CACTUS

Edition no. 1

price 2p

EDITORIAL by A. Szeja T. Wellbelove.

Well, we've made it.
We've printed the first edition of 'Cactus' and from hereon it's upto you.
Some criticism has been levied against us concerning the choice of the title, but it was considered a good name since it seems to describe exactly what this paper aims to be. A cactus grows in the desert and so this newspaper hopes to grow in the desert of apathy and lethargy which seems to be prevalent in this school. However, there is a lot of good that does take place but few people seem to hear about it. Consequently, our main aim is to improve communications within the school.
To allow this paper to fulfill its aims and objectives we need the co-operation of staff and pupils as regards articles. We the "backroom boys and Lady", are prepared and ready to work on your behalf.
Eventually, we hope to start a section for Open Letters where staff and pupils can voice their opinions on various topics without the fear of reprimand from either side. We intend this paper to be constructive and definitaly not destructive. So let us begin to receive your letters.

We intend to be informative on what is happening within the school. We would like to advertise social functions i.e. what's on at the cinema as well as community projects. Also we intend to dedicate a lot of space to careers for the 5th and 6th. form. This we can only do with your help since we can only do so much on our own.

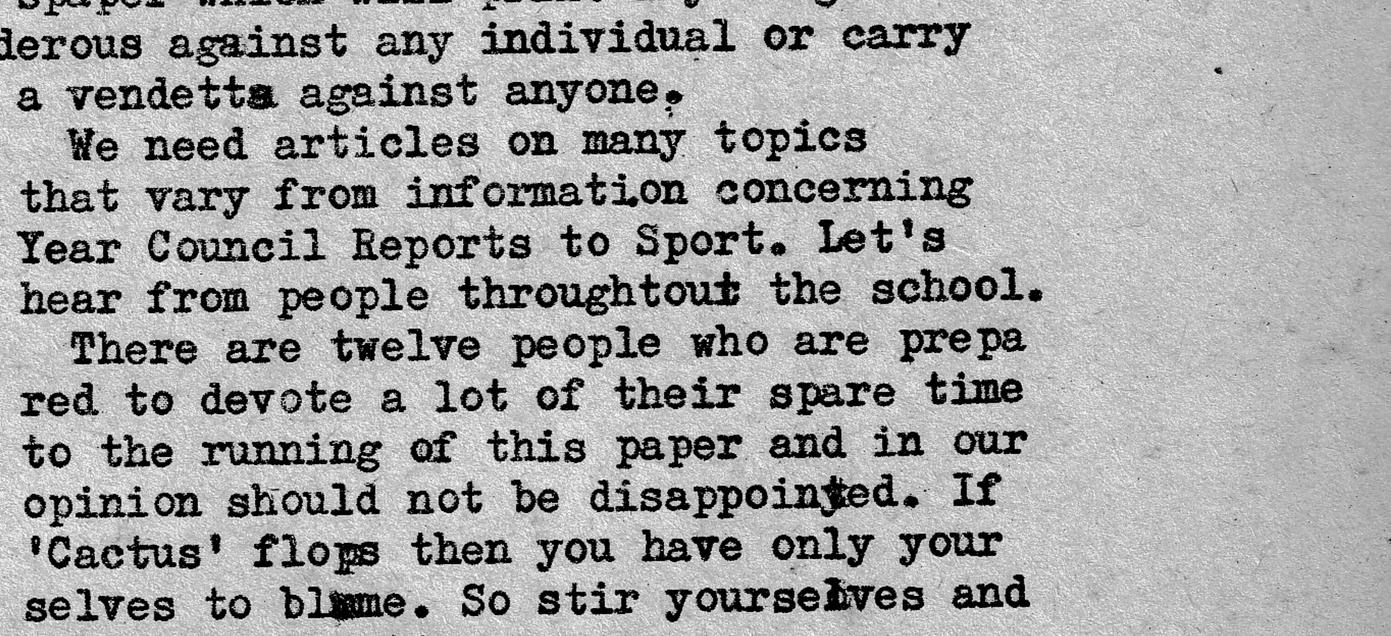
We regard the improvement of community relations as one of our prior objectives. Again this can only be done with your help. This newspaper could be the starting point given the chance. There are racial prolems within the school which exist on both sides. People who want to explain their side of the argument may use this paper as a forum.

In order to make 'Cactus' a success we all must be constructive in what we say. This is not the kind of newspaper which will print anything slanderous against any individual or carry a vendetta against anyone.

We need articles on many topics that vary from information concerning Year Council Reports to Sport. Let's hear from people throughtout the school.

There are twelve people who are prepared to devote a lot of their spare time to the running of this paper and in our opinion should not be disappointed. If 'Cactus' flops then you have only yourselves to blame. So stir yourselves and prove the sceptics wrong.

P.S. Anyone who laughs at my typing is welcome to take over at any time.
A. Szeja.



SCHOOL INFORMATION

REPORT ON 6th. FORM COUNCIL

The 6th. form council has been around for nearly a term and (contrary to belief of some of the 6th. form) has been very busydoing things for the 6th. form and the rest of the school.

The first meeting of the council was held on I2th. Oct. At this meeting the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were elected.

The members being;

A. Wellbelove.
P. Monce.
S. Manning.
P. Borross.
R. Hawkins
P. Patel.
D. Bhawandin.
A. Campbell.
L. Cooper.
K. Ricketts.

A. wellbelove was voted Chairman and P. Mance Vice-Chairman. The next matter on the agenda was to pick three of the ten members onto the School Council. The results of this were that the two latter members mentioned and P. Borros were voted in. With the voting out of the way it was agreed to have a weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 9.I0 a.m. in D4.

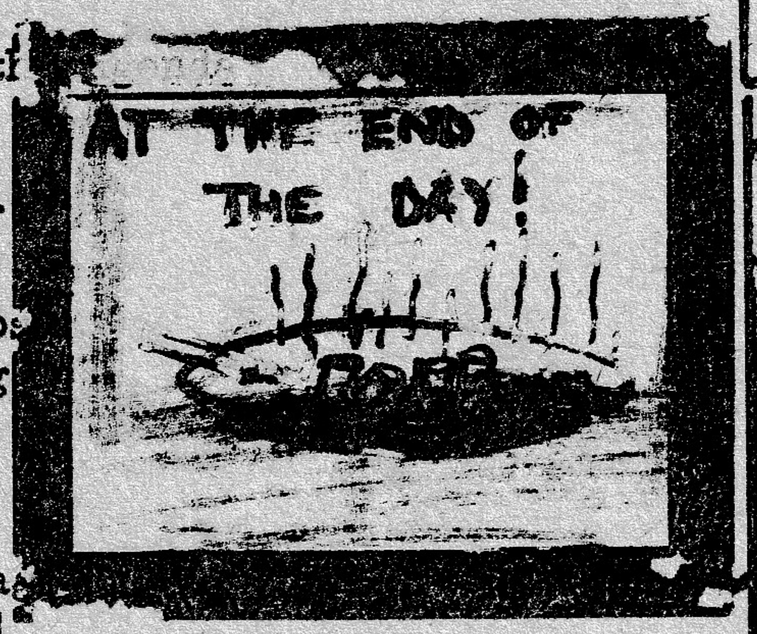
A special meeting was also agreed on the coming Thursday to discuss the wearing of jeans by the 6th. form. At the meeting matters were explained to Mr. Tobin and he said that he would tolerate clean jeans and (contrary to rumour) he would not throw anybody out of the 6th. form for wearing jeans. Also, S. Manning was voted Secretary.

At the next meeting a 6th. form council notice board has been set up in the 6th. form common room. This board is kept upto date each week with the minutes from each meeting and extra news of the council's activities.

Throughout the next month the 6th. form council discussed and acted on many points brought up by itself and the 6th. form. Some of these points included;

A. The matter of the 6th. form only being allowed I5 people into the Library at any one time. (This matter has now been resolved)
B. The trouble the Lower School Prefects have been having recently.
C. The disgusting state of the Lower School toilets.

There as now an Inter 6th. Form Committee consisting of Elliot, Southfields, Mayfield, Putney High and Wandsworth. There are four reps. from each school.



The Officers of the Committee are; Chairman: Alistair Burnett (Elliot)
Vice-Chairman: Robert Hawkins (Wandsworth)
Secretary: Denise Saunders (Elliot)
Treasurer: Graham Friday (Southfields)

Its Aims are;
To understand and generally improve relations between schools in the area. All schools or most of them seem to be insular in their attitudes so if the schools combine in th their efforts by havinf joint discoes, conserts, and films then at least it will be a beginning.
Meetings are usually going to be held every two weeks.

REPORT ON THE SECOND YEAR

The 2nd. year council have discussed among other topics whether or not there should be a method of checking that the parents do actually receive the School Reports. It has been s suggested that parents should sign a form and return it to the school.saying that they had seen the report. The parents might even put in their own comments.

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THE SCHOOL FILM

This term's film is a western "Little Big Man" starring Dustin Hoffman and Chief Dan George. Hoffman, play's the IOI year old survivor of the massacer of Little Big Horn, is being interviewed by a journalist. He tells how he was captured by Indians as a child, and spent his life partly with his tribe and partly with the whiteman. We are intrduced to a colourful list of characters, Buffalo Bill Wild Bill Hickock, a gay Indian, Chief Dan George, who is fantasti as Dustin Hoffman's adoptive grandfather, and the hot blooded Colonel himself, Custer. The film culminates with the spectacular massacre of Custers' troops by the Sioux Indians.It gives an interesting picture of tribal life. Admission IOp.

A POEM by R. WARREN.

The reason for the day.
A new day has dawned
To bring happiness to
a day.
A day of laughter and
tears.
But one makes a day
By one's own accord.

Some sit and some go
about
But what one must do
is to do what they wish

There are pleasures,
Sports, pastimes and
hobbies
Just pick one and your
day will be fulfilled.

IF You want to advertise anything in the paper then put your ad. in the box in the Library.

REST IN PEACE by
Mark Bell; 5T

They eat off gold plates,
Yer don't even know
yesterday's date.
Is there a reason why
just to think,

Beg the money for
another drink,
Cos when you don't get
enough to eat.

Ain't no time nowhere
to sleep.

Walking round and nothing
real
See the shops you wanna
steal.

The police throw you off
the street,
when you lick the Arabs'
feet.
If you're cold find some
more rags.
Can't afford a box of Fags.

You can't see It'll ever
change,
No second chance to live
again.

DALES JOURNEY by N. JORDAN

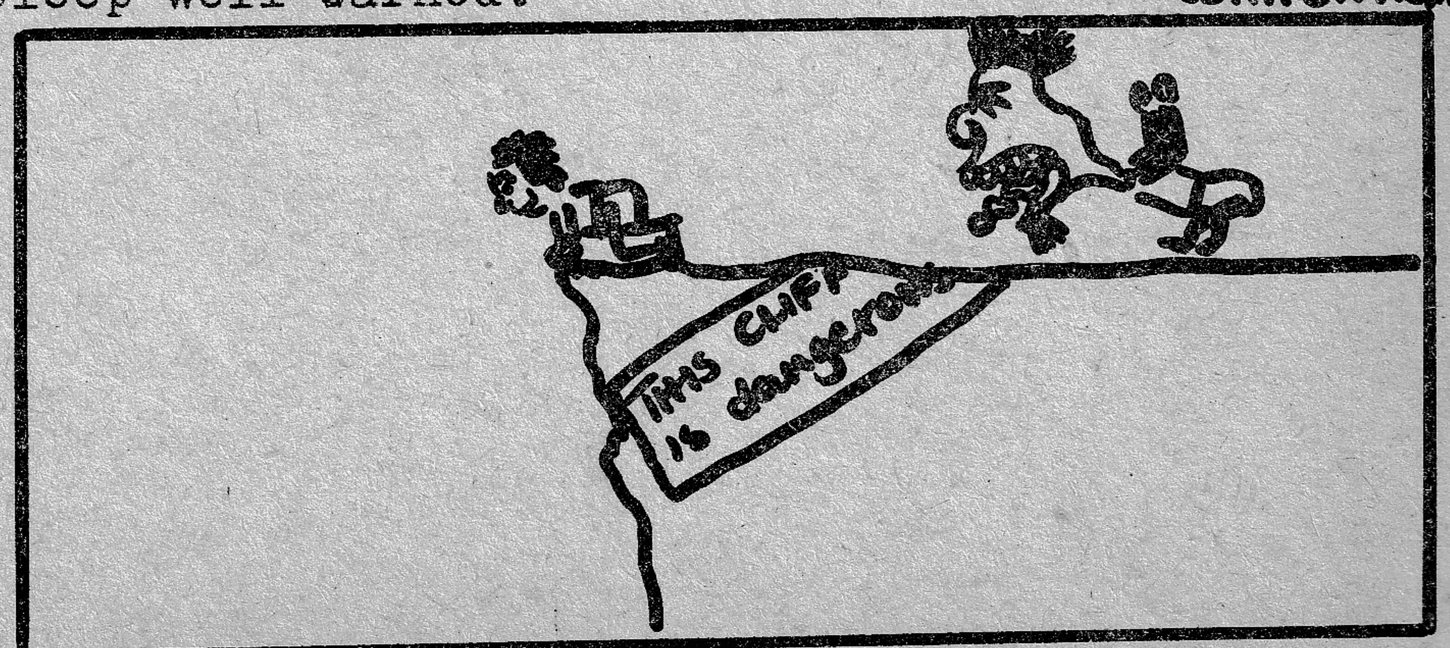
October half-term saw eight boys and seven members of staff cramming into a minibus and making their way north to the cold and rain of Yorkshire.

Seven hours and two motorway nosh ups later we we arrived at Gardale Head, or rather nearly arrived for we were faced with a half mile walk up the pitgh black hillside, over two streams to the highest youth hostel in England.

Monday was Ingleborough day. Ingleborough is one of the highest mountains in Yorshire. We had a wet and misty walk up from Ingleton and visibility was abour three metres. on the plateau. Mr. Tucker went back down the way we had come to collect the minibus whilst the rest of us continued over the moutain to Gaping Gill, the deepest pothole in the country. Gaping Gill is a very impressive big hole with a stream disappearing straight into it with a 100 metre drop down to the floor of a huge bell shaped cavern. Graham Bates almost went down to investigate (the quick way) until Mr. Jordan went purple with steam issueing out of his ears as he shouted for him to stand back. On our way back to Clapham we paid a visit to Ingleborough Cavern and have a look at its spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. An hours drive and soya curry for lunch left us exhausted and ready for bed.

Tuesday was Whernside day. Whernside is another of the three peaks. We had another day of mist, rain and potholes. Wednesday we visited the famous cliff at Malham Cove which is a huge 100 metre Limestone cliff with the source of the River Aire at its foot. Here we met our old friend Mr. Sealby who now lives and teaches in Yorkshire. We paused to watch some rock climbers engaged in an artificial climb on the core and everybody went quietly to sleep as Mr. Jordan reminisced on his climbing days there many years ago. We plodded into Malham Tam and then onto the natural limestone gorge at Gordale and climbing down the huge waterfall. At the foot Mr. Jordan and Mr. Tucker having descended last looked up to see Graham Bates 10 metres up a steep and difficult rock wall. Hair rapidly turning white and rucsacs thrown aside they raced down the gorge to bring Graham down to earth the slow way. After saying goodbye to Mr. Sealby we drove off to our Youth Hostel in Swaledale for food, leisure and sleep well warned.

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On our last day we traveresed the moors to our last h hostel by the spectactular falls at Aysgarth. On our way we visited Bolton Castle and just failing to leave David Flack in the dungeons. Mr. Jordan led some of the boys across the swale in icy water coming upto their waists. The women and less intrepid members of our party walked the long way round whilst the waders changed their clothes and wrung their socks out. We had soya stew back in Aysgarth Youth Hostel and spent an enjoyabbbe evening entertaining young ladies also staying at the hostel. We were ve very fortunate to have Mr. Pr Price, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Read along with us on the trip and we hope they will join us again. We left Yorkshire as we found it..... cold and wet.

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WANTED; For EASTER 1977
10 intrepid pupils
to join expedition
to the corners of
the Lake District.

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A POEM by LORENZO HALL
4M.

Man is so unjust,
I say you don't know who to trust.
Your worst enemy could be your best
friend,
Your best friend could be your worst
enemy.
People sit and drink with you
Then behind your back they talk
about you.
But if night should turn to day
a lot of people would run away.
Who the cap fits then let them wear it
You've got to blow your horn.
You've got to call it out.
Let the people know what it's all about.
Some will hate you,
Pretend they love you,
Then they try to eliminate you..
Who God blesses, no man curses.
We'll soon know who's the worst.

BORED AND NOTHING TO DO ON A SUNDAY?

Sunday, 13th. February, 1977.
1.30p.m. at Battersea District Library,
Lavender Hill, S.W.11.
A special day at the Victoria and Albert Museum. A unique opportunity to explore the wonders of the museum in the company of all the experts. The discussion point will be the Shah Jahan Cup made of translucent jade leading onto a more general topic on Islamic Art. Coach etc. FREE.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN WANDSWORTH

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Tues. 1st. Feb.
at 8.15p.m.
Alvering Library
Allfarthing Lane
S.W.18.
"My life and Welcome to it" by T.V's Tony Bilbow of B.B.C. 2's 'Film Night'. A lighthearted account of life as a freelance reporter

Thurs. 3rd Feb.
8.15. p.m.
Northcote Library
Northcote Road,
S.W.11.
An evening of films by Buster Keaton.
"The General"
'Buster Keaton Rides Again".
Admittance Free.

Tues 15th. Feb.
8.15 p.m.
Admissiom Free.
Battersea Park Library
Battersea Park Road,
S.W.11.
'The Go-between"

ATRIP TO THE U.S.A. by Peter Deane

On our recent trip to the U.S.A. we visited many cities including Boston, Dallas, Georgia New York and Washington. We found that they are very similar to our cities. New York city fascinated us most with its huge skyscrapers and dense population. The city of New Yoek has many different ares such as Harlem which is vastly overpopulated with Puerto-Ricans and blacks. The ares is a ghetto where the crime rate is unbelievably high. We passed it on a train and were greeted with the sight of rubbish bins on the pavements, old dumped cars just abandoned in the middle of the road.

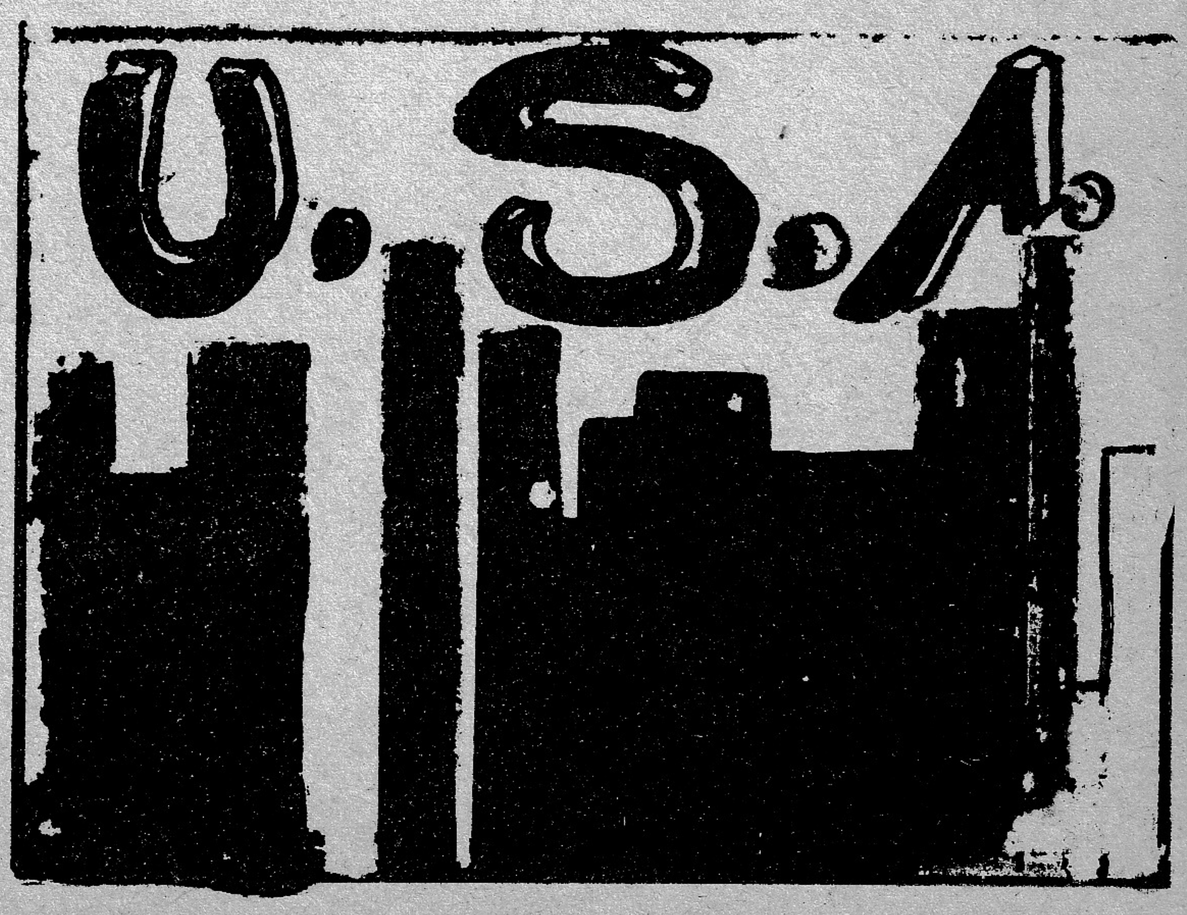
We also visited Greenwich village in New York. This area is famous because of its nickname which is "Hippie Land". That is not a joke bacause when we went through it there were hundreds of them just lounging around on the grass playing guitars etc.

Cetral Park is a place that is declared unsafe after 9p.m. but this is not completely true as as there were people around except they stayed in big groups.

The Rockerfeller Centre is the multi-million dollar area of the city. It consists of about ten skyscrapers, fountains, and shopping centres.

New York City is a very big city, with a big population, It's a fast moving city, dangerous and dirty.... certainly not the kind of place that I would Llike to live in.

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WHAT'S COOKING AT MAYFIELD?

by Micheal Coke.

I have now done catering at Mayfield for nearly three months. I am finding it enjoyable (especially with all the girls) although it is very hard work.

I came to do catering through Mrs. Worley, who was trying to fix up a link course for us.

We go to Mayfield twice a week; Tuesday afternoon and Thursdays after morning break. On Tuesday we mainly write down the menu that we are going to cook on Thursday and sometimes make fancy cakes or sweets. On Thursday after a very quick run up Sutherland Grove and into the washrooms we change into our chef's jackets and hats. (We try to look like professionals) We go to the Domestic Science roomand chat with the girls finding every single detail AND I MEAN EVERY SINGLE DETAIL about what we are about to cook.

When boys say that we are and about them and who they like. At 12.30p.m. we begin to serve the teachers, eight from Mayfield and two from Wandsworth for which they pay 50p., ming you it is good value for money. A three course meal is provided sometimes caferteria style or spoon and fork service. All this is followed by coffee and cream.

I try to serve them the best as possible and sometimes I get a wink from the teachers, which makes me very excited.

Many of the teachers from our school have enjoyed our cooking. Well, they should do for it is good and and they are not dead, yet many more are dying to come.

It all sounds very well when boys say that we are lucky to go to Mayfield, and do this and that but let's take a look at the picture from the other side. When we do catering at Mayfield we miss quite a lot of lessons which are important to us, such as Maths, English and History. Therefore the work that we miss has to be made up in our own time.Sometimes we are a lesson behind and we also have to catch up with the homework. So you see it is not a bed of roses but a bed of hard work.

GHOSTS.....

by Matthew Tapsell,3 gamma

Ghosts as you all know, are the souls of people who have come back from the dead and are repenting any sins they did in their previous lives. I believe in ghosts and there is proof to shoe that they do exist.

The detection of ghosts is very curious. If a ghost is sighted and photographed it will not come out on the film, but if a photographer takes a picture of something he might , without knowing it , find the image of a ghost on the film. A very good example of this is the Tulip staircase at the Queen Mother's house. Two American tourists were visiting the building and they decided to take a picture of the beautiful staircase. There was nothing unusual on the staircase that they could see, but when the film was developed they found on the staircase a pair of hands and the cowl of a monk.

The worst kind of ghost is a Poltergeist. A poltergeist is able to move things around and throw them anywhere. A good example of a poltergeist's behavior is the now famous Borley Rector. Mr. Harry Price was sent to investigate strange happenings in the building. After his investigation he concluded that it was the behavior of a poltergeist that had caused the building to be engulfed by fire.

Another famous person involved in ghosts is Mr. Peter Underwood. He has published many books and investigated many real and fake ghosts. He has been to Scotland and stayed at the haunted Glamis andDungaven Castles. He has also been the President of the Ghost Club since 1965.

One of the many fascinating types of ghosts are screaming skulls. The skulls vary in shape and size and like to stay in a particular place. If they are moved they let out terrifying screams. The screaming skulls at Betiscombe have a very interesting history. There was once a negro slave who worked for a man called mr. Pinney. Pinney had a rich and strong brother who had a quick temper. One day the brothers got very angry with the slave and killed him. As the slave died he said," My head must stay here or this house will suffer." The corpse was buried, he head as well, but later terrible screams were heard coming from the grave. The grave was dug up and the skull removed and put inside the house The screams stopped and the skull is now kept under lock and key.

Ghosts have always been a mystery to man but they have ha part to play in the world today.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

If you want to see another edition of 'CACTUS' then we need articles. No matter how long or how short everything will be considered.

Please help us have a school newspaper.

Place your articles in the box in the Library.

Thank You

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If you want to help in the running of the paper, please see Tony Wellbelove.

ACTING IN A SCHOOL PLAY
BY B. NEWMAN 6H.

For the last few years at Wandsworth School there has been a series of plays which have either been musicals or comedies, such as West Side Story, Billy Liar and Oliver.

We thought it was about time that there was a play with a more serious side to it. After the decision had been made we then had the task of finding aplay with a prominantly male cast. Son of Man was the final result. We all thought that if we put as much into the play as we possibly could then it ought to be a success. The play had also been filmed andshown onT.V. in 1969 and then it was very popular.



The play itself was about Jesus Christ's life after he had spent forty days and nights in the desert and how he was treated by the Roman soldiers who occupied Jerusalem at the time.

Everybody in the school had the opportunity of being in the play. All that they had to do was to come to a simple audition in the beginning of the Autumn Term. If they were good enough then they were given a part in the play. Everyone was given a copy of the play so that they would become completely familiar with it. For the first few weeks all the rehersalswere a bit chaotic and it was thought that they had begun to organise it too late in the term. and that it was going to be an absolute failure. Most of the rehersals we had to do after school except the final week when we were given permission by Mr. Smethamto take time off from our lessons to enable us to rehearse during the day. The final rehersal before the performance, which incidently was the only decent full rehersal we had, we had the costumes and everythingwent relatively smoothly. Things seemed to fall into place even though some of us were stilla bit unsure of our lines.

Then suddenly the first night was there. I was still unsure as to when and where I was supposed to come in. This was the night that I had been dreadingall along. As soon as the play started everyone seemed to pull together. It was then that we realised that this play could be a great success if only we were willing to make it so.

In all three performances there were not any serious mishaps, apart from some of us missing our lines now and again. After the play was over I felt quite proud to have been in such a successful play. Also, it was good to see the way everyone helped each other out.

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ART DEPARTMENT.

A plea to staff and pupils from Mr. Souter, Head of the Art Dept.

" We need clean jam jars please. If you have any at home then could you bring them to Art Room 3.

Thank you.

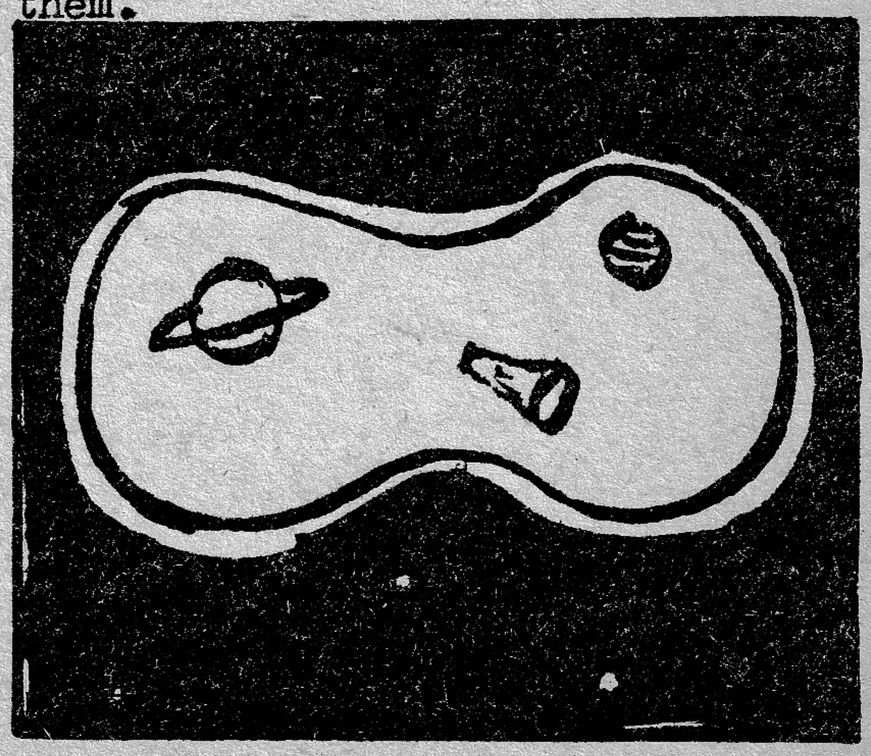
THE SKY AT NIGHT BY MATTHEW TAPSELL 3 Gamma

Key Stars: Find your way this month by starting from familiar Orion, almost due south. Follow its belt stars upwards to the right to Alderbaran and down to the left of Sirius. Almost overhead is Capellai below this in midsky are castor and Pollux. Also in the Southeast part of the sky is Procyon. Rising in the east is Regulus, brightest star in Leo.

Planets observavable this month:
Mercury is just visible as a bright star just visible in the eastern morning sky.
Venus is an unmistakable spectacular evening star, outshining all the other objects apart from the sun and the moon.
Jupiter is high in the western sky close to the Pleiades. It is some 675 million kilometres from earth at the middle of the month
Saturn is in the eastern mid sky easily recognisable by its yellowish colour. Bythe mid-month it will be I,227 million kilometres away.

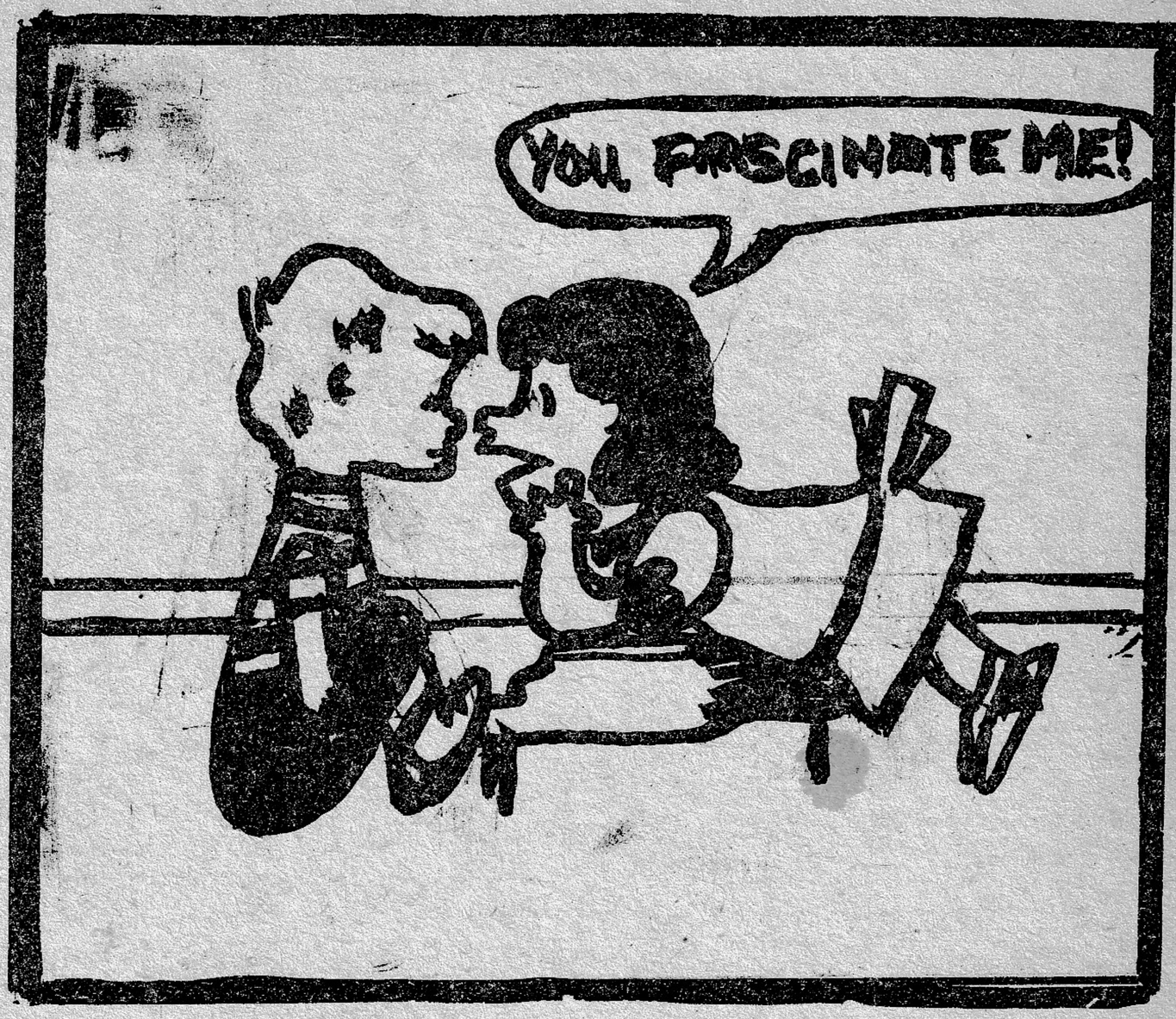
WHAT TO SEE ;

If you own a telescope or a pair of binoculars you can see some spectacular sights in the night sky. The Pleiades in Taurus are a cluster of stars and through a pair of binoculars they are an unforgetable sight. Jupiter is a fascinating object. Through a good telescope it can be seen as a disc with its four brightest moons Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto strung beside it like beads. Saturn is the most beautiful of the planets because of her mysterious rings and only a small telescope is needed to show them.



A SHORT COURSE IN HUMAN RELATIONS.
by " courtesy of the waiting
room at the dentists."

The six most important words are
"I admit I made a mistake"
The five most important words are
"You did a good job"
The four most important words are
"What is your opinion?"
The three most important words are
" If you please"
The two most important words are
"Thank You"
The one most important word is
"We"
The least most important word is
"I"



NIGHT CAP by C. Lyden Cowan

He had just discovered an undetectable skin. His name..... Dr. Marcus Cope. The press had a field day on it, splashing headlines all over the papers, for example" Unknown doctor discovers new skin."

All his life he had wanted to be famous and now he had achieved his aim. He was married with two sons, Johnathon and Richard. His wife was the head of an Employment and Au Pair agency. The day of the discovery he finished work at 6p.m. and went to an Off Licence and bought a bottle of champagne. As he greeted his wife at the front door the bottle slipped out of his hand and smashed on his wife's foot. He ran towards his car bundling his wife in and shouting to,his children that Mummy was just going to buy someone a birthday present.

As he arrived at the hospital an ambulance attendant rushed a wheelchair toher. She was in terrible pain, she was given 42 stitches in her foot. The next day he went to work as normal. At about I.I5p.m. during his lunch hour he heard the loudspeaker say; "Telephone for Dr. Cope." He went to the phone and heard a familiar voice, it said; "If you don't come tonight I will tell all." Then she hung up.

Brookborough House was an old mansion just outside Winchester. It had been converted into a student hostel for Winchester University. An old Morris IOOO drew up, out stepped Graham, he was the Caretaker. He walked upto the door and shouted;"All right in there Jessi ca?" "Yeah O.K. ta" was the answer. Jessica was a student who had no home because her parents had disowned her. It was the summer holidays and she was all alone.

As Graham drew away several cars went past on the main road. I turned and passed him on the driveway. It was a Rover 3litre. As it parked in front of the house a young gentleman got out,.....it was Dr. Cope. He scuffled around a bush and he seemed to pick up a key. He ascended the stairs and walked into Jessica's room. There was a loud srceam and then silenc silence.

In Part 2: The murderer's trial. Why is he so disturbed by the verdict?

