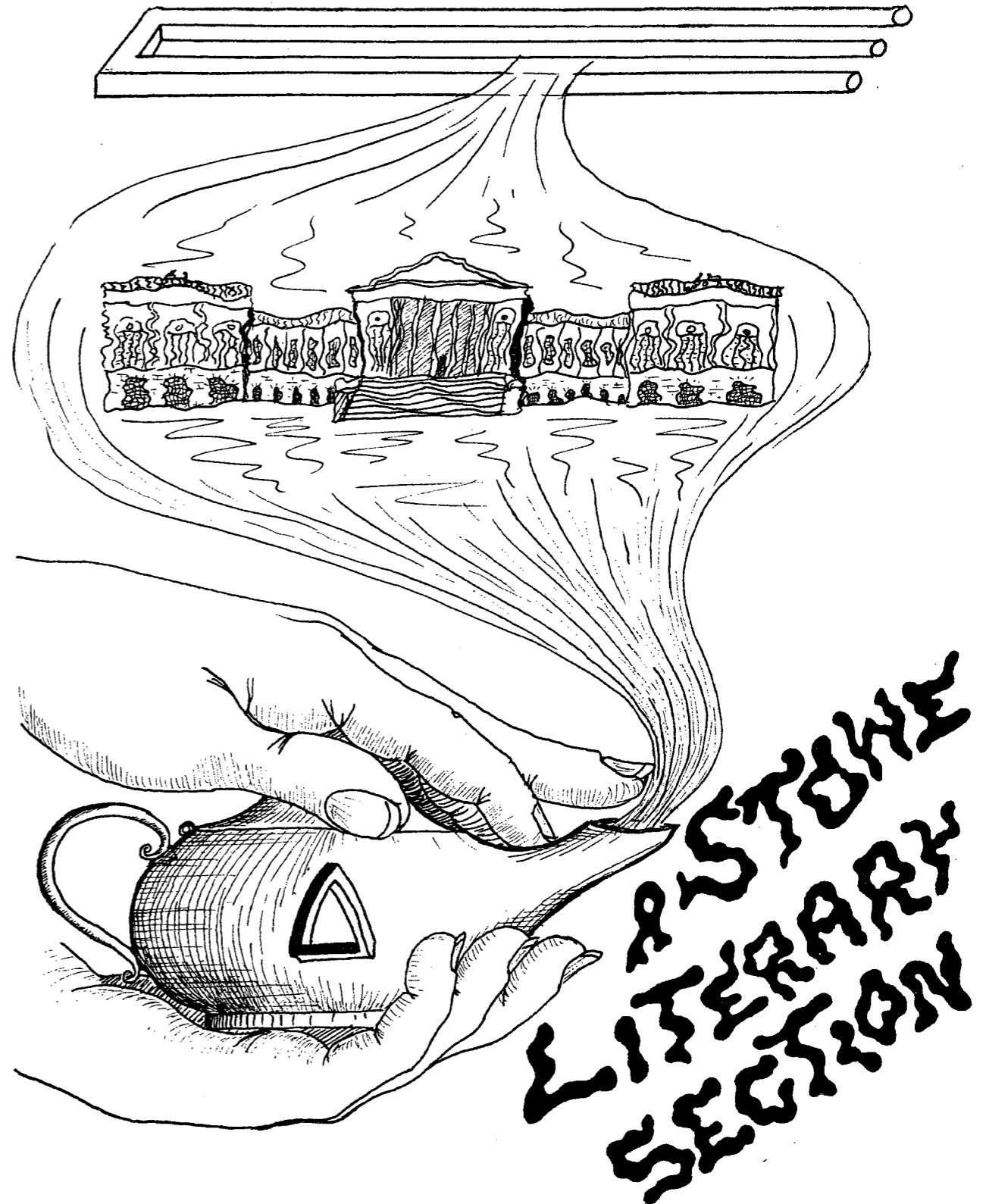
J. A. D. Lawson (C 1936) in April 1973.

G. E. Loxton (T 1929) on 19th March 1974.

S. P. Paget-Stevenson (© 1928) on 26th April 1974.

P. E. V. Prince (C 1933) on 26th March 1973.

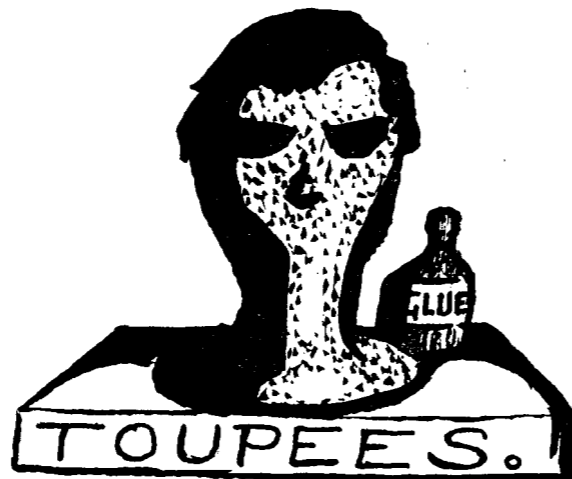
R. W. Spielman (© 1964) on 27th March 1974.



EDITORIAL

This is the third issue of the Theme Scene—the subject this time being Illusion. What seems to have emerged is a general discussion of numerous points concerning the validity of, and restrictions imposed by Illusion, its existence in human affairs and its relationship with Reality. Perhaps the difficulty of this topic lies in its immense scope for interpretation and therefore there can be no specific conclusion—merely an appreciation of the factors involved.

MICHAEL LANGDON
MARK SAMUELSON



THE LIFE-SIZE ILLUSION

It is generally assumed, if only by those who generally like to assume such general assumptions, that life is an illusion. For those of us, as it were, insufficiently educated in the ways of this vile, nasty, immoral (etc.) world, it may be distressing to be approached by some smug little martyr to the truth, who observes offhandedly—"You know, of course, that this is all one big illusion". It should be noted that this is designed, surprisingly, not to bore you to tears, but rather to reconvert you to the ranks of the One True Faith of Despairing Cynicism. Furthermore, it cannot be proved—if it could, they would be even more self-satisfied—but equally it cannot be disproved, as man's viewpoint is essentially so limited that, were it suggested that he was, in fact, a water-buffalo, he would not be fully qualified to deny it.

But what is so objectionable about the illusion? Think of all the people who, but for the knowledge that life is, very conveniently, illusory, would long ago have succumbed to their misery and committed suicide; and what is an illusion but a poor relation to the 'vision', that phenomenon to which Sts Joan, Jerome et hoc genus omne owe their frequently overpowering, but always holy, saintliness.

Many who are disillusioned with the grand illusion, and, indeed, according to those who 'know these things' (a seedy assortment of psychologists, confessors, gurus and, perhaps, lavatory-cleaners), all of us today, indulge in a little harmless 'escapism'—illusion as a refuge from reality. But, if reality is an illusion, what is there to choose between the two. 'Escapism' thus becomes fairly pointless, rather like seeking sanctuary from the police in Wormwood Scrubs. And yet, perversely, the number who indulge in this peculiarly futile pastime is so great that the refugee camp is already ringed round with barbed wire to prevent escapes back to 'reality', and thus double-delusion has become rife.

And so it goes on—and on. However much one searches for the reality about these illusions, or vice versa, one is, to say the least, unlikely to be confronted with anything other than uncertainty. But, to state it in its lest positive form, when neither side can be proved reasonably, what is the point of arriving at the more painful conclusion? It is rather like wilfully redirecting a train going to the Scottish Highlands (which are beautiful), for the sole purpose of visiting Crewe (which is also beautiful, if you like that sort of thing—after all, it is, one would hope, unique). Ultimately, it may sensibly concluded, it doesn't matter if life is an illusion, since, firstly, we are all stuck in it, whether we like it or not, suicide being useless (for how can we possibly escape from the illusion simply by destroying that tiny part of it which is ourselves); and secondly, the illusion being so all-embracing, it is highly unlikely that any agent of an outside 'reality' would condescend to show his ugly face therein (unless he too were an escapist), and thus there is no reason why we should despise the inescapable, if we enjoy it. For those who do not, or who feel ashamed of the illusion, the only way left is to resolve the matter by desperate thought. The main problem here is that it may actually and horrifically, lead one to conclude that life is real.

GEOFF CUBITT

THE SHADOW

Death has an answer
Reality cannot find;
Under the cape of escapism
Goes man to melt his mind.
Slowly, slowly creeping
Upon more and more of mankind,
Illusion is throttling reality as it
Chews slowly at the mind.
In creeping years it seduces the soul, and
Death sets in to
End one mind and add to the toll.

WILLIAM HAWTHORNE

NOTHING YOU CAN DO

Some escape to the outside
others return to the dream—
 You can do anything with your mind.
Some forget today
 drown in the past—
 their tears blind them tomorrow.
A few live on still.
Some hope for riches—
 but 'tomorrow never comes'
 the truth never dawns today.
There is no escape; it's all in the mind, but the mind is not all.
 'There is nothing you can do that can't be done.'
 Nothing you can do.

DAVID BROCKWELL

Night's silent lamplit streets
reflect on the empty room's window.
It is the pain of this long suffered midnight hour
which eats dwindling sanity.
Night now shrouds reality.
She flings ideals sweet illusions idly,
ruthlessly into the pondering mind.
It is now that life is lived and re-lived,
through this sleepless mirror—night.
. . . . We ran together laughing in the lilac;
 or was it through the rain-stained streets
 of a decaying Berlin. In half-cast shadows
 figures hollow wept.
 I an actor of tragedy—you some Dietrich dream,
 both performers in this macabre comedy.
 Yet there were no flowers.
 The audience applaud silently with their
 pale drawn faces and coloured crimson hands.
 They are in the shadow somewhere.
 Someone needs—someone hates—they are always there.
I stare—A passing traveller upon the stage.
He plays his meaningless meetings.
His endless 'fare thee wells' forgotten.
He does not recognise this familiar city. He pretends.
He did not stay for the funeral of a friend he never knew.
At dawn he vanished—no one noticed or even cared—
Leaving behind an empty bed—a bill unpaid.
It is dawn, your bed is cold.
You too are afraid—you see all that is grotesque.
Once you were kind—you brought your life,
Your love, you fooled yourself—with promises of
A Saint, of some redeemer,
Who never comes—no not now, not here in this sleepless hour.
Sleep now no sleep—the darkness—the dust.
No illusion, no Saint.
Night knows few; all to her are strangers.
Yet seeing how's you made love to her—not you.

JAKE PALTENGI

DRUGS

Little does Miss Priscilla Tomlinson, aged fifty-eight, of No. 2, 'The Limes', Great Bingham, Shropshire, active Secretary of the Great Bingham Society for the Prevention of Drug Addiction (registered under the Local Societies Act 1925), realise that she herself has been a drug addict for the last fifty-eight years.

Colonel Miles Bluntley-Partington, D.S.O., M.C., once of the 3rd Bengal Light Infantry, British Indian Army, snorts through his bushy white moustache when he reads of the drugs problem: "Harrumph!" he growls. "Demmed wastrels, these modern young men. A spell in the Forces would do them good. Humph! When I was young . . ." We all know the pattern. Alas for the worthy Colonel, he, too, is a drug addict. In fact, all of us are.

Something that deceives our natural senses, divorcing us from reality, can be considered a drug. The most potent, most wide-spread, all-embracing drug is Hope. 'Hope springs eternal in the human breast', as the poet said when he waxed lyrical. Hope is the eternal drug, the one stimulant that keeps the human race going, the one light that gleams when all other lights have failed—or the one darkness that yawns amidst the Aurora Borealis of everyday life.

A drug deludes its user until he or she comes to rely more and more heavily upon it as a means of escape from harsh realities, finally becoming completely enslaved by it. The human being hopes from the moment he is born. Whether it is the baby's tiny hope that its nappy will soon be changed so preventing it from crying, or the compulsive gambler's hope that the next time the cards will turn in his favour so preventing him from stepping off the roof of Centre Point without a parachute, or a nation's hope that one day all its troubles will go away leaving it a golden un sullied realm, it is the drug Hope that keeps it going.

Hope works just like any other drug, in that the more depressed the individual, the greater doses he needs. We have all hoped for the half-a-million football pools windfall, or the 38-to-1 on Danny Boy at the 2.30 at Wapshot coming off. The more straitened the circumstances one is in, the more one hopes. Thus, in fairy tales, it is the beggar that hopes to become a prince, or a poor widow's youngest son who hopes to marry the princess. (I've always thought that these youngest sons of poor widows seem to be born lucky.)

Have you seen a man in the last stages of heroin addiction? You do not need to, if you wish to see the lowest dregs to which humanity can sink. See instead the man without hope—the heroin addict who has gone mad because he was deprived of his drug will seem a combination of Charlie Chaplin and John D. Rockefeller by comparison.

"Pshaw!" snorts Colonel Bluntley-Partington. "The man's talking drivel." Evidently he does not believe that hope is the most potent and most dangerous of drugs—as well as the most successful. Never mind, I have other drugs up my sleeve to show him. It has been my firm belief that one of the lesser, but still very powerful, drugs is that military discipline of which the worthy Colonel is so proud.

Take the case of Private Tommy Atkins. Shot in the shoulder, suffering from loss of blood, a 16-mile forced march behind him, a 10-mile forced march ahead of him, Pvt Atkins can no longer keep going. Injections of morphine have failed, benzedrine tablets were given up at the end of the first four miles. At this moment the gallant Colonel, tired but unflagging, having had two horses shot from under him, stumps up. "Pri — vate Atkins!" he bellows. "By the left, for — ward march!" Tommy Atkins' shoulders straighten automatically, the foot that steps out is firmly placed, Tommy Atkins will march the next ten miles, not on his stomach, but on that very powerful drug, military discipline.

But what of Miss Priscilla Tomlinson? I must prove my accusation that she is a drug addict if I have not done so already. Well, she is very fond of curling up with a 'good book' and a glass of sherry. ("Only for medicinal purposes, dear.") No, Miss Tomlinson, I am not referring to that synthetic drug you call sherry, but to your 'good book'.

To read is to drug oneself. The science and system of books and reading has been devised purely as a drug, as a means of escape from harsh reality, as a means of soothing oneself, as a means of experiencing things that can never be experienced in real life.

It would be futile to even attempt to enumerate all these undetected drugs that the Medical Council has never got around to banning, for the list is longer than I am. All I can say is that it is typical human incompetence, nay, crass stupidity, to create synthetic drugs when man can generate them himself in that ever-churning factory, his mind.

RAJIV BENDRE

PLEASE READ QUICKLY — GOD IS ON OUR SIDE

The music roared,
Our voices soared,
We're not bored,
So Praise the Lord!

The Church is fun,
The Church is One,
Let's praise the sun
And all I've done.

Collection bread,
Communion said,
Come on, Ted,
Let's off to bed.

Let us pray
From day to day,
Then we'll say
Our souls are saved.

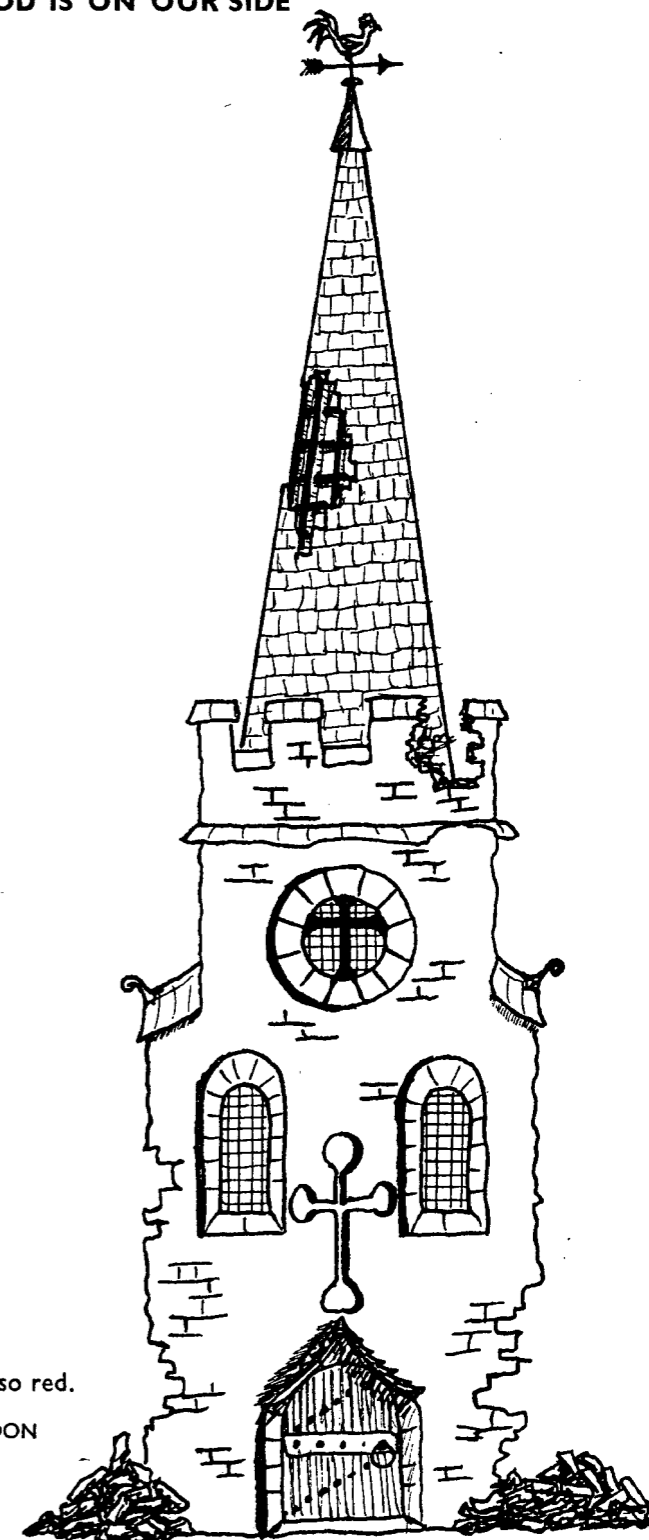
My shoes are clean,
My waist is lean,
My eyes are green,
Oh, I've been seen!

Our heads are bowed,
I sing out loud,
I'm in a crowd,
Yes, I'm in church.

Inside this Shrine
I'm feeling fine,
I pray in line,

And love this wine, so red, we said, so red.

MICHAEL LANGDON



MODERN YOUTH — DECADENT IN A DECADENT SOCIETY

Alcohol, drugs, music—these are just three of the artificial stimulants with which modern youth appears to be constantly trying to escape the reality of Twentieth Century existence. At the same time many have anti-establishment feelings and there is often resentment of authority. Values and traditions of past years are being questioned with a spirit of rebellion and defiance. While these sentiments are by no means new they are alarmingly more common today than they have been in the past. For instance, all over the world vast numbers of adolescents are smoking pot in open defiance of authority, laws and adult prejudices. Yet drink, drugs and music, three easy ways to get "high", are merely the expression of feelings rather than their causes.

The initial desire seems to have been to find something more worthwhile than the corrupt and decadent society in which we live. For example kids truck off to a Kibbutz in an attempt to construct an ideal utopian society in one commune. Meanwhile others experiment with mystical religions such as the Hare Krishna people or the Christian religion of the Jesus Freaks. The appalling truth is that there seems to be little or no effort to institute any but the most trifling of changes into contemporary society. Adolescent idealists seem totally disillusioned with any such attempt and the tendency is to opt out completely. Politics are seen as a complete waste of time and sometimes it's really not so difficult to believe leftist claims that in practice a general election amounts to nothing more than a competition between the Tory, Labour and Liberal parties to manage the affairs of the ruling capitalist class, and its exploitation of working people and the poorer sections of the Middle Class. So what remains for the youth of today (and not just the 2% educated in Public Schools)? The poor get poorer in an increasingly difficult fight against inflation and rising prices, while the E. J. Callards prattle on about the "Aims of Industry" on £65,000 a year. Society is decadent and living in the material world of our forefathers is simply boring and meaningless.

Some adolescents have attempted to find a more meaningful existence trying to "find themselves" in India or with concepts like religion and hippy cultures. Yet while the few maintain some optimism for the future the many are content to wallow in the transient and sensual pleasures of modern day pastimes. The Beatles sang about "the girl with kaleidoscope eyes" while Bowie sings "Rebel, rebel, I love you so". Today adolescents get their kicks from drugs, everything from pot to the killers like heroin. The mind-bending unreality of the trip, a few hours' escape at a rock concert—these are the pastimes of the "drop-outs". Yet "drop-out" in its derogatory sense is hardly the right word to describe kids who reject the values of a society as corrupt and meaningless as ours. Its quite wrong to blame kids like this—even the addicts who can have nothing short of a death-wish. This seemingly divine decadence can be found to a greater or lesser extent in most adolescents today.

Its not difficult to appreciate the enjoyment derived by them and yet escapism can have no result that is ultimately beneficial. The fact that so many people today reject once-cherished values is symptomatic of the state of twentieth century society—a society which is very sick. Escapism is no answer; it is nothing short of an admission of defeat. We must not give up attempts to improve our society for if such attempts appear futile, then likewise is our very existence.

PADDY BURKE



ILLUSION

Who knows what is wrong and what is right,
Or is hope an illusion of despair?
Who knows what is black and what is white?
Life is never just and never fair.

Countless layers in your conscious mind,
Reflecting hidden hopes, subconscious dreams.
To truth you always try to be so blind,
Reality is not the truth it seems.

Strange deception never looked so clear,
Sunk in hazy mirages of light.
An endless vision that the end is near,
Yet boundaries are always out of sight.

Where can I find solace in this life?
Put your trust in fantasy, and pray.
Oh, where can I seek comfort in this strife?
Pray you may find refuge here some day . . .

Trust that you will win through in the end,
Shun pretence and search for what is real.
Pray for principles you can defend,
Pray for evidence which you can feel.

The images of dreams begin to fade,
You glance at fact and truth but cannot stare.
Life is an illusion I have made,
Life is never just and never fair.

CHRISTOPHER PETO

THE CONFUSION ILLUSION IS HERE IN PROFUSION ?

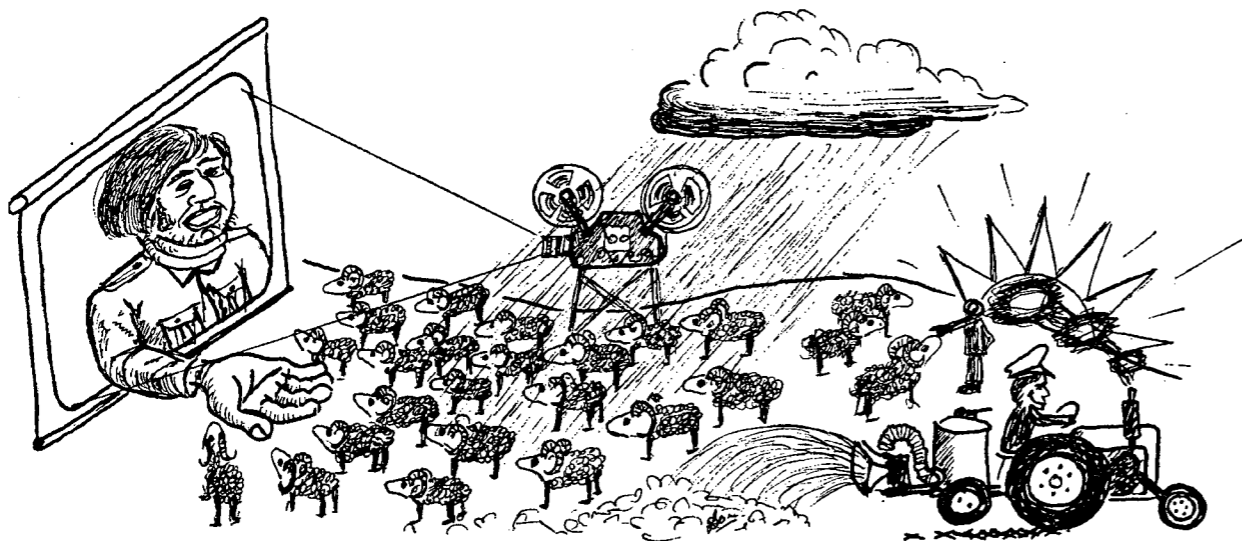
The loudspeakers droned politic and the multimoronic crowd glistened beady-eyed at the thought of another encounter with the almighty. Drifting into the square, they listened to their daily-bread and partook of the supersacrament as they had done every other day. Swaying like a hangman, it restlessly murmured meaningless mumbles while the mournful mothers moaned for their youth. Approval was grunted at the great god and participants, secure in their gregarious gang, slowly smiled summer into the heavy atmosphere. Someone was resisting, it must have been a mind, he was crying out forlornly at the people going blind. The flock immediately trampled him underfoot and proceeded on their journey to nowhere. One smiled. "To smile is to escape" he giggled happily, while others frowned upon this disgusting piece of warped behaviour.

By the mid-day sunrise, the throng was segregated and each was being stamped and addressed by their leader. Enthusiastic and elated he fed them upon the illusion that they, being "the best group in the business" were entitled to special attention. Nobody told him, or them, that they were to spend the rest of their lives condemned to bureaucracy for their inefficiency in the recent apathy competition. They were as deluded by his visions as his optician, but they said nought and paid attention to the front as they had been conditioned to.

"Living in the past is what it's all about," said the vicar, a survivor of before the holocaust, but nobody listened and just contrived to get their exquisite pleasures from the giant cinescreen. It began to rain quite heavily, yet they were too engrossed in the intricacies of the continual monosyllabic noise and single picture on the screen to pay much attention to the intervention of nature. "Let us spray" ordered the Bishop of Pollution as he climbed out of reality and on to his hyperfunic tractor and set off on the road to destruction grinning with obvious pleasure at the damage potential of his dream machine.

And when they say was it all worth it, I will reply, in double quick two step, "of course it was, and further more, I am not, therefore I am an illusion."

MARK SAMUELSON



WHITE LACE LIE

What is it people hide
Behind the curtains of their houses?
"Clean curtains—no breakfast",
A maxim of London city.

What is it people hide
Behind the curtain of their faces?
"Clean curtains—sad man",
A maxim of the city dwellers.
In Oxford Street men just exist
With heavy draped faces—organised queues.

The curtains with a pattern
Are parted just a little—
A fact gleams through on a ray of light—
The weary business men are smiling!
—That only accounts for great sadness
Which no one is destined to perceive.

What pattern does a man select
In order to impress his neighbours?
—One that will promote discussion—
When he's gone, but never to his face.

When you see the clean white curtains,
Do you merely admire the pattern—
Or really try to look behind?

The wise man tries to part the curtains,
The fool disturbs the dust within.

TOM EMMANUEL

“WHO AM I?”

He walked in through the green-painted gate. Here, as ever, Nature was on a firm leash. But not the pigeons. They strutted round picking up the crumbs which the old woman was throwing out of page three of yesterday's *Sun*. Children with dirt behind their ears were playing football. The ball came to him on the wing. He beat one man, two. The crowd was on its feet, the commentator's voice was hoarse as he blasted the ball into the top corner. Pride and glory dripped up to his ears. Someone was patting him on the back. He turned to see the angry face of a bowlered businessman, whose lunch he had just obliterated into small fragments of onion and pâté-de-foie gras sandwich.

His tail between his legs, he was tugged on by his lead by the woman whose blue rinse was growing out to show a thin rim of red. The studded collar round his neck was uncomfortable. Then he perked up his ears. He could drink the smell of honeysuckle. The sun was filtered through the green sieve of foliage. The gaping flowers looked at him, inviting. He set his wings in motion to join the other bees in the pulsating pollen-laden paradise. He had forgotten his hay fever. He sneezed violently. His eyes were red and wet, he could feel it. The artificial lake was throwing shattered pieces of sun at him and the ducks caught breadcrumbs with practised ease. He liked the cool water on his webbed feet. And there was no need to scour the water for food. It was here in abundance. Manna from heaven.

Bread cost so much these days. America poured their wheat into the sea. He could imagine the golden acres swaying in the Gulf Stream. The combine-harvesters would rust though.

A pair of Levi-ed buttocks swayed past. The girl with the iced birthday cake teeth beckoned him on. His feet carried him on after her. The heat of the tarmac sucked through his soles. The girl melted into the heat waves. He walked on and scraped up the one drop that was left. But even that the sun took from him. What a son-of-a-bitch. He gives life and then eats it up with his heat. The heat. He had to get out of this sun-trap.

At the gate he saw his melted girl walk past him on the other side of the roaring stream of traffic. A man jumped off the pavement. A horn blared, brakes screeched. The rubber tyres numbed and crushed. It was agony. It was him.

RICHARD LOUP

FACE AID

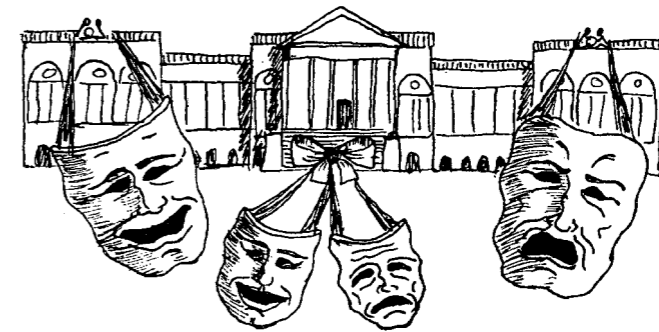
And when the time arrives for me to leave
This verdant school of invertebrate structure,
I will pause awhile and try to believe
That it has waved at me on my departure.

Yes, I will snatch at passing points in time—
The first impressions and the shorter hair,
The running laughter and the midnight chime,
The childish sadness and the lack of care.

Yet I will also see beyond the glory,
(Those smiles on the lips but not in the eyes)
The other half of this material story,

Which some can feel, but shrugging, never face,
Except by waiting, hidden, to surprise
Uncovered masks being fumbled into place.

MICHAEL LANGDON



THE POOR PLAYER

At school he was unshakingly determined to 'make it'. His friends told him so, he told himself so, and even masters were full of praise. "Hum—fine performance, thought you were very good last night," as they passed at the lavatory door. He got glowing mentions in his reports. "I very much enjoyed his part in the play." There was no question of what he would do when he left. And yet when it came to the crunch, the smiling, encouraging faces disappeared, and were succeeded by serious, patronising talk. Talk of appreciating the realities of life, not becoming 'starry-eyed', they muttered, rather embarrassed by the whole thing, as if they had never really taken him seriously anyway. "Its such a rat-race," they coughed at him. "Do you know that at any one time 'Equity' has only 10% of its members employed? — you've got to face facts—you know there's every chance you'll get to a good university—a school play isn't everything." Endless suggestions, 'advice' always trying to drag him away from the subject that filled him with passion, ambition and desire.

But he would not listen. He went and saw his 'friend' in the business. He auditioned and auditioned. "You should have gone to Drama School," they began to ominously declare. "Rethink, my boy," said father, still patronising. But he made T.V. ads. "Babycham" kept him alive for a while. He was at last beginning to get somewhere. A fag in a cheap movie, with no tickets for the première. Then a couple of speaking parts in the West End. The money was bad, but something inside him kept him at it, and finally, unexpectedly, came an anonymous-voiced agent on the phone. Then it was the producer, and after a couple of terrible screen tests he landed the lead. He was big time. He bought a house in Switzerland and sold it to a star. He gave parties for the press to gasp at and smiled sincerely at the cameras. He filled his belly with the husks that the jetset eat. What do you say to that, teacher?

Oh teacher, if only you really knew. He made it where you thought he would be beaten, crushed, disillusioned. But despite you, he staggered to the top. And yet no dream has been fulfilled. He despised no one but himself. He slept with producers, married liquor, and love was something he never even glimpsed. "Darling, you were marvellous," said his mother after 'Richard II' at school. "Darling you were marvellous," said his fourth wife after 'Richard II' hit New York, the night he killed himself. Poor Richard. His teacher nodded knowingly at the newspaper—but for all the wrong reasons. Poor Richard, nobody really understood at all. Not even yourself.

HUGH CARNEG-ARBUTHNOTT

Undimmed, unchanging eye,
Knows no nature truer than itself,
The beauty that it sees, is but
The image of its depths.
What power to see reflections
That return like mirrors to light;
Each glimpse is self-enlightenment
With secrets silver-white.

Your shape deludes understanding
But cheers chill depths of soul;
It is sight for the blind
Voice for the dumb
And sound for the soundless too.

They are the fortunate,
For in their dark know visions unsullied
We in light enjoy once dimmed.

And when death does set in,
It won't vanquish your might,
For into that flame
Eternally we burn
Seeking service, seeking splendour, seeking . .

KARAN THAPAR

Stowe School 1st XV Fixtures - 1974

Sat.	Sept.	21st	Old Stoics (Home)
Tues.	Oct.	1st	Eton (Home)
Sat.	Oct.	5th	Mill Hill (Home)
Sat.	Oct.	12th	Oakham (Away)
Tues.	Oct.	15th	Radley (Home)
Sat.	Oct.	19th	Bedford (Away)
Sat.	Nov.	2nd	Rugby (Away)
Sat.	Nov.	9th	Cheltenham (Away)
Sat.	Nov.	16th	Royal Latin School (Home)
Sat.	Nov.	23rd	Oundle (Home)
Thurs.	Nov.	28th	St. Edward's, Oxford (Away)

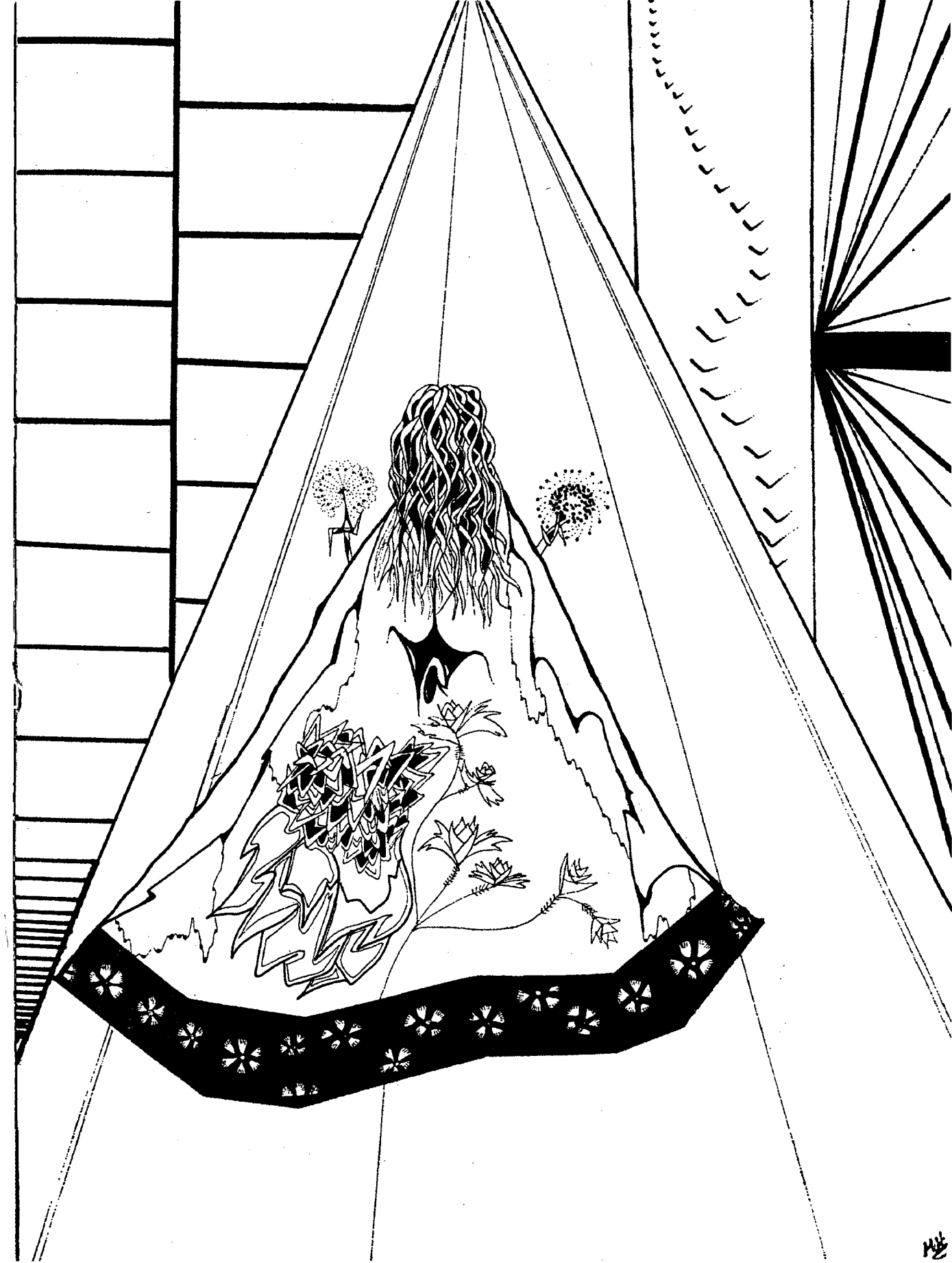
THE HERETICAL LOGOS ?

"The Word is common, but most men live as if they had a private wisdom of their own". Thus Heraclitus, writing 500 years before Christ, expressed the views of so many since then. This is the illusion so cherished by mankind, a "private wisdom"; but we each feel that our "private wisdom" is in fact the "common Word". Many mutually denigrating and denouncing religions bear witness to this illusion, as do the great secular and religious persecutions of the centuries. And it all springs from man's desire to be self-sufficient not only in body but also in spirit and intellect.

This all implies that the private wisdom of our own in effect denies the common Word, but this need not be so. Hence, since by our personal opinions of the Truth we can at least partially comprehend that Truth, and since men's beliefs differ so widely, we can never reject the possibility that we can learn more of the Truth from others.

Great intellects down the ages have sought for the elusive Truth, groping after an abstracted ultimate; we must, however, look to the "Word", to the representation and revelation of the Truth, if we are to find it ourselves at all. But Heraclitus' assertion begs the question of how we can ever know whether someone is living by the "common Word" or by his "private wisdom" —one man's Word is another man's heresy. This will always be a point of disagreement, but we can at least trust that "by their fruits ye shall know them".

JOHN PARTINGTON





Printed by
E. N. HILLIER & SONS LTD
MARKET HILL
BUCKINGHAM