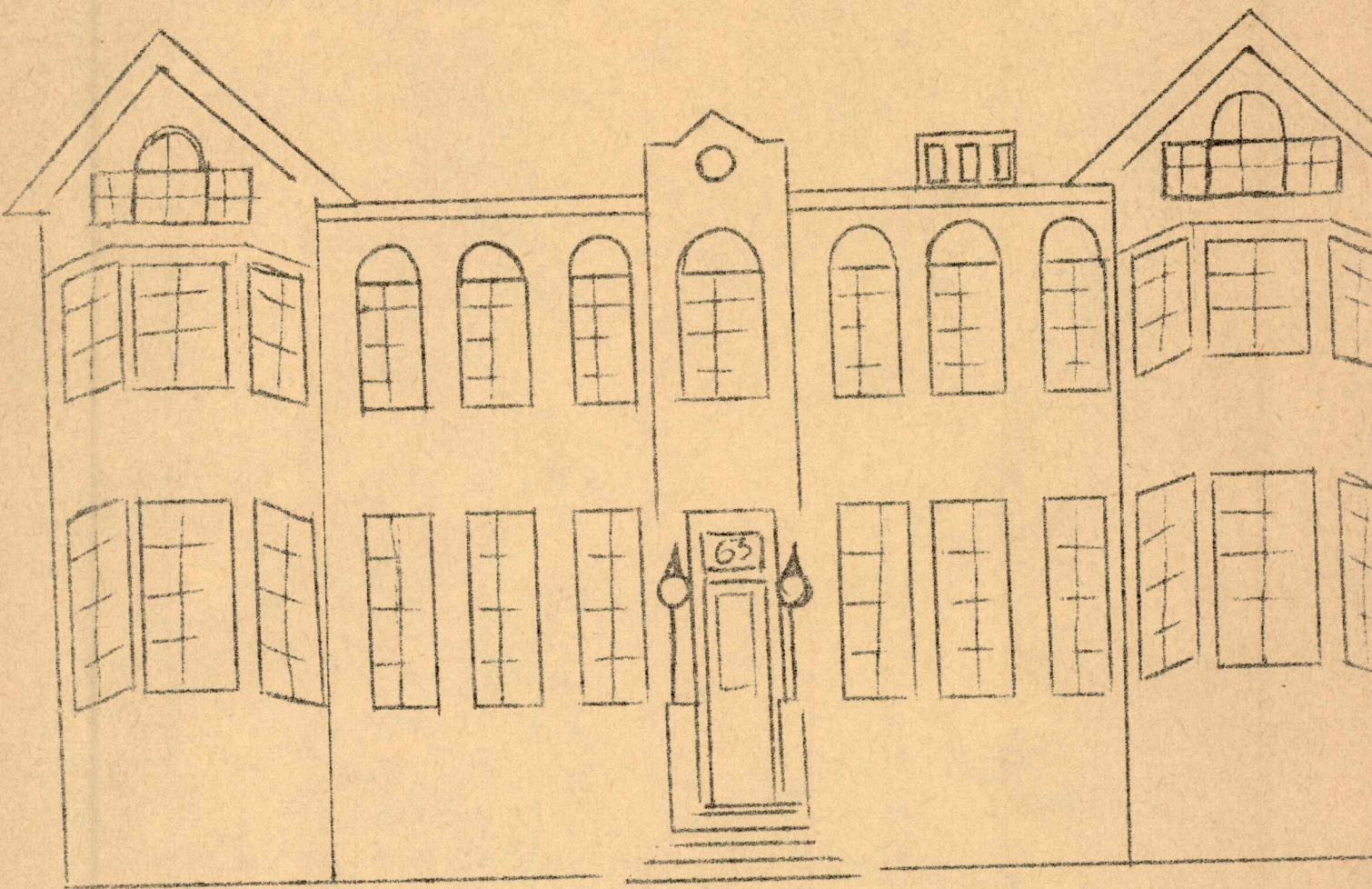


COLLEGE 5p

LIBRARY



HISTORY OF ST. GERARD'S

Page 11.

FIE

The lengths some teachers will go to to get their name into our wonderful magazine! You may remember in the last edition a story of Mr. Garvey leaving a ~~hp~~ in a classroom and finding it still there the next day? Well, I can now sensationally reveal that this did not happen, it was just a ploy on the part of our much-respected history supremo to see his name in print. In fact, he returned the next day to find that his treasured ~~hp~~ had been taken, but concocted this story to grab the headlines. Expect more sensational revelations soon!

BLEEPING NUISANCE!

The end of January and the beginning of February were notable for the continued disruption of lessons by the mistimings of the Tannoy system, much to the annoyance of all the hardworking students of the school. It 'bleeped' irregularly and without reason during lessons, and then invariably failed to perform its functions at the end of the period. Now it appears to have been fixed and is performing regularly again - but for how long?

THE SCHOOL'S NEW STAR

On Monday 12th February, many boys of all ages, but particularly those in the sixth form were found to be reading copies of Great Britain's newest national paper 'The Daily Star'. The new paper costs 6p and has just been launched down south after its trial period in the north of England.

From what we have seen of it, 'Clapham Collage' has nothing to fear. However, reading standards must be declining for near the dining hall drawings of 'The Sun' have been put on the walls.

SIXTH FORM MYSTERY

Before the Christmas holidays began the upper and lower sixth formers were supplied with a new kettle for their respective common rooms. Now, just a couple of months later the upper sixth kettle has vanished.

The upper sixth constantly used their kettle with, at one time, the sixths contributing 20p per week for a tea and coffee fund.

So far it is still a mystery as to where it has gone and, if someone stole it, how he got it out of the school unnoticed.

'JESUS' TO COME BACK

'Jesus of Nazareth' starring Robert Powell to be repeated on all ITV regions for Easter.

This highly acclaimed dramatisation of the life of Christ had astounding viewing figures when first shown in April 1977. An estimated 22 million watched it in Great Britain, 91 million in America and 84% of the Italian viewers. It will be shown in four 2 hour episodes, at 6.15 on Sundays: March 25th, April 1st, April 8th and April 15th (Easter Day).

TEACHERS' LITTLE GAMES

A member of the editorial staff was talking to a teacher outside the staff room last Thursday afternoon when he noticed a red ball roll across the green staff room carpet. A few seconds later, a second red ball followed. Both sixth former and teacher were astonished and, upon investigation, it was discovered that some members of staff were playing miniature bowls with snooker balls.

Well, what next!

GERARD U.X.B.

A few weeks ago a new series started on I.T.V. called 'Danger U.X.B.' and is all about a wartime bomb disposal squad.

The special thing about it is that the headquarters of the bomb squad is set in an old school and, in fact, they filmed it in an old school - St. Gerards!

Former pupils and present teachers and older boys have eagerly studied the screen to spot the places where they used to work (if that's the right word).

In the famous second edition of 'Clapham Collage', we told you that St. Gerards had been taken over by Euston Film Company, who were involved in such things as 'The Sweeney'. We also suggested that the school may be used for filming.

The only regret concerning 'Danger U.X.B.' is that it is, to put it mildly, very poor stuff. The acting is passable, the dialogue is poor and the plot is utter rubbish. It certainly was not worth advertising in underground stations such as I.T.V. have done - St. Gerards was meant for better things.

EDITORIAL GOODBYE

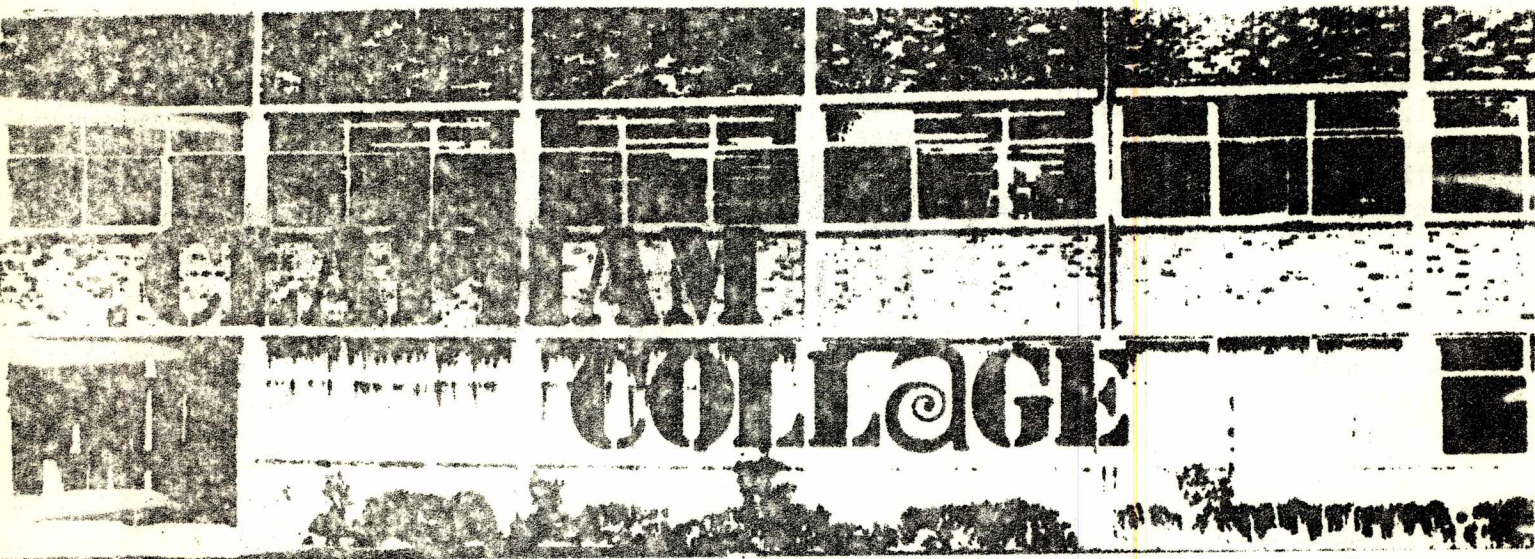
The reason why this article is being written is simply that this is the final issue of 'Clapham Collage' that will be published by the present editorial staff, comprising Tim Gillett, John Coffey and myself.

The magazine's first issue came out in October 1977 and it was only a primitive affair being printed on only one side of the paper and containing no illustrations. It cost, as always, only four pence and amongst its pages was a survey on the first years, a look at comprehensives, a report on a Ten Tors hike and plenty of music that ranged from an obituary on Elvis Presley to a review of a Punk Rock movie.

Clapham College. Among the many illustrations there was a dead swallow from Michael McGrath (then 2co) and a back page by L. Barnes (then of 2so). Also included was a very successful Spot-The-Teachers-Eyes competition and our thanks to Miss Jenkins (who was then our Librarian), Mr. Fountain, Mr. Garvy and Mr. Felice Pace (who has also written a couple of articles for the magazine).

Issue number 4 was on sale before the summer holidays and it had an excellent cover drawing from John Coffey (who also wrote the accompanying article about the school trip to Italy).

Amongst issue four's 19 illustrated pages was a report on Archbishop Boven's visit, a special feature on Eddie Cochran, a



When the second issue came out just before the Christmas holidays, it was a vast improvement. 'Clapham Collage' had extra thick paper which enabled us to print on both sides of a sheet and there were plenty of illustrations.

Although it contained the popular short news items, it also carried more varied articles in its pages (which had increased from 10 to 13). The main news was about the take-over of St. Gerards by a film company and we also carried a report on a local fire dealt with by the Army (the firemen were on strike).

Sadly, in the second issue we had to include another obituary - this was on Bing Crosby - but John Coffey also managed to show the amusing side of life with a broken leg. Tim Gillett gave an account of brass rubbin g and I hope you enjoyed my article about Edgar Rice Burroughs.

In the February of 1978 the 3rd issue was published with a front cover drawn by Mark Dillon (then of the lower sixth). A large proportion of the 16 pages reviewed the previous year, but we also managed to feature an interview with Father Peters, the 5th year Chaplain and we printed the history of the old

synopsis of a selection of science-fiction novels and some high class poetry from R. Mankiewicz (then 3 so), R. Tubin and J. Mospan (then 2 co).

Shortly after the summer holidays ended 'Clapham Collage' was ready again with a front cover portraying a crucifixion scene - notable for the absence of Christ, and a total of nineteen pages. In the news pages we had to say farewell to Mr. McGuire and Mr. Coppens and we also said hello to a former pupil of Old Clapham College who came back for a visit and he was very impressed by the school.

Argentina was heavily criticised by Tim Gillett and I explained why Christ may not have died on the cross. During the period between editions issues 4 and 5, two popes died and we had a picture on the last page of the newly elected Pope John Paul II

That then is a synopsis of 'Clapham Collage' over the past year or so. It has I hope proved interesting and enjoyable as well as being informative. It has been very enjoyable to work on and I hope that you give your support to the new editorial staff.

Martyn Kelly

PREDICTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1979

Spring The Sun configures an opposition of Venus and Saturn. Out of this the Religion Department, under safe hands, will be the centre of controversy during February. Jupiter's position points to a great financial boom in this field - probably the Southwark Catholic Children's Society Fund which will reach record figures. This year a first year class, for a change, will collect more money than any other class.

Mars in conjunct Venus opposed Uranus predicts very cold weather for March. This will lead to a rapid increase in the number of boys attempting to evade cross country runs, etc. The Sun is in Neptune and points to success in a school tour taking place over Easter - probably to Italy. A horse other than Red Rum will win the Grand National and a London club will win the F.A. Cup Final.

Summer Pluto quincunx Mars signifies a tragic happening occurring in the school. Be prepared, perhaps for a serious accident to a teacher or pupil. The Bad luck will continue but in a lighter fashion. The astrological position points to water and smell - this can best be interpreted as the school showers system breaking down - hence smelly, sweaty boys!

As the Summer holidays come nearer, the presence of Mars conjunct Jupiter means that the standard of work will improve greatly - due largely to the availability of prizes for good work. However, bad news will continue - teachers will be leaving the school. With Mars still predominant flowers will play a big part in the school. Also a big show will take place for parents in the Activities Hall with an item by the sixth form - a historical play about the second World War.

Autumn With Venus the main ruler and the Sun the secondary ruler, financial losses could be uncovered. This may lead to 'Clapham Collage' and school dinners having to be increased in price. More bad news is predicted with a main implement of the school breaking down - perhaps the tannoy system - beware Mr. Pocock! Good academic news though, will be announced - the number of boys staying on into the Lower Sixth may reach record figures of 2! It is a good time for sports activities too. The schools football teams may win 3 games on the trot. More financial news will be revealed - Broomfields the Bakers, the Fish & Chip shop and Joe's Cafe will boast of great financial gains, but Dorice's Hair Salon and the Liberty Cinema will stay quiet commiserating over drastic losses in income.

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Winter November will see some spectacular event put on by either the 2nd year or 3rd year. The event may be a concert or a famous play, perhaps a Shakespeare one. More success will be reported, this time from the External Examining Boards. 'O' Level results will be very satisfying whilst in 'A' Level records will be broken. Three 'A' grades will be achieved by one sixth former - I'm still trying to discover his name - his surname starts with 'D'.

As Christmas looms nearer more good news is predicted. For the first time in the schools history, Clapham College will be full - for one day, either a Monday or Thursday, every pupil and teacher will be in school.

The carol competition will be of the highest standard and will be won by a 3rd year class. Every section of the school will be represented - yes even the sixth form.

TIM GILLET U6

HERE'S YOUR 'PAGE 3'!
(MISS WORLD COMPETITORS 1986)



4.

TEACHERS - RESPONSIBLE SOCIAL WORKERS OR CAREER MINDED MONEY GRABBERS?

During 1978 it was announced that only 14% of school students pass a G.C.E. 'O' Level. With this claim came the usual series of blames and causes - family background, society, even television. While these certainly cannot be discounted, it amazes me that the standard of teaching and attitudes of teachers are never questioned. Are they assumed faultless?

I feel that the general attitude of teachers was shown recently when the teachers' unions declared that they were in favour of the Labour-proposed action of the abolition of the present G.C.E. and C.S.E. examinations, replacing them with one examination which everyone takes. They gave as their major reason for this that it is too hard to teach pupils to two different examination levels. As the strongest argument against this new proposal is that it would cause standards to drop, it seems strange that the teachers' unions ignore this vital point completely and bemoan their 'hard work'.

A teacher should have good qualifications, be able to maintain discipline and, most of all, must WANT to teach - teaching is traditionally grouped in the vocation bracket. However, many teachers are barely qualified, and obviously have entered the profession with the wrong motives. The National Union of Teachers claimed recently that there are 24,000 unemployed teachers in Great Britain.

With all this talent to choose from, why are so many mediocre teachers with the wrong attitude allocated teaching posts?

- the teachers that give the strong impression that they only teach because they happen to be reasonably good at a subject, and exploit this mediocrity because they are attracted by the short hours, 39 week working year with paid holidays, and lack of physical effort that the job requires,
- the teachers that don't prepare lessons beforehand or plan the syllabus properly,
- the teachers that are regularly late for lessons,
- the older teachers who cannot accept that methods and theories have changed,
- the teachers that demand work be handed in on time, but aren't as quick to mark it and return it. Marking is often superficial,

- the teachers that just aren't qualified to teach, the mediocre teachers who couldn't survive without textbooks. Some teachers haven't even taken 'A' levels. Then there are the teachers that know their subject inside out, but just cannot put it across to their pupils,
- the teachers that evade, or even ignore pupils' questions that they are unable to answer.

I must stress that teachers with these failings are fortunately in the minority, but can still be seen in almost every school. Of course, there are unsuitable people in every job or profession, but teaching is a profession, like medicine, in which it is too dangerous to allow any laxness - there is too much at stake. Many teachers fail to realize that their pupils' future depends as much on their teaching ability as on the pupils' application.

The recent news that all future teachers must have passed 'O' level Maths and English and a subject or a teaching degree is an attempt to ensure that our teachers are qualified.

Ensuring that the teacher has the right motive for joining the profession is harder, if not impossible. Cross-examination of would-be teachers would not work. The person becoming a teacher for the wrong reasons would not admit that the idea of working a 27½ hour week was more attractive to him than the idea of helping the youth of today build their future. It is a difficult problem - and unfortunately, the teacher's real attitude and motives for becoming a teacher only becomes clear AFTER he enters the classroom.

Meanwhile, the news from the N.U.T. that they are lodging a claim for a 35% wage rise should double the number of applicants for teacher training colleges next term.

DECLAN Millett L6

CLAPHAM COLLEGE

The new editors of this
magazine will be:-

Declan Millett

John Farrell

Michael Flynn

Walter Aurilli

Give them your support!

THE ONLY GOOD PUNK IS A DEAD ONE

Sid Vicious, the indolent, foul-mouthed, violent and drug addicted product of a broken East End home finally shuffled off this mortal coil in an end that at least complemented his sordid pathetic life.

The news that he died beside his new girlfriend, Michelle Robinson, in bed naked and unclothed (shock, horror!) was greeted with uncanny restraint on the part of those veritable paragons of journalistic objectivity and accurate reporting, the Daily and Sunday papers. The News of the World can be congratulated by surpassing its already high standards of unbiased sensationalism and titillation by not mentioning the word SPIT once. However, the Daily Mirror, not easily outdone in the mindless and irrelevant trivia stakes, maintained its admirable position courtesy of Douglas Bence, surely a contender for the 'Lobotomised Brain of Britain' award. The privileged readers of the only true left-wing popular paper THE DAILY MIRROR (buy it now so that you too, with the rest of its readers, can compete against Woodrow Wyatt and Douglas Bence for the 'Automaton of the Year' prize) were shown 'The Sick World of Punk Star Sid' by Douglas Bence. In this candid report he told us of unlovable Sid printing in BIG BIG letters, words such as STABBED, SPAT, FIGHTS and FOUR LETTER so we could know just what an awful wretch he was. This innovative device known as BIG PRINT is a great aid to the majority of Daily Mirror readers who have little reading ability and/or little brain power (delete where applicable; if no deletions graduate to the Sun), so that they might catch the gist of articles without actually reading them and then be able to pretend that they had completely read the DAILY MIRROR (if you have already achieved this momentous feat graduate to the Daily Telegraph).

Also in this informative article we find Sidney was in the Sex Pistols when 'God Save the Queen' was issued and that it was his song. This is truly revelatory as Sid did not join the Pistols until months after that single was released, nor did he have anything to do with the writing of it. As a result of this latecoming, he could not have invented that new style of brash behaviour at Punk Rockers concerts, spitting, because it was long established (mostly by the media), not his discovery as implied by our dear Douglas.

5

It is obvious with this high degree of journalistic competence to compete against Clapham Collage will soon be a national favourite with a circulation of millions. In the face of such hypocritical sensationalistic puerile moronicness as displayed by Douglas Bence, Bill Grundy, the television companies and Fleet Street, it would be hard, yet not impossible to dismiss this verbal and written excrement. However, one poor human being is now dead as a result of hysterical media-misrepresentation producing a superficial image of Sid Vicious for public consumption, which unfortunately the undiscerning gullible public avidly ate. This is not a new media manoeuvre, the parallels with our beloved hero are numerous - Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Brian Jones and recently Keith Moon - a high mortality rate. They are all victims of tremendous pressures either created by the media or by the group or persons audience which usually manifests itself through the media demanding that the stars live up to all of their image all of the time.

With these precedents we might not be able to see but can't we try to understand how easy it could be for such things to happen? Any normal and average maladjusted juvenile could react as Sid Vicious did, faced by such gross media irresponsibility in order to live up to his newly created image. Undoubtedly he had his bad traits and could not have been completely normal according to our papers.

Would he deserve to die for any of these faults and circumstances that could be said to have been of society's creation which grew out of control because of his inability his fear and unawareness. He certainly should not be the victim of pious, pompous and paranoid 'idiots' proclaiming their goodness and his unholiness.

Principally in a life full of intrigue, Sid Vicious was a victim, maybe a slightly stupid, violent and headstrong one, but a victim nevertheless who succumbed to pressure none of us can understand, never having undergone it. He received not compassion, but manipulation of his life for the cheap titillation of the public by the media, who get paid to peddle smut.

(CONT. NEXT PAGE....)

there is the real crime, the exploitation of a completely mixed up kid for money by unscrupulous, greedy and conceited murderers. These are the sort of people who should be the subject of character assassinations. The bloated, rich, dishonest people who bleat indignantly about the faults of others while chuckling merrily as the money rolls in, making them more self-satisfied, more hypocritical and, most importantly more rich, the real exploiters, not Sid Vicious, should be in Rikers Island.

He was a casualty of life, a victim of rock and society, highlighting how imperfect the country we live in is when it allows the media to destroy a person. Sid suffered his final injustice at the hands of Society on the 2nd February 1979 in New York. Can we not now give him some compassion and be sorrowful for his passing and forget our callousness and hope that wherever he is now he finds some peace at last?

John Ritchie deserves it because he did not deserve death.

M. Flynn L6



DOCTOR WHO

BY MARTYN KELLY OF

On November 23rd 1963 a new adventure series was broadcast for the first time (in black and white of course). The BBC were unsure of its appeal and so limited the budget that the special effects and costumes departments had to be particularly inventive. The series was called Dr. Who and was scheduled to run for about 8 episodes. Now, fifteen years later, the series is extremely popular at home and abroad.

The second series began on December 28th 1963 with the Doctor facing a strange, odd-looking enemy who were known as Daleks. The Daleks (introduced to television by Terry Nation) were an instant success and it would not be an exaggeration to say that there is no-one in the country that has not heard the evil, metallic voices that threaten to 'exterminate, exterminate'.

Another familiar sight in Dr. Who is the police box which in 1960s England was considered to be the perfect cover for a time travelling machine. There are probably not many of you who can really remember seeing a police box in your high street. Nevertheless I would hope that the Tardis (Time And Relative Dimensions In Space) is here to stay.

Part of the success of Dr. Who is the simple, escapist fantasy that it offers. The Doctor represents everything good and decent and his enemies always fail in their attempts to rule the Universe. As well as this, the stories are normally so imaginative that, even in today's space age, they seem amazing pieces of fantasy.

The Dr. Who series is also filled with good special effects and even if it's plain that it has got a limited budget, we just accept that as part of the programme and in fact the ingenuity that is needed to spend the budget effectively has probably added qualities to the programme, after all necessity is the mother of invention.

The series follows the regular pattern of 25 minutes each week with a 'cliff-hanger' finish. Another feature of the series is that Dr. Who has a pretty girl to accompany him during his travels. In the original series his companions were a little girl as well as a man and a woman. There have been almost a dozen assistants during the 15 years and four Dr. Whos. (The first three stayed for about four years each.)

(CONT. NEXT PAGE.....)

The four actors who have played the Doctor have all added something to the dimensions of the famous character and everyone probably has their favourite. The Beeb always invent an interesting way of changing the Doctor's screen appearance.

William Hartnell was the first Dr. and he played him more as an eccentric, grandfather like figure who has almost as much trouble with the Tardis as the Daleks. He played the Doctor in less energetic ways than his successors but his impact was tremendous and he was the only one of the original team who thought that Dr. Who would last for years. He died only a couple of years ago.

The next Dr. Who was played by Patrick Troughton as a sort of wise tramp from outer space. He was younger than his predecessor and had more control of his machine.

This comically dressed figure was succeeded by Jon Pertwee - an extremely popular Dr. Who. He was far more athletic and modern than his predecessors and his style was to mix scientific adventure with a sense of fun. With Jon Pertwee the series jumped into the seventies and increased the tremendous popularity of the series.

When it was announced Jon Pertwee was to leave the series, the newspapers were full of the news and everyone watched Tom Baker's efforts with a critical eye. As it turned out he is, in many people's estimation, the best doctor so far. Baker plays the part with great energy and enthusiasm as well as a lot of humour. How long Tom Baker will carry on in the part no-one knows except himself but one thing that is certain is that his contribution to the series has been very great.

In recent years Dr. Who appears to have become able to mix great entertainment with a sometimes satirical exaggeration of some of the features (such as huge, remote and bureaucratic organisations) of our society.

Like the legendary Time Lord, the BBC series seems to be unrestricted by time and hopefully in another decade and a half it will still be around - with police box and theme music just the same as ever.

THE DOCTOR WHO BOOKS (Varying Authors)

In the bookshops there are a vast range of Doctor Who novels that can be purchased at very reasonable prices. The novels are based on actual TV adventures and they provide enjoyable, exciting reading as well as giving a limited insight into each of the characters of the four doctors. This will be particularly welcome if you have never seen all the different portrayals of the ageless eccentric.

DOCTOR WHO AND THE DALEKS

This is based on the first ever encounter between the good Doctor (as played by William Hartnell) and the evil Daleks. The adventure is, of course, highly interesting and thrilling but the novel has a special appeal as it retells one of the classic adventures that the Doctor and his assistants faced. It is also probably the best of the books available.

DOCTOR WHO AND THE GENESIS OF THE DALEKS

Another Dalek v. Doctor adventure, but this time the Doctor (played by Tom Baker) is sent on a special mission to try and prevent Davros creating the evil creatures. This is also one of the best of the books available and the Doctor's assistants are Sarah Jane Smith and Harry Sullivan.

DOCTOR WHO AND THE CRUSADERS

One of the less scientific adventures but still interesting with the Doctor (played by William Hartnell) and friends getting caught up in the 12th century crusades. An interesting 'Westminster Press' book review on the back explains that "They're well written books, adventure stories, of course, but with some thought.....the creation of the character of the Doctor had a touch of genius about it".

DOCTOR WHO AND THE CURSE OF PELADON

The Doctor (played by Jon Pertwee) and Jo Grant investigate the strange killings on the planet of Peladon which may have a political significance.

TEACHER IN ACCIDENT.

We regret to announce that Mr. Hudson, the 6TH form Year Master was injured on Friday 23 March. The accident happened when a car hit him as he was riding to school on his bicycle. Unfortunately he sustained a bad break just above his ankle, and is now in hospital. We hope that he soon recovers and look forward to seeing him back with us in the new term.

TERRORISM - AN ALARMING FACT OF LIFE

The horror and anxiety caused by terrorist attacks have now become a firmly established fact of life in Britain today and we no longer enjoy the isolation and immunity of being an island far removed from the guerilla warfare experienced by other countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and South America.

Over the last decade Britain has been exposed to the same violent attacks of bombings and shootings which have been commonplace for years in countries such as Israel, Cyprus, Rhodesia, Spain and South American states. It is true to say that we are no longer reeling from the original shock of such incidents for we have now begun to take positive precautions against them, but from time to time, as has happened on several occasions during 1978, we are caught painfully unaware and for this we pay the price.

In terms of terrorism, 1978 will be remembered by the British for a number of terrible incidents. 1978 was the year in which the struggle between rival Arab factions came to the streets of London as prominent Arab leaders and representatives perished in the sights of assassins or in the destruction of car bombings. Fortunately, these incidents were acts of direct terrorism (attacks made against the members of the enemy organisation or, as is more often, government) and no innocent members of the public were wounded or killed. However, this was not the case in August when 13 died during a machine gun attack by Arabs against an airline bus taking civilian Israeli airline staff to a Mayfair Hotel. This attack caused some alarm among airlines' staff at Heathrow of further attacks against El Al personnel and led to armed police escorts on buses carrying Israelis and an armed policeman being placed outside the London office of El Al in Regent Street. This incident brought home the eminent threat of possible, further street attacks similar to those carried out by Palestinian commandos against Israeli towns and cities, and posed the question, are our cities and towns sufficiently secure enough to prevent further attacks of this kind?

As if the Arab incidents earlier in the year were not enough, the United Kingdom was further reminded of the present situation in Northern Ireland by an I.R.A. car bombing campaign carried out in several major British cities up and down the country just before Christmas.

Once again, fortunately, only a few people were slightly injured and some of the bombs were successfully defused, but nevertheless these incidents once again cast a doubt over the effectiveness of our internal security arrangements and were also a sharp reminder of the serious car bombing campaigns of a few years ago.

The situation in Northern Ireland throughout 1978 as a whole was beginning to look rather promising, with reductions in the number of sectarian murders and car bombings and an increased role of the Royal Ulster Constabulary once again throughout the province. However, in the last few months of the year this promising and encouraging situation was marred by renewed terrorist activity, as attacks on the Security Forces, shootings and bombings increased. Obviously, this was a firm reminder from the I.R.A. that they have not been defeated and was at the same time a warning to all the Security Forces not to become complacent during 1979, even if terrorist activities appear to be receding.

If anything is to be learned from the terrorist attacks made throughout the whole of Great Britain in 1978, it is the need for continuous vigilance and also a powerful determination to beat the terrorist by denying him that which he aims to achieve by employing terrorist tactics: that is, a condition whereby the public's life has become so unbearable, because of necessary restrictive measures brought in by the Government, that they become discontented and openly demand change. If we fail to do this, then we, the majority, become the victims of a violent minority of our society.

One of the most daunting facts which surrounds the history of terrorism is that, regardless of what various governments of the day may claim, its employment usually leads to success; the Populist movement in nineteenth century Russia paved the way for the downfall of Tsardom early in this century; both the Republics of Ireland and Israel owe the existence to terrorism, and so far the I.R.A. have already won one decisive victory in Northern Ireland, the successful removal of the Protestant Stormont Government. Therefore, the outlook on what is to be expected in 1979 and the near future is open and totally unpredictable.

JOHN FARRELL LG

BLACK JACK



I REMEMBER LITTLE 'BLACK-JACK' HE WAS MY
BEST PUPIL! BUT THE YEARS HAVE PASSED AND
THE OLD PUPIL WHO HAS BECOME THE MASTER NOW
WANDERS THROUGH A DARK ALLEY-WAY.

BUT ALLEYWAYS AT NIGHT
ARE THE PERFECT HANGOUTS
FOR HOOKERS, MUGGERS AND
OTHER SCUM. AND TONIGHT IS
NO EXCEPTION.

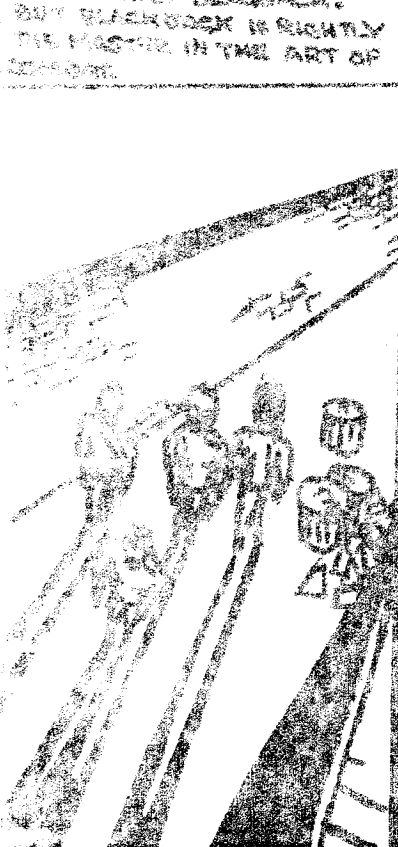


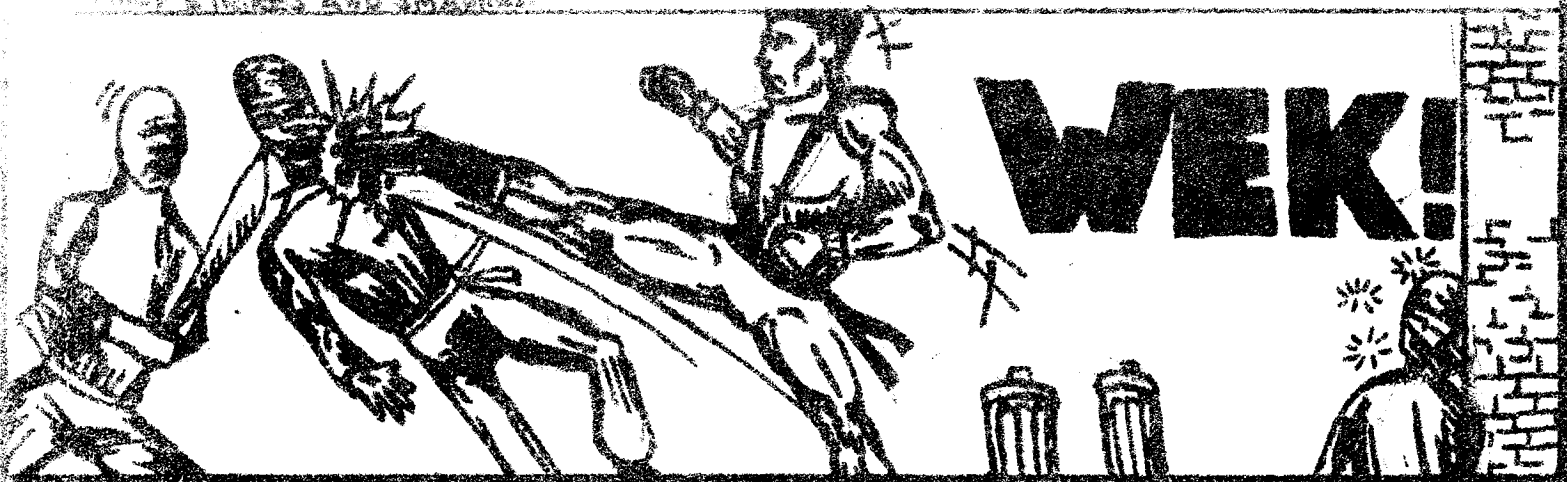
THEY SILENTLY APPEAR FROM
THE SHADOWS AND BLOCK
THE PATH OF BLACKJACK.
BUT BLACKJACK IS RIGHTLY
THE MASTER IN THE ART OF
DEFENSE.

ONE ATTACKER...

BLACKJACK WAITS FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT OF THE ATTACKER'S
AIRBORNE FLIGHT AND STRIKES.

FWKT!

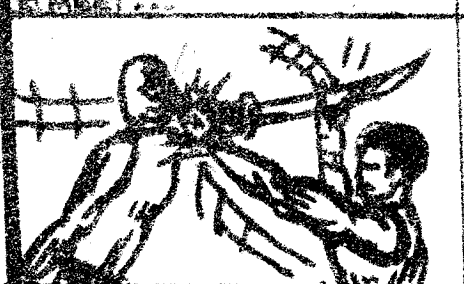
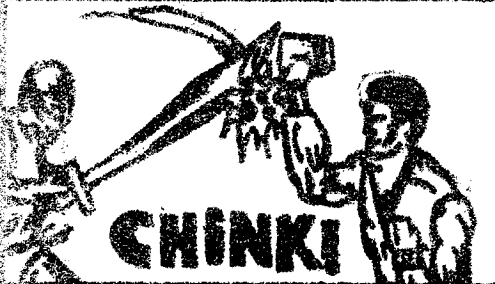




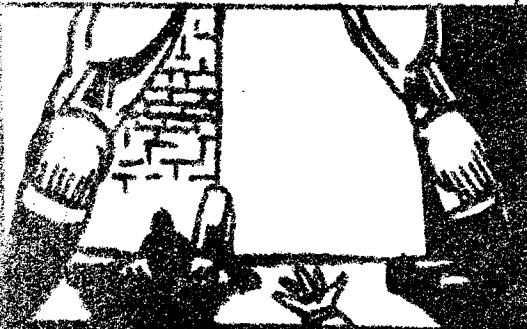
THE LAST FIGURE SKILLFULLY BRINGS
DOWN THE WEIGHT OF HIS BLADE WITH
ALL HIS MIGHT BUT...

BLACKJACK'S HAND CLUTCHES
THE BLADE AND SHARPLY TWIST.
THE OPPONENT ALSO JERKS FORWARD
TO MEET...

A SWIFT KICK ENDS THE FIGHT



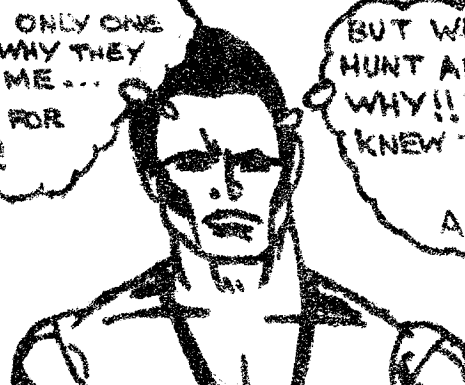
THERE IS SUDDENLY SILENCE, WHICH
CONTINUES STRANGELY IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS BODIES.



THERE'S ONLY ONE
ANSWER TO WHY THEY
ATTACKED ME...
THEY WORK FOR
CHOW SUN!!

BUT WHY DOES HE ALWAYS
HUNT AND HOUND ME?...
WHY!!?... IF ONLY I
KNEW THE ANSWER

AND I MUST!



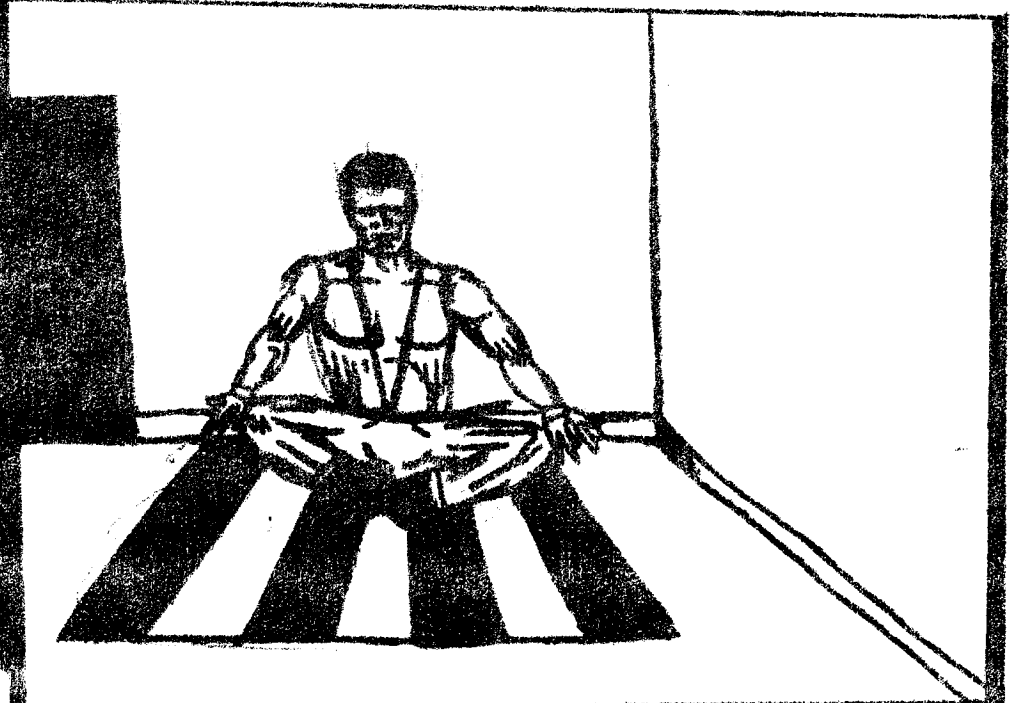
BLACKJACK THINKS IN SILENCE AS
HE ARRIVES IN SILENCE.

AND SO BLACKJACK CLEARS HIS MIND, UNTIL ~~HE~~ BLANK, AND
GOES INTO A STATE OF MEDITATION, WHILE IN THE ALLEYS
OF HARLEM THE CUTTHROATS WANDER INTO THE NIGHT.

IF ONLY I WASN'T
SO TIRED FROM
THAT FIGHT!

SO I MUST RELAX
AND MEDITATE

THEN I'LL BE
ABLE TO THINK



THE END..... FOR NOW!!!

It was an evening in late summer when the monthly stagecoach from El Paso arrived in town. Among the passengers was a tall, lean man, narrow shouldered black haired and sallow faced. He wore a grey overcoat and a black suit, unusual in the constant heat of New Mexico. A very wide brimmed hat, not at all like a stetson, adorned his head. The silver spurs on his brown boots were obviously for decoration, unlike the deadly looking pistol hanging from his waist.

Most of the town's inhabitants were, by now, staring at the newcomer. Anyone new provoked some interest among the bored, listless people of Hollow Creek but this man was strange, weird and not a little frightening. He reminded one irresistibly of a rattlesnake, dormant for the moment but lethal and vicious. He walked steadily towards the sheriff's office, aware of the many pairs of eyes following him but uncaring.

"Hello, Lewis."

The man spoke, terse and unsmiling as he stepped into the office. Marshal Lewis, flabby, rotund, grey haired and middle aged, looked up and froze in horror.

"What...what are you doing here, Oates?" he murmured, fear showing in his face.

"Looking for you."

"Well, you've found me," he replied. "Now what?"

"I'll be waiting for you in the main street at six. That gives you a few hours to say your prayers."

The tall man laughed, then turned and walked from the office.

For a few moments, Sheriff Lewis sat at his desk, cold sweat running down his face. Then he sprinted to the door and searched the main street with his eyes. He saw the man he was looking for laying on a rocking chair by the saloon, his wide brimmed hat covering his eyes.

"Geoff!" Deputy Hunter!"

The man's reverie was interrupted and he looked up to see who was calling him. It was the Sheriff, gesturing wildly. The deputy, a thin, wiry man dressed in buckskin jacket and trousers, walked slowly over to the office, annoyed at having to leave the cool, restful shade.

"What is it?" he enquired as he entered.

"Did you see that guy who got off the stage?"

"Of course," replied Hunter. "Everyone did."

"That's Harry Oates," said the Sheriff.

Deputy Hunter stared at him.

"You mean the one who shot down six men in that gunfight, fifteen years ago?"

"The same. And he shot down seven, not six. He got away with it, but I got him for a bank robbery a month later. Now he's back to get me..."

The sheriff's speech was interrupted by a metallic thunk on the desk.

"I'm sorry Sheriff," mumbled Hunter. "I resign." He had thrown down his Deputy's metal badge.

"But Geoff, he'll kill me. For God's sake, I need your help. I'm an old man."

Hunter strode out of the office, his head bowed. The sheriff looked after him, horrified. Then he picked up the badge and angrily thrust it into his front pocket.

It was six o'clock. The sheriff unlocked a large wooden chest, took out a pistol and loaded it. He had not fired a gun in nearly eight years. There was no need in a quiet law abiding town like Hollow Creek.

Lewis walked out into the main street. Word of the fight had gone round and the street was deserted. On the horizon, the sun lay dying in a pool of its own red blood, casting forty foot shadows across the road. Forcing back the compulsion to turn and run, Lewis stopped in the middle of the street. Oates was already there, his long, lean body tensed and ready. For nearly a minute they stood eyeing each other, Oates smiling viciously, Lewis literally shaking with fear. The sheriff's hand strayed towards his holster and he grabbed the pistol stock. Before he had even cleared the holster, Oates had his pistol level and fired.

The loud report shattered the silence and echoed through the empty streets. Lewis staggered back a few paces, gun in hand. Then incredibly, he levelled the pistol and stood upright. Horror registered on Oates' face, sheer, uncomprehending horror. For a moment he stood frozen to the spot. Then he staggered, coughed blood and fell, as Lewis shot him through the heart.

The sheriff was amazed. From his pocket he drew a tin star, badly dented, but still in one piece. Without looking at the black clad corpse, Lewis turned and strode towards his office.

REVIEW OF "AFTER NOSTRADAMUS" BY A. WOLDBEN

Published by Mayflower Books - 583 12468Z 60p

We all have our ambitions and hopes for the year 2000, but, I wonder how you would react if I said that by that year the 'End of the World' will have occurred. You may think I am merely attempting to be over-dramatic but, seriously, I really do expect, having read this book, the 'End of the World' to have struck by the turn of the century.

Everything points to doom for mankind - never before has man experienced such wicked times as these, with the increasing rejection of orthodox religion, the growing crime and unemployment world figures breaking all previous records, the total mindlessness and horrific variety of criminal acts, the sole interest in sex amongst young people and their general selfishness towards others, the ever increasing numbers of heart attacks, nervous breakdowns, suicides and cases of loneliness, and the apathy amongst people today. Further, when one hears reports that world supplies of oil and other vital resources will have dried up by the late 1980's and that more and more countries are becoming armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons, it no longer becomes imagination that makes one think of the last day.

'After Nostradamus' has one main theme running through it - the future of mankind. Written by a Roman Catholic, this author has collected all the prophecies, predictions, messages and visions of the major prophets through history and presented them in a way which makes the reader really think about man's plight.

The scene is set by a chapter on the greatest of all prophets - Michele Nostradamus. An expert in zodiacal things, he was able to establish the facts and times of the events in the lives of men in the centuries to come. Though he lived in the sixteenth century, Nostradamus predicted two Antichrists of the modern age, Napoleon and Hitler, the latter to almost the very name - 'Hister'. He also predicted a third Antichrist to appear towards the end of the twentieth century - this is Nostradamus' main prophecy and all his revealed in detail in this book; how through the emergence of this Antichrist, a tragic spate of events including a great war and horrific natural disasters will occur, directly preceding and following the year 2000, resulting in the near extinction of the human race, but how, following all this terror, will come "a Happy Age with a Humanity revived and made Spiritual".

Following this lead by Nostradamus, the author goes on, chapter by chapter, strengthening Nostradamus' predictions with identical and fascinating prophecies made by others. A chapter on the prophet Karmohaksis, for example, reveals his prophecy how, in 1995, "the foreign Pope will die and the Church will remain without a leader for three years", and how, in that same year, "an epidemic of a completely incurable illness will make its appearance". There is one whole section on the prophecies about Rome and the last Popes with predictions, visions and messages from St. Bede, St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, St. Malachi and Don Bosco. Also in this chapter is contained a most fascinating account of visions experienced by two actual Popes - Pius X and Pius XII.

In its development of the theory of the 'End of the World', the book uses accounts from the Holy Testament and further accounts of visions, messages and prophecies. The result is a fascinating description of the signs of the end and a literal picture of the last few days is drawn with an actual description of the final Antichrist - "He will have in him all the evil and all the characteristics of his predecessors ...he will speak all languages and will be unknown to his appearance....and will seduce with violence and flattery using as servants - pleasures, money, sensuality, illusions and vices."

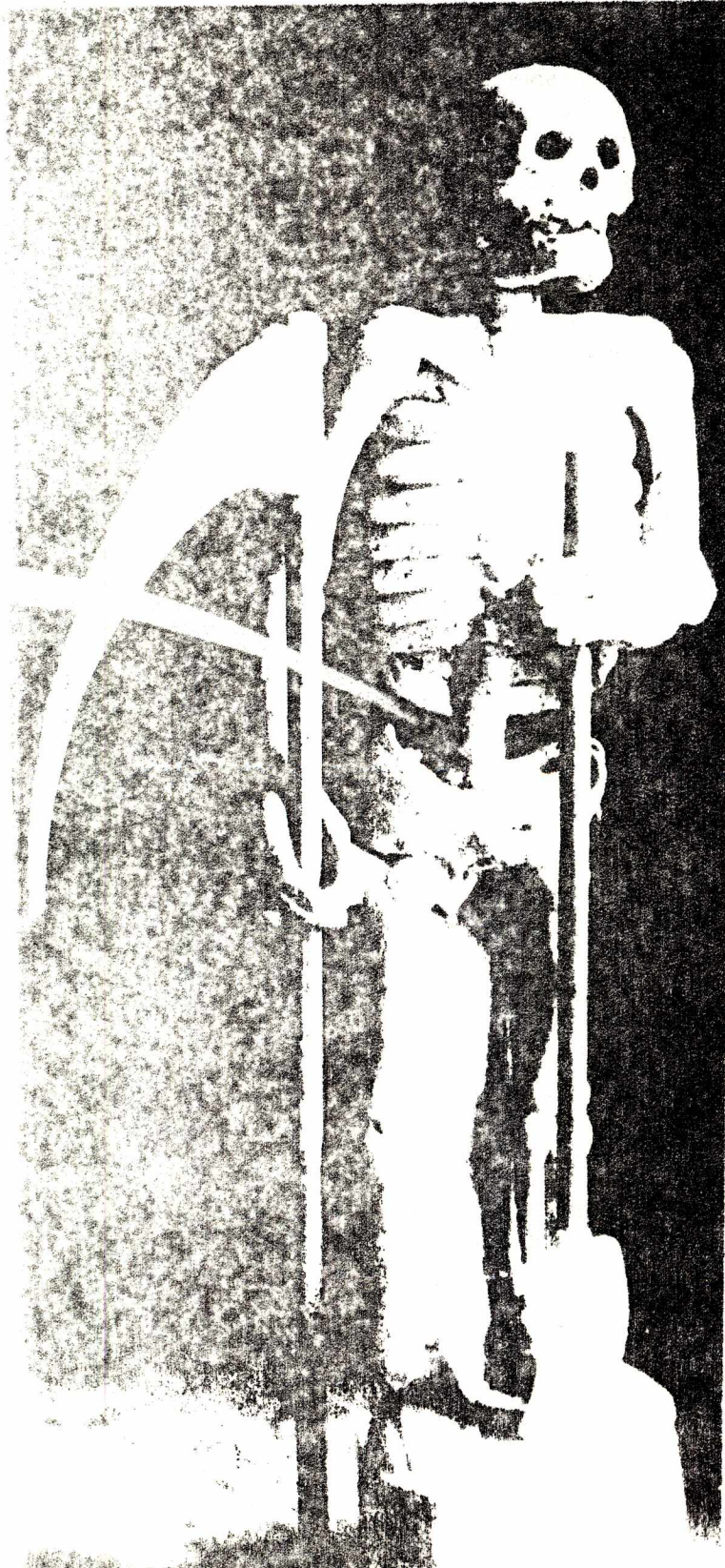
All this is brought to a climax by further, more modern prophecies, messages and visions including the apparitions at Fatima and a full account of the long kept Secret Message of Fatima from Mary, the Blessed Virgin. Its authenticity has never been doubted and its main prediction is that "...a great war will break out in the second half of the twentieth century... fire and smoke will fall from heaven, the waters of the oceans will become vapours ...millions and millions of men will perish ...". Directly after this message in the book, the author writes "Men were deaf then to the words of the Virgin, as they seem to be now", pinpointing the apathy of modern man.

This is by no means a morbid book - I am, to say the least, surprised, that this book has not become a best seller, but could bet anything that if the school library bought half a dozen or so copies of this book, they would all be out within a week of their installation.

(CONT. NEXT PAGE...)

This book, through its recognised authentic sources is not only outlining what is going to happen to mankind, but is attempting to make its readers realise the wickedness of today and urge them to do everything humanly possible to avert any future man-made annihilation. However, as mentioned, it seems to me and, I suspect, to many millions of others that there is no chance of turning back on this road called 'self destruction' - we are at the eleventh hour, on the eve of fulfilment of everything that has been forecast in the centuries that have gone before.

TIM GILLET U6



HISTORY OF 63 SOUTH SIDE 1904-1979

The School for Girls

Any of you who went to, or had relations who came from St. Gerards may be interested to learn that it was once a girls public school.

The Duke of Argyll opened the building in July 1904. Amongst the subjects the girls could study were Science, Maths, Classics, History, Literature and one or more of the Arts. Until 1920 the school also had a training department for teachers and a housewife's certificate course - nicknamed the 'Brides to be' course.

Under the new headmistress Miss Escott (who took over from Miss Paul in 1917) the new subjects of social science, economics, current affairs were included in the syllabuses. There was also an ardent pre-occupation with social conditions and with working for, and giving to the less fortunate.

During the 1930s the girls (who had to wear uniforms now) attended from 9.30-12.30 and 2.00 - 4.00. At 11 a.m. refreshments were provided. There was hot milk, coffee or tea in the winter and cold milk (penny per $\frac{1}{2}$ pint) or cordial (half penny per glass) in the summer. A dinner was provided for a shilling. There were also monitors and detention for offences like walking without hat and gloves in the street.

In 1938 the Girls Public Day School Turst decided to amalgamate the school with their one at Streatham Hill. The reasons given were that attendance had dropped from 500 to 200, the reputation of the suburbs declining and the results of the economic depression. Great protests came from parents, teachers pupils and many educational associations but even though Lloyd George had protested, the school still closed.

The Coming of the Catholics

During the Second World War, the building was used to billet the men who operated Clapham Common's anti-aircraft guns. On 10th January, after an 11 year break, the building on 63 South Side became a school once more. This time it was a Catholic Senior Elementary School called St. Mary's. The opening had been delayed due to dry rot and bad heating but by September there were 308 boys and girls in 5 classes with 10 members of staff. The headmaster, Mr. Megegan, had come from the St. Mary's at St. Alphonsus R

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The school had great success in sports and particularly in boxing, in which Mr. Price was greatly involved. Amongst the school's notable young boxers were Wheeler and Hubert Cheevers. Cheevers won the London Championship on a couple of occasions as well as being picked to represent London in the G.B. competition. In fact in 1957, he won the semi-final of the G.B. Boxing Championships, but he had broken his wrist during the 3rd round so he could not fight in the final.

The first sports day was held in 1950 at Tooting Bec Common with points being awarded to the four houses. Fisher came first with 227 points.

On the 13th March a 3 day inspection of school started and the subsequent report was not always complimentary. Praise was given to the staff and the fact that a good range of school activities were available including a chess club, country dancing, ballroom dancing, table tennis and American basket ball. The English Department was praised for its general work, a fine example of which was the very popular and unusually competent school magazine. The science lab. was considered to be old and in need to redesigning.

On 13th February 1952, the school received a letter from the Queen thanking the school for its recent sympathy concerning the death of King George VI.

April saw the first collection for the Southwark Orphans Society.

On June 9th 1953 the whole school went to see 'A Queen is Crowned' at Balham Odeon. The outing was a gift from Wandsworth Borough Council.

When the school re-opened after the summer holidays on August 31st, it comprised of 392 boys. The girls were transferred to Holy Family Convent School, Tooting.

Over the next few years the school was to increase in size - in 1954 there were 438 boys. There was also good academic success and many boys being accepted to study for the priesthood.

Perhaps ironically the start of the last year in the life of St. Mary's in August 1955 also saw the start of the new era of the G.C.E. with the 'A' grade boys beginning their courses for this important new examination.

October 11th 1956 was the day of the official notice of the re-organisation of the school. The two St. Marys were to be fully divided and 63 South Side became St. Gerards R.C. Secondary School.

The school continued the success and achievements of St. Mary's and the boys dedication was shown when in 1958 a bus strike did not deter hardly anyone from attending school.

By September 8th, 474 boys were annexed in King's Acre School. The Annex was to last for 12 months until the new Bishop Thomas Grant School opened in September 1959.

The next couple of years saw the steady establishment of St. Gerard's school and it continued its predecessor's success in sports.

One of the more unusual occurrences was an influenza epidemic in 1959 which meant that attendance dropped to 353.

September 15th 1960 was an important date as it started the term which saw not only 471 boys in 15 classes, excellent G.C.E. and R.S.A. results, but also the introduction of a sixth form.

On April 18th 1962 the headmaster retired. Mr. Mehegan received the decoration 'Pro Ecclesial et Pontifice' from the Pope. The boys presented him with a refrigerator, the old boys and staff gave him a cheque for £165 and The Redemptorist Fathers gave a hand painted reproduction of the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour which had been especially made in Rome.

On May 7th Mr. Gleeson took over as Head-Master of St. Gerard's School. Also at this important time many of the present teaching staff first joined the school at 63 South Side. They included Mr. Uttley, Mr. McGuire, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Verney.

After the appointment of Mr. Gleeson progress was even faster with the Parent-Teachers Association being formed and on 2nd February 1963 Oxford accepted the 'A' level syllabus in Sociology which the Deputy Head Mr. Mallins had pioneered. A year later two libraries were established - a general one and a 6th form one. Also steps were taken to put an ash surface on the waste ground.

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- On May 17th 1965 some damage was caused by burglars but nothing was stolen and the schoolkeeper gave chase.

Battersea Town Hall was the site of Speech Day in December 1965 with the new school band playing.

Mr. Gleeson's speech at the Prize Day of 1966 was well reported in a local newspaper and it included a mention of the school's great successes, the great number of boys trying to enter St. Gerards and the subject of comprehensive education.

February 22nd saw a 3-3 draw in a chess competition between St. Gerards and Clapham College. A different type of sporting event occurred on 10th October 1968 when about 80 London teachers were present at a course in athletics on the school site's new athletics area.

On February 4th 1969 the pupils were sent home at 1.30 p.m. due to a strike by the National Association of Schoolmasters. In November of the same year the school was closed due to a teachers one day strike.

On May 11th 1970 Desmond McCarthy was picked to play soccer for England. He was the first St. Gerards boy and the first south London boy to win a cap since 1954.

On June 20th 1971 the school was closed due to a strike by the National Association of Schoolmasters.

In November 1973 on the 14th, Princess Anne's wedding gave the school an extra holiday. Six months later at Aylesford a cheque was presented for £915 to the Southwark Orphans Society.

Although the school had been very successful and popular, it had to amalgamate with Clapham College and form a new comprehensive school. Therefore, on November 11th 1974 came the last school prize day - it was very well attended and very successful.

June 22nd 1975 - the end of term letter contained details of the new school. 63 South Side however would be used until the new building in Malwood Road was completed.

On June 27th the 6th form held a farewell cheese and wine party. The staff party came on July 7th and the P.T.A. farewell party on July 12th. Five days later the last school sports day was held at Morden.

July 18th 1975 was the last day of St. Gerards school.

In 1976 the big move from 63 South Side to Malwood Road was completed. The building was to be empty for 2 years until, as 'Clapham Collage' discovered it was taken over by Euston Films - a subsidiary of Thames.

It would appear that the Company is to leave the building and then 63 South Side's fate will have to be decided. The Southwark Diocesan School's Commission who own the site have suggested that it be used for housing, particularly for the elderly. The most popular idea is probably to allow the police to build a new central police station on the site.

But what ever happens 'Clapham Collage' will try to keep you informed as to what is going to happen to this important 75 year old building.

(Taken from research by Martyn Kelly,
Tim Gillett and Mr. Allen.)

'LIONHEART' by Kate Bush, E.M.I.

'Lionheart' is Kate's second album, and follows her brilliant debut album 'The Kick Inside'. Already a big hit in the album charts, 'Lionheart' confirms Kate's position as the prominent and most exciting British female singer.

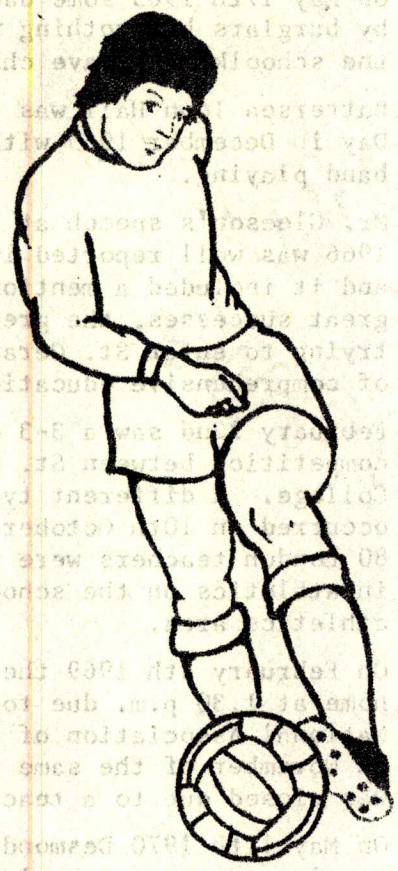
On the whole, Miss Bush has been more adventurous on 'Lionheart' than on its predecessor. Gone is the relative simplicity of 'Man With the Child In His Eyes'. The tracks are longer, and the musical arrangements more intricate. The lyrics are as weird as ever and the subject matter unusual, as titles like 'In Search of Peter Pan' and 'Coffee Homeground' suggest. Kate's vocal range is demonstrated more than before, particularly on 'Hammer Horror' and 'Don't Push Your Foot on the Heartbrake'.

Side one is strongest, and it starts with the album's best track 'Symphony in Blue' which is a possible single. 'Oh England My Lionheart', Kate's personal fave, closes the first side, with dreamy, typical Bush lyrics. Side Two begins with two very disappointing tracks, which just aren't up to the high standard Kate has set herself. However, the next song is Kate Bush at her brilliant best, 'Kashka from Baghdad', which would make an excellent single if not for its suspect lyrical content which would prevent the BBC playing it. The last single 'Hammer Horror' is the last track and I am amazed that it wasn't a massive hit.

Kate wrote and recorded 'Lionheart' in 2-3 months, while 'The Kick Inside' took 2-3 years to complete. Brilliant though 'Lionheart' is, I am sure that with more time, and without record company pressures, Kate would have produced an even better album. E.M.I. must not dim her talents in the rush to sell records.



SPORTS REVIEW 1978



1978 was the time for two four yearly great sports events - the World Cup Finals and the Commonwealth Games. Besides these, 1978 saw a continuation of encouraging national successes - The Wightman Cup and the Test Series against Pakistan and New Zealand were two happy stories and there were more.

FOOTBALL

It was a good season for both London and English Football. Arsenal finished fourth in Division One and so earned a place in the U.E.F.A. Cup Competition. Tottenham Hotspur gained promotion to Division One and in the fourth division, Watford and Brentford gained promotion and the new boys Wimbledon finished a respectable thirteenth. West Ham, though were relegated by just one point to division two. Arsenal represented London in the F.A. Cup Final but against the odds lost to Ipswich 1-0. After a goalless first-half Roger Osborne scored the only goal and so took the cup to East Anglia.

In the League Cup the two top clubs fought it out at Wembley, but after a 0-0 draw Liverpool and Nottingham Forest went to Old Trafford where only a disputed penalty by Forest's John Robertson gave them the cup. Forest showed their superiority when they went on to win the First Division championship by a clear seven points, thus securing their place in the European Cup.

After Liverpool's failure in the League Cup and championship competitions they added another when Chelsea put them out of the F.A. Cup with a 4-2 win. The only success came to Liverpool in the European Cup on May 10th when they beat F.C. Bruges by a Kenny Dalglish goal. The cup was theirs for the second time in two years.

After the failure of England to reach the World Cup the new manager Ron Greenwood had to find a new formula to put the England team back at the top. In February, England played West Germany in Munich; after leading 1-0 at half time, they lost after Germany found the net twice in the second half. Brazil were England's next opposition at Wembley in April. Brazil began brilliantly with a 9 minute goal by Gil, but then Brazil reverted to defence and brutal tackling. However, they could not stop Kevin Keegan scoring through a free kick in the 69th minute to draw the match.

England went on to win the Home International Championship, winning all their games and then on to beat Hungary 4-1 at Wembley. England had beaten two sides who were in the World Cup Finals and drawn to the other; Ron Greenwood seems to have made some progress.

Scotland could not improve the form they showed in the Home Internationals in Argentina. They lost 3-1 to Peru and only managed a 1-1 draw against a below standard Iran. Their win against Holland by 3-2 could not put them into the next round. Hopes of hundreds of Scottish fans in Argentina were shattered and to make things worse Willie Johnston was sent home in disgrace for taking drugs.

The World Cup Final was a Europe v. South America affair with Argentina having the home advantage over Holland. A packed River Plate stadium saw two goals by Mario Kempes and one by Bertoni bring the cup to Argentina. Holland managed a consolation goal, but it did them no good and the final score was 3-1.

MOTOR RACING

Mario Andretti of the United States won the World Racing Drivers Championship whilst James Hunt, Britain's hope could not find the form by which he won the Championship two years ago. Former champion Barry Sheene could only come second to Kenny Roberts of the United States in motor cycling. In motor racing too, there was a tragedy in 1978 - Ronnie Peterson, the Swedish driver died following the race at the dangerous Italian Monza circuit.

HORSE RACING

Willie Carson regained the champion jockey's title, with a personal best record of wins in a season. However, Greville Starkey won the English Derby and the Irish Derby on Shirley Heights and the English and Irish Oaks on Fair Saliria. He also won the Ascot Gold Cup on Shangamuzo. In April the Grand National was won by Luceus ridden by Bob Davies. Red Rum was, sadly, withdrawn the night before owing to a sore heel.

RUGBY

It was Wales' year internationally. They won the Home Rugby International Championship in style - they did the Grand Slam and for the second time in three seasons. However, Wales could not beat the touring All Blacks from New Zealand. But neither could England, Scotland or Ireland - yes, for the first time the All Blacks did the Grand Slam. Locally the North beat the Midlands 22-7 in the final of the English Divisional Competition and the North Midlands won the County Championship by beating Gloucestershire 10-7. The John Player Cup went to Gloucester who beat Leicester 6-3.

CRICKET

England had no trouble defeating Pakistan and New Zealand in the two short test series in the summer. Against Pakistan England's performances will be remembered for Botham's wonderful batting and bowling and Mike Brearley's strong captaincy. At county level once again Kent were in the honours winning the County Championship and the Benson and Hedges Cup, defeating Derbyshire in the latter by six wickets. Kent have won the Cup a record 3 times now and can justly be called 'The Champions of One Day Cricket'. Somerset were the most unlucky county last season - within a weekend they lost both the Gillette Cup to Sussex and the John Player League to Hampshire on the very last day of the season.

TENNIS

The first major British success came at the Italian Open in May, where John Lloyd reached the quarter finals and Michele Tyler beat the seeds to reach the last 4 in the women's. British interest was not as strong at Wimbledon, when 12th seeded Buster Mottram lost to Drew McMillan in the 2nd round, and Sue Barker, only seeded 14th after a disastrous year, lost to Billie Jean King in the last 16, after saving 3 match points against 15 year old Pam Shriver in the 3rd round. Virginia Wade reached the semi-finals, however, but was beaten by Chris Evert. In the other semi, Martina Navratilova beat an injured Evonne Cawley, then played well in the final when she beat Evert 2-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Bjorn Borg predictably won his 3rd successive title when he annihilated Connors, but he lost to the American in the US Open Final, when an injury affected his play. Chris Evert won the women's but Pam Shriver, Stacy Margolin and Kathy May were the young Americans who upset the seeds to reach the latter stages, and are players to watch.

British tennis received two much needed boosts in the autumn. Under team manager Paul Hutchins, the British men beat Monaco, Austria, France, Czechoslovakia then stunned favourites Australia to reach their first Davis Cup final and Britain's first since 1937. They lost the final 1-4 to America, but had done brilliantly to get as far. The women won the Wightman Cup for only the 10th time, even though the US team of King, Evert, Shriver and Austin were favourites, Sue Barker and Ginny Wade played marvellously, but Michele Tyler's 5-7 6-3 6-3 win over Shriver was the biggest upset. The deciding match was won by Britain 6-0 5-7 6-4 and the Royal Albert Hall crowd gave the British girls a standing ovation.

ATHLETICS

Athletics in 1978 was dominated by two major sporting events, The Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada and the European Championships in Prague.

It was the XI Games and ten sports were contested with 46 countries taking part. Although Canada dominated the Games by breaking all previous records and winning 45 gold medals, England did extremely well, winning a total of 15 individual gold medals. In the Women's 1500 metres England took Gold and Silver with Scotland and Wales coming 4th and 5th respectively. Here Mary Stewart won the race setting a new world record. The other English gold medals were won by policeman Geoff Capes in the shot putt, Alan Wells in the Men's 200 metres, David Moorcroft in the Men's 1500 metres, Brendan Foster in the 10,000 metres, Roy Mitchell in the long jump, Berwyn Price in the 110 metres hurdles, Keith Connor in the triple jump, Sonia Lannaman in the Women's 100 metres, Donna Hartley in the Women's 400 metres, Paula Fudge in the Women's 3,000 metres, Lorna Boothe in the Women's 100 metres hurdles, Sue Reeve in the long jump and Tessa Sanderson in the javelin.

The European Championships in Prague though were a different affair - England could manage only one gold medal - Steve Ovett won the men's 1500 metres. A truly world class runner, Ovett had decided against running in the Commonwealth Games and instead concentrated on the European Championships. The European Championships will be remembered for one, unpleasant incident - Geoff Capes' brush with the law! He had, indeed, before leaving for Prague, claimed that because of the use of illegal drugs by East European athletes, the British team should boycott the competition. In fact, England did compete but later in the year, Denis Howell, Minister for Sport, opened an establishment to study drugs abuse in sports and to guarantee clean competition in Britain in future.

There was a sad departure from athletics in 1978 by one of Britain's greatest athletes - Alan Pascoe - after so many successful years in athletics he decided to retire and settle down in his sports shop business.

GOLF

The Golfing Season was dominated by American golfers. Jack Nicklaus won the British Open Gold Championship, Andy North won the United States Open and John Mahaffey won the United States P.G.A. Champion. However, an American did not win the United States Masters Trial - that was won by Gary Player.

BOXING

The boxing world of 1978 was dominated once more by one man, yes! Muhammed Ali. In February the news came through that at last Muhammed Ali had been beaten, in a full 15 round fight by two judges' decisions to one by Leon Spinks. It was Spinks' only eighth professional fight and immediately after Ali arranged a rematch. This took place later in the year and many experts reckoned it would be Ali's last fight. After the fight Ali did not declare whether he would retire or not but if he had announced he would retire, the fight could not have been a greater end to such a great career in the sport. Ali, 38 years of age, celebrating 17 years as a professional in his 59th professional fight outpointed Spinks in a magnificent performance. Ali took command very early on, staying away from the ropes, smothering Spinks' attacks and slowing the fight down to his own pace. He became the first man to regain the Heavyweight Title of the World 3 times.

Besides Ali, there was the tragic case of the Italian Middleweight boxer Angelo Jacopucci who died from a brain haemorrhage three days after his European Middleweight Title fight with British boxer Alan Minter.

History was made this year in boxing - for the first time in the sport's history a major fight was held in a communist country - in Belgrade, Yugoslavia where Parlov beat Britain's John Conteh on a controversial points decision. Later in the year Conteh beat Leonardo of Central America in a light heavyweight fight by knocking his opponent out in the 7th round. Conteh, who had weighed in heavier, after the fight planned to have a crack at the World title early in 1979.

TIM GILLET 06

JOKES

CHICK: "It's raining cats and dogs today."

DICK: "I know—I just stepped into a poodle."

PARSON: "Do you say your prayers before dinner, Jimmy?"

JIMMY: "No, sir, my Mum's a good cook."

A boy was walking with his dog. A policeman came by and asked, "Does that dog have a licence?"

The boy answered, "He doesn't need one, he isn't old enough to drive."