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Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

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LETTERS FROM HEAVEN

Controversy re-opens
page 4
and the Editor's still
not converted

SAYLES AND WADSWORTH!

Election Result leaked within hours of count

Sayles gets biggest ever Presidential vote

FELIX REPORTER

NORMAN SAYLES and PAUL WADSWORTH were the successful candidates in last week's elections for President and Secretary, according to informed sources. These sources had spread the news throughout the college within a few hours of the count finishing on Thursday morning, although there is a theoretical embargo on the result until the election procedure has been ratified by Thursday's Union General Meeting.

Norman had a landslide victory over Rob Armitage and Jock Veall, gaining the highest vote ever achieved by a Presidential candidate. He scored about 850, against Jock Veall's 170 and Rob Armitage's 120, and was elected on the first count.

Paul Wadsworth had a close battle with Gordon Jackson for the Secretaryship, and it took until the final count before he achieved the quota. The other contender, Peter Gillet, gained a creditable 150 votes on the first count, compared with the others' three or four hundred each.

The election result, which should not even be appearing in this issue of FELIX if Union Secretary Martin Black is to be believed, was already widely known in the College only hours after the count finished on Thursday morning. The information was leaked by people

present at the count, some of them observing on behalf of candidates, and the fact that the news spread so fast proves how naive the idea of keeping the result secret until the election procedure is ratified is.

The Sayles/Wadsworth victory can only be seen as a victory for the "moderates". The forthcoming regime is already being likened by prominent Union officials as a return to the Hobman / McCullough days, surprisingly only a year away. This feeling was only second to that of profound relief at succeeding in electing a Pre-

sident and Secretary on a poll well in excess of the 25 per cent minimum necessary for the election to be valid. It was the fourth — and last — election for President this academic year. Pundits were stunned by the high turnout: over 700 voted on the first day alone, 200 more than voted on both days of the last election.

Unlike their counterparts in many other University Unions, the new President and Secretary can by no means be accused of perpetuating an executive chair. Norman Sayles has until now been only a secondary figure on Union Council, on which he has represented the Botany and Zoology departments for two

years. Paul Wadsworth, although prominent through his phenomenally successful handling of Ents this year, certainly does not see eye to eye with the current executive.

The election has to be ratified by Thursday's UGM. This UGM, which will be (as usual) at 1 p.m. in the Great Hall, is

also responsible for electing six floor representatives to Council, the University of London Union representative, two members of the Accommodation Committee and three members of the Welfare Committee. Another motion on grants is bound to come before the meeting in view of the NUS 21st Deadline.

Editorial

After a year of political chaos, ICU is back in business. No one can pretend that, with a one-way-minded political President and a bureaucracy fetishist as Secretary the Union has actually achieved anything this year, apart from severely tarnishing its credibility.

The new executive is going to have to work hard, harder than any previous executive, to regain this credibility.

Their first problem will be getting people to Union Meetings. Union Meetings run the Union, but inquorate or unrepresentative ones run them to pot.

UGMs will have to be made more relevant to the ordinary student. Okay, grants motions are relevant—but pledging support to earth-

worms suffering under the policies of a wicked revisionist government isn't (at least, not in the first analysis). And petty squabbles between the IMG, CPGB, CPB(M-L), YSSS, et al, certainly aren't.

Agricultural methods will have to be taken to UGM motions. And it mustn't end with wholesale weeding. The roots need protecting against rot and attack.

We must welcome the new executive. They know what they have to do. FELIX will be keeping its microscope on them next year to make sure they do it. But we won't cast any aspersions on them before they start.

Good luck to them.

Oh and thank you if you voted. I hope you're happy too.

So old . . . but oh, so young!

OLIVER DOWSON VISITS THE N.U.S.S. CONFERENCE

When I was at infant school, more years ago than I really care to remember, we used to play games imitating our elders, like 'Mothers and Fathers'. We spend most of the time squabbling, as only children can squabble, over all sorts of trivialities, like who was going to say what when. Of course, by the time we got ourselves sorted out the bell went for the end of the break and we had to get back to our three Rs.

I am prompted to these reminiscences by my recent attendance at the annual conference of the National Union of School Students, held in early May at City University, London. The conference was indeed just like one of these games, the only real difference being that the children playing the games were aged between 14 and 19, instead of between 4 and 7. And I cannot help but think that we made a more creditable imitation of our parents when in the kindergarten than these teenyboppers make of their peers of a mere year or two.

It is not my intention to decry the aims and objects of the NUS, but it would exceed dishonesty on my part to tell you that their conference succeeded in achieving anything other than electing a new executive. I have previously, on occasion, been given to the belief that NUS conferences could be the height of bureaucratic inefficiency. I withdraw all such allegations now.

The conference started eighty minutes late with a brief rallying call from retiring President Bob Leeson, speedily followed by a first-rate demonstration of wrangling from the steering committee, which consisted of two people who disagreed with each other over everything. A new amendment to the standing order says that "all meetings except the National Conference shall be held in as informal a manner as possible". It would be difficult to be less formal than a National Conference, and maybe for that reason I am not anticipating attending any area meetings (they probably won't invite me, anyway).

But I shall bore you if I continue in this vein. You should have already gathered an impression of the style of operation of the conference. But conference did succeed on at least one occasion in sitting down like good children and listening to teacher. The occasion in mind was an address from a fraternal speaker from French school students. They are a little better organised over there: indeed, they managed to get 500,000 scholars out on the streets on two days recently, protesting against "La Loi Debré", which would have forced French scholars to take their year's national service between the ages of 18 and 21—thus disrupting their further education. They have achieved a victory albeit with reservations, in having this law suspended.

Similar shows of strength of school students have come in Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. In Britain it may be a lot more difficult. There are in excess of 2 million scholars aged 12-18, so the movement has a long way to go. 10,000 of them are members of the NUSS and pay 20p or 30p membership each year.

To qualify as a branch, a school need only have four members of the NUSS and (25 per cent of these constitute a quorum!) I asked the leader of the branch at my home town, Lowestoft's Denes High School about the recruitment situation. I should point out that amidst the East Anglian sea of apathy, Lowestoft is an oasis of involvement and enthusiasm. Nevertheless, he told me that he had so far only recruited five members from his school (which has a thousand

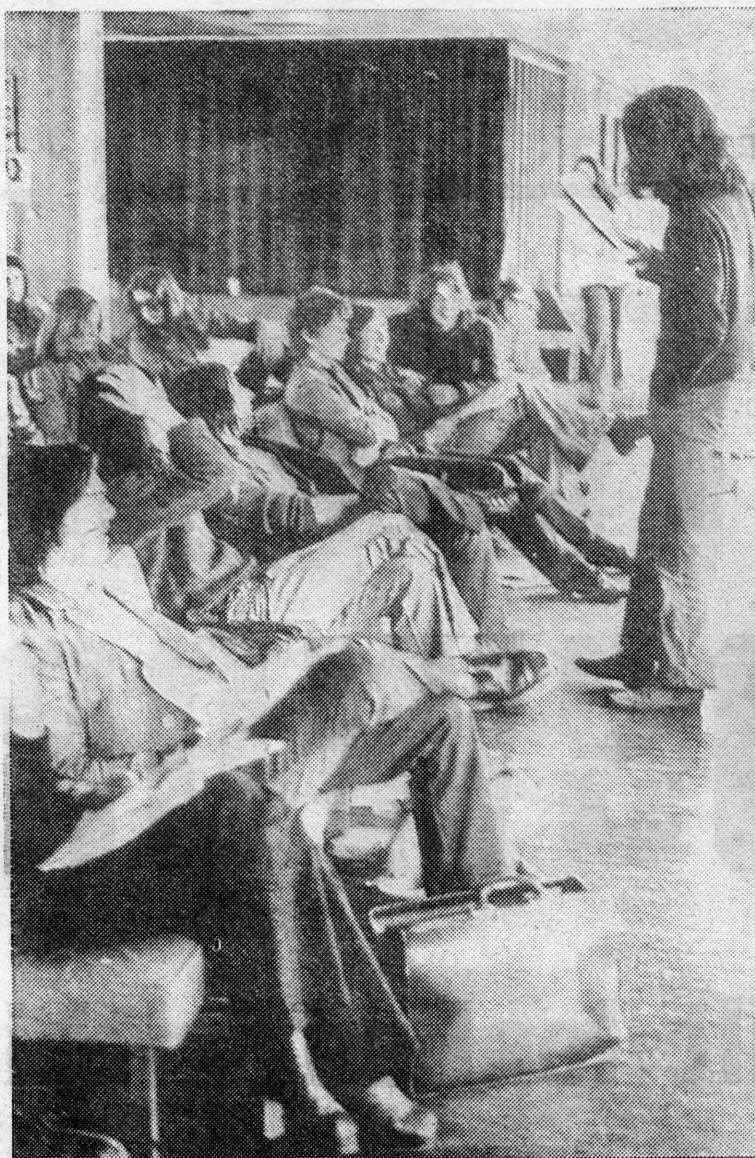
students). He laid some of the blame with NUSS head office, who had taken seven weeks to send him a supply of membership cards, and also on the fact that it was now the summer term and membership taken out now would only be current for three months; but, he said, most students were prepared to co-operate with the authorities—at least to some extent—and were thus not interested in joining a movement that is openly discouraged by the staff.

Lowestoft would seem to be a fairly typical branch. Outside London, the NUSS movement has only tiny pockets of membership in places such as Lowestoft except for a notably high number in Scotland. Obviously they rely on getting some really involved people in every part of the country who will spread the word—and the membership cards—around.

Bob Leeson said in his opening address that the coming year would make or break the NUSS, and this point was echoed by the candidates for this year's executive. It is obviously going to be an uphill struggle to maintain and increase membership.

Unlike the NUS they rely on members actually physically joining and paying their membership fees. If and when they gain a membership of considerable size they could thus reasonably claim to be stronger than their parent union, since all their members have chosen to join.

How are they then to recruit membership? And, more difficult still, how are they to maintain it? Mr. Leeson suggests that holding a campaign is the only way, and delegates agreed. The question is more one of finding a campaign that school students will feel strongly enough about to mobilise on a significant scale. The only demands in their policy Statement which school students would unite behind are probably the abolition of religious education and school uniform. And these are by no means as contentious as the draft issue in France and other European countries.



● A section of last weekend's National Union of School Students conference.

Unfortunately the NUSS seems as if it is going to concentrate on other issues, if it organises a campaign at all.

It would be a very sad day when the NUSS folded. But that day seems bound to come if their national organisation remains as bad as their conference organisation. It is admittedly only a year this month since the NUSS was formed. But, to survive, such a Union cannot afford to start gradually and work upwards. It needs to start with a bang. And unless the NUSS generates the bang soon themselves, they might well find it going off under them.

No Pay for Bookshop Staff

Staff at the IC bookshop worked through the last weekend in March both Saturday and Sunday, without receiving any pay at all. Prior to this a notice was sent round the staff which read something like this: Because of VAT, a complete stocktaking must be done by March 31st. This may necessitate staff working the whole of that weekend. As is usual in such cases no overtime will be paid.

The reason why overtime is not usually paid in such cases can be found in section 8 of the terms of service for bookshop staff: "no overtime will be paid in view of the length of the annual leave." This is 4 weeks paid holiday in the first year for young staff and 7 in the second and following years.

The stocktaking required for VAT had to be continued into Monday and Tuesday too and the bookshop was closed on those days.

Following an interview with the RCS bookshop committee member an offer of an extra one day's holiday with pay was made to the staff, but this still leaves five staff who gave up their whole weekend to work, without payment in holiday or cash for one of those days.

A POET'S NIGHTMARE The turn of the Taciturn Man

In Africa I travelled south!

— I came, I saw, I closed my mouth;

Then feared some heartless racial ban

For having such a healthy tan,

So sat within the shade and saw

South African TV . . . and more.

.....And more!

I dozed, then dreamt in hushed distress

I played South Africa at chess

But lost the game in fading light;

— Since white could only move on white

And black could only move on black,

My moves were only there . . . and back.

.....Alack!

But should we British let it pass

To know we segregate by class?

.....Alas!

© N. Racine-Jaques 1973

Smile while you're makin' it
 Laugh while you're takin' it
 Even though you're fakin' it
 Nobody's gonna know ...



The words are from O LUCKY MAN! Alan Price wrote the songs for this new movie about a young man's search for the things everybody wants. Money. Success. Wisdom.

The smile belongs to Malcolm

McDowell. From 'If' to 'A Clockwork Orange' he's been right on target. Right attitude. Right choices. He's got lots of reasons to smile.

The spirit of O LUCKY MAN! is director Lindsay Anderson. He

makes a movie every five years. You don't forget them.

'This Sporting Life' started it. 'If' was a timely explosion. O LUCKY MAN! takes it a step further. From May 3rd. WARNER RENDEZVOUS Leicester Square.

Lyrics © KPM Music Jarrow Music Ltd.

Original Soundtrack on Warner Bros. Records

CERT X

Trevor Phillips, next year's External Affairs Officer, argues

"It's time for a complete facelift"

Several times in the past two terms, the Union leadership has been under fire for failing to propose acceptable policy on crucial issues. In reply, the Executive has pointed to apathy, left-wing extremism, right-wing reaction and stifling bureaucracy. Accusations have been tossed about, resulting in the gradual loss of credibility, which the Union has suffered recently.

To reverse this loss, we must identify the areas of our failure correctly. Without doubt, the major shortfall has been the consistent failure of ICU either to discuss or to take action on external issues. Is this because students do not believe that they should respond to the questions of Student Finance, Government Policy on Education, challenges to Union Autonomy or racism in Southern Africa? I hardly think so.

A possible cause of the apparent disinterest is that the majority of students are poorly informed as to the implications and consequences of these issues on their own lives. This should be the task of the External Affairs Committee, but any member of the EAC will tell you that in its present form it is impossible for the EAC to fulfil its proper role of adviser to the Union. The small and poorly attended EAC meetings have no hope of ever fulfilling their constitutional mandate, because of the number of issues and organisations which are now the responsibility of the EAC.

Viewing the situation in this light indicates that one way to combat disinterest and apathy in the Union is to expand and somehow re-structure the EAC. The expanded body would be able to involve more members of the Union in policy making and provide a better flow of information to the UGM. In this way we can expand the circle of debate both in terms of the number of subjects under debate and the number of people involved.

The greater the number of people that is involved in the decision-making process, ie the more in Union meetings and committee meetings, the more people will be involved in

the action taken. A resurgence in interest in the Union would give a boost to election campaigns, and perhaps Union Officers would be elected on their stands on the issues rather than on their personal appeal.

From the point of view of the External Affairs Officer a change would be welcome; at present, he has little chance of keeping all his areas of responsibility under control. The Union's attitudes are too often determined by a committee of one or two, simply because EAO is unable to handle the volume of work handed to him to channel through Council or a UGM. He is not a sabbatical officer. The proposed structure allows for the duties of the EAO and EAC to be handled more efficiently than under the present structure.

The Groups

The basis of the new structure requires setting up a number of fact-finding and policy-making "Groups". These would be composed in such a way that the groundwork on a specific area of external policy would be laid by people with responsibilities or interests in this area. For example, the Academic Affairs Officers would be asked to help form an Educational Policy Group.

The groups would be semi autonomous bodies, but would report to the External Affairs Board.

The Board

The composition of the Board would be similar to

that of the EAC, but would be expanded to include the Chairman of each Group, two reps from publicity, and campaign committee and the Editor of the External Affairs Newsheet.

The Groups would, essentially, be the generators of the Union policy, but the Board would compose motions or finalise reports to be presented to the UGM. The Publicity and Campaign Committee is envisaged as fulfilling two functions: i) publicise the issue before the UGM, and ii) make campaign proposals to the Board.

Generally, the EAO or the relevant Group Chairman would be responsible for presenting the policy submission to the UGM, along with the campaign proposals.

This is less complicated than it seems. Submissions from the Groups would probably be passed through the EAB virtually unchanged. Where two opposing positions arose, the differences would be stated in pre-UGM publicity and the debate conducted at the UGM.

Any campaign proposals passed at UGM would be the responsibility of the Executive, of course, but it is hoped that the Publicity and Campaign committee would assist the Executive in initiating and maintaining action on the issues.

Responsibilities

The Chairman of each Group would be elected by the Group and approved by UGM. He would be responsible for drawing up an agenda, and convening the group, in consultation with the EAO. He would represent the Group on the EAB.

The EAO, NUS Secretary and a representative from the P and C Committee would automatically be members of each group. Interested Union members should feel free to join the Groups at any time.

Several Groups have been identified tentatively.

i) Educational Policy

This Group would consider issues such as White Paper and Murray. Hopefully, it would take on the task of considering the role of IC in educa-

tion, science education in general, the relationships between education and industry and employment prospects.

This Group would not be set up to clash with Academic Affairs. It would consider far wider questions than AAC does, and would be complementary to AAC. In fact, it would be desirable for the Academic Affairs Officers, along with the PG Affairs Officer to be in this group, or send representatives.

ii) International Policy

The terms of reference here are quite obvious. My hope is to have this committee mainly composed of representatives of the International clubs, along with one each from Overseas Students Committee, AAM, and Third World First. Clearly, formation of a Group like this would be a way to bring overseas students interests into the Union, and to resuscitate international issues like South Africa, the Middle East and Greece.

iii) Labour Policy

This Group would monitor and try to improve communications between the Labour Movement and the Student Movement. It would be an effective method of liaising with the College's Trade Unions, representatives of which should make up half the Group.

Other Groups which have been suggested are Environment and Conservation, and one to deal with the related areas of Women's Liberation, Gay Liberation, abortion and contraception.

A structure such as the one proposed could remove the inevitable sloppiness which characterises EAC activities at present. Policy could be properly thought out and disseminated. This would probably make Union policy more acceptable to the membership.

Many campaigns could be sustained, even though general attention might be focused elsewhere. A mechanism would exist whereby on-going campaigns such as South Africa, Greece, Conservation and CHE would be continued at a low level. This is preferable to sporadic efforts by tiny groups to interest the rest of the union. These campaigns

can be maintained if people with specific interests and responsibilities normally centred outside the Union structure can work within an expanded Union, over which they have greater control. The membership would be able to use the Union's democratic process and general facilities to much greater advantage.

More people would be involved in the decision-making of the Union. Perhaps this would go some way to eliminating the spectre of an undemocratic and unrepresentative Union.

In my campaign for EAO, I promised to work for what I saw as necessary to the Union, a better flow of information to the membership, a newsheet, more effective decision and policy-making and greater opportunity for the membership to

involve itself in the Union's activities on specific issues. This plan lays the basis for all these promises to be fulfilled.

To make this succeed will take time and hard work; but this is the opportunity for people who complain that things aren't run properly, that they are being shut out, to take a hand and accomplish things.

This is simply a blueprint; details still have to be sorted out. It is important in the next few weeks, so that by mid-term the Constitutional changes can be drawn up. Any comments are welcome, particularly in the columns of Felix; let's kick it around and get it right. The more criticism and discussion the better.

TREVOR PHILLIPS
EAO-Elect

Take three twice daily after lectures

HEALTH CENTRE, 14 PRINCE'S GARDENS

1. The Health Centre is open and a nurse is in regular attendance at the following times:

Term

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Vacation

MONDAY to FRIDAY 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2. A College Medical Officer attends the Health Centre during term time from Monday to Friday between 9 and 10 a.m., 12 noon and 1 p.m., and 1.30 to 2 p.m.; and during vacations between 12 noon and 1 p.m. Patients are seen by appointment except in emergency. Phone Reception 4271 (Int.).

3. Anyone requiring vaccination against smallpox, or inoculation against poliomyelitis, typhoid, cholera, etc. is requested to telephone for an appointment, if possible two days in advance. **N.B.** Have your inoculations well before you travel.

4. The College advises all students to register with a local doctor in London. Students living at home should remain registered with their family doctor. The College Physician is willing to accept registrations from students who live in a hall of residence or in lodgings within a reasonable distance of the College. Advice on registration may be obtained from the Receptionist.

5. Medical examinations of new staff and those entering on work involving exposure to radiation are carried out by Medical Officers, who will attend at the Health Centre in the afternoons for this purpose. (Notices are sent to individuals concerned).

6. There is no staff in the Health Centre at night. One of the Day Sisters can be contacted by telephone for advice or help in **genuine emergencies only**, through the Night Telephone Operator.

7. Telephone Numbers

Health Centre (Day) **Internal 4209**
GPO 589-5111 Extn. 1039
Health Centre Appointments **Internal 4271**
GPO 589-5111 Extn. 1892
Emergency 999
(Day and Night) 5999
(from Huxley Building tels. 0 -)
00999
(from Huxley Building tels. 8 -)

8. **RADIATION ACCIDENTS.** At all times during and outside normal hours:

Telephone 999
5999
(from Huxley Building tels. 0 -)
00999
(from Huxley Building tels. 8 -)

The telephone switchboard will connect the caller to the first available person on a special radiation emergency list.

W. S. ROBERTSON,
Secretary, Medical Services Committee.

How I lost a week of my Easter vac. and came to love the NUS.

ALASDHAIR CAMPBELL visits the NUS Conference

"Whoever you voted for, the exec got in" read the maxim on the bar wall at this year's Easter NUS conference at Exeter. Once again the newly elected NUS exec has the usual preponderance of Communist Party members and fellow travellers, with a smattering of IS and right wingers.

The elections were fought on four slates: the CP, who rejected John Randall, who was elected as President, standing as an independent; the International Socialists "alternative left" slate; the IMG who ran on a slate taken from their IMG Grants Broadsheet partly written by Piers Corbyn; and the Young Socialists who, standing for the first time this year, pressed home the need to force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

The statements on Stirling made by the CP, and allegations of sell out over the grants campaign due to lack of organization, gave the CP slate a tough time in hustings, but this was chickenfeed compared to the uproar that broke out whenever a YS candidate spoke. The unholy din of barks and shouts that greeted them so unnerved Digby Jacks, who was chairing at the time, to prompt him, in an effort to quell the hecklers, to reveal his innermost thoughts on the function of NUS: "This is not a political meeting" he shouted.

The results for the major executive positions are as follows:

President:
John Randall
Dep. President:
Stuart Paul
Treasurer:
Jeff Staniforth
Secretary:
Steve Parry

The first motion to the conference was one on gay rights and the ending of discrimination against gay socs. There was a predictable speech for: 'In this day and age one should be

free to love whom one wishes . . . break away from Victorian sexual moves . . . 1 in 20 people are homosexual . . . Then surprisingly someone rose to speak against: 'These people are disgusting perverts . . . animals in the sight of God . . . the horrible result of the degeneration of moral values . . . He got down from the microphone, went across and kissed his boyfriend. All these speeches, for or

In short these proposals were condemned by conference and seen against, were being made by Gay Lib guys. This passed, the antics were over (for the moment) and the conference turned to the political meat of session: the motions on grants, union autonomy and the White Paper.

Autonomy

After the success of the campaign against the government green paper attack on union autonomy and the ensuing bill proposed by Gilbert Longden, the motion and amendments passed were to step up the autonomy campaign and direct it particularly towards those colleges with little or no autonomy. NUS executive was also directed to lay contingency plans in preparation for further attacks. The conference also urged all constituent organisations to relinquish charitable status for their unions as it held them back politically and gave them no benefit other than the dubious privilege of not paying tax on investments.

Despite a spirited speech attacking the Labour party made by Sonia Hochfelder, NUS will still try to elicit promises from the Labour leadership that it

will remove any legal restrictions on SU autonomy.

White Paper

The government White Paper on Education titled in the same vein as their "Fair" Rents Act, called Education: A Framework for "Expansion" showered proposals for cut-backs in all spheres of education upon a mortified academic world:—

A decrease in the expenditure allotted to education, in the number of places in higher education and in teacher supply. Not nearly enough money will be given to nursery education, and moreover that the boost in this sphere will be offset by a corresponding decrease in finance for higher education. The money allocated to new buildings is not even enough to cover the cost of replacing all the pre-1900 schools in the IEA's alone. The Paper makes no mention of the Development of comprehensive education, of welfare and counselling in schools or of the need for provisions for immigrant children. It suggests real cut-backs in teacher pay.

In short these proposals were condemned by conference and seen in the light of (a) an economically hard-pressed government being forced to cut back in the field of social services, (b) that all rationalisations made because of (a) were, to discriminate against the working class and in particular the lower paid, and in favour of areas of high profitability viz: the boost in polys of industry based courses.

Piers Corbyn proposed an amendment tying the grants campaign and the proposed anti-White Paper campaign together, he got a standing ovation from the hall and the NUS executive, and was carried shoulder high down the centre of the hall to cheers and claps. The speech against was hissed and booed and Trevor Phillips gave a vote of thanks for Piers' long service for NUS. Again Piers was carried shoulder high round the hall and placed in the chairman's chair to shouts of "speech!"

Life membership of NUS for Piers was proposed to cheers and con-

veniently forgotten by the NUS exec. There was a proposal to take Piers in parts instead of the motion, to buy him a new purple jumper, to auction his old one for NUPE and a condemnation by Burke, resident comedian and inveterate piss-artist, of that conference's silliness. Despite such a display of warmth to Piers the man, conference showed its dislike for Piers the politician and voted the amendment out.

Grants

The original motion, tabled by NUS exec and others, was amended in only two spheres—any attempt to link grants campaign with the present struggles against the wages and prices policies of the government was hotly opposed by the executive and the right wing and voted out.

An amendment condemning the lack of action by the NUS over discretionary awards and stating that the NUS should not accept any settlement on mandatory awards until the discretionary awards system was abolished, was narrowly carried on a test vote but a card vote was still pressed for. Later on before the result was announced there was an attempt to suspend standing order 57, which permits a revote, but this was defeated and then the reason for this attempt became apparent. The amendment had been passed by the card vote but before the conference had fully reassembled, the result had been illegally announced by an exec fellow traveller, in an attempt to rouse support for a revote. Members of the exec had also been going round the conference urging people to vote against the amendment in the revote. The CP would try any trick in the book rather than accept defeat, but they got their just return in the revote where they were overwhelmingly defeated, and the amendment was carried.

The other defeat for the CP was over their proposals for the introduction of a student wage rather than the grants system. An amendment to censure the exec for ignoring a mandate from Margate '72 and not circulating a document on student wage in time to allow discussion before the voting at the Exeter conference, was not passed. The Exec was

mandated not to press for a student wage, though only on the somewhat woolly grounds that conference believes that the majority of NUS does not want a wage.

Replying to a proposal censuring the exec for their anachronistic protest politics approach to the grants campaign, John Lane observed: "How many censures of the exec must we have before the Tory government resigns?"

An amendment was passed for the holding of a special NUS conference should a government offer be made, and this would be paid for by the larger colleges so as not to discriminate against the smaller, and therefore poorer, ones.

The debate on the substantive (amended) motion was opened by Dusty Miller of the Y.S. He slammed the unreality of the protest approach to the grants campaign in view of the current economic crisis. He quoted the Evening Standard Wall Street correspondent who said that there is the mood of an impending Wall St. crash in America and quotes one big financier as saying that this "will make the depression of the 1930's look like a summer festival".

The summing up by John Randall to boos and hisses as he was an exec member and a speech from the floor had been requested, denounced the idea of the crisis and stated that we must continue the grants campaign until our demands are met.

The motion was passed.

Miscellany

Throughout the conference posters appeared attacking the NUS sell out in Larbet Tech. Various speakers purported to come from Larbet Tech. But what and where was Larbet Tech, and why was Burke, suspect when involved in anything, supplanting it? All was revealed in a speech from Lachie Campbell who claimed to come from Larbet Tech. This speech began in gaelic with a few English words, recognisable amongst the flow of prehistoric guttural, like "struggle", "sell-out", "gas-chambers" and ended being a condemnation of the lack of NUS concern with the smaller colleges in their fights against discretionary awards and non-mandatory union

membership.

Comment

The fact that the CP and the right wing consistently voted against any attempt to link the three main motions on grants, union autonomy, and the White Paper together in analysis and action, is blind and deplorable as it can only divide and mislead the student body. That these attacks on students, on their living standards, and on their ability to organise, are not seen by the CP and the right wing as part of the general attacks on the living standards and the ability to organise of the working class made by the Tory government with their Phase II and Industrial Relations Acts, is dangerous and divisive of the student body for these are common struggles against a common enemy. Thirdly the fact that these attacks are only explainable in terms of the present economic crisis in the capitalist world, whose short-term resolution necessitates a smashing of the living standards, and therefore organisations, of the working class, means that the only effective action for the student body must have that perspective.

Moreover the CP, IMG and IS candidates joined with Burke and Proctor in making jibes at the YS candidates during the elections for the Executive Committee Members and this led to the election of those two worker basher right wingers. At the Margate conference they both resigned as soon as they were elected, but the inclusion of right wing politics into their otherwise irrelevant and irreverent speeches at Exeter this year made it obvious that this time they were out to get more than laughs. They did not resign.

To misquote John Lane: How many censures of the exec will the student body make before it wakes up, kicks them out and re-elects a leadership that will fight in its interests? It is clear from the efforts of the CP to thwart the "no mandatory award deals until the discretionary awards system is abolished" proposed at Exeter that no holds will be barred to reverse that amendment in their emergency conference called mid June as it is a distinct embarrassment to a party which consistently avoids putting the political questions to the students and workers it claims to represent.

Letters

'Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness'

Sir,

The article in the last issue of Felix "Praise the Lord and pass the profits", by Mr. Jock Veall is one on which he must be congratulated. He has explained in very vivid terms and probably therefore with greater efficiency than I, the point I tried hard to make in my series of letters to Felix last term.

The case he puts forward is harsh and overemphasised but makes it quite clear that we can not automatically equate the terms "Church" (in the popular sense) with "Christians" (in the Biblical sense). It is probably a good analogy to explain this if I say that just because current Labour Party policy is rather wishy-washy it does not in itself invalidate Marx's thesis of what we now know as Marxism.

In the Bible, Jesus, whom I willingly concede was neither black nor white, but probably the colour of a modern day Palestinian Arab (if it really matters), had strong views on people who practised piety and religion which was, in effect, merely a pastime and nothing to do with either God or living.

So, we have the happy situation where Mr. Veall agrees wholeheartedly on at least one point with Jesus Christ. On the other hand we have an evolved situation where many so-called religious people have fallen into the trap of becoming 'respectable'. When we look at

the early Christians and especially when we look at Jesus how incongruous this picture is. Jesus was a distinctly anti-establishment figure but His motives were always moral and his life was a living example of His teaching.

Having said this, I must make it quite clear that just because someone belongs to a denomination which has investments in S. Africa this does not automatically label him a hypocrite, for I am confident that most church-goers have never been consulted as to where church funds should be invested.

What conclusions should we therefore draw from this issue?

Firstly let us all discard this "Less bourgeois than thou" attitude and truthfully decide if in the Bible we find anywhere instructions to oppress our brothers and sisters, look particularly at the Epistle of James, if after this we come to the honest (important word that) opinion that Jesus is responsible for the way we (and here I mean all of us) oppress our fellow men then by all means do not become a Christian, but if you find that Jesus, the risen saviour, demands love, service, compassion and truth and also promises to provide the strength for this task by means of the Holy Spirit, then read God's word, and ask Him to show Himself to you, you will not be disappointed, because Jesus is alive today, I've met Him, many people have met Him and maybe you, the reader, if you abandon the pride which we all have against being told how to run our lives by God, and look to Jesus you too will meet Him.

To Mr. Veall I say only this: Think hard, think very hard because Jesus Christ loves you.

Yours in Christ,
MAURICE MOLONEY.
Chem. 2

P.S. A good and relevant verse is to be found in John 8 verse 7. (This reads ... 'he stood up and said to them 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her' —Ed.)

In defence of Roy Matthews

Sir,

With reference to your front page comments about the last presidential (sick!) elections we would like to make the following observations:

Firstly, in an election, it is the person one votes for, not the amount of campaigning a person does. The amount of campaigning ROY MATTHEWS did is irrelevant. The number of votes Roy received without campaigning is indicative of the high esteem in which he is held in the college. We'll let you draw your own conclusions about Rob Armitage.

Secondly, let us consider the qualifications of each person. Rob Armitage has, it is true, been Rag Chairman and External Affairs Officer, both of which are good recommendations, but on the other hand, Roy Matthews has been Hon. Sec. of I.C.R.U.F.C., President of the Stoats Club and Vice - Captain of I.C.R.U.F.C. Both clubs have run very smoothly indeed under his able administration, which is more than can be said of the Union.

Thirdly it should be noted that Roy did in fact try to withdraw from the elections beforehand, but was prevented from doing so by MCB who said that as his name was already on the ballot paper, the nomination should stand.

Finally we ourselves are very thankful to Roy for preventing Rob Armitage becoming Hon. Sec. Who could follow MCB anyway? Perhaps he won't become President either. What a crying shame.

Yours nastily,

ALJ (before injury your famous Rugby correspondent)

CMW (of GUILDSHEET fame)

CJH (with backache)

LITTLE DICK

RAS (I'm a'coming Mr. Dillon)

BIG KEN (give it wiggling) et al.

P.S. — Please keep further snide comments out of this reputable and unbiased(?) publication and print this letter. It would at least be better than those stupid caricatures on Page 4 of last week's edition.

Stop at 2

Sir,

We would like to inform your environment conscious readers that Saturday, May 12th is POPULATION DAY. About seventy different groups up and down the country will be mounting demonstrations to persuade the Government to adopt a policy of Population Stabilisation.

The west London demonstration, consisting of people from I.C., Q.E.C., Chelsea College eco-action groups and other local organisations, will start off in Imperial Institute Road at 10.00 a.m. with a float, placards, etc. We plan to go to Hammer-smith and Kensington Town Halls, to present petitions, and then finish up in the Portobello Road. We need as much support as possible, and everyone who wants to come along is very welcome.

Your sincerely

PETER GLASS, Physics 1
MIKE ROBSON Chem P.G.

Next Question please

Sir,

As those who attended the hustings will know, a question I had written out, to be put to all candidates, and which was the second question handed to P. Jowitt was not asked. At the end of the meeting I found it at the bottom of the pile of questions, and P. Jowitt seems to be in some doubt as to why this occurred.

The question was, "Do the candidates for President of I.C.U. believe that the person elected should be independent of this year's Union Bureaucracy, in view of its poor record. For instance, one of the candidates is a member of the Welfare committee, but has attended at most one committee meeting" (the one exception being when my informant did not attend which I am not sure about.) This person is of course 'Norm Sayles' your lovable Bot/Zoo Dept. Rep.

Paul Jowitt told me afterwards that he saw me write the question, then go and tell Jock Veall what it was, so he showed all the candidates the question. Besides being a lie, if they all knew about it, why wasn't it asked? Another answer he gave was that he just put it down on the table, and that he didn't read the questions out, so I should blame John Lane. John Lane didn't put the questions in order!

Yours, with little faith of it being printed

JOHN EAST

The Martin Doughty Column

"C.R.E.E.P."

It is a sobering thought that Imperial College is very likely to have a new Rector before it comes round to finally elect a new Union President. Sir Brian Flowers, who takes over from Penney at the start of the next college year, comes here with a hard reputation for a resilience of purpose which should be well-tested by the massed ranks of clamouring apathy carving their initials on his Georgian shutters on the Queen's Gate Rectorpad.

To my mind knighthoods are a splendid embellishment of our great society. If you push and bully and pressurise enough and tread on enough people's heads then the system invites you to make pots of money and become a power-crazed, Rolls chauffeured alcoholic and then . . . a knight. Hastily adding — so Felix can appear at least once with new cat and masthead (but look what happened to the Daily Express when it changed its masthead) — that I don't imagine for one moment that Sir Brian fits into this category of industrial Selsdon man. But do all the rich Sir Gilberts of this world really give all that service for export or productivity or technological innovation out of altruism?

What other categories of knighthood are offered? To the public relations man, the diplomat whose sweet smile carries through every controversy with an air of surreal detachment, faith in the present and boundless hope for the future. The man who swims on as all around him flounder in the sea of perpetual crisis. Such a man is Sir Victor Mooney.

To the man of letters, the man who, above all others has a masterful command of the English spoken word. How about Sir Michael Doherty — although he does sound like someone from the Irish equivalent of the CBI.

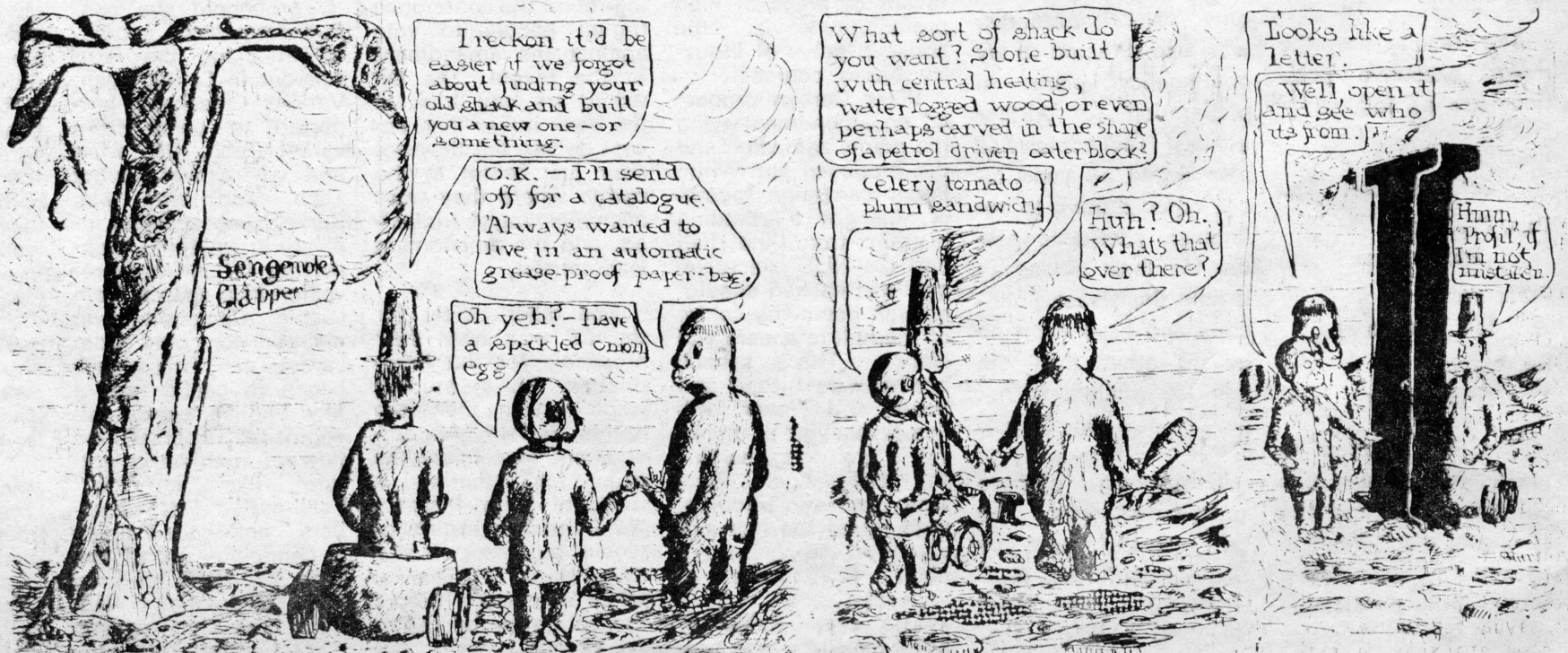
And back to the elections, to the man of persistence and endeavour, Rob Armitage, your friendly candidate and surely, for all that money he's made, another knighthood to Paul Wadsworth. A strange society indeed.

Well, my currently blank mind (it's obvious, isn't it?) has prompted me to team up with dogmatism so I'm forming a bible study group. Anyone wishing to be interviewed with a view to joining this select band of apostles should get in touch with my secretary:

The very Reverend Sir Jocelyn Veall,
c/o The Festival of Light,
Gangwank Street, SW7.

Don't forget to vote today and remember, next time you step foot into the hallowed reaches of Southside Mooney, the words of Genesis: "Thou shalt not eat of anything that eateth of itself." May he be with you in your time of trouble, my child.

The Landsnapper Sneeze



Dear Olly,

I don't know if you want to print this — it's a report of what actually happened on ICWA Hockey Tour as reported by Captain, rather than two drunken members of team! Anyway use it if you want to.

JANET MANFIELD

Dear Janet,

The two ladies I interviewed certainly weren't drunk at the time (11 a.m.) and consequently left most of the details to my imagination. Unfortunately, my imagination doesn't stretch to guessing the scores you got, so I've decided to print your article and leave anything else to the reader's imagination.

Incidentally, Janet, can you understand why only you and the male exponents of your sport are the only ICACC clubs to send me reports to print every week?

OLLY DOWSON

Jolly Hockey Sticks

... and all that

WOMEN

This year, for the first time ever, I.C. ladies' hockey team qualified for a grant to play abroad at Easter. After the initial rejoicing at this news, we were faced with the problem of finding somewhere to go. This proved incredibly difficult, as all clubs we contacted seemed loath to reply, and time had almost run out when Laren Mixed H.C., near Amsterdam, accepted us to play in their Easter tournament. By this time, however, all flights to Amsterdam had long been booked, and so it came about that on Good Friday, 12 intrepid lady hockey players, accompanied by a staunch supporter/cameraman/chaperon, Mr. J. Chilton sailed from Dover in a Force 9 gale, and, incredibly, managed to survive 4½ hours on a rain-lashed sun-deck (the only space available on the overcrowded boat) to disembark, in various stages of sea-sickness at Ostend. We travelled from there to Amsterdam, where our hosts conveyed us to our accommodation — a really plush motel. There we partook of liquid refreshment until the small hours to prepare ourselves for the impending hockey.

At 1 p.m. the next day, after "informal drinks at the clubhouse", the tournament began, and with some trepidation I.C. faced their first opponents, a fit-looking bunch called Kameleon. We still

aren't sure what happened, but we won 3-1 after playing 40 minutes. Surprise, surprise, the same thing happened when we played our next round against a team called W.F. (we never found out what this stood for, though several suggestions were put forward). They seemed more intent on protecting their hairstyles from the teeming rain under layers of plastic bags than scoring goals, and we won again, this time 3-0. Thus inspired, we went on to play our last opponents that day, Huilen, and won 4-0. During celebrations at the clubhouse, we discovered that Slough men's nth team were also taking part in the tournament (or at least in the drinking), and thereafter they staunchly supported us (and watched us playing hockey). That night we attended a festival at the clubhouse, and made merry until sometime on Sunday morning, this time varying considerably from person to person. The tournament restarted at 7 p.m. after more informal drinks, and we beat our next opponents, Be Fair (yes, that was the name of the club), by 4-0. This meant that we met Laren Ladies, who had also won all their matches, in the final. This was held on the main pitch in front of the clubhouse, before a stand thronged with spectators, (notably the Slough team, accompanied by several crates of Heiniken) and in an atmosphere normally encountered in the Wales-England

Rugby international, we won after a very hard game by 1-0 the goal coming in the last minute, making us the winners of the tournament. Back at the bar (again!) we were presented with a plaque to mark the occasion, and badges commemorating the 50th anniversary of Laren H.C.

The last evening was spent in various pursuits which shall remain unspecified (though it should be mentioned that 4 members of the team were asked to leave a sex shop in Amsterdam for causing a disturbance — which shall also remain unspecified — and two of the oldest hands were noticed to sleep virtually all next day).

On Monday morning we left Laren, having been invited to next year's tournament, and eventually arrived in London to end the trip with a celebratory curry. Altogether, it was a most successful event, and one which A.C.C. should feel was well worth the grant provided, since we managed to bring home a trophy and impress the Dutch with the standard of I.C. hockey as well as the standard of I.C. alcohol consumption, which has, after all, been done many, many times before.

J.M.M.

MEN

As is traditional for the time of year, I.C. hockey club sallied forth on their annual tour. However this was no ordinary tour — the hockey club had qualified for Europe. Thus, it was exceptionally early on Thursday morning, that eleven stalwarts met to await the arrival of their chauffeur-driven minibus, complete with navigator, which was late as usual. The hovercraft journey across the channel was rather rough — a trip that Allen Brown, alias Super Puke, will gladly try to forget. Anyway, n hours later we arrived in Zandvoort to survey our luxurious accommodation (this is a joke!) situated in the pleasant surroundings of sand dunes and the local Grand Prix race circuit — no Ron you can't roll the minibus here.

The following day, eleven lecherous hockey players decided to sample the whores, and mean wares of Amsterdam. Despite their good intentions, all roads

led to the Red Light district—Soho has got nothing on this. (For full details contact Dave Richman, I.C.'s own porn vendor). Thus I.C. returned to Zandvoort exhausted after their trip. The evening piss up was mainly noticeable for Ron Palmer trying to move the sand dunes on the way back to our temporary abode.

The hockey tournaments started on Saturday afternoon with the I.C. All Stars achieving a resounding goalless draw in their first game. After such a commanding performance we continued in the same vein and lost our next match 2-1, Allen Brown being our goalscorer.

The evening's festivities started with a typical Indonesian meal (did anyone finish the noodles?) and continued with dancing, drinking, etc. until the early hours of the morning (Allen certainly works fast!).

Unfortunately we had our third game of hockey at 10 a.m. the following day. After a phenomenal effort we arrived on time to find that we had only three opponents. Feeling confident of victory we prepared to start. However, foiled yet again, we had to wait for the rest of our opposition to turn up. In retribution, we decide to inflict upon them another goalless draw (where was Wonder Boy!!). The next two matches were played for high stakes — a long lie in the following morning, since the lower in the league we finished the earlier we played. Now that the chips were down, I.C. powered their way to two victories, by 5-0 and 2-1. The goalscorers were Dave Richman (3), Ron Palmer (2) and John Andrews (2). Another enjoyable evening's entertainment ensued during which, despite valiant efforts, Ron Palmer kept possession of his trousers.

The following day I.C. defeated Heerlen 1-0 to finish third overall in the tournament. We had to keep the British flag flying since North East Poly managed to occupy the last two places. I.C. celebrated their victory by flying Ron's only pair of trousers from the flagpole was spent sampling the nightlife of outside the clubhouse. Our final evening Zandvoort or Amsterdam — what was the strip show like John (Junior of course)? We returned "mit klompen" the following day.

Special thanks go to Zandvoort Hockey Club for being such excellent hosts. Thanks must also be extended to our three excellent drivers Ron Palmer, John Andrews and especially Bob Evans (guess who wrote the report?).

Team: Richard Bateman, Richard Cameron, Mike Vieyra, Bob Evans, Allen Brown, Dave Browne, Tim Hanson, Ron Palmer, Graham Popple, Dave Richman, Jag Gahir, John Astley, John Andrews and Colin Dyer (or his ghost).

Major Car Hire Company launches scheme for 18-year-olds

If you're under 23 and have ever tried to rent a car, I've got good news for you. Hertz, one of Britain's biggest car rental companies is now accepting eighteen-year-old drivers for a large number of cars on its fleet.

The requirement of having held a full licence for a year still remains, and there is a "Collision Damage Waiver" of £1.50 per day or £9 per week to pay in addition to the normal rental fees. This supplementary insurance does, however, mean that there is no excess. (I am informed that you can opt to leave a £40 excess deposit when you rent the car instead of paying the Waiver).

Cars available for rental by 18-20-year-olds

include Ford Escorts, Cortinas and Capri 1600s. Rates start at £2.95 a day plus 3p a mile for the Escort and go up to £3.95 a day plus 4p a mile for a Capri 1600 XL. There are also weekly unlimited mileage rates which would pay you if you did more than 60 miles a day.

I was the first customer for the new scheme at the Victoria branch (they have more than a dozen branches in London), and found the bureaucracy al-

ready well worked-out.

If you want to rent a car, you'll have to make sure that there is someone at the end of the phone to say that they know you — no more than that — when you go to collect one for the first time. After you've completed the formalities once, you're set up for life. You'll have to fill in a card with the name of your employers, etc., etc. . . . but don't worry, they're expecting students to come. You will have to leave a £25 deposit when you collect the car, and this is used when calculating the balance owing to or due from you when you return it.

Hertz make a great point of their "Rent it here, leave it there" ser-

vice, which means that if you want to rent a car in Sittingbourne and leave it in Motherwell, that's fine. They will also collect and deliver up to five miles without charge.

I borrowed a Capri, and unfortunately discovered that I had never hated a car so much after only an hour's driving. But that's a personal quarrel between myself and Ford — no scars on poor old Hertz, whose service I can't quibble with at all. I know I shall rent from them again — even if it is an Escort Central Reservation Service next time!

The Hertz telephone number for London is 01-876 4484; nearest branch to IC is 25 Park Lane — 499 6618).

BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST

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Royal Festival Hall
Friday, May 18

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Next Tuesday

WILL WE GET A GRANT INCREASE?

NUS sets May 21st deadline

BACUS (Bristol Area Students Paper)
REPORTER

THE GRANTS Campaign is nearing its culmination for this academic year, for, if the Government has not made a decision by May 21st, it will be too late for local authorities to implement the change for the coming academic year 1973/4. As the deadline comes nearer, the NUS is exhorting its Constituent Organisations to make their feelings known—that the Government MUST meet the NUS Grants claim by May 21st. In order to make this feeling clearer to the Government, NUS President, Digby Jacks, handed in the following letter to the Department of Education and Science on Monday, 7th May:—

"THE GOVERNMENT fine, announced its received the NUS claim grants decision on May in November 1972. 21st. After that date the Since then I have had Government can't announce new rates of two letters from the Government with an aching void between "My dear Digby" and "Yours ever, Norman St. John Stivas"; and in March I led an NUS delegation to the DES to present our case to the Government, and was told that we have Mr. St. John Stevas's sympathy.

"As a matter of deliberate, policy, the Government is creating a situation where NUS's members suffer very real hardship; potential students are being forced to realize that higher education is not for them, but for the three-car family down the road; and the date is approaching fast after which no move whatsoever from the Government is practicable. In that situation I find it hard to imagine a more useless object than Mr. Norman St. John Stevas's sympathy".

"In 1971 the Government, cutting it rather

standards of everyone the picket will be man- except its rich friends— and still couldn't control inflation. Its monument will be the tattered remains of educational equality.

"It looks very much as though the Government has adopted a strategy of cutting down education opportunity for the people of this country. The White Paper proposals make this inevitable. Tie that in with a grants policy which ensures that thousands of people will never be able to afford to go to college or university, and you might as well admit openly that only the rich are entitled to an education.

Perhaps, before the May 21st deadline expires the Government will announce new rates of grant on which students can actually live. But why has it taken so long that NUS's members have got 4.2 per cent poorer just waiting for their answer? The Government may be hoping the problem will go away if they don't look at it, or perhaps the administrative leviathan will not even twitch at the prompting of Government Ministers.

"We need an answer. Mrs. Thatcher can keep her daughter at university without any help—and she needs to be reminded that the parents of most students can't afford the luxury of her off-hand detachment from the whole problem."

STUDENT ACTIVITY UP TO MAY 21st

Each day until May 21st students will be picketing the Department of Education and Science throughout the working day. Each day

ned by a different group of students. The picket was launched at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 7th May, North-East London Poly also occupied their Administrative offices and disrupted lecture. They plan to keep this up until May 21st.

AFTER MAY 21st

Digby Jacks also announced the decision of the NUS Executive to call an emergency conference of the Union, to be held at Imperial College, London, on 8th June. He said:

"At NUS's Easter Conference the Executive were instructed call an emergency conference as soon as the Government made an announcement on grants. If we have heard nothing by May 21st, it means that the answer is no, but the Government has neither the honesty nor the courage to say so.

"The Conference will then have to ask some searching questions. How in future do we deal with a Government which has neither the desire to allow anyone but the rich to enter higher education, nor the honesty to say so? How do we discuss anything with a Government so bankrupt of policy that in a tight situation, all it can think of doing is attacking the standard of living of the least well off and destroying their educational opportunity? Can we ever again try to work with a Government which received a grants claim in November, told us it sympathises with it in March, and has still failed to state any policy whatsoever on it by the deadline for action in May?

JOHN LANE

President's Piece

The saga of refectory prices continues. Over the last few years refectory committee meetings the indications of increase in prices have gradually strengthened from a possibility to a likelihood. Last week's committee should have received a projected budget for next year but this did not appear as the April returns were not yet available. The longer the delay the less easy it will be for students to react. For this reason the Union reps. proposed that there be no price increases and that the Governing Body should pay for refurnishing and re-decorating the bars and refectories.

We were told that the refectory committee does not have the power to increase prices, only the Governing Body has. There will therefore be a special meeting of the Refectory Committee to put a report with all the figures before the Governing Body which should make clear to them the reasons for following the course we have suggested. This will take place on Thursday morning so that the Union meeting at 1.00 on Thursday will know the full picture and be able to act accordingly. The Grants Action Committee has proposed that to put some weight behind the Union's position we have a refectory boycott and a picket of the Finance and Executive Committee of the Governing Body on 25 May. Since we are demanding that the College defy a ruling of the University Grants Committee and therefore the Government, I believe that this sort of demonstration of solidarity is necessary.

One point should be made. The Bars and Wine Cellar make a profit. Previously the Union has said that this should go to redecoration not to subsidising the refectories. Unless the College pay for redecoration something must suffer. Either price rises or staff cuts, reduction in variety or quantity of deterioration of the bars and refecs. themselves must result. All of these courses run the risk of driving away custom and thus causing deficits. But the fundamental argument remains that we are trying to catch up with inflation. We must neither meekly accept mere rises nor reductions in Standards of staff.

Union Fee

The union gets £6 per student from the LEAs, plus £10,000 from the College. A joint union/college working party has assessed that we need an extra £4,900 to compensate for inflation and to introduce modest increases in a few areas. Let's hope we get it—your societies, whether I.C.U. or C.C.U. depend on it—as does next year's President for his wages!

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Editor: Oliver Dowson.

Asst. Editor and Editor-elect: Alasdair Campbell. Contributions this week by Graham King, Dave Gribble, Trev Phillips, John Lane, Martin Doughty, Janet Manfield, etc. etc.

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