

the critic

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No. 1

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EDITORIAL

This magazine will be coming out every three weeks on Saturdays. This first issue is being distributed free of charge owing to the generosity of the College, but future copies will cost 4d.

We do not want all the articles to be written by the Editors, and any original contributions, including those from the lower forms, will be gratefully received. We would also welcome letters on any subject, and if requested names will not be mentioned. All articles should be submitted for the next issue by Sat. Oct. 23rd.

We must apologise for the bad printing in some places, but we hope that both the colour and the quality of the type will be improved by the next issue.

Finally, we would like to thank the College for all the assistance that has been given to us, especially for the loan of the type-writer and printing equipment.

SCHOOL NOTES

There have been two films so far this term. The first, "The 300 Spartans" was enjoyed by some of the lower forms, but the second, "Battleship Potemkin" was an absorbing study of the 1905 Russian revolution, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it.

On Tuesday Oct. 5th., most of the 6th. form went to Stratford to see an excellent performance of "The Comedy of Errors". Ingeniously directed by Clifford Williams, and with some fine acting, the performance was enjoyed by everyone.



... together with 2 shirts, a
sock and a sweater for 3
weeks : makes £7 14/6d

SURVEY on School Uniform

94% of the school are not in favour of the newly introduced school uniform. This was shown by an opinion poll representative of each form in the school, carried out recently. This discouraging fact reinforces the growing resentment to Rendcomb's strange and outmoded garb.

The lumber-jacket and shorts were introduced early on, and were always paid for by the College. They formed the basis of the firm policy of a cheap and hard-wearing outfit for all boys. Now we have 'progressed' to corduroy shorts and grey pallovers.

Since there had to be a change, surely this was the ideal time to think seriously about bringing the school uniform up-to-date? Instead of doing this, the College abandoned the jacket, (the one good point of the old uniform) and came up with an inferior imitation of the original ideal. What has been gained? The uniform as it stands is no longer provided by the College, is not hard-wearing, and costs far too much for what it is. What is more, it is itself impractical. The main defect is that, without a jacket, there is little protection against wind, and few pockets. Also, as Miss Lloyd would no doubt agree, thick wollen socks in the summer term are, to say the least, unsatisfactory.

We now arrive at the question of alternatives; suggestions have been put forward in the past, usually involving less conventional clothing. These have been turned down because they were considered scruffy, or lacked uniformity.

Are there any grounds for either of these objections? Whenever boys are seen in public they have to change into their sundry suits, even to the extent of team-serving. These suits have been brought satisfactorily up-to-date. Normally, as boys are not seen about, uniform need only be for personal satisfaction.

The 'Critic' made a survey of further alternatives:-

- 11% (mainly in the Lower School) preferred the old lumber-jacket and shorts.
- 33% preferred sports jackets or blazers and terylene trousers
- 53% preferred polo-necked sweaters and denim jeans.
- 4% were either undecided or preferred other alternatives.

This limited number of alternatives was used in order to keep the poll simple. Perhaps none of them are very satisfactory. The first is unobtainable and merely serves to show that the

new uniform is even less popular than the old. Sports jackets and trousers are rather unsuitable for the environment, and jeans and sweaters have the disadvantages of no jacket. Possibly, if some form of jacket was added to the latter, it might prove more satisfactory.

It was generally felt that the most needed reform was the introduction of long trousers. 98% felt that long trousers should be worn by the 6th. form; and the majority of those interviewed thought that they should be introduced as low as the 4th. form.

On the basis of all these results, it seems that some drastic reform in the uniform is necessary to satisfy the majority of the school, the most important introduction being that of long trousers for the Upper School.

Meanwhile, Rendcomb must remain among the immortal few with Gordonstoun and Bryanstoun who have to suffer the indignity of short trousers for two-thirds of the year.

TENNIS MATCH

Rendcomb 1st. VI v. Glos. Police VI.
Lost 7 - 1

1st. string	v. 1st. string	Lost 6-0	6-2
	v. 2nd. string	Lost 6-4	4-6 6-3
	v. 3rd. string	Won 8-6	10-8
2nd. string	v. 1st. string	Lost 6-0	6-2
	v. 2nd. string	Lost 6-1	8-6
	v. 3rd. string	Lost 6-3	6-3
3rd. string	v. 1st. string	Lost 6-2	6-0
	v. 2nd. string	(not played)	
	v. 3rd. string	Lost 6-4	6-0

From the outset, the attitude of most of the players, especially that of the 2nd. string, was not very encouraging. This, added to the fact that nobody reached their true form, except possibly Fonseca, made the result a foregone conclusion. Even so, the score could surely have been improved by a more aggressive and determined approach.

TEAM : 1st. string : Glennie, Shellswell.
2nd. string : Day, Fonseca.
3rd. string : Harrop, Webb.

RUGGER REPORT

Rendcomb College 1st. XV 23 pts. Dean Close 2nd. XV 0 pts.
(4 goals, 1 try)

Rendcomb 1st. XV, last Saturday, recorded their biggest win since October 1962, by beating Dean Close 2nd, XV 23 - 0. Is this the beginning of a Rugger revival at Rendcomb? Not completely. A great deal more cohesion and speed is necessary, from both forwards and backs, before the team becomes really good.

However, to return to Saturday's match :- Rendcomb could have won the match in the first ten minutes, except for some atrocious handling by Harrop, although Glennie did eventually manage to scramble a try. A few minutes later, a break by Harrop ended in another fortunate try. Rendcomb stayed on top, despite disappointing possession from both the scrum and the line-out, but did not score again before half-time.

The first ten minutes after half-time was Rendcomb's most anxious period. Some poor handling and muddled kicking, with the exception of Hillier, who played an impeccable game throughout, indicated that the team might not be too strong when under pressure. (This should improve as the season progresses.) Rendcomb gradually pulled themselves back into the game, and tries by Smith L., Shellswell, and Smith again, clinched the match.

What about individual performances? Possession from the line-out was poor. There was too much loose patting back of the ball by Dow, which made the scrum-half's job more difficult; but Haddon played very well under the conditions and combined satisfactorily with the fly-half, after an anxious start. Kyle was emphatically beaten, possession-wise, by his opposite hooker. Little was seen of the second row, but Hiscox soon adjusted to the pace of the game, although he was far too frequently caught off-side. The other members of the back row were both great assets to the scrum. As for the three-quarters, both centres played soundly, but Shellswell, especially in the second-half, tended to cut back towards the scrum instead of passing it out to the wing. However they contained the Dean Close backs to such an extent that there were only two dangerous three-quarter movements throughout the whole match.

Shellswell's place-kicking was excellent, and if it continues in its present form, could be the decisive factor in many future matches.

Rendcomb College U'15 XV 62 pts. Dean Close Yearlings XV 12 pts.
(9 tries, 7 goals) (2 drop gls, 1 pen.gl., 1 try)

This was a very encouraging start to the season, but it should be noticed that the opposing side was a lot smaller and less experienced than our own team. Rendcomb won most of the line-outs and, due to Collins' good hocking, the majority of the scrums. Gray at scrum-half played well, giving ample opportunity for our superior three-quarters to score. Yuvaboon's kicking showed great promise for the future.

Try-scorers :- Simpson (7), Black (4), Yuvaboon (3), Hook, Belcher.

L A T T E R S

Dear Sirs,

Quite recently the Cotswold Hunt was hunting round here, and I was surprised at the protests that were shouted by some of the boys.

I think that most people who protest do not know anything about the sport. Foxes are a menace and they do have to be controlled and hunting them is the most humane way of doing this. There are however other methods of controlling them. Firstly, what happens if they are shot? Yes, this works well, but how do you find the foxes to shoot them? When you find one, not even the best shot in the world could kill them every time. Some are bound to get away with a flesh wound that festers until it poisons the animal. Now let's consider poisoning.....this is obviously impractical as other animals may eat the poison as well, including your pet dogs, and die as a result. Trapping is also impractical, for foxes are so cunning and wary that they avoid traps.

Now the only method left is hunting them with foxhounds and horses. People say this is cruel.....but why? The fox is always either completely unharmed or killed outright. It only takes a few seconds for the hounds to kill the fox once it has been caught. Besides this, there is the sport and experience that goes with a hunt. Foxes are extremely cunning and it is estimated that three out of four foxes chased get away. Riding a horse through the countryside and jumping fences and walls in the early morning is one of the

most pleasant experiences I know, so it is no wonder that fox hunting survives.

Therefore I suggest that next time you are going to hurl insults at hunters, you think about it and make sure that you are not just jealous that you have not the time and facilities to hunt yourself.

yours sincerely
B.F.P.

Dear Sirs,

Once again members of the 1st. XV are being forced to spend a great deal of their free time on Rugger. Not only do they have the three practice games a week, but the Games Co. has also decided that everybody should do circuits twice a week. Add to this other practices, and chaotic pre-match talks, and one finds that rugger becomes not so much a sport, but more a way of life!

yours
AN OBSERVER

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Extract from the first ever Rendcomb College Magazine issued in 1920. (When the school contained 12 boys)

From "Rendcomb in the Future" by B.J. Brooks

..."In four years time we shall be quite big boys"..."We shall not slide down the banisters as we used to"..."We shall not shut boys on the roof or in the cellars"..."Saul will still be looking at us with his stony stare"..."There will be forms then and we shall not all have lessons together as we do now"..."We shall have a bathing pool which we shall have made ourselves"..."We shall have a metal shop"..."The magazine will be bigger and better".

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"CRITIC" TOP TEN

(Last week's positions in brackets)

based on a popularity poll	1. If You Gotta Go, Go Now - Manfred Mann	(5)
	2. I Got You Babe - Sonny and Cher	(6)
	3. Eye of Destruction - Barry McGuire	(2)
	4. Look Through Any Window - Hollies	(3)
	5. Help ! - Beatles	(4)
	6. Baby Don't Go - Sonny and Cher	(9)
	7. Make It Easy On Yourself - Walker Brothers	(8)
	8. Like A Rolling Stone - Bob Dylan	(7)
	9. It's Good News Week - Hedgehoppers Anonym.	(-)
	10. Satisfaction - Rolling Stones	(1)
10. Universal Soldier - Donovan	(-)	

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

"Saul has an ugly face.." "..it (the school) was much bigger than I expected.. I never thought I would be able to find my way around.." "..not a bad building from the outside, though the stone needs cleaning.." These were some of the early impressions of the lads, formed when they first arrived at Rendcomb.

After a fortnight here, they had already formed some definite opinions about the school. "..the chairs fall to bits.." "..bread making is tedious.." "..it's a bit difficult having to go such a long way to the wash-rooms in the morning.." "..serving is horrible.." "..the beds have a trench down the middle.." "..I want to carve my initials, and pictures of cats and dogs on the desks.." "..we want the dorms changed every week-end so that we can tell ghost stories.." "..coffee for breakfast.."

On the subject of home-sickness opinions were varied. Most of them admitted that they were home-sick at one time or another, especially when they were writing letters or when they had nothing to do. Many of them now did not seem to mind being away from home at all, and one even went so far as to say, 'I was glad to get away from my perishing sisters'.

They already had a number of criticisms to make. "..We shouldn't be called 'runts' by the masters.." "..I want to take my own food into tea.." "..there is enough free time, but too spread out.." "..no games on Mondays.." "..the central heating should be put on earlier.."

It is obvious that since their complaints are rather trivial, they find nothing seriously wrong with life at Rendcomb. They mention no form of bullying by older boys, and feel that they are well-provided for. Two final thoughts: "..bed-time is about right.." and "..more custard.."

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The Christmas Party Committee would be grateful for any completed sketches or ideas for them for this coming Christmas Party. Please submit these 'articles' to our Hon. Sec., R.B.H. Bryant, study bedroom 4.