

No 270

NEWSPAPER OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE STUDENTS UNION WEDNESDAY, 8 JANUARY 1969



The New Year's list brought weral honours to people connected th the college, the most prominent of which is the award to Professor P.M.S. Blackett of a life peerage.

Professor Blackett's career has been one packed with notable achievements in academic and administrative fields. He has been a member of the Royal Society since 1933 and President of this body for the last two years. His work on cosmic rays gained him a Nobel Prize in 1948 and his research into paleomagnetism gained him the R.S. Copley Medal in 1956.

In his long association with I.C he has been professor of Physics and Head of Department, 1953-65; Dean of R.C.S,1954-60;Pro-Rector of IC, 1961-63; and senior Research Fellow of the college in 1967. He was also chairman of the Research Grants Committee For 1956-60 which were years of phenomenal expansion in technological and scientific education in this country.

Professor Blackett was made a Companion of Honour in 1965 and received the Order of Merit last year.

Knighthoods have been awarded to 2 other Fellows of the college Dr. D.G. Christopherson, the Vice Chancellor of Durham University and Mr. H. Shirley-Smith who was given a C.B.E. for his part in the construction of the Forth Road Bridge. Professor R. Weck, who is visiting



2d

Professor P.M.S. Blackett



As decided at the last Council meeting just before the end of last term, President Rex Lowin wrote to The Times, the Kensington Post and Felix (see inside) complaining about the reactions of certain member of the public when asked to contribute to the Carnival charity.This was followed by a press release to other national papers.

Following the publication of the Times letter on the 19 December, the college received over £115 from exstudents and others.

With this unforeseen response, Carnival has so far made in excess of £2,500, including £1400 from the Carnival Walk. Raffle tickets can still be obtained and the first proceeds from this activity are trickling in. Several donations have been received from M.P.s and Carnival Co-ordinator, Ian Jarvis, is hoping for more money from parliament Particularly pleasing is the considerable amount of support from the staff in the way of donations, walk

# BUMPH

This term we kick off with a few duplicated sheets of paper , stuck together with a staple and with a mammoth External Affairs Committee bumf-sheet bunged on the back. The next issue will appear a fort-night today and will be printed by

West London Offset in a similar fashion as in the previous several years.

Then, on Thursday February 6, things change. We say goodbye to cheap offset litho and hello to slightly more expensive letterpress.

This change of printing process will give us better reproduction of photographs, no smudges or smears or crocked paragraphs in fact, a much cleaner, more attractive paper. The flost issue with our new

printers will also contain a careers

supplement which should make inter-esting reading for all third years with finals coming up in June. Of course, this improved quality means we spend more money. This means we have less financial elbowroom, Which brings us to another subject. ....

We stopped selling this paper at our Southside sales tin last term because of theft. For one issue,98% of the couchside copies were unpaid for. In fact, throughout the college we lose over 250 every year because people 'forget' to pay for their FELIX.

# USK

THE MAP is now ready-at last-after a number of minor(?) catastrophes and a tremendous amount of help by all sorts of people ranging from Gestetner to many folks in ICwho so generously gave their timeto the project. Tacked on the back of this FELIX is the fruit of their labours. YOU can now USE the University of South Kensington Map. Go places!!! Eat places!!! Bc a USK man!!! And while you are on with it , please send in corrections and additions to the map, for future use.

### ADVERT

Zimbabwe-Rhodesia-Britain's Vietnam? End Smith regime! March+Sunday+ Speak-ers Corner (2pm)+Rhodesia House+Ass-imble Southside 1.30pm.++++++1CPAG++

### Sir,

Rex's

Each year the students of I.C. choose one charityto support. This year we are helping the Nat-ional Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, after very careful consideration of its merits and our ability to collect for it. This is the only charity of its kind, and without our financial support would probably have to close down.

Con range 1

We realised that it would not commend itself to all sections of the general public, but we have been greatly dismayed by the manner of some people who have refus-ed to contribute. We feel that it should be possible for them to refuse without either insulting the charity or disneartening the collectorsa

With the experience of the last term behind us and a total of over £2000, thanks to a lot of hard work by our students and the gener-osity of some members of the public , we strongly support the National Council's motto: "Don't CONDERN the Mother, help the CHILD."

Yours faithfully, Rex J.Lowin President, I.C.U.

MINES 

The Mines Bottle, stolen at the end of last term from its resting place in the Union bar, has now been returned. When R.S.M.U. went to rec-over it from the Hendon Tech student who had taken it , thinking it to be a mascot, they met with no resistance at all. The "borrowers" didn't even at all. The "borrowers" didn't even know what "R.S.M." stoud for.

BAR 18 12

The Union Bar celebrated it twelfth birthday with a bar parcy on Jan 4th. Its success can be

judged from the quote of one stal-wart: "At a quarter past 8 my stomach felt like it was half past

ten!".

CALL FOR FREE UNIVERSITY

# Towards an Independent University

In a paper published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs Limited, the suggestion that a university independent of the State is both practical and desirable is put forward and discussed by Professor Ferns of Birmingham University.

#### Necessity

Professor Ferns gives many reasons for the neccesit, of such an institution: that it is socially necessary to demonstrate that "people on their own can meet a community need with no assistance from the state..."; that it would help to meet the present demand for university places (35, of those with the nessesary qualifications cannot find places).

Perhaps the most scathing attack on the present system is the suggestion that thepresent system produces degrees rather than people "who are educated to use knowledge in their work and have the self-confidence and judgement which comes from knowing what they are doing..."

## General Education

There is room, according to the author, for courses which aim at a more general education than the present specialised programmes. In his opinion "many of Britain's problems stem from the poor quality and inadequate education of the adm ministrators, organisers and transmitters of knowledge who are not equal to bringing to bear in the practical context of life the achievements of the elite of pure science and the arts."

As a final reason the author feels a need to "preserve and stren ngthen variety in English education! Much of what British education is famous for is being lost because of the growth in state control of the universities through financial pro-

The places in this private university would be filled by students unable to obtain places in the present set-up, together with a number of foreign students. The cost to the student would be in the region of £1500 a year. Students would be assisted by special loans, repayable over say 10 years, A VIEW OF THE URGENT NEED FOR ESTABLISHING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FREE FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL

### H. S. FERNS

Professor of Political Science, University of Birmingham

and would also earn money through part time employment. the university would cater for a larger number of students per. staff member by inténsifying the teaching activity. staff wou ld be selected in two categories:"intellectual capacity and capacity to teach or capacity to learn to teach." Staff may have to teach 25 hours a week during term time, but will be given one year off in six "for intellectual refreshment."Teaching posts would be made far more viable:"the idea of a university post as a freehold until 65 to 67 to be followed by a 'life pension must be abandoned."

The capital necessary for land and buildings will initially be derived from gifts, but will be repayed over a period of some 50 years out of fees and research contracts. Apart from this initial dependence on outside sources, the university will be financially autonomous.

Capital

In his conclusion the author provides a philosophical basis to his proposals:"If all knowledge is limited and uncertain, and all hum-an beings and agencies make mistakes in their life-strategy, the question is simply what arrangement will minimise the mistakes and maximise correct solutions.In the present circumstances an arrangement that encourages individuals and institutions to plan their own strategies seems on balance to have a prospect of more success than centralised, over-all planning. And such an arr-angement does impart excitement to life, which is not an unconsidered trifle.

Although the paper is the work of Professor Ferns, its content has been discussed at two meetings of academics including Professor Chain from I.C.An appendix expressing the urgency of an Independent University is signed by 46 distinguished educationists who are in sympathy with the main proposals.

et . Home I have



Bernard Sunley House, Imperial College's second Student House in Evelyn Gardens, was occupied at the beginning of this term after a delay of three months.

Warden of the house is Ian Wells who is now engaged in postgraduate work in Metallurgy.

The house , close by Mining House which was opened ar the start of the academic year, is a group of 5 adjacent houses which have been converted into one unit and paid for by the Bernard Sunley Foundation.

The chaos prevalent when the previous house was opened was not repeated in Bernard Sunley House. However, after unpacking their beds the residents found that such things as electric kettles and shaving mirrors for the communal sink were still all in the Warden's office.

Thanks to a report by Dave Harris, Warden of Mining House, examining the finances, rents are down by 10/- per week. Residents in Mining House get this back-dated to 1st October. The occupants are now paying £3 per week for a single room, £2-10s for a double, and £2 for a treble.

Room heating is by an electric fire through a meter, while radiators provide free central heating except in the basement. Lighting is also on a meter system, as in Mining House , but there are hopes that lighting will be free in the next block.

It is hoped that the summer will see the completion of 3 more houses in Evelyn Gardens, near to the others. The search for Wardens will be beginning soon.

IC in ICA

Following a decision made at the last Council Meeting, I.C. should now be collectively a member of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, (I.C.A.) providing the ten guinea chaque has arrived there. Worth seeing at the I.C.A. this

Worth seeing at the I.C.A. this term should be a series of experimental pop "chamber" concerts, from January 24th. Leading progressive groups such as The Family, Nice, & Van der Graff Generator will appear.



Interior of the House

## **No More Parking**

In the last issue it was stated that an extra 10 parking places had been gained by over-allocation. We have been asked to point out that the relevent stickers are temporary and can be repealed if the experiment does not work. Moreover, they have already been allocated, and no further applications for places should be made this year.

## FELIX is on TV

Readers who habitually watch children's television may have seen a new serial called "Adventure Weekly", about a group of schoolkids who run their own newspaper. The papers for this programme were printed by West London Offset Co., our present printers, and they feature the famous FELIX cat in the title headline

# Professorship

The chair of applied Mathematics at Bedford College has been awarded to Dr.R.F.Streater, at present a senjor lecturer in our own Maths Dept.FELIX wishes Dr.Streater success in his new post.

autorities . Willie

1kg

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO ALL WALKERS Somewhere an unmarried man wants some money from you. Could you please collect your walk money as soon as possible and hand it in to the union office.

Because of last minute production difficulties, the length of many articles has been reduced - to zero in some cases.

light physical



Around the University.  a nearby hostels a ROBART HOUSE-N-3Hyd. Phys. 8 30 COLLINGHAM F	
O RESTAURANTS C	RD DNS DNS 39 Enumore 44) Gdns sefore notices) Comprises Prince Comprises Prince Consort Rd. Ken gore Cromwill pl. Victoria Rd. Ken Sa II. Campden II. Campde

