Anthony Compton Burnett, "Tolly" to many of his friends, came to Eton in 1950. His original appointment was to teach Biology, Chemistry and the Classics, surely a rare combination, but it was the Biology which attracted him most for he had first thought of becoming a doctor. Educated at Lancing and, after distinguished service in the Royal Navy, at Pembroke College, Cambridge, he had a brilliant sporting career and it was not the least surprising that he gained blues for cricket and squash and was given a senior Trial for soccer.

"Tolly" soon made his mark at Eton and boys, masters and residents have cause to remember his sporting prowess. In particular, he played many memorable innings for Home Park at a time when the standard of masters' cricket was very high. On the field, as in life generally, he was always a character and I recall a time when we were both fielding in the slips to the bowling of the present Vice-Provost. Twice in one over the ball was snicked at catchable height to second slip but, because "Tolly" and I were talking, he never put a hand to it although it was a very good fielder. At the end of the over he went up to the bowler and said: "Bad luck, old man. Perhaps he'll give the slips a chance before long!"

Despite his claim never to have given a 'run' or missed a 'Desk', even "Tolly", I feel sure, would agree that punctuality was not his prime virtue. On one winter occasion he invited me to play golf at Wentworth. We were to start early in order to get in a full round. Actually we managed four holes in semi darkness because he had arrived so late. It was, however, impossible to be cross with him because of his inherent kindly nature. He was always the most generous of hosts who worked tirelessly to see that his guests enjoyed themselves.

During his many years at Eton ACB was many things to many people. Some saw him as a business-man manque because he always kept outside interests. The fact is that he lived life to the full. He enjoyed teaching boys biology and was President of the Scientific Society for twenty-five years during which time he entertained numerous distinguished speakers. He recognised that it is dangerous to be too cloistered and he thought it essential to keep in touch with the outside world. There was, however, always the chance that he would find the time to keep boys too appealing and now that he has done so it is pertinent to ask why he stayed so long. He remained, I believe, because he loved Eton and felt at home here.

It is comforting to write these words in the knowledge that "Tolly" and his charming wife, Gillian, have moved only a few miles away and that their younger son, Nicholas, is still in the school. Even so, with his departure Eton has lost a loveable character whose virtues and faults never allowed him to become a nonentity. It is sad that he decided to leave but we wish him well in his new career and we serve notice that he and Gill are not going to be allowed to escape from us entirely.

R.H.P.

Nicholas Kermack died in Oxford from asthma on January 10th. He was 21 years old and in his last year reading Law at Magdalen College, of which College he was an exhibitioner. At Eton he was in College, Keeper of College Wall, College Editor of the Chronicle and a most gifted chemist - he was indeed senior member of College Form this last half. His clear and powerful intellect, which was one of Nick's principal characteristics, proved equally successful at Oxford, indeed his exhibition was awarded him in Law, and it is one of the many sadnesses of our time that we shall now never see that tremendous potential realised. Nick was a man of many enthusiasms, among which Eton was one of the most lasting, and it is some comfort to his Eton friends that he was able to celebrate his 21st birthday here with us in October, having brought down a Wall Game scratch, followed by a party in College and a dinner with a group of his oldest friends - the sort of convivial occasion he enjoyed so much. Nick was enormously good-natured but perhaps not always the most tactful of men and it was rather touching to see his distress when he discovered he had inadvertently offended someone and his desire to be reconciled with them as quickly as possible: he was totally devoid of all the small vanities and jealousies that sometimes mar clever boys. Indeed there was nothing at all small about Nick; he was large in body, large in mind, large in heart and, for his friends he leaves a very large gap.

W.W.
1980 was a year of major change on all fronts; changes in familiar faces, changes in the landscape and changes in attitudes. They built a swimming pool. Lennon died. Tina Marie got to Number 1. A trip down Memory Lane, by Boris Johnson and Roger Clarke.

ACADEMIC
The Class of 1980 win a record 47 Oxbridge awards.

PEOPLE
Many important figures from Eton life have come or gone in 1980; Michael McCrum disappeared after a long and distinguished career to Corpus, having successfully disintegrated the fagging system as a parting gesture, dispensed with early morning school and revitalised a flagging academic record. Roger Royle having stepped out of the limelight as Conduct, meekly resolved to the occasional resurrection between the pages of the Sunday Times, or even blessing television with his presence. The ebullient Dr. Bentley remained ebullient as the new Conduct, and Mr. Anderson arrived from Shrewsbury to become Headmaster. John Lewis left, Mr. Beck-Anderson arrived. 'Chiefy' retired and Mme Vogel assumed the quiet post of French Mistress.

MUSIC
Last year saw 32 Etonian Musicians cover on the toberone mountains of Switzerland, where they ate, drank and (when they found time) even played some music to the startled inhabitants. Another landmark of the Eton musicians, though back on home ground, was the Independent Concert arranged entirely by boys. At the other end of the scale (sorry), Emil and the Detectives achieved a hitherto unparalleled success with their Press reviews - a fact totally unconnected with the major presence of its group members within the Chronicle Room.

DRAWING SCHOOLS
Widely praised St. Andrew's Day Exhibition, Bathurst, Hobhouse, Rena and Picard showing well.

PRESS
Always a Mecca for the slavering news hounds, there was no less coverage than usual. The Chronicle series 'Eton Alive' was often the culprit, and the Radley TV series - regretted by all - only increased the interest in Public Schools. 'Music to play to a fag at Eton' was heard one evening on Capital Radio, and Mme Vogel agreed to attract publicity for Eton Action - receiving so much attention from obliging reporters that the fair was almost forgotten. Back in the Chronicle, a feature on hair prompted the Mail to trumpet that DIY haircuts (Punk) were definitely in at Eton. And the customary Press ambivalence eagerly snatched up the prospect of the 'Right to Work' demonstration, and when it discovered that some marchers had sunned themselves on top of the Maths Room, breathlessly announced that the demonstrators had stormed the very 'heart' of Eton in their frenzy of inactivity.

EPHEMERALS
Another Offshoot of the trend-setter 'Lipstick' was the 4th June's 'Bootleg' with an equally slick presentation, a very good Roald Dahl interview but little else of worth. "Microcosm"; on St. Andrew's Day, was very sound and might have been excellent had it not fallen victim to the unwise insertion of several completely dud articles, which tended to be tedious.

ONSTAGE
Eton was rocked by two School Plays as different as can be: a star-studded "Twelfth Night" (Matovu, Rigby, Slade, Radford etc., prod. ADCG) had us slapping our thighs; we're still thinking about WHR's enterprising and successful Beckett Festival. Some superb independent plays. Personal favourite: Grotto Productions' (Rigby, Slade Hare etc.) "Tons of Money". Of the House Plays, NJTJ's was the most controversial, RPCF's "The Ruling Class" the most daring. Robert Freeburn, part-time Drama Tutor, has arrived to release our inhibitions and steer Eton Drama through the Eighties.

SPORTS HEADLINES
• Invicti: soft-voiced TCB, our man from the valleys, steers the XV through an unbeaten season, picking up such prestigious scalps as Stowe's and St. Paul's School's.
• The Association conquers America's East Coast, spear-headed by Bill Metaxa and nannied by a tight-lipped TMSY.
• A,B and C Block vote convincingly, if not overwhelmingly, to keep the Field Game in a School Hall debate.
• The Eleven has some success against the weather and other tough opposition - but it's about time the Eton-Harrow match ceased to be played at Lords.
• And it never felt better on the River, now headed by JWR.
• But surely the event of the year: clever as ever, College Wall wallops the Oppidans on St. Andrew's Day. Three shies to nil! It never looked so good!

Boris & Rog