

<b>Editorial Staff;</b>	<b>H.M. Peterson</b>	<b>Cartoonists;</b>
	<b>C.P. Stevens</b>	<b>William Laws</b>
	<b>H.W. Harrop</b>	<b>Michael Grant</b>

EDITORIAL

Every leading newspaper except for 'The Critic', has published its own forecasts and predictions for 1966. Although it is now the middle of February we have decided to follow suit. Therefore we predict:that;

That 100 copies of Interavia arrive for the Meeting, which are backdated to 1958.

That we see the film 'Oliver Twist' three times next term.

That the motor club car has a 120m.p.h pile-up.

That the motor club car is prohibited from going at more than 10 m.p.h.

That all the Meeting is sent 'to wander round some local towns'

That a national shortage of shuttle-cocks develops.

That the Rugby secretary asks the Meeting's permission for the U'13½ team to go on a three week Rugby tour of South America.

That that permission is granted.

"Stop writing please"



That 'The Critic' collapses due to general apathy at Rendcomb.

That 'The Critic' restarts as a local newspaper and becomes world-wide by 1967.

## Expansion at Rendcomb

From 1961 to 1966 Rendcomb will have increased its number of boys from ninety to almost one hundred and fifty. This considerable expansion is obviously going to have far-reaching effects, most of which are only now being felt.

The programme of expansion was supposedly planned as an economic measure; boarding schools of ninety are impractical. Expansion also has a number of other important advantages, the main one being that it is possible to introduce new subjects into the curriculum and to improve the range of out-of-school activities. For example, in the last few years an entirely new subject, chemistry, has been introduced to the lower school, and most of the present societies have been started. With the increase in numbers, the standard of sport at Rendcomb should improve.

These are the advantages, and although perhaps some of the rare qualities of a very small public school disappear, expansion should result in no or few disadvantages, as long as the school is adapted sufficiently to expand.

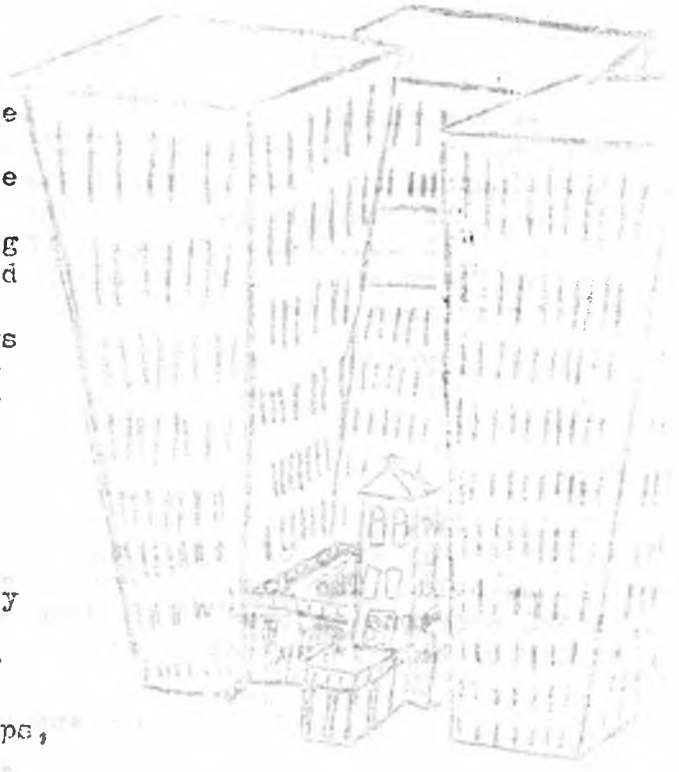
The adaptations that need to be made are, for the most part, either completed or in progress. New buildings are an obvious one. In the last three years the chemistry lab. has been built, the study block has been added, a swimming-pool built, the dining-hall enlarged and the kitchens have been modernised. Unfortunately neither the dining-hall nor the studies have quite catered for the expansion, and further alterations will be necessary. Other study accommodation will have to be found if all next year's fifth form are to have them, and the dining-hall is now planned to be extended into forms 1 and 2's common-room. By the end of this year the junior house will have been added on to the Old Rectory, and parts of the arts block will be in use. These extensions are going to have considerable effects on Rendcomb, the junior house most of all. The wide age-range here is an unusual feature which will soon be disappearing,

whether it was a good idea or not.

Another result of expansion, which has been taking place for many years and of which some people may not be aware, is the considerable increase of numbers in each form. Five years ago, a form of fifteen boys was considered exceptionally large, but now nearly every form has over twenty boys, and a further increase is inevitable. The only solution would be to create a second stream throughout the school, employing twice as many staff, which would again prove uneconomical. Since there is no chance of this happening, forms will continue to burst out of some of the smaller labs. and classrooms, and another important feature of Rendcomb disappears. Rendcomb may still have low staff-pupil ratio, but it can no longer claim the almost individual tuition right up the school that it used to.

Other changes have been made. Due to increasing numbers, the College has abandoned its policy of providing some school uniform and all games clothes, but a plan to make all boys buy their own sporting equipment has recently been dropped.

In general, the result of expansion would seem to be that Rendcomb is losing many of its characteristic features, and becoming more like any other public school. Perhaps, though, it is present College policy to bring Rendcomb more in line with other public schools, and expansion has resulted from this.



## LETTERS

### Television

Dear Sirs,

I think that the television ought to be used more often. What is the good of having a television if it is only going to be used a few times a term? Many people would benefit from it, and it does not take much effort to prepare the Assembly Hall for a television show.

yours sincerely

R.J.Read Form 1.

### A Guitar Club?

Dear Sirs,

An increasing number of boys are now bringing guitars back to Rendcomb. I should think that at least twenty are here at the moment. Therefore it would seem sensible if everyone pooled their resources and formed a guitar club. It would be financed by a small subscription which would allow the club to purchase suitable music and any other necessary equipment. It could also organise various outings to guitar concerts and perhaps hold an occasional one itself, and meet three or four times a term to discuss any relevant business.

yours sincerely

W.Longman

### The Fete

Dear Critic,

Many of the first form feel that another fete ought to be held. The last one raised a lot of money for the Church and everyone enjoyed it. Most of us would be willing to run stalls or help in any other way.

yours sincerely

N. Willford and H.Fisher

Another fete is to be held later in the year. Although the last one was an outstanding success, we hope that the prizes will be slightly more realistic this time. -Ed.

# Primary Schools

Primary Schools are the first step in Britain's state-run educational system. What are they like? There can be no doubt that academic standards vary considerably from one to another, the small village school of forty cannot keep up the big town schools of three or four hundred. However, many people believe that primary schools have distinct advantages over prep. schools. They claim that co-education, the social mixture, and the fact that children can live at home, make them preferable.

Laurie Lee, the well-known author, went to Slad village school, just outside Stroud. In his book, "Cider with Rosie", an autobiographical account of his early life, he writes about his village school.

"Our village school was poor and crowded, but in the end I relished it. It had a lively reek of steaming life: boys' boots, girls' hair, stoves and sweat, blue ink, and white chalk and shavings. We learnt nothing abstract or tenuous there -- just simple patterns of facts and letters, portable tricks of calculation no more than was needed to measure a shed, write out a bill, read a swine-disease warning. Through the dead hours of the morning, through the long afternoons, we chanted away at our tables. We absorbed these figures as primal truths declared by some ultimate power. Unhearing, unquestioning, we rocked to our chanting, hammering the gold nails home. "Twice-two-are-four. One-God-is-Love. One-Lord-is-King. One-King-is-George. One-George-is-Fifth..." So it was always; had been, would be for ever; we asked no questions; we didn't hear what we said; yet neither did we ever forget it.

When lessons grew too tiresome, or too insoluble, we had our traditional ways of avoiding them.

"Please, miss, I got to stay 'ome tomorrow, to 'elp with the washing -- the pigs -- me dad's sick."

"I dunno, miss; you never learned us that."

"I 'ad me book stole, miss. Carry Burdock pinched it."

"Please miss, I got a gurt 'eadahe."

The narrow school was just a conveyor belt along which the short years drew us. We entered the door marked "Infants", moved

gradually to the other, and were then handed back to the world."

(by kind permission of Laurie Lee)

Laurie Lee was at his primary school in the 1920's. In almost 40 years there has not been much change in the small, rural school. The curriculum and the method of teaching remains old-fashioned, though many of the larger town primary schools use much more modern methods. The following passage is by a boy who left his primary school a few years ago.

### In Praise of Primary

I have never been inside the grounds of a prep. school, far less studied one. So I speak from experience, only of primary school education, and only of one primary school. Some of my closest friends are ex-prep.school-boys and it is only through them that I have heard anything about this sort of school. Still, these are the advantages I believe I've had.

Primary schools seem to have more of a social advantage than an academic one. Firstly they are run free-of-charge by the state. This opens them to any and every type of child. Segregation is to be deplored; and only those with sufficient means are allowed into the prep. school, a segregation of rich from poor. I believe that mixed-sex prep. schools are rare or non-existent, so sexes are automatically starved of intercourse and understanding, in school hours anyway. In my school, though unconscious of it, I mixed with children from every sort of home, and there was endless healthy familiarity and intimacy between boys and girls.

As to the curriculum, we had a simple but broad instruction in Maths, English and a little History, Geography, Music, and general knowledge. The emphasis was more on constructiveness, expressing oneself, and the Christian virtues, than on book-knowledge and discipline. We lived at home in the emotional security of our parents' company, and I think as a result we can communicate with them more naturally and they know what we are really like.

I don't think that children under eleven require formal instruction in classics or science, and a lax routine where the child learns to discipline himself is best.

These are the main points I feel benefit the primary-school child, but it would be a pity not to learn a little from the prep.schools.

The future of the village primary school is uncertain. The big town primary schools are already beginning to swallow up the smaller and obviously impractical village schools. This means that more staff are available to teach a wider range of subjects, and cuts down the cost for the local authorities. However, many people believe that a village school has a number of unique advantages, and is an inherent part of English rural life, which will soon be lost. Despite opposition and petitioning by Laurie Lee, Slad village school was closed down recently.

next issue: 'The Prep. School'.

OBITUARY — Delilah de Gusthaine "Pongo" Sells

"Pongo", as we affectionately named him, came to us after the war. Although he told few people, he had a distinguished war record ("Churchill's Greatest Speeches", on Parlophone, 32/-) and he immediately proved popular with the boys. He taught French, German, and fire-practice, all with great success. He also added a new subject, 'Christopher Fry and Jean Anouilh,' to Bendcomb's curriculum.

There were, unfortunately, a few isolated incidents which marred this fine career. He was at one time arrested on a charge of cerrynting youth. He was alleged to have held wild parties, where unbelievable home-brewed liquor circulated, and where all joined in the reading of pornography. However there seemed to be a confusion of terms in the name designated to this 'Society', (it was supposed to be Literary), and he was released with his name cleared.

"Pongo" also became involved in one other minor court case. In a fit of expansive mirth, he testified, in writing, that he would bring  $7\frac{1}{2}$  people to attend one of his famed school plays. Unfortunately the long-awaited  $\frac{1}{2}$ -man failed to turn up, and he was sued for breach of contract.

He died as he would have wished to have done, on the field of battle. Cannonades whistled across the pitch, as he stood there alone on the touchline exhorting his men to greater efforts. No one knows who fired the fatal shot. He died there, surrounded by his gallant band. His last plea was to know who won. His loyal captain, Sir Louis, replied euphemistically, "The enemy sir, they run!" (they were sprinting towards the 14th goal)...

## T E R R O R I S M I N A D E N

For the past 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  years I have lived in Aden, a small colony 75 miles square, surrounded on three sides by the vast desert which now goes by the name of The Federation of South Arabian States. Several thousand British troops cling to this outpost of arid sand and rock at the bottom end of the Red Sea. Amongst this compact mass of sweating Europeans roam a large number of terrorists.

These men specialise in killing Europeans. The streets are constantly patrolled by armed British soldiers on foot and in vehicles. Even so the killers still manage to attack using grenades, bazookas, time bombs or machine gun on defenceless European women and children as well as on the armed soldiery. I myself have witnessed a considerable number of these 'incidents' from our fourth floor flat balcony. A grenade thrown towards a neighbouring balcony fell short raking our wall with shrapnel. On another occasion our flat was bracketted by bazooka shells. I've also seen cars burning in the street and have heard shooting coming from more distant quarters of the town. The white man is constantly on watch ready to fling himself to the ground at the slightest sign of trouble. Here nobody is safe from a violent death.

All the trouble is over the rule of the Federation of South Arabia. Since the Nationalists came to power in the Yemen ( the country immediately north of Aden ), the campaign against the British control of the Federation has been stepped up. The National Liberation Front For The Occupied Yemen South is an Egyptian backed organisation which has been set up in the Yemen and specialises in infiltrating agents into Aden armed with explosives and machine guns to do as much damage as they can against Europeans and their installations.

When we first arrived in June 1963 things were fairly quiet and in the first year there was only one incident of note; a grenade attack on the High Commissioner at the airport. Even though a state of emergency was declared there were hardly any troops on the streets and people went about their business as usual. Since then things have gone from bad to worse and the number of incidents has increased at an alarming rate.



Many widely differing forms of terrorism are used. The most common type is to lob grenades where there are large gatherings of Europeans such as cinemas, restaurants, bars and clubs. Consequently many of these activities have been suspended. On one occasion about 60 officers were 'dining-in' in the officers' mess when an Arab servant threw a grenade onto the table. The officers immediately dived for cover and the grenade exploded harmlessly drilling a neat hole in the table, but in the confusion that followed the culprit escaped. A seaman at a dance was not so lucky and was killed when a grenade landed in the crowd. As a defence against grenades all outside doors have wire-netting guards just inside to prevent grenades being thrown in as the door is opened and high, double, protective fences surround service buildings.

Another common form of terrorism is to plant plastic explosives in places frequented by Europeans or in the air-conditioning covers outside flats. One R.A.F. Arab receptionist started to place plastic charges under the floor of the officers' mess dining room. Some were set to explode 20 minutes after the rest to cause casualties among the rescuers. Fortunately, he turned the time-clock backwards setting off the charges and killing himself!

Various types of booby traps have also been tried: It is now compulsory for British school-children to have a certain make of satchel and some of a similar appearance were manufactured (probably in Egypt) with explosives inside which blew up when the satchel was opened by a child whose own had previously been exchanged in a crowded place. A similar method was to put explosives in thermos flasks and either sell them in shops or exchange them for normal ones in peoples' baggage. In one raid on a village, hundreds of these were found ready for distribution. Because of this, everyone has taken to painting their own flasks in bright colours for easy recognition.

The terrorism has increased at an alarming rate, until last October when things came to a head with the assassination of Sir Arthur Charles (who had been working for 30 years to improve the Arab's status) which the State Legislative refused to condemn. This led to the suspension of the Aden constitution and the start of direct rule by the British High Commissioner. This caused rioting in certain parts of the town, and virtual

confinement of Europeans to their homes.

During our first two years, the occasional explosion provided a certain amount of interest and excitement and crossing the street at night became an adventure with a certain element of risk. However, the increased callousness of the killers in recent months, (such as cold-blooded shootings on the streets) meant that we were very thankful to leave in the latter part of last year.

R.C.G.

----- -0- ----- -0- -----

### TOP TEN '65

These are, in Rendcomb's opinion, the ten most popular records of 1965. There is no record among them by a single artist, and only two, "I got you, babe", and "You've lost that loving feeling", by duet.

1. Help!	Beatles	42 votes
2. Day Tripper	Beatles	30 votes
3. Mr. Tambourine Man	Byrds	25 votes
4. I Got You Babe	Sermy and Cher	22 votes
5. Get Off Of My Cloud	Rolling Stones	18 votes
6. The Carnival Is Over	Seekers	16 votes
7. My Generation	The Who	15 votes
8. You've Lost That Loving Feeling	Righteous Brothers	12 votes
9. I Feel Fine	Beatles	11 votes
10. Look Through Any Window	Hollies	10 votes

----- -0- ----- -0- -----

### HOCKEY REPORT (cont'd from back page)

Rendcomb 1st. XI 1 Bristol University 2nd. XI 5

Rendcomb started at a much faster pace than in the previous match and, with the attack combining reasonably well, soon scored through a hard shot by Webb. In the second half, the wing-halfs and inside-forwards were sometimes extremely slow to cover back in defence and Bristol scored five well taken goals within a space of twenty minutes.

# S U R V E Y

## on Sport

The result of a recent poll showed, surprisingly enough, that Rugby is the most popular of the major sports played at Rendcomb. This could possibly be explained by the fact that the Rugged season has only just finished, but in our opinion a clear 12% majority cannot be so easily accounted for. The results are as follows:

Which main sport played here do you enjoy most?

Rugby	37%
Hockey	25%
Cricket	24%
Tennis	14%

(Cross-country running was not included as a major sport.)

Ironically Rugby has been far less successful over the past few years than both Hockey and Cricket. The 1st. XV have in fact won only five of their last twenty six matches while the hockey and cricket 1st. teams have both won over  $\frac{1}{3}$  of theirs.

This leads us onto another more important point -- should Rugby be completely abandoned in favour of soccer? The main argument in favour of this is that with a school of 130 boys, one can only very rarely hope to produce a Rugby team of satisfactory standard. This, it is argued, would not apply so much to soccer, because less emphasis is placed on individual size and strength and fewer numbers are involved. Secondly there is the more basic reason, often quoted, that it would prove more popular than Rugby. This, as the following figures clearly indicate, is completely untrue.

Would you prefer to play Rugby or soccer at Rendcomb?

Rugby	66%
Soccer	34%

Immediately therefore, the main argument in favour of

changing to soccer, becomes an overwhelming reason for continuing to play Rugby. But there are other less obvious reasons which are equally important. The first of those is that Rugby gives boys who have little games ability an opportunity to contribute to at least one of Rendcomb's major sports. The fact that Rendcomb will ~~win~~ <sup>win</sup> very few Rugby matches is irrelevant, for one of the most important reasons for playing games at all is to give boys an interest which will continue into later life.

Secondly, there is the more practical reason that when Rendcomb has increased its numbers to 140, six soccer practice games would be necessary whereas only four will be needed if we continue to play Rugby.

However, the 34% in favour of soccer clearly represents an enthusiastic and sizable minority which needs to be catered for. One of the simplest methods of doing this would be to make a properly marked-out soccer pitch, to be used occasionally in P.T. periods, but principally in spare time.

\*\*\*\*\*

HOCKEY REPORT

Dean Close 'A' XI 3      Rendcomb 1st. XI 0

For the third successive year, Rendcomb were soundly beaten by a fitter, faster and more experienced Dean Close side. Dean Close only scored once in the first-half, from a hard shot following a short corner, but in the second-half, when Dean Close's greater speed and cohesion became more apparent, two further goals were added. The main difference between the two sides was in the forward line, where Rendcomb's attacks seemed completely ineffective when compared to the fast moving Dean Close attacking movements.

Rendcomb 2nd. XI 3      Marling 1st. XI 1

This was the first 2nd. XI victory for over two years. On a very soft pitch neither Kyle side was able to move the ball about very quickly, but both Kyle and Raddon played well repelling most of Marling's attacks and providing chances for the forward line.