

EDITORIAL -- The Junior House

For the first time in its history, Rendcomb has been split up into two different houses -- a junior house which has been created from the Old Rectory, and the senior house in the main building. The two halves are brought into contact as little as possible -- even in the dining-room for instance, forms I and II now have separate tables to themselves. But many people have questioned the wisdom of this; they claim that this separation leads to a loss of independence which used to be instilled into every Rendcombians character in his first two years at the school.

This, obviously, is a very old-fashioned view. With Rendcomb increasing its size by 50% over the last five years, considerable changes in the organisation of the school were inevitable. In addition, under the new system the house-master can get to know each of the boys as a distinct individual, thus providing the personal form of education which has always been one of Rendcomb's aims and achievements.

As far as one can tell, most of the occupants of the Junior House seem fairly happy in their new environment. There is less bullying, their own interests are exclusively catered for (perhaps more so than in the senior school), they live a corporate existence which is bound to increase the level of open-mindedness and tolerance among themselves, and, finally, a useful stepping stone is provided between primary and boarding school life.

WILLIAM

SILKET

Would it be rash to assume that Nigel Green is descended from that well-known Greek figure Pasiphae? Perhaps we should wait for the Minotaur before jumping to too many conclusions.

There is no truth in the rumour that J.V.Hemming has changed to Gauloises. He still smokes Embassy.

There is no truth in the rumour that

censored censored censored

This rumour is true:

On the staff notice board in the common room there is a small neat typewritten notice from the Headmaster asking if it would be possible to have a meeting of all tutors on alternate Mondays. By the side, written in large scrawly biro, is the word 'no'. (As the writer, Mr.Sells has raised an objection to the word 'scrawly').

QUOTES OF THE WEAK

'I love rugger.' J.H.J.

'I find it completely impossible to comprehend any of John Milton's poetry.' K.L.J.

'Sex in public schools clearly needs a long article on its own...' L.Bruce Lockhart in a recent "Spectator". R.J. Edy perhaps ?

$\frac{1}{3}$ of the 'Critic' Editorial Board would like to congratulate the Headmaster on his choice of prefects for this term. The other $\frac{2}{3}$ would like to remind him of their presence.

This years Reith lectures are to be given by that extremely well-known public figure R.J.Edy. His chosen subject is, 'How to sway a General Meeting without actually saying.' He has politely declined the offer of assistance

The following was not the result of any survey carried out by 'The Critic':
BLINDCORN TOP TEN

- 1. Please don't buy our Daddy no more wine - Society for the preservation of David Sells
- 2. They're coming to take me away; ha, ha, ha! - P.L.C. Smith
- 3. If I had a hammer - R.J.E.
- 4. Black is Black - H.J.G.
- 5. These boots are made for walking - W.J.D.W.
- 6. Nowhere man -
whoever is chucked out of study at the time of printing
- 7. If I were a carpenter - C.C.B.
- 8. I'm a loser - 1st, XV
- 9. Catch us if you can - Longman, Lees, Veasey
- 10. HELP - 'The Critic'

Dear Sirs,

We would like to take this opportunity of saying what a complete waste of time and money we think your magazine is. The serious articles are unspeakably turgid, the 'humorous' articles are wet, you fool yourselves that you are catering for public taste with your juvenile satire, the games reports are biased, and we are still waiting for a cartoon. No one can fail to realize that you put a considerable amount of time and effort into it, but really, we ask, why bother?

yours despairingly

H. N. Peterson

C. P. Stevens

M. W. Young

Applications for labels should be addressed to:-

'George Blake',
c/o The Pentagon,
Washington D.C.

4. RENDCOMB'S FUTURE ?

A sixth form Arts' class in a Glasgow grammar school are sent home on two afternoons a week because there is no one to teach them. There are five Arts' students in Rendcomb's 6A. This, surely, is a misrepresentation of such facial justice ?

This unfair situation has admittedly improved with the recent expansion (taken for reasons of economic self-interest) but Rendcomb is still in a piteously privileged educational position when judged by national standards. Of course, the best education should be given to those who would most benefit from it, but there are thousands of boys who could utilize Rendcomb's advantages far better than many of its present pupils. This makes a strong moral case for further expansion, but unfortunately, ethics and an independent education do not go together. There are however other more practical reasons for a further increase in numbers to the region of 250 - 300.

The first of these is a question of inevitability. Because of the national increase in population, the gradual acknowledgment of education in our society and the increasingly socialist outlook of the country, Rendcomb will eventually be forced to conform to more realistic standards. This will lead to a certain amount of state control, with its accompanying pettiness and frustrating slowness of decision. But if Rendcomb takes the future into its own hands with a programme of expansion now, it will probably escape from the socialist take-over, and be able to retain its highly prized individuality.

Secondly, a school of 300 is able to cater much more successfully for the varying requirements of the individual than one of 150. At the moment, if one is not either games- or practically-minded there is very little one can do in one's free time. But a larger school can first of all establish the necessary range of societies, especially on the cultural side, which are so desperately needed, and then spend time promoting

NO EXIT THIS WAY

Today people panic about road accidents, worry about crime, tell us smoking is lethal, and continue to produce startling figures that predict that there will only be enough food for one sixth of the world's population by the year 2,000. It is perfectly correct that any one person born in this country has only a 2% chance of avoiding injury in a road accident, that in the next decade 50,000 people will be coshed, knifed or murdered while over \$1,000,000,000 worth of goods is being stolen, that nearly one quarter of a million people will die of lung cancer before the next Feb. 29th. and that 20% of our population may die of starvation in 30 years time, but what is the point of worrying about these things when the world will almost certainly have ended by 1995:-

At the present time there are at least half a dozen men who, without very much effort, could virtually obliterate all mankind. Within thirty years this six will have grown to something like forty. Assuming that most governmental heads stay in power for an average of five years, by the year 2,000 at least 150 minds will have had the power, if they so wished, to blow the world into little pieces. Out of these it seems very likely that one, probably in a small country with not much to lose, will be unable to control himself from starting a nuclear war.

The only chance there is of preventing this is to ban all nuclear weapons now. Here the world is split in two; the communists against the rest. As the few countries who hold atom weapons at the moment cannot agree to ban them completely, there is no chance, when this number has trebled, that the then far greater number of view points can ever be reconciled; if a settlement is not achieved within the next five years it never will be.

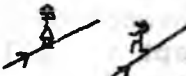

And why must we die ? Because no 'free' man is allowed to trust a commie, and no 'communist' is allowed to trust a dirty capitalist; so the world must end on principle.

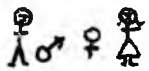
C.P.S.

an extract

from the best-selling novel 'The Romance of Mathematics' by Prof. J.J.F.Hildenburg soon to be filmed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as 'The Eternal Triangle' starring Julie Christie as the hypotenuse.

Chapter III : The Couple

TWO FORCES WHICH ARE PARALLEL AND OPPOSITE  EQUAL 

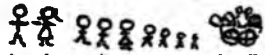
 FORM A COUPLE

The delightful relationship continues until a stage is reached which is termed THE MOMENT OF A COUPLE, and is THE PRODUCT BETWEEN THE MAGNITUDE OF EITHER FORCE AND THE PERPENDICULAR DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM.








Here we discreetly leave the couple to themselves.

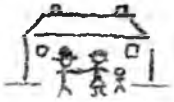
But they should be warned before they proceed any further, that IF THE FORCES FOR A COUPLE THERE IS NO SINGLE RESULTANT.



however, this happy state does not last, for there is another man in her life, and they realize that ANY THREE FORCES, SAY P, Q, AND R CAN ALWAYS BE REDUCED TO TWO, especially if P behaves in the way that she did. The sordid details of their unhappy fate are as follows :-

P =  P AND Q WILL HAVE A RESULTANT  UNLESS P FORMS A COUPLE WITH Q  IN WHICH CASE P AND R WILL ALSO HAVE A RESULTANT  (disaster) UNLESS P ALSO FORMS A COUPLE WITH R  bigamy.

CONTINUE THE PROCESS UNTIL THERE ARE ONLY TWO FORCES REMAINING WHICH EITHER HAVE A SINGLE RESULTANT OR FORM A COUPLE

A COUPLE  END at last OBTAIN CONTRIBUTING.

The Future of the Conservative Party

by The Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP. for Cirencester and Tewkesbury

It has never been easy to know whether statesmen (or politicians, as they are now more often called) should anticipate the future and lead their country in the right direction, or whether they should merely try and provide what the people appear to want. Democracy has been called "the worst form of government, except for all the others" and it is certainly one of the weaknesses of democracy that people vote for attractive promises and jam today; they vote against change and innovation despite the jam tomorrow.

The best comment on the 1966 election that I have heard is that the Socialists fought the Election before and the Tories fought the next one. The Socialists claimed a larger majority and more time and the Tories came up with all sorts of new and rather disturbing ideas. In this sense, the Tories were the radicals, the Socialists the conservatives. Yet the Tories were right: so many of our ideas and policies will have to be adopted in the future. Indeed, many of them have already been stolen by the Government and put into effect. The idea that we might try to negotiate an end to the Rhodesian farce, that we should try and get into the Common Market, that the National Assistance Board be amalgamated with the Ministry of Pensions into one Ministry of Social Security; all these were Tory policies taken by the Government without a word of grateful acknowledgement.

I make no complaint of this. I would rather see the Government do the right thing than get the credit for spotting what the right thing is. But it shows the difficulty of the alternative Government; if we tell them what the future holds they take our ideas, if we keep quiet we seem to have no ideas.

What the Tories must do is to bring together the ideas which we put forward at the last election into a coherent whole making a political philosophy for the seventies, which is in sharpe contrast to that of the Socialists. We were perhaps too detailed in our ideas and not broad enough in terms of the society we wanted to create in Britain and the place which we saw for Britain in the world. With such a broad approach the

individual ideas may be discarded if they become outdated or adopted by the Socialists, but the different philosophy can live on and grow. We must lead the people, in the sense in which I began this article, until it becomes obvious to all that we are leading them in the right direction.

What is this direction? What is this philosophy? I think it is emerging surprisingly clearly already. Socialism has transformed itself from the old fashioned "nationalize the Commanding heights of the economy" sort, into a new, chummy, "we are all in this together" form of State interference. The voluntary incomes policy, the endless NEDDY'S and Boards and planning bodies give the Socialists the finger in every industrial pie that they want, without anyone having the responsibility for doing the right (and usually unpopular) thing. They are creating a sort of industrial welfare state, where everyone who fails is helped at the expense of those who succeed. The Government's tentacles are entering into every facet of our lives.

The Tories will put the responsibilities back on the shoulders of individuals and unleash once more the great forces of enterprise and Commercialism. Above all they will alter the climate in which a cosy living may be extracted at the expense of the rest of society: the endless restrictive practices of labour and management. Britain is a high tariff country, with 100 years of successfully built-up impediments to internal competition, to mobility of labour, to high productivity. A radical change in these attitudes is what the country wants, not an even greater proliferation of boards and committees where once again action can be shirked.

With these greater opportunities will go greater rewards. Saving and investment will not be treated as "unearned" income, to be taxed to the point where it ceases to be worthwhile. A greater share of national income will be left in the pockets of those who earn it. The Social Services will form a minimum standard - in sick pay, unemployment pay, pensions, even in health and education. Those who wish to, should have enough money left of their own to provide higher standards in all these fields for themselves. Thus we can create a society of high-earning, capital-owning, efficient people, exercising their choice in all the vital fields which at present are passing more and more into the orbit of the State. At the same time we can progressively raise the minimum levels of

social provision for which the State will remain responsible.

It is clearly quite different to wish, as Socialists do, to take the maximum out of our pockets to provide the maximum uniform, blanket services for all. The raising of £1000m. extra taxation in two budgets is a clear pointer to the way they have planned ahead for us.

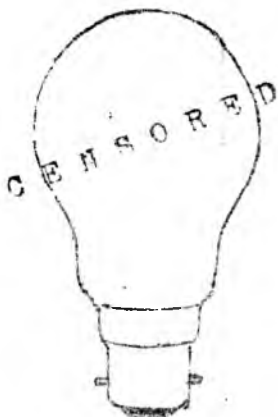
The Tories have always had a different outlook upon the world and where we fit into it. It is a place in which we can and must earn our living. We have conquered it, exploited it, invested in it, traded with it, developed it and taken part in its affairs. The Socialists seem to believe that it can be forgotten about - that it is a nuisance because it interferes with the creation of a Socialist backwater here at home. They have slashed foreign investment, failed to understand the significance of Europe, made an appalling mess of the Far East and become lackeys of America.

In reality it is vital to enter a larger industrial grouping and Europe is the only one that is possible. Moreover, it is the only one in which we can have an influence and continue to play a part in world affairs. To develop Britain's place in Europe and Europe's place in the world is a challenge indeed, full of rich promise and one which the Socialists do not seem to grasp at all.

I believe this philosophy of industrial efficiency and responsibility in a competitive climate, with rewards related to success and with a vastly extended area where free choice can be exercised, is the philosophy to which people are beginning to turn. This is a time where we are in danger of becoming an underdeveloped nation ourselves - we are already at the bottom of the table of productivity and income per head among the industrial nations. New strengths are needed, new disciplines and incentives. I am confident that the Tories are beginning to transform themselves into the sort of party that can transform the nation. The seventies will be years of ascendancy both for the Tories and for the British.

The Hon. Nicholas Ridley, M.P.

RITA - young, blonde
female electrician.
can mend all fuses.
ring NOR 4942 any
time after six.



Some time ago the police carried out a raid on the Robert Fraser Gallery, Day-fair, and removed from an exhibition there 21 pop art paintings, by the American artist Jim Dine, as being obscene. Mr. Dine, one of America's more well-known pop artists, was said to be amazed. His last exhibition in London, a year ago apparently contained nothing more pornographic than paintings of lightbulbs "with sexual overtones".

(It's a new way of life for the common lightbulb, when they will only be sold in little shops in the Charing Cross Road, and the word 'Caram' will not be used in polite society).

If this attitude by the Metropolitan police is to continue, London's art world is in for a pretty bad time. It is all too easy to envisage future raids ---

(scene, Trafalgar Square)

--- All right, sergeant, get the men out of the van and lined up on the pavement. Now let me see, this is the National Gallery, 'a thorough inspection to be carried out and all offensive works to be removed forthwith etc.' I'll look after the paintings on the first floor myself, and I want you sergeant to take two men and deal with the moderns downstairs. They'd better be good men as well; some of these Surrealists can be a bit nasty if you're not used to them, absolute filth. In we go then

....(some time later) We'll have all those lot wrapped up in brown paper then please, Mr. Curator, and stacked over there where people won't see them. I've decided to leave you that one with the naked foot in it, though it's not the sort of thing I'd like to have up in my house. As for that Rokeby Venus or what-

A DISSENTATION ON THE GAME OF RUGBY FOOTBALL

By a member of the Staff who takes Rugby and Chemistry but who prefers to remain anonymous.

It is about ten years since the shape of the ball used in our major winter-term sport changed from the spherical to the oval. This change was in keeping with the policy being adopted in a large number of grammar and independent schools in the post-war era. Soccer still remains the main winter sport in such strongholds of English tradition as Eton, Winchester and Cheltenham, but in all these places rugger has a footing.

Soccer has been described as a game for gentlemen played by yokels, and rugby a game for yokels played by gentlemen. To the uninitiated this might seem true, but rugger has never been classed a public spectacle. It is essentially a game played for the game's sake and the player's pleasure, and is not fettered to the demands from the Spion Kop or Boards of Directors.

What makes us troop up to Top thrice weekly to be rudely thrown to the ground by some superior physical force (from behind) to arise with Cotswold clay and rotting grass lodged in the interstices of our teeth? Are we natural humans to want to suffer all this? Do they like to see us suffer? Yet we do not complain, and in fact seem to enjoy it.

What effect then has the change of code brought about? What sort of rugger do we play? Would we like to change again? It would be true to say that the game is firmly emplanté in the school and the likelihood of a change back to soccer could never be envisaged. Obviously with the popularity and propaganda of the recent World Cup series there is an undercurrent in favour of change, but this cannot be taken seriously, nor perhaps is it meant to be. In terms of success in recent years we have not a very impressive record. This is in fact due to the comparatively small size of our 6th. form during these years. When the present middle school bulge comes into the 6th. form the situation will be much improved. In the current year we suffered six successive defeats, but all but one of these were quite marginal.

Our policy of attacking to win, rather than focusing, in case we lose has caused several of these matches to be lost. But it is hoped that we do not resort to a negative attitude of play in contrast to the idea first propounded by William Ellis when he lifted the ball (round) and ran with it.

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Culture and Society (continued)

Society progressed beyond these books a decade ago while Rendcomb is just beginning to adopt some of their views. Christopher Fry, because several of his plays have been performed here, is one of the few playwrights Rendcomb is acquainted with. In fact he faded from the public eye in the early 1950's. This may not seem to be any less of a playwright, but that his type of verse-drama was only cultural fashion for a short time fifteen years ago.

The mass culture of Rendcomb can be thus easily influenced. People here need a culture, to discuss, to associate themselves with, and to some extent to adopt the ideals of, but because of Rendcomb's isolation they tend to adopt a strange, outdated, lopsided culture to the outsider. One can learn nothing of the most recent plays, novels, films, art exhibitions, except from reviews and criticisms in the papers which most people do not read, so we do not even discuss them, as others would.

This may have its advantages. It means that an individual can attempt to discover his own original tastes and views. There is always a tendency for people to acquire a veneer of pseudo-sophistication merely by dumb acceptance of a rigid code of tastes which society has chosen to adopt as its fashionable culture. But to those who pride themselves on possessing such a code and who may unfortunately at first control our lives, we pay an ear as naive, unsophisticated Philistines, merely because we are unable to have conversation about Klee, David Lorrer and Sibelius.

M.H.P.

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The C.P.C. are, as usual, appealing for any ideas for and/or completed sketches. They should be presented to J.V.H. or I.J.D.

It was Saturday. The doorbell sounded and simultaneously the coil-ringed clock on the side-board struck three. There was a silence for a few minutes before the long, slender clock hanging just to the left of the door announced, once again that someone was waiting on the spotless marble doorstep. Slowly a well-dressed sweaty body raised itself from a capacious leather sofa and moved towards the studded oak door.

.....Francis Hay was tired. He had a lot to think about. 'I was just about to step into the taxi when I saw the small faded sign. On impulse I went in. Her long black unkempt hair fell round her bony face; a small dimple was visible beneath her left ear. He must have sat there for at least half-an-hour while she stared silently at me. She clenched her fists tightly, so that I could see the white bone of her knuckles, and placed them on the table. She began to speak, "Too idle," she paused, "even to follow your own conscience.".....

That was yesterday. Now Francis Hay opened the heavy door.

'Good afternoon, Sir.' A small bald headed man addressed him, 'Could you please be so good as to let me have your signature for this petition for.....'

Mr. Hay took out a rolled gold fountain pen and added a scrawling signature to the few dozen names already there. 'Too idle even to follow your own conscience, he remembered. The words stung him.

'.....for a new childrens' playground seeing as how a kid got killed in this street a week back.'

Of course that was right, Francis thought, there should be a new childrens' playground.

It was too late now, the stars were already falling in on him.

WHERE TO EAT

WHERE TO EAT around Mendocomb

LEGGY INN outside Lechlade on Lechlade - Faringdon road. reasonable lunch about 13/6 or more expensive a la carte.

GRASSLE HAYES HOTEL, Old Salisbury. comprehensive lunch at 15/6 or extensive a la carte menu. convenient - in route for Bristol or Bath

CHICKEN HILL, Withington. Cotswold pub in small village. Chicken in the Basket at 6/6 a speciality.

STAIR HOTEL, Cirencester. Lunch and dinner at about 20/6. Conveniently near.

GRASS HILL HOTEL, Sibury. good though unexciting menu. comfortable surroundings, and beautiful Cotswold village.

SPANISH HOUSE, on Gloucester road from Cirencester. Good food at reasonable prices, served by Spanish waiters.

WHERE TO GO around Mendocomb

HYDROPLANE racing. alt. weekends at South Cerney and Fairford, (only in season)

LIONS OF LONGLEAT, near Bath. latest gimmick in stately horse rat-race. 21 per car.

SLIMBRIDGE. Peter Scott's Wildfowl Trust. not open on Sun.

SEVERN BRIDGE, newly opened, toll 2/6 per car.

BATH, Royal Crescent and famous Roman Baths.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, model village bird sanctuary and Witchcraft exhibition all in rather commercialised Cotswold village.

GO-KARTING, at Little Missington (R.A.F.) and Double. (only occasionally)

CATHEDRALS, at Gloucester, and Tewkesbury Abbey. Coventry Cathedral only 45 miles away.

ARLINGTON HALL, Sibury. famous row of perfect Cotswold cottages in beautiful setting. becoming rather crowded.

CHURCHILL, Roman Villa. worth seeing but rather isolated.

PARSONAGE, hill-climbing. on road to Salisbury in season.