



October 16th, 1973

Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE

ISSUE No. 342

UNION MEETING

TODAY *1 p.m.*
GREAT HALL

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY OCCUPATION

300 students fined for backing the NUS Grants Campaign

An amendment to a motion at last Wednesday's UGM in Nottingham gives the College Authorities until 3 p.m. on Thursday to drop all fines imposed or an immediate occupation of Trent building will start.

These fines were imposed in July when the Authorities tightened up their ordinances (regulations) to allow a fine of £1 per week for every week that hall fees are not paid beginning three weeks after receipt of the bill.

Although a partial amnesty was granted allowing the students up to five weeks to pay, at the beginning of this term 300 students owed fines of between £2-£4.

There are now only 60 left who have not paid the fines and the Authorities have threatened to suspend any students who do not pay by the end of this term.

The students have been further enraged by further fining which took place over the summer recess following events at a sit-in in support of the grants campaign which occurred before exams last term.

Three people were fined £5, five people £7.50 and one £25

which included a £15 fine for ignoring a warning from the Bursar.

The lower sums have been paid but the student owing the £25 is appealing.

The President of the Union Doug Knott said that he suspected a frame-up; as he too, had ignored the warning from the Bursar, and done so with a corridor full of witnesses and yet nothing had happened.

The student who was fined was convicted on the basis of evidence submitted by three members of the University Authorities, one of which was the Bursar.

The amendment at last Wednesday's UGM was passed overwhelmingly but the motion as a whole will not be voted on until today (Tuesday).

Incorporated in the amendment which was passed was a call for the fines resulting from the sit-in to be paid back or dropped if not already paid.

Students all round

the country are facing increases in hall of residence fees, refectories, clothes, rent and food which show the £20 extra from the government to be the insult it is.

Many students must be considering having to leave college and find a job rather than continue to try and subsist on £520 p.a. as prices shoot out of the ceiling.

A survey is being undertaken at the moment of the increases in hall fees and refectory prices around the country and will be published next week.

Increases of between 9% and 16% have occurred almost everywhere which make the necessity for an immediate increase in grants the most urgent question for many students.

Attention will be focused on the NUS conference to be held in November to see the amount of support which will be forthcoming for the rent strikes, sit-ins, and occupations at present occurring and (like IC) on the cards for next term.

UC "THIEVES"

University College have removed the boards in the Union building with the lists of past Presidents of the Union and other Union officials, it was revealed to me on Sunday by Norman Sayles, ICU President.

This is traditionally a case for the nefarious night activities of W.H.O. (Wooden Horse Organisation) but Norm regards it as more serious than mascot pinching and is thinking of taking the matter to a solicitor.

It is unclear when the boards disappeared but Deputy President Dave Sinclair as W.H.O. co-ordinator will be hot on the trail if the boards are not immediately returned.

UCL who at periods in their murky history of attempted mascot pinching have been almost successful have a most peculiar if inviolate mascot of their own. It is the preserved body of Jeremy Bentham who resides close to the front entrance.

If they were to direct their frustration at not having retrieved any of their own mascots — which has obviously produced this rash and meaningless action — to 'E' floor of the Chesham in King's College they would find two of their long lost oars in the committee room.

Fire Engine in Committee Room 'A'

Committee Room A is unusable at the present due to a large proportion of the entrails of JEZ scattered over the floor.

They have been lying there since the vacation along with a large amount of scraped-off red paint, tarpauling and paint pots.

And Now Another Episode in the Continuing Saga of PARKING PLACES

Successful Appeals and alterations to original list

Residents' Places

AXE 106B O. Szpiro
LBF 443D M. G. Tutchter
LVR 171 A. J. Stevens

Commuter Places

Imperial Institute Road
(Red lines)

846 JHO S. C. Spyrou
565 AVO N. Hicking
BEV 291 N. R. Lisborg
JLH 696K H. E. Ong
FPA 294B P. K. S. Ong
429 GLR R. S. Harvey
9329 HN S. Milton
WCD 665K S. K. Sadek
RMO 526F T. J. Crooks
TRK 232M A. A. Ghandi
COG 356C P. J. Webber
OYU 962F | A. El-Ruwayih
SLM 924L | L. D. Wesley
MMH 507L L. Tso.
JJK 543J B. P. K. J. Frost

Alterations to shared Places

(To be parked in
Imperial Institute Road)
OJT 220 K. G. Wingfield-
Digby

7222 KV | D. Callen
KPM 461E | D. Adams
MHM 30L J. Towler
SPC 814F M. W. Spencer
GLM 185C M. Orton
RLC 258E M. M. Moloney
HHX 367K J. Laws

In the case of split pairs, only one of the pair is in the above list. Could the following people who were originally sharing with the above please see me and return the original sticker if already allocated.

2707 TD T. Spiro
JMV 450K J. Blanch
YMK 18H P. J. Phelps
LEP 775K J. Ashton
855 BWA A. P. Porter
DNK 188F D. Tearle
NDW 604M N. G. Williams

I shall try to be in my office at the following times:

Tuesday 2.30-3.30;
Wednesday 12.30-1.00;
Thursday, 11.30-2.30;
Friday, 2.30-3.30.

LETTERS

Open letter to Mooney

Dear Mr. Mooney,

I am writing on behalf of I.C. Union executive to protest about the atrocious Refectory conditions which have prevailed since the beginning of this term.

First of all, we were promised an ALL DAY snack bar in the Union building for Freshers' Day. This type of catering facility I feel was essential from our point of view and I would have thought profitable from yours. Instead of the snack bar, four ladies at least were commissioned at about 12.00 to begin laying out biscuits on plates for Freshers' Tea, which began at 3.00. This seems to be a ludicrous situation, and I would have thought it more sensible to have cancelled the Freshers' Tea and organised your staff into an all-day snack bar. Maybe your reason for the decision was because College block had commissioned the Freshers' Tea and "only the Union" had asked for an all-day snack bar. As well as this, I would suggest that it was probably easier from your point of view to organise the tea rather than an all-day affair.

On top of this, we were told that the Union lower refectory would not open during the first week of term, but that it would definitely be open on Monday, 8th. Thus, when people complained to us last week about the overcrowding in the other college refectories, we pacified them with the assurance that this inconvenience was only for one week and would be removed by opening the Union lower refectory. This week it is impossible to persuade people any longer, and I would not like to repeat the many names with which you have been branded.

I have heard reports of the salad section in Southside running out of meals by 12.45, i.e., giving people 15 minutes choice, and then a "take it or leave it" menu.

This situation can obviously NOT be tolerated, either from the point of view of the refectory, or from the point of view of the students of I.C.

I appreciate that you are having difficulties with refectory staff, but find it very hard to believe that ALL your staff from the Lower Union refectory resigned in the last week of the summer vacation. Unless this was the case, I suspect the fault to be wholly yours, in not striving to solve the staff problem before the beginning of term.

Obviously, this problem is a difficult one to solve, but after the discussion at the Refectory committee last week, I would strongly recommend that in the future you work to keep the Union lower refectory open over the summer vacation. This will both help the overcrowding in refectories due to conference bookings, and also save the Union staff from the inconvenience of being transferred to an alien environment over the summer period.

Another solution which I feel must be considered is the one of better wages for better staff. This is obviously a difficult one to assess, but has there been a survey done of wages paid to refectory staff in other colleges in the London area?

I would appreciate a prompt reply in the form of a letter before our Council meeting on Monday, 15th October, as I am certain that the refectories topic will come up and I will be required to answer for you.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Sayles,
President.

Leadership Crisis

Sir,

Many of us who did not vote for the Union President last term, at least hoped, despite his politically inactive stance, that he would attempt to be reasonably democratic and try to act in the interests of the students that he represented. Last week's "Purple Patch" showed us that we were misguided.

The central theme of the article was that we should "work with" and "back up" the College by paying higher refectory prices. The President believes that "the college authorities are... on our side" and we should not make them "our ENEMIES". Thus we should "ACCEPT the increases". (His capitalisation, not mine).

I don't believe that anyone accepts that the price increases are justified, not even the "moderates" or the apathetics, by whom, the President claims, he was elected. The price rises simply demonstrate that the College is NOT "on our side", and NOT working in students' interests.

It is clear that the educational sector of the economy is having to pay for the Government's economic crisis. Children cannot have free milk; ILEA has "part-time" schools, because it cannot pay teachers enough to live in London; the number of students in teacher training is to be cut by half in the next few years, despite the shortage of teachers. These are just a few manifestations of Mrs. Thatcher's pinch-penny policies.

We know that the real value of the grant is decreasing constantly. Refectory prices are going up, and Hall rents will also rise next year. The cut-back in expenditure by the DES is causing much hardship to students, and denying many young people entry to higher education, particularly girls, who may have to choose between marriage and a degree education.

Who implements higher prices and rents? College authorities. Can anyone claim that they are on our side?

If they were really working in our interests they would confront the UGC, and point out that UGC grants are not large enough to run a university with reasonable prices and rents, given the low student grant. They would refuse to adhere to the UGC policy that Halls are refectories should finance

themselves. They would keep prices and rents down, and really support the Grants Campaign.

Accepting increases simply opens the way for more increases. The President knows this as well as anyone, yet he is backing down at the merest hint of action. He claims that he supports the call for rent strike. Is it consistent to accept price rises because the College authorities are our friends, then call for a rent strike?

Students are looking to the Union for some leadership. We need some action in our interest, by the President and the Executive. None of us will accept a sell-out —moderates included?

Trevor Phillips,
External Affairs Officer.

our living standards we must remove these left-talkers in the NUS and the trade unions and replace them with a leadership who will mobilise students and workers around a platform of removing this government and replacing it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, including immediate cash supplementary grants to beat inflation.

PARANOIC

Sir,

Thank you for introducing us all at I.C. to a new game, guessing how many times the word "Stalinist" will appear in the next issue of Felix. As one of the alleged "Stalinists" at I.C., I would like to make a few comments on your editorial of October 9.

Nobody claims that the £20 grant increase conceded by the Government was a great victory, but it was the first time ever that such an increase has been given outside the Triennial Review, and shows that the Government can be moved. The extraordinary conference on grants held at I.C., set out a coherent workable plan of campaign for the next year; raising the understanding and support of students for the aims of the campaign through propaganda and activity, the activity to reach peaks at times of the meetings of the Triennial Review when the Government is most vulnerable to pressure, and at the same time the aid of the organised working class will be enlisted by joint campaigning around the issue of access to higher education, something which is denied working class children because of the inadequate grant. The sole speech at that conference by a member of YSSS (of which you are a prominent member at I.C.), consisted in the main in a paranoid assertion that everybody else in the hall was engaged in a witch-hunt against YSSS, a laughable assertion since we had rather more important matters to discuss, which I guess is why everybody laughed at her.

The NUS a few years ago was a clique-ridden social club and travel agency, whose leaders held back any mass activity by students and which was proved to be indirectly financed by the CIA. Now NUS is a nationally important body capable of defending and advancing its members interests through mass activity. Some of the credit for that change must go to the so-called "politically bankrupt" leadership of the broad-left, and the Communist Party in particular since we have worked consistently for that change over the years.

In the wider field of the Labour movement you accuse us of consciously working against the interests of the working class in order to retain our "privileged" positions. This is a lie and yet another example of YSSS paranoia. One only has to read the "Morning Star" to see every day the call for action by the Communist Party against the Tories and capitalism in general; but the C.P. not only calls for action, its members lead struggles against Tory policies and capitalism, unlike the SLL (of which YSSS is the student branch) which shouts from the sidelines about building an alternative leadership but never actually leads. Why is this? It is because the large majority of SLL members are not working class, their ideas are regarded as ludicrous by workers, and therefore they are not trusted to lead. On the other hand, the majority of C.P. members are workers, and other workers know by experience that C.P. members are to be trusted to advance the interests of the working class as a whole, which is why there are thousands of C.P. members up and down the country holding positions of responsibility (shop stewards, Trade Union leaders, etc).

As for Chile, this is a very complex problem and cannot be passed off with one fatuous line. In a country in which the working class is only 30 per cent of the population, and Allende received only 36 per cent of the vote, openly arming the workers immediately as SLL calls for, would have meant a coup much earlier. The setback in Chile is not the end of the peaceful road to Socialism, just as the death of "Che" in Bolivia was not the end of guerrilla warfare.

Paul Watkins

(secretary, I.C. Communist Party branch).

Living Image?

Sir,

Norman Sayles comments on the anomalous position of Postgrads in the grant structure in Purple Patch, October 9th, and states that the grant is £15 a week. The correct figure is, in fact, significantly less. This year the Research Councils have increased their grants to £695 for a 52-week year — approximately £13.40 a week.

Pete Connell,

Maths. P.G.

Mr. Mooney's reply

Dear Norman,

I am very sorry that you have had cause to complain about the Refectory services, but I hope that when you take into account the problems with staff which we have had, you will understand.

The Union Refectory staff last term consisted of:—Mr. Gomez (Chef), Joan (Cashier and chargehand), Kathleen, Nora and Dorothy, augmented by casual staff as and when required, and as far as we were aware all were returning for the first week of term or earlier. In the event what transpired was rather different. Joan, as you know, was taken ill last term, and after returning for the week prior to the first week of term, found the work too exhausting and resigned on Friday, 8th September. Mr. Gomez returned from Spain one week later than expected and announced that he had no intention of working in the Union. Kathleen telephoned to say that she had found a job at the same rate of pay, but with less hours. None of these facts were known before Friday, 28th September. In fact, in the case of Mr. Gomez, on 1st October. Were therefore found it impossible to open the Union as promised, for the all-day Snack Bar. The four ladies you saw were casual staff hired from the Employment exchange for that day to do the Freshers' Teas. The fact that the College commissioned the tea had no bearing on the matter.

We did offer the Union Refectory staff continuous employment in a different capacity throughout the long vacation, the offer was declined. Keeping the Union open during the vacation is uneconomical, as you well know.

Our rate of pay is the second highest in Universities in the U.K. Mr. Fisher of N.U.P.E. will confirm this, a London Medical College being the highest.

It is intended that the Union Refectory re-open on Monday 15th, using office and casual staff, and while we will not be able to provide a full service, I hope it will be sufficient to alleviate the queues and problems elsewhere.

V. J. Mooney,
Rectory Manager.

P.S. The Refectory committee would greatly appreciate help in the form of student Labour, with the running of the college refectories. Student employees will be paid similar wages to Refectory staff, and work either at lunchtimes or at evening functions.

STOIC PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 16th OCTOBER, 1973

- 12.45 My Choice.
- 12.55 BBC Television News. (In Colour.)
- 13.00 STARTING POINT. The first of a new series of discussion programmes. Including the Union Executive.
- 13.40 London Survival: FOOD. Cathy Gee takes a look at eating in London including an interview with Mr. V. Mooney the College Catering Manager.

FRIDAY, 19th OCTOBER, 1973

- 12.45 My Choice.
- 12.55 BBC Television News. (In Colour.)
- 13.00 I.C.S.—Imperial College Societies.
- 13.30 closedown.
- 17.45 BBC Television News. (In Colour.)
- 18.00 New Soundscape—Progressive Music.
- 18.20 I.C.S.—Imperial College Societies.
- 18.45 closedown.

PURPLE PATCH

Once again it has got round to the time for me to write my article. It is now only four days since I wrote the last one, and since then very little has happened. I have been to several dinners and lunches for which I am very grateful, and I have had lengthy discussions with the Refectory manager and chairman of the refectory committee with respect to the opening of the Union Lower Refectory. In this week's FELIX you should be able to read both the letter which I sent to Mr. Mooney, and also the reply which I received. In Mr. Mooney's letter, he explains, I think quite fully, the reasons for the refectory not having opened, and has given us a firm promise that it will be open on Monday, 15th October. He did, however, make the point quite clear that extra staff in the form of student labour would be required to keep the refectories running at full steam. These jobs in the refectories are not the best jobs to undertake in your spare time, but they are at least reasonably paid, and you get reasonable meals (free). The person to get in touch with is Mrs. Haithornthwait on Int. 2880 if you fancy doing the job.

Also this week we have had a very serious talk with Dave Druce about the setting up of a society for homosexual and also bisexual students in the college. The society will become known as GAYSOC and its aims will be to promote and discuss the Gay Lib aspect of life in the 20th century. Please take this society seriously as it is being set up for the good of the minority. The least we can do is to give them a chance.

There will be a meeting of the Grants Action Committee on Monday, 15th October (i.e. yesterday) at which we will probably make decisions on Grants policy for the next term, these decisions will be made known at the Union meeting today.

On the topic of the Union meeting it is ESSENTIAL that everyone comes as there is certain to be discussion on Refectory price reductions, etc. As I said last week, I feel that refectory boycotts or protests are going to have no effect. If anyone wants to read my views in either last week, or the previous week's issues, we still have a few hundred copies in the Union office.

That's all for now, see you on Tuesday lunch-time.

P.A.W.N.O.

Hard Sells

It has been brought to my notice that a number of insurance salesmen have been going round the halls of residence doing "foot in the door" selling. These insurance men are not allowed on the premises unless they have been invited or have got an appointment with someone in the hall. I urge all of you to read the article headed "Insurance" in this edition. It isn't a plug for Endsleigh Insurance, just an urgent plea to ask you to get expert advice about what you are buying. Don't sign anything before you're certain what it is that you are signing.

Cycle Thieves?

There have been a large number of thefts in the last few weeks. "Ah-ha", you may say, "but I lock mine up". However, this may not be good enough. It appears that these thieves have been cutting through the chains that lock the bikes up. This has tended to happen at times when there are few people about (weekends, evenings, etc.). For your own sake, please keep your cycles in the areas reserved for them. In this way it is possible to spot anyone who may be tampering with them.

Touchstone Weekends

The college possesses an excellent field station at Silwood, near Ascot. Twice a

term discussion weekends are held at the station. At these, a guest speaker is invited to talk on a topic, the talk taking place on the Saturday. There then follows discussions on the chosen topic. Accommodation is provided for the weekend and the cost is only £1.00. Coaches are provided from Prince Consort Road at 14.15 on Saturday, 27th October and return at 18.00 on Sunday, 28th October. The guest speaker then will be Miss Kane, a founder member of "Radical Alternatives to Prison" (RAP) who worked in Wormwood Scrubs prison in 1970. She will discuss the causes and nature of crime, the reaction of society to anti-social behaviour, the role of the police, and the treatment of crime in other countries on both sides of the Iron Curtain. If you wish to apply, please send your name, without cash, to Mr. C. K. McDowall, College Block 331 before Monday, 22nd October. There is limited accommodation for wives and fiancées.

Commemoration Day Ball

Still a few tickets left. Please hurry if you want one.

Union Meeting

Please try and come to today's union meeting. There is a lot of important business to be discussed and it is essential that the meeting is a fair representation of the views within the Union.

Insurance-Ted York

When you are in college you soon find yourself very much in demand. Particularly with a lot of insurance salesmen anxious to sell you life assurance. Now there is nothing wrong with insurance as such. It is very important, sometimes essential, and potentially extremely valuable. It is certainly something you as a student will have to consider very carefully.

Finding the right insurance for your own individual needs can be quite a complex business. You will need expert, impartial advice from someone who understands student insurance. You will want a scheme that is right for you, value for money, and most of all, reliability.

It was precisely because the National Union of Students recognised both the importance of insurance to the student and the need for a fair insurance deal that

they set up their own insurance brokerage. It is called Endsleigh, and is the ONLY student owned insurance brokerage. Endsleigh is owned by students themselves but is operated by fully trained and experienced insurance men and women. Remember that with the massive strength of the 600,000 members of NUS, Endsleigh has been able to negotiate some very favourable terms for motor insurance, property insurance, travel insurance, and many others. Endsleigh do not act only as Life Assurance Brokers, but we are happy to advise you when the need arises. Please remember to consult Endsleigh before making a decision on your life insurance.

There is a permanent Insurance Centre at Imperial College in the "Room at the Top" open daily between the hours of 11.30-2.30. Use it!

GAYSOC

One of the most notable and lamentable facts about the social life of IC is its distinct lack of any kind of Gaysoc, and it is my avowed intention to remedy this matter as soon as possible.

There is, of course, the 'London University Gay Students' Society' for those who have heard of it, and who are prepared to habitually undertake the arduous return journey to Bloomsbury to attend its functions. However, it seems pretty clear, to me at any rate, that ULU societies have little relevance to the individual colleges, and our own society would seem a much more satisfactory prospect.

The aims of the society are hazy at present, but they would presumably follow the general lines of the ULU society which organises discussion meetings, debates and

lectures by speakers of note who hurl forth ideas on all aspects of the sexual spectrum, in addition to parties, discos, dances, etc., at which gay students can meet others with common interests other than just sex.

The first step is to get some names on the membership list. I would like to hear from homosexuals and bisexuals of both sexes and, of course, heteros who are interested in the virtue of the cause of homosexual equality. So if you are gay, and cannot contact others of the same inclinations, don't go on living in miserable isolation. You can contact me through our revered President and his minions or through the Chemistry letter-rack, and we'll talk the matter over.

DAVE DRUCE—Chem. I

What motivates you to study at IC?

1. inertia ... according to Newton you'll pass, unless ...
2. security ... may get it, but not for very long?
3. family wants you to ... consult your family
4. duty ... you better think it over
5. atmosphere ... you will fail exams
6. prestige ... keep on being narrow minded
7. status ... irresponsibility is the key
8. money ... welcome to the middle class
9. privilege ... vote tory and pray
10. lack of job ... you made it!
11. everything else's worse ... keep on looking
12. wanted to know Britain ... good food is too expensive
13. like the subjects ... yeah, but what for?
14. to help society ... wrong place
15. all of the above ... wake up! (too much drinking)

Specially for the overseas student

Twenty-five years ago Fred Crittenden walked into the student's common room of the School of Oriental and African Studies and found an overseas student sitting alone, looking very miserable. Fred sat by him and got talking. When he made to go, the student thanked him saying, "You are the first Englishman to speak to me ever since I arrived."

I hope that this has not been your experience if you are a new student at this college. I have to warn you however, that as college gains momentum and everyone buries himself in his books, life can become very impersonal. Not even the pages of Felix will carry comforting words for the overseas student.

The aim of this article is to leave no overseas student with an excuse for keeping to himself and feeling lonely, lost and miserable. We are a group of people (students and staff) who genuinely believe that overseas students' life in college and in Britain can be very happy and enjoyable. We are going all the way to prove this.

As Professor Rogers, of crystallography, said at the international reception, T.C. enjoys a greater share of o/s students than any other college of London University. The facilities in college are geared to enable us to develop in mind and body, so that we can be of full use to our countries. The professor says that he does not accept any o/s students into his department unless he is

assured that they are going to use what they have learnt. The fact that IC is bursting with o/s students, is a challenge to our group as we seek ways and means of helping the different races and nationalities to come together and just have a nice time. It is not usually easy if you already have taken part in some of our activities, we thank you for coming along.

On the other hand you may have received a programme of international activities and we hope you will come and take part.

Some activities in the pipeline:

(1) A visit to Hampton Court Palace. This really is a little introduction to what there is to be seen in Britain and the British way of life. As such the palace visit is to be followed by a visit to English families who have kindly offered to entertain us at their evening meal:—Tea, English style. Only 25 places are available. If you are interested please contact me soon (see below). There will be no charges except for transport and entrance fee to the Palace, approx. £1.

The trip is on Saturday, 20th October, leave I.C. Union Arch at 12.30 p.m.

(2) Trip to Greenwich to see the Old Royal Observatory, etc., 3rd November, leave Union Arch 10 a.m.

You may be suspicious of the motives behind this gesture. It isn't usual for Felix to carry articles like this. The reason is just the same as that which motivated Fred Crittenden to initiate international students' activities throughout the British Isles. The reason is a five letter word, AGAPE. It is a five letter word first introduced by Jesus. It means love.

RCC Recreational Clubs Committee General Meeting

Thursday Oct. 18th
S.C.C. ROOM

NB This means all RCC Clubs

VACANCIES IF YOU WANT SOME SPARE CASH ...

Help is needed in our College Refectories. There are staff shortages in the kitchens both for lunchtimes and also evening functions.

Will anyone interested please get in touch with Miss Haithornthwait int 2880. The rate of pay is approximately 46p per hour.

Help is needed as soon as possible.

Part-time Teacher for MATHEMATICS at Ordinary Level (London Board) required five mornings a week, Monday to Friday, 1½ hours each morning, 9.30 a.m to 11 a.m. The remuneration would be £2.00 per hour.

Please contact the Principal, London Academy, 15 Cadogan Gardens, London SW3 2RL—telephone 01-730 4739.

Letter

Sir,

It has been suggested that I write to Felix concerning the "rent strike" motion at the last UGM. Personally, though I doubt I'm alone in this: I am confused over the present situation. The President in the last issue of Felix implies that to withhold next term's hall rents from the College will both help the College and be a useful lever on the government. C.E.F.B. speaks of the Rector's support for a rent strike. The decision (implied) to have a rent strike was taken at the first UGM of the year, with about 300 people present, where, I am told, about half the members were freshmen, and with no publicity (of which I know) of the intended motion. There was little discussion, especially over the rent strike aspect, and no clear reasons seem apparent. Do all these freshers know all the aspects of the argument without any discussion? Is it that the discussion last year about it is considered sufficient? If so why isn't last year's decision adequate also? If it's that the situation has changed, then why no further discussion? And why is the Union quite unconcerned at passing motions which will mean its members are told or encouraged to break their own word and also the civil law? (All hall and house residents promise to pay the College each term's rent bills when received).

It seems to me that a number of points require clarification and several should be fully discussed in the Union.

ALAN SYROP.

DEREK B. MUTUNGU
Dept. of Metallurgy.

P.S. To any student reading this article: There may be an overseas student, just arrived, who would value the information given here, or who does not know yet that Felix exists. So please pass your copy on.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TENTH WORLD FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH REPORTS BACK

As a representative of ICU (elected by council) I took part in The 10th World Festival of Youth and Students which was held in East Berlin, the Capital of the German Democratic Republic. The festival did not receive much coverage from the press so I will start my report by explaining briefly the historical background of the Festival.

In 1945 after the war, 437 representatives of 30 million young people from 63 countries met in London at the inaugural congress of an international youth organisation, which was to be called World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

Friendship

The aim of this Organisation was to unite all democratic and progressive youth in the world in a common fight against war, fascism, imperialism and oppression. At the conference the delegates pledged to "eradicate all traces of fascism and create a deep and lasting friendship between all peoples on earth" and to "Keep a just and lasting peace and fight against poverty, exploitation and unemployment". The delegates further agreed on a programme of action for the WFDY and it started its work immediately afterwards. From the start the WFDY took several initiatives, but the most important was the organisation at the first festival in Prague in 1947. Since then the world festivals have been a recurring feature.

Unity

The first festival, in which 17,000 people from 72 countries took part, showed the determination and unity of wide layers of young people to fight against all forms of fascism and to rebuild a peaceful world after

the destruction of the war. In spite of different political convictions, religious beliefs and different systems of society several fruitful discussions and solidarity meetings were held. From these emerged the feeling of unity which was to characterise all successive festivals.

Solidarity

The participants at the first festival also condemned the "Truman Doctrine" of the President of the USA who was responsible for dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since then ten World Festivals have been held and the main slogans of these have changed in accordance with the international situation. Although the latter has changed since that first festival, the need to hold them is as great as ever. The US imperialist aggression in Vietnam has been defeated, but the victory is not yet total. It is still necessary to organise international solidarity for the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination, for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and for the liberation of 200,000 political prisoners held in Thieu's jails. In Africa, Portugal is massacring the Africans with weapons supplied by NATO, liberation movements such as the PAIGC and FRELIMO are actively involved in warfare against Portugal. In South Africa and Rhodesia the apartheid regimes are suppressing the majority of the population with the backing of big British and American companies.

Peace

All this shows that the forces of imperialism are still very strong and it is therefore vital that all anti-imperialist forces should be united in a wide offensive against these reactionary forces. It is in the creation of this unity that the festivals now can play an important role. The main slogan of the Tenth Festival was thus

"For anti-Imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship".

Christian

The British delegation for the Festival was organised by a committee drawn from wide sections of the Youth and Student movements, ranging from the Young Liberals to the Young Communist League, from the NUS to the Student Christian Movement. The only conditions for participating was agreement on the main slogan of the festival.

Diplomatic

On the 27th August the delegation departed for Berlin. The trip was not uneventful. West German border Police forced, with no apparent reason, some Iraqi students on the delegation to leave the train with their luggage. This was quickly stopped by the ploy of making half the delegation leave the train and leaving the other half inside, meaning that the West Germans could not move the train without splitting up the delegation and making themselves some diplomatic trouble with the GDR. The action proved to be effective, and ten minutes later the Iraqis were released.

Co-operation

We received a tremendous welcome in Berlin. The festival, with 30,000 participants from 104 countries participating, was amazingly well-organised. There was a special topic for each day, such as "Solidarity with the peoples of Indo-China" or "The Struggle for peace, international security and co-operation", around which the day's programme centred. Solidarity Meetings and Cultural programmes were organised on open air stages in several parts of the town, and lectures, seminars, colloquia and other meetings, where participants could freely exchange views,

were held at the university. Apart from that there were separate programmes for students, young workers, cultural workers and sportsmen and women. To give an example, over 60 different events were organised for one day, not including the discos, pop festivals and other forms of free entertainment which went on, day and night. Delegations spent considerable time in discussions with other delegations, and these formed some of the most relevant parts of the festival.

Low Taxes

The delegates alas had ample opportunity to see for themselves how a socialist system works. The British Press (with a few exceptions) had brought out reports about the disastrous situation of the economy of the GDR, how the State had brainwashed its young people in special camps before the festival so that they would be able to mix with representatives of the so-called free world. However, we saw nothing of that. What we saw was a rich country with an active, open-minded population, who seemed to take great interest in what was happening in the world and who did not seem to suffer from any hardship or lack of freedom as the British establishment defines it. Usually when people from the west go to socialist countries they report on how they could exchange money on the black market, and how people came up to them and asked if they could buy clothes, etc. But the shops were full, and no people seemed to be lacking. The average wage in the GDR is only slightly higher than here, but this does not take account of the good social services, very low taxes and lower prices than here.

Violent

There were no attempts by the GDR to prevent contact between young Germans and the foreign participants; in fact, quite the contrary.



BRITISH DELEGATION IN EAST BERLIN

A group of Christian Democrat students from West Berlin had come to the festival with the aim of distributing anti-socialist leaflets and discussing such matters with people in the street. This gave rise to some violent discussions, but there were no moves to stop them. Unfortunately the British delegation were handicapped since the arguments went on in German, and only very few spoke that language. But many of us made contact with English-speaking Germans, many of whom invited us to their homes.

Freedom

The purpose of the Festival was summed up in the main slogan. It must have been an enormous encouragement for the representatives of the liberation movements in Africa and Indo-China who are involved in a war to gain their freedom to see young people from all over the world actively expressing their solidarity with them and show that they were not alone. It was certainly a great encouragement to us more fortunate people to see and meet people involved in greater yet similar struggles to our own. It is now the duty of all the organisations who supported the festival to use the experiences gained from there to strengthen the anti-imperialist solidarity movement in their countries. The fact that many different organisations participated make it possible to broaden the basis of that struggle and involve yet more people. The work of the Tenth Festival is not over, for the discussion and co-operation must go on and ways of carrying out the main slogan must be found.

Stalinist

Last week an article under the heading "Stalinist meaning of free discussion" appeared in Felix, the article dealt with what happened to P. Tatchell, a GLF representative on the British delegation during the festival. It turned out to be an all out attack on the tenth festival. As a participant at the festival who actually thinks that there was freedom of speech in Berlin and hence a "stalinist", there are a few points that I would like to raise.

Harassment

The editor of Felix who I believe wrote the article forgot to mention that the FDR is one of the countries with the most progressive legislation on homosexuals as P. Tatchell

in his report recognises. Homosexuals have full civil rights. All kinds of discrimination against homosexuals is forbidden according to the law and this is vigorously enforced. It is true that equality before the law does not automatically mean that all deeply rooted prejudices against homosexuals have disappeared. This might explain the harassment that Tatchell was subject to on two or three occasions. But one cannot deny that homosexuals in the GDR have a much better position than here. P. Tatchell also recognises this in his report when he says that on many occasions his leaflets were very well received and openly discussed by young Germans.

Civil Rights

The article goes on to say what happened to P. Tatchell and his placard which read "Homosexual Liberation - Revolutionary Homosexuals Support Socialism" and on the other side "Gay Liberation Front, London. Civil Rights For Homosexuals" in German. What happened was that a majority of the delegation did not want this placard to be seen with the British contingent.

Diversion

This does not mean that the majority were against Gay Rights, but rather that the majority thought that the whole issue of homosexuals at an anti-imperialist festival was a diversion from the essential question. Perhaps this majority thought that homosexuals do not form a special group in society suppressed by imperialism, so that neither do gays automatically form a group which supports socialism nor does the fight for Gay Rights become an anti-imperialist fight any more than the fight for a more open and free relationship between heterosexuals is. The text of the placard also seems to recognise this. It reads "Revolutionary Homosexuals Support Socialism" and not only "Homosexuals Support, etc." So if this is the case why bring in the issue of homosexuals, as it can only act as a diversion.

Punched

A leaflet which P. Tatchell distributed read, "Radical homosexuals are committed to a socialist revolution because it alone gives the potential to revolutionise interpersonal relationships; to liberate them from economic restraint, and exploitation by capitalism". Here again we see the word radical in front of homosexuals. I am also sure that any marxist would

rumour which went round before the vote took place. It is supposed to have said that the placard read "GDR persecutes homosexuals". However, I did not hear that rumour.

I cannot comment about what happened after this point as I had to take an earlier train to go to Switzerland.

Opportunist

I have spent so much space commenting on what may seem a relatively minor incident in the context of the festival for two reasons. One is that some groups within the NUS are using these incidents to wage struggle against some members of the NUS executive who were present at the festival. These groups are not so much concerned about gay rights to which the executive is already firmly committed as about kicking some individuals out of the executive. These kinds of opportunistic tactics must be firmly resisted because they could do harm to the NUS as a whole, specially now when the NUS is involved in the grants campaign and the maximum degree of unity and involvement is essential.

The other reason is that the incident is also used by other groups to attack the festival as a whole, and thereby divert the attention away from the anti-imperialist aspect of the festival. The article which appeared in Felix last week was such an example of that tactic. Articles attacking the festival have, not surprisingly, come from the Express, the Daily Telegraph and other Fleet Street papers whose relations to Big Business are too well known. But I must admit that I hadn't expected Felix to join ranks with these papers. I know that the editor likes to call himself a young socialist, but his consistent attack on the anti-imperialist movement makes me doubt what his true colours are. RENATO EZBAN



JUBILANT GIRL CALLS FOR DEFEAT OF IMPERIALISTS

FREE FROM MIDLAND BANK

1. Your account.

If you're a full-time student we make you this offer.

Your own bank account, which we'll run for you. Free of charge. (Provided, of course, you stay in credit).

What's the catch?

There's no catch. It's just that as a full-time student, living on a grant, you're going to need all the help you can get with organising your finances. And we at the Midland are prepared to give that help.

But that's not all.

2. Our booklet.

The second part of our offer is our free booklet - 'How a cheque book works'.

Call at any Midland Branch.

The booklet and the account are there, both yours for the asking.



Midland Bank

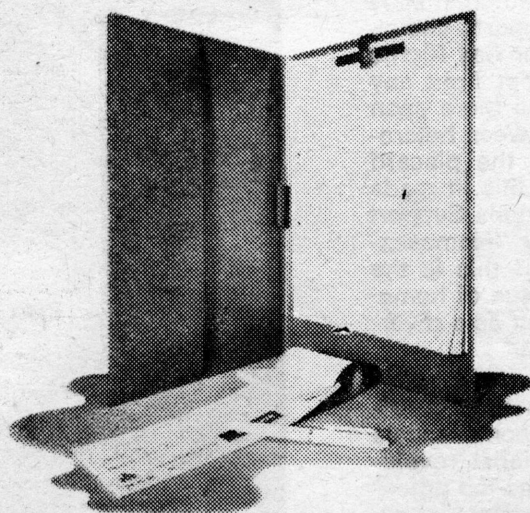
A GREAT BRITISH BANK
meets any financial need... anywhere



**Somebody should do something
about students.**

Barclays have.

**We're offering students free account handling
(no bank charges so long as you're not in the red);
free lecture note folder, pad and ballpoint;
free help and advice on money problems.**



BARCLAYS

YOU'LL GET A HELPING HAND AT BARCLAYS.

REVIEWS

THE ANCIENT SUN KINGDOMS OF THE AMERICAS

by V. W. Von Hagen Paladin £1.50 Paperback

It is rare that a man who is an expert in his field can also lucidly convey his knowledge in a simple but accurate manner.

In this book von Hagen paints an evocative mental image of the Aztecs, Incas and the Mayas by his beautifully detailed accounts of their everyday life and the forces and drives which shaped these great civilisations whose origin stretch back to about 2000 B.C. when the Greeks were active in Troy.

Von Hagen has drawn on many years of study of their surviving Art and Architecture although much was systematically destroyed by Bishop Diego de Landa for religious reasons who also fortunately took notes.

The staple diet of these peoples was maize upon which they were utterly dependent, a bad maize harvest meaning widespread famine.

This one fact meant that all possible steps were taken to ensure a good harvest

these being human sacrifice to their gods, a very good knowledge of the seasons to ensure planting at the right times and a greed for more agricultural land.

Thus their superb roads for conquest of neighbouring tribes, and their temples, monuments to the hold their religion had upon them.

Von Hagen shows that these civilisations had a high level of intellectual achievement although in some respects they had some rather interesting weaknesses or blind spots. For example the wheel was known and used for children's toys but never for transport which was nearly all manual. Inca masonry involved using blocks of stone weighing hundreds of pounds shaped to very fine limits but the true arch was never discovered. All bridges or windows used one vast supporting block spanning the gap. Their astronomical knowledge was highly advanced to the extent that the Mayas had a congress in AD 695 to correct their calendars. Communications by

runners every 1½ miles achieving 100 miles in a day with artists employed for graphic detail which could not be written was unequalled at the time.

The factor which contributed greatly to their defeat was a persistent legend that gods would return across the waters in a year of I heed (meaning I will return) these years, occurred every 52 years in 1363, 1467, 1519 etc. Christopher Columbus appeared in 1502 and Cortes in 1519 and who took full advantage of the situation, and also the rather disorganised fighting tactics employed by his opponents who fought around a 20-day cycle and who would stop all fighting to plant maize.

This book is full of such fascinating insights and unsolved mysteries, all being well illustrated with about 300 black and white pictures in 351 pages, a good index bibliography and chronological table completing the book as a reference source. Thoroughly recommended.

Philip Webbe

"GRENDL"

by John Gardner
Picador 40p

The author of this unusual novel, we are informed by the inside cover, is a teacher of Old and Middle English at Southern Illinois University. So perhaps we should not be surprised that he should take the epic poem of Beowulf as a very loose framework for this his third novel. (A cynic might note how fortunate some people are to be able to transmute workday drudge / bewitchment into pecuniary reward.) However, a very loose framework it is, the novel being told entirely from the mind and experiences of one of Beowulf's victims—the monster Grendel.

We enter the story at Grendel's eleventh year of his 'war' against the Dane King Hrothgar, and, by a combination of chatty flashbacks and sequential advancement, Grendel expands his thoughts on the monster-man-world relationship. Thus we see the heathen world of these Dane men through the semi-isolated eyes of our thinking monster. The mead-sodden boasts and blind-poem-battles appear in relief against the thoughts of the 'natural' narrator—"Not, of course, that I fool myself with thoughts that I'm more noble. Pointless, ridiculous monster crouched in the shadows, stinking of dead men, murdered children, martyred cows (I am neither proud nor ashamed, understand. One mere dull victim leering at seasons that were never

meant to be observed.)"

The novel, of course, only takes the Beowulf story to the death of Grendel, but on this journey the author paints a wry, humorous picture. We see the childhood-innocent Grendel having a lesson on time and existence from a condescending and paternalistic dragon. And in the scene in which Grendel faces Unferth, hero of Hrothgar's tribe, we are left in no doubt at all that our monster is the anti-hero to end all anti-heroes.

So summarising: black, sparkling in the twist and turns around Grendel's character, with a wit and cynicism that perhaps are too shallow to be lasting. Certainly worth consideration if you have 40 pence and a two-hour train ride to spare. S.P.H.

THE ALEPH AND OTHER STORIES

by Jorge Luis Borges
(published by Pan)

Both book and author are recommended. He is an Argentinian scholar writer who may yet receive a Nobel prize.

These short stories are the fruits born of lengthy study by the author rather than an imaginative exercise. That is not to say they are devoid of imagination, but Borges uses his inventive power to weave his theme into a story. His themes are often drawn from the philosophies and religions of the world both ancient and modern. The story is manipulated as a vehicle to realise his idea.

In pursuit of this Borges disregards description and

character development not central to his purpose. It follows he does not feel bound to represent society as it is and his characters are not constrained to reality.

The product of all this is never more than a dozen pages. Borges' attitude therefore produces a concise mathematical style requiring careful reading to appreciate the almost endless allusions.

For those familiar with Borge however will find this work easier reading than his earlier publications as a result of a new approach to the translations which he has personally dissected.

The book leaves the reader with sympathy and understanding for concepts from foreign cultures he previously felt, from logical necessity, alien to him.

Greg Burland.

GREEN GROW THE TRESSES-O

by Stanley Hyland

Published by Penguin Books, 30p

This short novel by Stanley Hyland has a well thought out plot which unfolds neatly, almost too neatly. The local police in a small Yorkshire town are faced with the murder of a young Italian mill girl. The death is similar to an unsolved murder of another girl two years previously. Clues drop out from all over the place and soon all the suspects are rounded up.

The presence of a nearby high security American base adds a hint of international espionage which livenes the story up a bit. The police are portrayed as a band of burly, clumsy policemen, continually falling over each other, something which was a bit overdone, I think.

Surprises are popped in regularly usually at the end of a chapter to add to the suspense. There's even quite a big surprise in the last paragraph. Overall it's an easily readable, interesting and enjoyable book.

Stuart Castledine

Steeleyespan Oct. 8, Royal Albert Hall

Magic as ever from Maddy Prior, Tim Hart and Co. filled the ornate hall. Their rendering continues to lift audiences hearts and faces to ecstatic shouts and cries, no wonder they have progressed to Britain's most popular folk-rock group and seemingly improve at every idyllically performed concert.

Maddy's pure voice reduces the vastness of the dome to a pitiful size. She creates, expands and fulfils all in one complete performance.

A beautiful, compact programme of traditional jigs, yet still retaining perfection, that ever popular, powerfully moving Jacobean melody was a joy to experience.

Steeleyespan has the quality of immense variation and only few groups can move through moods created by

ACCOMMODATION CRISIS

160 Bristol Freshers' sleeping on floors

The University Accommodation Office has said that there is now sufficient emergency accommodation available to provide beds for those with no permanent lodging. 160 first-year students have had to be given temporary beds in Hall, and the estimated number of students apart from these, who are improperly housed is 200.

WHAT IS 'HOME'?

In a special University newsletter, it was stated that the supply of temporary accommodation had increased and "no student need be homeless". However, we must be quite certain that a home is something permanent which can provide the basic and necessary amenities of living which, for students, includes adequate bookshelves and a desk to work at. The accommodation crisis is still with us and will remain with us so long as there are students sleeping on floors, living in cupboards and greenhouses, as some are at present. From the present rate of supply for suitable homes, we can judge that the crisis will continue for at least the rest of the term.

LONG TERM SOLUTION

The Vice-Chancellor has explained that the University Grants Committee, which finances Universities, is at

present considering its position on building Halls of Residence. Students must show quite clearly by stating their opinion in general meetings and demonstrations, that crisis conditions are not conducive to satisfactory academic life. We must press the U.G.C. to build more accommodation and do so by providing at least 75 per cent of the cost, not 25 per cent as it does at present. Loan charges should not be tolerated by students and nor should we allow our academic life to be soured by these deplorable conditions of life and lower living standards than the majority of the population enjoy.

UNION COUNCIL STATEMENT

At the first meeting of the Union Council on Monday, 8th October, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"This Union Council recognises that, ultimately, it is the Government's responsibility to provide accommodation for all students and that the University should make representations to the U.G.C. to abolish loan-financing of student residences. However, in the short-term, we recognise that it is the responsibility of the University to offer suitable accommodation for living and studying for all students it gives places to. This Council de-

mands a reduction in the charges being levied on students living in emergency accommodation in Halls.

Union Council condemns the housing of students in the present unsuitable temporary accommodation. Until the University is in a position to provide decent permanent accommodation for all students, we recognise that it has two alternatives:

1. To house students in empty University Property
2. To place students in suitable temporary accommodation, for example, hotels, and subsidise any cost, so that the payment shall be commensurate with the Board and Lodging element in the current student grant.

In furtherance of this policy, we endorse the action of all student squatters in empty property, especially in property owned by the University.

We will send a Union Council delegation, that is, three Sabbatical Officers plus Norman Peterken, to put this policy to the University. If the University does not act on this policy by the date of the next U.G.M. (Oct. 11th at 8 p.m.) then the U.G.M. should consider some form of direct action against the University.

Released by Union Council 8th October, 1973.

R.C.S.U.

presents for your edification

16th October

Chemistry Freshers Dinner College Block

18th October

Physics Freshers' Dinner College Block

ELECTRONIC MUSIC GROUP

For all those interested

there will be a

Meeting in

HALDANE LIBRARY

at 7.30 on Thursday,

for further information

contact

J. Griffin via the Physics

2 Letter-rack

Jazz-Rock

Don Weller's

MAJOR SURGERY

Sat. 20th Oct.

Biology Common Room, 8.00, 35p noon
members, 25p members

SPORT

Muddle Muddle

No doubt last Saturday week a plaintive chorus of 'All We Like Sheep have Gone Astray' rang out over Parliament Hill Fields from a flock of frustrated cross country runners who had been misled by a mal-informed UL poster into believing that the 1st UL Trial would be held there. Meanwhile, at Hayes, where the race actually was, IC composed no less than 15 of the 34-strong UL side taking on Blackheath harriers. It's difficult to find sufficient superlatives for this course... there were lots of gorse bushes, plough, hills, nettles and, of course, miles (apparently most of them uphill, and several of them between the changing rooms and the start). Blackheath beat UL by some 1000 points to 1500, and everybody from IC did very well... except Pad and Dave J who were last-but-one and last-but-two, professing that they didn't want to discourage the freshers by doing too well. Pad, of course, was only there for the beer, though he tried later to profound otherwise. And very convincing (if sad) it was too.)

The usual organised muddle of the Cross Country Club has this year been thrown into complete disarray by the influx of scores of enthusiastic Freshers. Last Wednesday the unexpected appearance of over twenty runners, at least some of whom could be described as fit and raring to go, led to some quick recalculations considering that we were expecting a 12-seater minibus and a party was dispatched via British Rail. Meanwhile those left waited for said Transport. And waited. It and Steve

did finally arrive, and this second party, the light of enthusiasm noticeably dimmed in their eyes, set off half an hour late for LSE at New Malden. Now, in all living memory IC have never missed a race (which can't be said for UL): we've held up the start a few times, but they've never started without us; in fact we've even turned up for races that didn't exist. This time, despite some hard praying by certain people, we also got there in time. The race, against four other teams, was won by St. Mary's College, with IC second due to our huge turnout (which also upset LSE's plan for tea) and many splendid performances including one from Alf who even beat Cap'n Rob.

Despite their vast numbers in the race, the Freshers were noticeably absent at the evening festivities in the Union, missing a now rare opportunity to meet Hugh, though admittedly he somewhat disappointed his past fans.

Those thinking of joining the Cross Country Club should not be put off by all this inefficiency: there should be some fixture lists soon (apparently the Book Shop have been too busy) and Pad says everything should be okay from now on. Tomorrow (Wednesday) we go for a slow jog round our course in Richmond Park and Saturday is the occasion of the UC Relay at Parliament Hill with an amazing hill to sprint (or roll) down. Everybody welcome. Injuries sympathised with.

DJ.

BOAT CLUB

The Boat Club this year has had a large intake of experienced oarsmen new to the club. This may be due to last year's considerable successes, but even this year bodes great achievements. It is strange when all enemy strokes from the faster school crews are now apparently amongst our crews. We have formed a squad of 24 senior oarsmen all trying for the first eight, and with such a variety of talent, selection will take some time.

The newcomers to the sport at I.C. B.C. are showing considerable promise and enthusiasm, but we welcome competition! If there are any people who would like to try the sport please contact Dai Bevan via the Chemistry P.G. letter rack.

With the Head of the River for IVs only ten days away the squad has split up into fours. We had our first outing in trials on Wednesday, 10 October and found we've turned up trumps with a couple of boats. By chance we have four very strong oarsmen who have much experience in racing, but they have only won in races shorter than the National qualifying course, thus they are still able to row at a low status. Now we have put these together in a Senior C Restricted IV, and as we came 3rd in this class last year with only a reasonably good crew, it is a main hope for the future.

Our first coxless four in the Open event should do creditably, stroked by a new American Olympic Trialist and supported by three of the crew who broke virtually every IV's regatta record at their races during the Summer Vacation.

Morphy Day this year will be on Wednesday October 24. This, as most of you know, is the annual occasion where the three constituent colleges of I.C. put forward three sets of eights for the three races, Morphy, Lowry and Rugby. This event takes place outside the Boathouse at Putney Embankment and although the racing may be of prime importance to the competitors, everybody else seems more interested in bouncing up and down on Putney Bridge to find its resonant frequency, or tying up buses with the famous Rope. It's a traditional event which everyone on the Embankment expects and no one resents it.

We are very interested in novice training as this is our prime means of perpetuating the club, so if you are down for Morphy Day or any Wednesday afternoon please ask for either the Vice Captain or Captain and they will gladly give you details.

Events of the next week:

Oct 21—Head of the River for IVs.
Oct 24—Morphy Day.

BRIDGE CLUB

Calling all masochists! Do you enjoy being humiliated by partner's scorn and laughed at by onlookers as you misplay yet another hand? Then we're the people you should see! The bridge room is open every lunchtime for dedicated carvers (sorry, players!) to butcher contracts in congenial squalor. If you enjoy playing with greasy cards, sitting in armless armchairs (most of the legs are still there), this is for you!!

More seriously, the club tries to promote bridge in the college not only by these lunchtime sessions but also with a duplicate pairs session every Monday evening. This carries local points and cash prizes for successful pairs. Two Monday evenings later this term will be devoted to a pairs championship for which a mug will be awarded (we hope!). The standard of players varies quite widely from really quite good to

abysmal—and if you are partnerless we can nearly always pair you with someone of an appropriate standard.

We also field five teams in the inter-collegiate leagues run by U.L.U. This usually involves one or two matches a week, sometimes "home", sometimes "away". Last season was a successful one, but this year we are short of players. Anyone who can take a finesse has a good chance of playing for the college at some time or other! These matches also carry local points for the winners, and are pleasant evenings, often starting and finishing in the bar!

Anyone wanting to know more about the club should contact John Kilner, John Clements, David Gadd, or Malcolm Oddy, one of whom is invariably in the bridge room at lunchtime.

EDITORIAL

So the best thing that our elated leadership (Sayles & Co.) can offer about the refectory price increases is to accept them, thus going against Union policy.

How right is Trevor Phillips (Letters page 2) in saying that accepting these increases simply opens the way for more increases. The wholesale prices for food shot up over 2½ per cent last week and this rate of increase is itself increasing. That is why the Financial Times calls this a pre-Weimar period.

If we sit back and accept these increases now in the manner of Norm Sayles and the IC Communist Party then what do we do next year when the 12½ per cent increase already suggested is foisted on us.

These increases are hitting us now and we have to understand why these are occurring before we have a hope in hell of being able to deal with them.

In short the main vehicle for international trade—paper money—has virtually collapsed; producing complete anarchy on the foreign exchange markets. Speculators have been unable to make money on the stock market and have moved en masse into the realm of wholesale commodities, which has produced unheard of increases, most of which haven't hit shops yet.

The collapse of paper money is due in essence to contradictions within the capitalist system, and was signalled by the collapse of the Bretton-Woods agreement in 1971 when Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard and left the world currencies literally hanging in mid-air.

On a world scale the ruling classes are forced to drive down the living standards of the working class in an effort to inject value into their worthless paper money.

In a period such as this, like I said last week, to go cap in hand to the Tories, begging for money, is worse than useless for when the NUS leadership do so, it gives credence to reformist politics which today are utterly bankrupt.

As for Paul Watkins' statement (Letters page 2) that the Morning Star (Stalinist daily paper) calls every day for action against the Tories—that is a blatant lie. On the day of the £100,000 fine that the NIRC imposed on the AUEW, the "We Say" editorial column of the Star proposed no action whatsoever—it read more like a news column of the Sun, rather than the daily organ of a working class organisation in the lead of the fight against the Tories.

And Renato Ezban (centre page spread) says that to criticise the utter bankruptcy of the Communist Party gives notice of allegiance to the right wing. What drivel the YSSS in this and all colleges will take up the sharpest of fights with the Stalinists, and the IMG and IS revisionists who cover up for them, who propose that we follow their peaceful road to socialism—which led the German, Italian, Spanish, Greek and Chilean working classes along the bloody road to fascism.

The YSSS says no to these refectory price increases and that Sayles & Co. should be pledged at once to mobilise all students in a campaign against these increases now or resign, and further that such a campaign should also include the call for immediate and supplementary grants tied to the students cost of living, and cannot be divorced from the campaign to bring down this government and return a labour government pledged to socialist policies.

YSSS meeting Mech Eng 214

Wednesday 17th October 1 pm.

IC. ENTS.

HOPS CONCERTS

Time 8.00 Prices Announced Later

Fri. 19 Oct.—GOOD HABIT Union Concert Hall — 30p

Tues. 23 Oct.—OSIBISA + HEAVY METAL KIDS

Great Hall.—IC Students 50p in advance

Fri. 26 Oct.—QUEEN. Union Concert Hall

Sat. 27th Oct.—MANFRED MANN'S EARTH BAND

Great Hall.—IC Students 50p in advance

Sat. 17 Nov. RALPH McTELL. Great Hall

Sat. 24 Nov.—BACK DOOR. Great Hall.

Fri. 30 Nov.—FUMBLE. Union Concert Hall.

Sat. 8 Dec.—LINDISFARNE. Great Hall.

Fri. 16 Nov.—C & G CARNIVAL — All night — College Block

FAIRPORT CONVENTION + BEES MAKE HONEY +

MIKE ABSALOM + DISCO, etc.

FILMS—For times see posters

Sat. 20 Oct.—BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID

Sat. 27 Oct.—SOLDIER BLUE +

BOB, CAROL, TED AND ALICE

Sat. 3 Nov.—SHAFT

Sat. 10 Nov.—LE MANS

Thurs. 22 Nov.—WILLARD

Sat. 1 Dec.—A MAN CALLED HORSE

Thurs. 6 Dec.—MUSIC LOVERS

Tickets from UNION OFFICE DURING LUNCHTIME.

Registration Card needed for I.C. REDUCTION

Felix, Newspaper of Imperial College Union. Issue No. 342.

Tuesday, 16th October, 1973.

Editor, Alasdair Campbell.

Contributions this week from Greg Burland,

Stuart Castledine, Dave Druce, Renato

Ezban, Pat Gorman, Dave Gribble, Steve

Herman, Simone Kassal, Graham King,

Derek Mutungo, Norm Sayles, Philip Web-

ber.

Published by the editor for and on behalf

of the Imperial College Union Publications

Board, Imperial College Union, Prince Con-

sort Road, London SW7 2BB. Felix tele-

phone numbers are: Office 01-589 5111

ext. 2229, int. 2881.

Advertising contracted by University Press

Representation, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar

Square, London WC2.

Printed by F. Bailey and Son Ltd., Dursley,

Glos., GL11 4BL.

The Union Lower Refectory will be OPEN

on Monday, 15th October

thanks to Mr. V. J. Mooney