COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 29th

The Duke of Edinburgh left Royal Air Force Northolt today for Sweden where His Royal Highness will attend events to celebrate the Fiftieth Birthday of His Majesty The King of Sweden.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis is in attendance.

The Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and welcomed His Excellency on behalf of The Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 29th

The Prince of Wales this morning visited Old Government House, the former residence of the Governors of New Brunswick, before undertaking a short tour by car of the historical part of the city.

His Royal Highness afterwards attended a meeting with members of the Fredericton Heritage Community in the restored Pickle House.

The Prince of Wales later met Canadian Veterans and their families in the Veterans' Wing, Victoria Health Centre.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived at Miramichi City Airport and was received by the Premier.

The Prince of Wales later visited the Eagle Forest Products Plant and initiated a new production process in the factory.

His Royal Highness later met staff and students of the New Brunswick Community College, which teaches information technology to young businessmen and women.

The Prince of Wales finally visited Caraquet, viewed a restored traditional village and met members of the French Acadian Community in the Visitor Reception Centre.

His Royal Highness was represented by Dr Eric Anderson at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Robert Stephens which was held in St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1, this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 29th

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the North East London Probation Centre, 277 High Road, Ilford, Essex.

Her Royal Highness, President, the Missions to Seamen, this evening attended an Annual Fund-raising Dinner at the Mansion House, London EC4.

YORK HOUSE
April 29th

The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this evening attended the Seatrade Annual Awards for Achievement followed by dinner, at the Guildhall, London EC2.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 29th

Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Lecture given by Professor Jack Ives entitled "Himalayan Environmental Disaster?" at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the new surgical block at St Michael's Hospital, Hayle, Cornwall, on May 8, and afterwards will open the new extension at Duchy Hospital, Treliske, Truro.

A memorial service for Sir Archibald Ross will be held today at Holy Trinity, Brompton, SW7, at noon.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

The King of Sweden is 50.

Princess Juliana of the Netherlands 87.

Lord Diamond 89; **Mr W.R. Henry**, Chairman, Coats Patons, 1975-81, 81; **Dr G.E. Aylmer**, Master of St Peter's College, Oxford, 1978-91, 70; and **the Rev Paul Fiddes,** Principal of Regent's Park College, Oxford, 49.

Today is the anniversary of the inauguration of Gen George Washington as first President of the United States in 1789 and of the suicide of Adolf Hitler in 1945.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr A.J. Smith and
Miss A.L. Lee

The engagement is announced between Alastair, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Graham Smith, of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, and Anita, daughter of Mr and Mrs Wayne Lee, of Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Mr R.J. Wheatley and
Miss C.E.J. Hogan

The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A.S. Wheatley, of Ewyas Harold, Herefordshire, and Claire, elder daughter of the late Mr M.S.B. Hogan and of Mrs Hogan, of Stoke-St-Gregory, Somerset.

WEDDING

Mr P. von Simson and
Miss S. Phillips

The marriage took place on April 17 in Chelsea between Mr Piers von Simson, son of Prof and Mrs Werner von Simson, of Melton Court, Kensington, and Miss Sarah Phillips, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Phillips, of Prisk, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan.

RECEPTIONS

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister was host at a reception held yesterday at 10 Downing Street in honour of Dr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany, and for him to meet representatives from the German-British Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the German Industry Forum and the Confederation of British Industry.

The Airey Neave Trust

The Hon Sir Adam Butler, Chairman of the Airey Neave Trust, was host at a reception held last night at the Houses of Parliament to mark the publication of *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and UK Law*, edited by Prof David Harris and Miss Sarah Joseph. The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, was guest of honour and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, was also present.

SERVICE REUNION

138th (City of London) Field Regiment, RA Association

Members of 138th (City of London) Field Regiment, RA Association held their annual reunion yesterday at the Victory Services Club. Mr Frank Flack, Chairman, presided.

Mr I. Hooper and
Miss S.A. Mellor

The engagement is announced between Ian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. Hooper, of Aldridge, West Midlands, and Susan Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Mellor, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

LUNCHEONS

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister was host at a luncheon held yesterday at 10 Downing Street in honour of Dr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany. The other guests were:

Herr Joachim Bitterlich, Dr Walter Neuer, Sir Nigel Broomfield and Mr John Holmes.

Her Majesty's Government

Mr Jeremy Hanley, MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a farewell luncheon held by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House for the High Commissioner for Tonga.

LORD AIREDALE

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Airedale will take place in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster, at 12.15 pm on Tuesday, May 14, 1996. Those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: Miss Celia Thomas, Liberal Democrat Whips Office, House of Commons, SW1A 0PW, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from May 7.

MISS MONA McALLISTER

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Miss Mona McAllister, former Housemistress of Marshall House, Benenden School, will be held on Saturday, May 18 (Seniors' Day), at 10.30 am at St George's Church, Benenden. For details contact the Seniors' Clerk, Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 4AA, tel: 01580 240592.

SIR NEIL LAWSON

A memorial service for Sir Neil Lawson will be held on Monday, May 20, 1996, at 5 pm at the Temple Church, EC4.

MEETING

Royal Over-Seas League

Mr Tony Travers, Director, The Greater London Group, was guest speaker at a meeting of the Overseas Lunch Club of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's.

BRIDGE HAND by Tony Forrester

South's sacrifice is made in vain

Dealer SOUTH E/W VUL

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1NT	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Contract 5♥ Doubled
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♠A

SOUTH thought she had done well in the bidding on today's hand from the third round of Crockfords Cup, but closer analysis showed that she took a "phantom" sacrifice. Here, it looks as if South did a little too much in the auction. Having opened 1♥ and heard her partner respond 1NT, she was perhaps surprised to hear East jump into the auction with 3♠.

Never mind, her hand was worth a crack at 4♥ and this bid allowed partner to judge should West bid on to 4♠. That duly happened and North was happy enough to take his chances defending that contract. Hence, although it was tempting for South to "save" in 5♥, it was probably unwise. The defence started poorly when West tried to cash ♠A, but it didn't really matter. Declarer ruffed, led out ♥ A K and continued with a club towards dummy. West ducked this trick and East took ♣A. After ♦A and another diamond, the defence later claimed ♠K and ♥Q for a comfortable two down.

The players set about deciding if South's sacrifice had shown a profit. Superficially, it would appear so, as East can throw both his losing diamonds on ♣K and ♥Q but wait a moment ... if South leads ♥ A K and continues with a third heart which North ruffs low, East will eventually have to concede a trick to ♠K and ♣K.

Of course, East-West were suitably pleased to announce this to South at the earliest opportunity. There is little sympathy shown at the bridge table!

● Oxford University has won the Portland Bowl, the British universities championship, beating Nottingham University by 28 IMPs, writes **Patrick Jourdain, Bridge Correspondent.**

This is the first win for Oxford in the Portland Bowl and assuages their loss to Cambridge in the Varsity match earlier this month. Four universities went through to the final stages. In the semi-finals Nottingham beat Durham by 83 IMPs and Oxford beat Leeds by 142. In the play-off for third place Leeds beat Durham by 24.

Oxford: P & A Fearnhead (Merton); I. Kerr (St Edmund Hall); R. Prestwich (Green); A Walker (Queens).

OBITUARIES

Guy Gravett

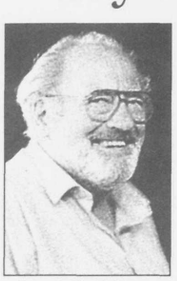
GUY GRAVETT, who has died aged 76, was a painter and photographer, and was best known as the official photographer at Glyndebourne for more than 40 years.

Gravett's photographs of productions and singers have adorned the festival's programmes since 1951.

His connection with Glyndebourne began in 1947 when he was working as a photographer in Lewes and was invited by John Christie to take a formal picture of his 13-year-old son George (now Sir George). John Christie and Gravett became friends.

Glyndebourne Opera was not functioning in Sussex between 1948 and 1950, but in 1951 Gravett was asked to photograph Carl Ebert's production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

In 1955 Glyndebourne's general manager, Moran Caplat, who knew Gravett because they shared a passion for sailing, appointed him official photographer. He worked quietly and unobtrusively, following each production from its earliest stages. He never went in for gimmicky angles and knew which scenes would yield the best results. Generations of producers and designers



Gravett: Glyndebourne

were grateful to him for a faithful record of their work which did not merely concentrate on star members of the casts. He did not confine himself to the events on stage, but roved the gardens and offices, building up a copious archive of the opera house in action.

When the old theatre was demolished in 1995 and the new one was being built Gravett made a photographic record of each stage of the process.

Although making no pretence to a serious knowledge of music, he had shrewd opinions about most works and their productions.

He was not alarmed by innovation and built a rapport with the avant-garde American producer Peter Sellars, whom he liked, and whose work he admired. Sellars visited Gravett a few days before his death to tell him about the forthcoming production of Handel's *Theodora* with which the 1996 season opens next month.

Guy Patrick Gravett was born on Nov 2 1919, in Brook, Kent. He attended Lewes Grammar School and studied at Brighton College of Art, where he met his first wife, Daphne Braine. To earn a living he joined the Customs service.

In 1939 he joined the Royal Engineers and was commissioned. He fought in North Africa, Sicily and Italy and at 26 was port commandant in Naples.

On demobilisation he wanted to return to painting, but to support his family took up photography, which he taught himself. After small beginnings in Lewes, he took to photographing play productions on their way to the West End at the Theatre Royal, Brighton.

He was later commissioned by *Picture Post* and then by the *Sunday Times* to cover the troubles in Cyprus. He also worked for BP on oil exploration in Alaska.

Gravett was a big man physically and by nature. He was happiest in his Hurstpierpoint garden, painting in the studio he had built there, entertaining friends with a plentiful supply of burgundy, talking cricket and shaking with Jovian laughter at the latest operatic gossip. His conversation was wide-ranging, witty, never malicious, though occasionally barbed.

He looked like a bearded sea captain of the piratical era and it was a surprise, at first acquaintance, to discover his sensitive side. The poet in him was expressed in his watercolours and especially in his oils of French river scenes, vineyards and Dieppe, a town he loved and where he had a one-man show in 1995.

After his first wife died in 1976, he became something of a recluse but then in 1980 he married Helen O'Neill, Glyndebourne's press officer. He managed to avoid the limelight when he was at her busiest, but turned up later in the run of each opera.

He had a son and daughter by his first wife.

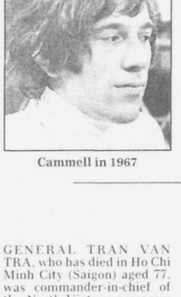
Donald Cammell

DONALD CAMMELL, who has died aged 62, was a screenwriter and director whose talents were as dazzling and provocative as they were under-used and unrecognised.

The release in 1970 of his first film, *Performance*, starring Mick Jagger, startled British cinema. Withheld for two years by an uncomprehending distributor, it was a film debut of astonishing virtuosity. Its intellectual ambition, visual complexity, radical editing style and labyrinthine narrative, marked it as that rare thing: a resolutely cinematic and essentially modern British film.

Performance was written by Cammell and was originally to be directed by him, but the early involvement of cinematographer Nicolas Roeg led to a shared director's credit. Roeg's successful career and Cammell's absence from the screen during the past 25 years have conspired to mask *Performance*'s prime creator.

Cammell was an uncompromising, intellectually arrogant film-maker, unflinching in his desire to explore the complexities of power, human sexuality and identity. As a writer, he was drawn to demons; as a director of actors, he was an intense collaborator. As a man, he possessed great gentleness and sensitivity.



Cammell in 1967

Few of these qualities equipped him to work in either the British or American film industries. Only two movies emerged after 1970: *Demon Seed* (1977) and *White of the Eye* (1988). The former boasts what many still consider Julie Christie's finest performance, as a woman impregnated by a computer.

White of the Eye — an exploratory yet sympathetic portrait of a misogynist serial killer — highlights a belief in Cammell's work that the separation of male and female is a potentially destructive division.

Donald Seton Cammell was born on Jan 17 1934 in the Outlook Tower, by Edinburgh Castle. He was educated at Westminster School and from an early age demonstrated considerable drawing skills. He left at the age of 16 to attend the Byam Shaw, and won a scholarship to the Royal Academy.

Such was Cammell's bohemian allure that his studio in Flood Street, Chelsea, soon became a magnet for many of London's most glamorous women. At this time he married Maria Andipa, a Greek actress under contract to Twentieth Century Fox.

Cammell's painting of the young Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, dressed in the outfit he wore as a page at the Queen's Coronation, was one of the most acclaimed portraits of the year and remains a striking work.

However, Cammell was uncomfortable with his role as a fashionable portraitist, and he moved to Paris to find a "modern" style. Drawn to film as a more appropriate means of expression, he scripted *Duffy*, his first Hollywood feature, in 1967.

Cammell's friendship with Jagger convinced Warner Bros to allow him to direct his script of *Performance*, the story of a faded pop star (Jagger) who becomes involved with a violent gangster (James Fox). The characters eventually become two halves of a single personality, representing the conceits of the demon/artist and the man/woman. In what is today seen by some as the quintessential 1960s London movie, Cammell had found his medium.

Mick Jagger shares a cigarette in 'Performance'

From the early 1970s, he spent much of his time in Los Angeles, the many offers of movies (such as *Robocop II*) often met with a bemused response from a man whose writing and directing talents drew on the darker side of human relationships. Cammell was simply unwilling, rather than unable, to do such films "justice".

He survived on development deals, script doctoring and "pay or play" arrangements, writing countless screenplays — latterly in collaboration with his second wife, China Kong.

A fourth movie, *The Wild Side*, starring Christopher Walken and Joan Chen, was shot last year. At the time of his death, Cammell was negotiating with the production company to buy back the negative, after they had recut it.

Donald Cammell had a son by his first marriage.

Gen Tran Van Tra

GENERAL TRAN VAN TRA, who has died in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) aged 77, was commander-in-chief of the North Vietnamese army which captured Saigon in 1975, bringing the Vietnam war to an end.

As a brash southerner with stubborn views and a powerful ego, Tran Van Tra remained outside the close-knit group of North Vietnamese Communist leaders which included General Giap and General Van Tien Dung, the army's chief of staff.

Tra's bold plan for an all-out, five-pronged assault on Saigon put him at odds with political and military leaders in Hanoi, who advocated a more cautious approach.

In late 1974, a compromise was reached whereby Tra would launch a limited operation against the region north of Saigon. In January 1975, his forces raised the North Vietnamese flag over the capital of Phuoc Long province. The fate of the South was sealed and Saigon fell three months later.

Tra was a southerner fighting in the army of the north; his greatest military campaign was the invasion of his own part of the country.

Tran Van Tra was born in 1918 in the coastal province of Quang Ngai and educated at French colonial schools.

After becoming involved in anti-colonial activities while working as a railway labourer, he joined the Communist Party in 1938.

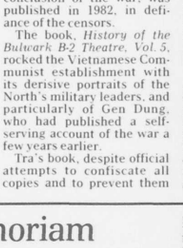
He was twice arrested by the French authorities for his political activities as a student in Saigon. On his release from prison in March 1945 he became a leading figure in an uprising against the French in Quang Ngai.

When the Franco-Vietnamese war began in 1945, Tra served as a military commander with the Vietminh in southern Vietnam. After the 1954 Geneva Conference, which partitioned the country, he was reassigned to Hanoi as deputy chief of staff of the People's Army of Vietnam.

He trained in the Soviet Union and China, and in 1963 returned to the South to assume responsibility for the Mekong delta. In 1968 he was given command of the southern theatre, and led the unsuccessful attack on Saigon during that year's Tet offensive.

After the end of the war in 1975, Tra became Vice-Minister of Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

But his principal achievement in the five years following the war was a five-volume memoir establishing his version of events. The work was immediately suppressed by army censors, but its final volume, dealing with the conclusion of the war, was published in 1982, in defiance of the censors.



Tra: fall of Saigon

The book, *History of the Bulwark B-2 Theatre, Vol. 5*, rocked the Vietnamese Communist establishment with its derisive portraits of the North's military leaders, and particularly of Gen Dung, who had published a self-serving account of the war a few years earlier.

Tra's book, despite official attempts to confiscate all copies and to prevent them from leaving Vietnam, quickly became an important source for historians of the Vietnam war for its frank insider's account of muddled military decision-making in the North.

In consequence, Tra was stripped of all party and government posts and banished to the countryside.

Yet he remained a committed Communist and nationalist. As the country moved towards a market economy in recent years, he became the leader of a group of retired senior officers and party officials which sought to defend the interests of millions of veterans who saw their pensions decline in value.

The group was banned in 1990, and Tra was appointed head of the officially sponsored veterans' organisation created to replace it. He would meet tour groups of visiting American veterans, and assure them that the principles of the revolution had not been betrayed.

In an interview last year he said: "I do not accept that capitalism has won the peace. It is just a question of how we reach our goal of caring for our people, giving them prosperity, happiness and justice. We may be taking a different path, but our goal is the same."

In Memoriam

Sir Robert Stephens

The Prince of Wales, President, Royal Shakespeare Company, was represented by Dr Eric Anderson at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Robert Stephens held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly.

The Rev Donald Reeves officiated. Mrs Lucy Dillon (daughter) read from *King Lear*. Dame Judi Dench and Mr Toby Stephens (son) from *Henry V*. Mr Christopher Larkin (son) the *Elegy of the Death of Barbapa* and Mr Quinn Hawkins (stepson) the lesson. Mr John Stephens (brother), Mr Dave Allen, Mr John Mortimer, QC, Mr Richard O'Brien, Mr Michael Coveney, Mme Claude Chagrin, Mr Simon Callow and Mr Steven Berkoff paid tribute to Sir Robert and Mr Adrian Noble, Artistic Director, Royal Shakespeare Company, gave an address.

Mr David Kerran (baritone), Mr Sheridan Morley, Miss Patricia Hodge, Mr Jonathan Cohen, Royal Shakespeare Company Musicians and members of the Shakespeare Revue also took part. Lady Stephens (widow) read a message from the Prince of Wales. Among others present were:

Miss Jackie Stephens (sister), Mr Mark Dillon (son-in-law), Mrs Quinn Hawkins (stepdaughter-in-law), Mrs John Stephens, Laurence Stephens, Chloe Stephens.

Sir Geoffrey Cass, Chairman, Royal Shakespeare Company, and Lady Cass, Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Martin Gilbert, Sir Eddie Kulukundis, Lady Ayer, Lady Lever, Mr Ian McGarry, General Secretary, British Actors' Equity Association, Miss Penny Kirkwood, Friends of the RSC at Stratford, Mr Rupert Thynne, Chief Executive, The Society of London Theatre, Mrs Lisa Parkes, Walton Theatre Collection, Mr Colin Leslie, RADA Associates' Committee, Mr Richard Mangan, Director, Mander and Mitcheson Theatre Collection, Miss M. Miller, Denville Hall, with Mrs M. Fagin.

Mrs Eric Anderson, Mr Ronald Pickup, Mr and Mrs Bill Bryden, Miss Tracie Bennett, Mr Christian Dyall, Mr Sebastian Graham-Jones, Mrs Celestia Fox, Miss Jane Blow, Mr and Mrs L. Gilbert, Mr Harry Landis, Miss Tarn Bassett, Mr David Brierley, Mr C. Chagrin, Mr Julian Glover and Miss Lida Blair, Miss Midge Mackenzie, Mr Giles Foster, Mr Donovan Winter, Mrs John Osborne, Mr Peter Nichols, Mr Tony Palmer, Miss Kate O'Mara, Mr and Mrs Freddie Jones, Mr and Mrs Graham Benson, Mr and Mrs James Villiers, Mr Edward Fox, Miss A. Fox, Mr Peter Rogers, Mr and Mrs Oliver Cotton.

Miss Joanne Pearce, Mr Christopher Downs, Miss Sinead Cusack, Mr Nigel Williams, Prof and Mrs Norman Morris, Dr and Mrs Nicholas Morris, Dr Martin Seifert and Dr Jackie Morris, Dr Vanessa Morris, Mr A. Millett, Mr and Mrs I. Connick, Mr Richard Hartley, Mr and Mrs Nathan Gold, Mr Herbie Wise and Miss Fiona Walker, Mr Don Warrington, Mr and Mrs Bill Cotton, Mr and Mrs Peter Bowles, Mr Ian Holm and Miss Penelope Wilton, Prof and Mrs N McIntyre, Miss Debbie Moore, Miss Joanna McCallum, Mr Trader Faulkner, Mr James Wood, Mr Vernon Dobtcheff, Mr and Mrs Peter Cooper.

Mrs Jane Woolfenden, Mr Guy Henry, Ms Hilliary Fogg, Mr Ruth Leon Morley, Miss Finty Williams, Miss Clare Fischer, Mr Peter Eyre, Mr John Wells, Miss Daphne Oxenford, Mr Martin McKeand, Mr Richard Jackson, Mr Derek Newark, Mr John Tydeman, Mr Terrence Rigby, Mr Richard E. Grant, Miss Verity Lambert, Mr and Mrs Andrew Yates, Mr Bill Dudley, Mr Anthony Shaffer, Mr A. Gomer, Mr and Mrs John Stride, Mr Michael Jackson, Dr E. Welldon, Ms Jean Jones, Mr John Sharpnel, Miss Susannah Harker, Mr Richard Bresland and Mr Edward Petherbridge, together with many other friends.

Listen carefully when Brussels is pulling the strings

OLIVER PRITCHETT

THERE HAVE been warnings in the past few days that loud classical music can be bad for the health of the musicians who play it. The Association of British Orchestras has said that *fortissimo* may be *pericoloso* and some orchestras have even been experimenting with ear plugs. The instrumentalists whose ear-drums are most at risk are those who sit near the percussion and brass players when they are letting rip in something like *The Ride of the Valkyries*.

One solution is for the members of the orchestra to mime instead of actually playing. This can be very effective. I was lucky enough recently to attend a concert given by the Braintree Silent Symphony Orchestra, at which we were all given copies of the score to follow while the orchestra pretended to play.

The instrumentalists pulled marvellously expressive faces and a couple of the cellists even managed to burst into tears in the slow movement. The violinists pursed their lips, the clarinet players rolled their eyes in exquisite pain and the flautists wore a picture of concerned concentration.

In the middle of the opening passage, somebody four rows behind me coughed, and we all glared at him eloquently, put our fingers to our lips and mouthed "shhh". After that, he behaved himself, just occasionally holding up a card with the word "ahem" or "wheeze" or "snuffle" on it.

At the end of the concert the audience burst into wild applause — that is, we stood up and energetically pretended to clap without actually bringing the palms of our hands together. I am afraid I got rather carried away and rushed to the front to throw an imaginary bouquet to a woman whose eyebrow movements had been particularly poignant when she mimed playing the oboe.

It has also been suggested that some loud passages in classical music may, in fact, be unlawful under European regulations. This is, you might say, just the thin end of the clarinet reed. What about overcrowding on the concert platform? It is quite clear that each individual instrumentalist is not getting the number of working place square metres he or she is legally entitled to. You can see at once that violinists are woefully short of elbow room.

This sort of thing is no problem to the Northern Europhilia, the first orchestra in Britain which aims to be "Europeanly correct". The platform at their purpose-built Edward Heath Concert Hall has been greatly extended so that the players have sufficient space for their playing environment, while there is also room alongside them for the compulsory crèche facilities. This leaves five rows of seats for the audience.

While the members of the orchestra perform, their babies and toddlers, looking fetching in evening dress, are there with them and, if they feel like it, they can have a go at playing the instruments or waving the baton.

The conductor is joined on the podium by the designated health and safety inspector, who can intervene if he judges that the orchestra is playing too fast or too loud for its own good. He can also test the air quality from time to time and ensure that instrumentalists get 15 bars rest for every 45 bars they play. Percussionists

get a fortnight's paid holiday every 45 bars to help them cope with the stress of that nervous wait and all the anxiety about the timing before the moment of the clash of the cymbals.

In terms of hygiene, an orchestra is, of course, a minefield. There is the constant danger of catching the germs from that chap in the audience with the cough, which is why all members of the Northern Europhilia wear surgical masks. Players of wind instruments have holes cut in their masks.

There is also the delicate matter of those brass players who feel a need to dismantle their instruments to "empty them out" from time to time. This operation can be distracting and may also be a health hazard, which is why the Northern Europhilia dresses all its trombonists in white overalls and wellington boots.

The problem of excessive volume of music is easily solved. Many members of the orchestra are paid large sums of money to "set aside" their instruments and not play them at all.

CHESS by Malcolm Pein

Fide threatened with break-up

FIDE, the governing body of chess, is in danger of disintegration following the latest decision to move the world championship venue to Elista, in the Russian republic of Kalmykia.

European Fide delegates met with colleagues from the United States and Canada at Utrecht, Holland, at the weekend, amid widespread feelings that the organisation had gone out of control.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who replaced Florencio Campomanes as president of Fide last year, recently claimed in an interview in the Russian newspaper *Trud* that Baghdad, the previous venue for the match between Anatoly Karpov and Gata Kamsky, had been a hoax to gain publicity for the event.

The delegates called for the lifting of the threat of a ban from Fide events against Kamsky for refusing to play in Elista, where he fears for his personal safety.

Dissatisfied federations were urged to withold payments from Fide, and made it clear that an electoral challenge to Ilyumzhinov would be made at the next Fide Congress, in Erevan this September. If that fails, a breakaway movement seems inevitable.

Simen Agdestein, the Norwegian No 1, defeated the new women's world champion, Zsusza Polgar of Hungary, 4-2 in an exhibition rapidplay challenge match at PC EXPO 96 in Oslo.

All six 45-minute games ended decisively, with Agdestein winning the first two, Polgar the next two, and Agdestein the last two.

S Agdestein — Zsu Polgar
Expo 96 Oslo (1)
Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4	d5	2 c4	dxc4
3 Nf3	a6	4 e3	Nf6
5 Bxc4	e6	6 Qe2	c5
7 dxc5	Bxc5	8 0-0	Qc7
9 Nbd2	Nbd7	10 Nb3	Bd6
11 Bd2	Ng4	12 Rac1	Qb8
13 Ng5	Bxh2+	14 Kh1	Ndf6
15 f4	h6	16 Ne4	h5
17 Nxf6+	gxf6	18 Rf3	b5
19 Bd3	Bb7	20 Rh3	Rg8
21 Nc5	Bc6	22 Ne4	f5
23 Rxc6	fxe4	24 Bxe4	Nf6
25 Bf3	Bg3	26 Ba5	h4
27 Qc2	Nd7	28 Rc7	1-0

S Agdestein — Zsu Polgar
Expo 96 Oslo (3)
Slav Defence

1 d4	d5	2 c4	e6
3 Nc3	c6	4 e3	Nf6
5 b3	Nbd7	6 Bb2	Bd6
7 Qc2	0-0	8 0-0-0	a5
9 Nf3	a4	10 Nxa4	dxc4
11 bxc4	b5	12 cxb5	cxb5
13 Bxb5	Ba6	14 Bxa6	Rxa6
15 Nd2	Qa8	16 Nc3	Rc8
17 Ndb1	Rxa2	18 Rd3	Nd5
19 Qb3	Nb4	20 Rd2	Qxg2
21 Rhd1	Qb7	0-1	

DINNER

Gray's Inn

The President of Germany, Prof Roman Herzog, an Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn, was entertained at dinner by the Treasurer of Gray's Inn, Mr Conrad Dehn, QC, and Masters of the Bench last night. Earlier, he was shown the Chambers of Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC, and the Hon Michael Beloff, QC, and gave an address in Hall on "Judicial Self-Restraint and the Federal Constitutional Court". A reception was also held in the library. Among those present at dinner were:

The Ambassador of Germany, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Mustill, Lord Hoffmann, Mr Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP, Sir Ian Glidewell, Dame Rose Heilbron, Sir Maurice Bathurst, QC, Mr Hasso Buchrucker, Mr Bernhard von der Planitz, Dr Hans-Ulrich Bowitz, Mr Roland Lohkamp, Dr Wolfgang Trautwein, Judge Lewis, QC, Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, Mr Karl Newman, Prof Basil Markesinis, Prof Christian von Bar, Mrs Conrad Dehn and Mr David Hall-Smith.

TODAY'S EVENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, British Executive Service Overseas, will attend a Local Costs Fund-raising Concert and Reception at Shell Centre, Southbank, London SE1, eve.

Queen's Life Guard mounts. Horse Guards, 11. Queen's Guard mounts, Buckingham Palace, 11.30.

National Gallery: Mars Griffith lecture: April Showers (4): Rousseau: Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!), 1.

The Wallace Collection, Manchester Square: Miranda Neave. Introduction to French Furniture, 1.

"Gen Tran Van Tra." Daily Telegraph, 30 Apr. 1996, p. 23. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0700510018/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.