



FOUNDED IN 1949

Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

NUS TRAVEL

The NUS Travel office will not be open until May 10th due to staff illness. The nearest bureau is at Victoria Station.

No. 417

Friday 30th April, 1976

FREE!

Rapist strikes again

A SECOND assault on a girl in the ladies toilet of the Union took place during the Easter recess. This attack follows the rape of an IC girl student there last November.

The attack occurred at about 10 pm on Monday 8th April. A man, bearing a description similar to that of the November assailant, had followed the girl into the toilet where he assaulted her. However, when the girl began screaming, he ran off.

Search made

People present in the Union Bar at the time made a search of the immediate vicinity soon afterwards but found nothing. It was reported that, at about the same time, a motorcycle was heard leaving within close proximity of the Union Building

IC scarf

The attacker is described as a negro type, about 5'9" tall, with fairly short dark brown hair. He was wearing a light raincoat and blue jeans. He is said to be of medium build with pointed high cheek bones with a smallish flat nose. He was also wearing an IC scarf.

Similarity

The police have not made any definite statement about similarity in descriptions, but the College Security Officer, Mr. Dawson, said that the similarity in the descriptions pointed to a strong possibility of the attacks having been committed by the same man.



Photo fit of the first assailant.

WP on sport facilities

A WORKING PARTY has been set up to consider what additional sports facilities are required over the next five years, and where they might be provided. The Working Party is to be chaired by Dr. B. White and it was set up at the request of the Rector.

The other members of the Working Party are Mr. Peter Teague, ICU President; Mr. John Thornback, Chairman ACC; Mr. D.W. Clark, Estate Secretary; Mr. F. Hollinghead and Mr. J.R. Davidson, the College Secretary.

All members of the College are invited to comment on the existing sports and athletics facilities for students and staff, and offer suggestions for improvements or additions. Comments should be sent to

Mr. John Davidson
Room 535, Sheffield Bdg.,
not later than Monday, 10th May.

Student Spongers

STUDENTS CLAIMING Social Security benefits have been attacked by a Scottish student newspaper.

The attack came from Omega, the newspaper of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. According to an editorial published in its latest issue, 'between seventy and eighty per cent of those students (claiming benefit) will have just hammered one more nail into the coffin of the Nation'.

Excuses usually given for not finding a vacation job (especially during Christmas and Easter) were dismissed as feeble and inadequate. "Students should be resourceful enough to find sufficient time for their academic work even if they are working forty hours a week", the paper said. It was rarely difficult, the paper claims, for students to find work as say barmen or petrol pump attendants if they tried.

Claiming benefit, the paper says, "is an act of apathy and selfishness which jeopardises not only their own future but that of the entire nation."

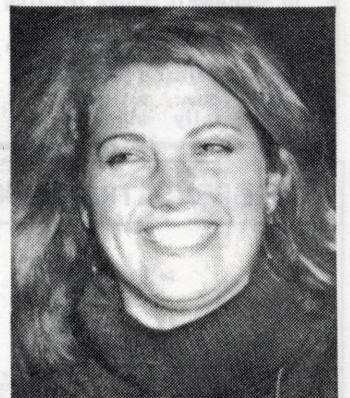
It described as "most despicable" the reason, "If I took a job I would be depriving someone else of the right to work and consequently worsening the unemployment situation". It would cost the nation nearly £21 million if every student received only the minimum entitlement during the Easter vacation alone.

An NUS spokesman, however, disagreed with the points made by Omega. The unemployment level had hit students badly and the situation was so bad that traditional employers, such as the big stores and the GPO had offered very few jobs during the Christmas vacation.

The NUS see social security as a safety net for those on low pay and fixed incomes. The spokesman also pointed out that according to their survey, 57% of students on mandatory awards did not receive the full parental contribution to their grant. Half the student population did not receive the vacation element, £3.80 per week for those on a full grant, as a result.

Ms Sue Slipman, NUS Natio-

nal Secretary, said yesterday: "I believe that anyone who is supposed to serve the interests of students could do that better than by attacking students who are victims of the present crisis, along with the vast majority of working people in this country."



MISS JULIA ROSS, above, is the new President of L'Institut Français du Royaume-Uni Secretariat College Students' Union, popularly known as IF.

FELIX Photographic Competition

The competition is open to all staff and students of Imperial College, except members of the FELIX staff. This year all entries must be B&W or Colour prints. There will be nine categories:

B&W
Portrait
Landscape
Natural History
Photojournalism
General

COLOUR
Portrait
Landscape
Natural History
General

1. Prints must possess a surface area greater than 48sq inches.
2. Prints may be mounted or unmounted. Only unmounted prints may be reproduced.
3. FELIX reserves the right to reproduce any entries. Only prints made on glossy paper may be reproduced.
4. If there are insufficient entries for any of the categories prints entered for those categories will be judged under the General section.
5. Entries should have the name, department and year of the photographer attached to each print.
6. There is an entrance fee of 10p per competitor. All fees will be added to the prize money.
7. Last date for entry is 2.00pm on Friday 21st May.
8. There will be cash prizes.
9. The judges decision will be final.
10. Prints should be delivered to the FELIX office.

INVITATION



Lady Flowers, assisted by members of the IC Wives Club, welcomes students to a free BEER 'N' BANGERS nosh-up at 170 Queen's Gate, on Thurs. 6th May. from 5.30-7.00pm. Names, please, to Jen. Union office, by not later than Wednesday, 5th May lunchtime. ALL WELCOME! FREE!

Royal College of Science Union

ANNUAL DINNER

with guest speaker

RAYMOND BAXTER

of 'Tomorrow's World'

Friday 7th May, 7.00 for 7.30pm Sherfield Building
Tickets: £2.50 from Social Reps or RCSU Office.
Dress: Lounge suit or equivalent.

MOPSOC

A lecture by

PROF. T.W.B. KIBBLE

**PHYSICS OF ENERGY-
THE ENTROPY CRISIS**

1.15pm Tues 4th May
Physics LT2

FOLK EVENING

in Southwell House (Evelyn
Gardens)
WED 5th MAY at 8.00 pm

Bar facilities provided.
Everyone welcome,
especially singers.

FELIX

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Editor P. Ekpenyong.
Many thanks to Phil Dean,
Dave Foxall, Dave Hopkins,
Dave Knights, John McCloskey,
Duncan Suss, Terry Westoby,
and extra special thanks to
Ian for putting up with us all,
and Gill, who did all the work
before she went away.

I.C. SUNDAY SESSIONS:

GALA NIGHT OF JAZZ

3 GREAT JAZZ BANDS

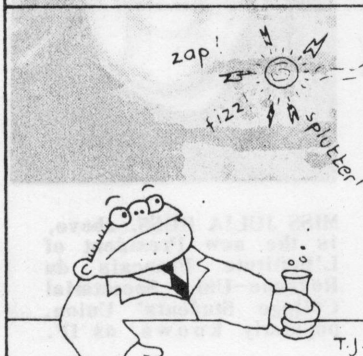
Sunday 2nd May. 7p.m.

Guest Musicians Welcome.

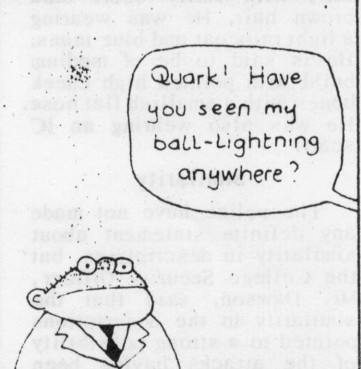
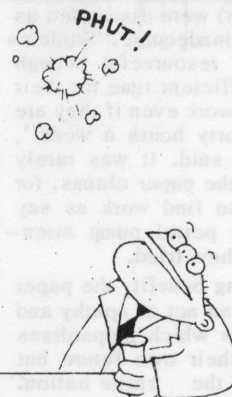
Lower Union Lounge Bar.

Admission Free.

PROF. BREMSSTRAHLUNG



T.J.





Rebecca Abbott



Olivia Lawson-Tancred



Above; Hilary Greenaway

Below; Fiona Foley

Day Nursery wins with fashion

CLOTHES designed by students at RCA's School of Fashion Design were paraded in a fashion show held in the Rector's flat just before the end of last term. The proceeds were donated to the Day Nursery.

Four female students from IC—Olivia Lawson-Tancred, Rebecca Abbott, Fiona Foley and Hilary Greenaway—took part in the show organised by IC Wives Club. Heather Boxer, sister-in-law to Dr. Schroter of the Physiological Flow Unit, also took part. Make up was done by the RCA students.

Photographs by Neville Miles



EDITORIAL

Closed sessions and the student press

FOLLOWING THE decision, taken in the first session of conference, that Finance Committee Report on NUS Services (Travel, Marketing and Endsleigh) should not be held in closed session, a constitutional amendment allowing Student Press into closed sessions was carried overwhelmingly. The opposition to this move was, not unjustifiably due to inaccurate reports of the NUS Travel financial situation (in the main) which many Executive members and others considered irresponsible. No doubt, since first hand information will be available in the future, the accuracy of such articles will improve.

Some felt that the Student Press were a dispensable luxury; delegates should report back to their SRC's/UGM's, and all the Student Press can do is cut the ground from under their feet. But, on the whole, it was realised that the Student Press has a valuable role to play in relaying, accurately, information that the Nationals would rather ignore or distort. Since our readership is higher than the attendances at UGM's, etc, we are obviously in a good position to bridge that "communication gap".

It must be remembered, however, that the representatives of the Student Press at conference are not elected; they are not delegates following mandates. Nor must they, in any way whatsoever, be allowed to interfere in the running of conference. They are, in the strictest sense, observers, but as such must be allowed to observe the proceedings in their entirety.

But the new ruling does mean that the current arrangements for Student Press representatives are totally unacceptable; the security element at present is zero, and, although

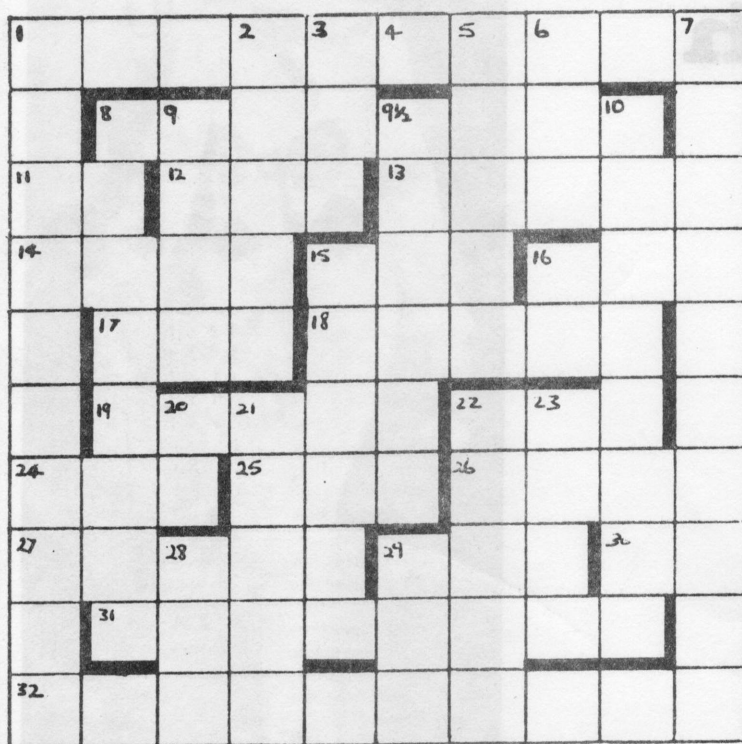
Press badges were issued, no credentials were ever checked. Obviously an unsatisfactory state of affairs if we are to be allowed to view the deepest and darkest secrets of the Union.

The Tory challenge

THE ANTICIPATED, and much publicised, Tory challenge of the Federation of Conservative Students (FCS) seemed to fizzle out immediately after the Presidential Election, when their candidate was beaten into third place. They, effectively, held the balance of power between the Broad Left (Labour Party and Communist Party alliance) and the more extreme left wing (the IMG, IS, etc.) with a transfer of about 85 votes going consistently to the Broad Left candidates. Their strength has risen, however, since the Scarborough Conference when they had just over a dozen delegates. This has been reflected by the fact that they now have one executive member, Steve Moon, and means that their policies will have a platform at National level. Just how seriously the Broad Left are taking the FCS will be seen when Mr Moon receives his specific responsibilities.

Their success/failure at the next conference will depend to a great extent on the policies expounded by Mr Moon, it will also require the FCS to put forward some committed and experienced leaders. It is quite obvious that the Broad Left had been opposed to a Tory on the executive, they could, by putting forward stronger candidates for the lower positions, have prevented it. Of course, if they had no stronger candidates to provide the back-up, they couldn't prevent the FCS getting at least one seat if they had wanted to. The fact that David Willis was narrowly (by 7 votes) defeated by the Broad Left candidate would indicate the latter being the case.

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 33



Across

1. Similar purpose to 'Introduction' in text books
8. See 31 across
11. Musical short city

12. Call back
13. Not quite insane, just empty
14. Drol
15. An obscure uncle
16. Hide-hole for noogaes

17. A chain of 5 links gives he 31 author
18. Rotating bread
19. Go away impolitely with 17 gives way
22. Gives back knowledge
24. Charged particle
25. Half of a kettle
26. Sharif
27. Nock as in arrows
29. Subtract?
30. Is that?
31. The ultimate in aesthetics?
32. Great score to smell maker

Down

1. I flap eye, so get ball cure and crushed fingers
2. Catch hawks nostrils
3. A computer firm
5. Glass slab learner gives jury
6. AML
7. Of Faery author?
8. Naked house leader?
9. Unledged hawk
10. ie. greens give one great activity
15. 7 down guess
16. Imperative loop to IBM
20. On top of (oh, what a give away!)
21. Involved in Beit Quading (The appropriate letter was nicked from Union files to protect the guilty)
22. It's a gas, naturally, but upish
23. Same as above
28. The definite article (oh, what a give away!)
29. Dega

The prize of £1 will be given to the first correct solution drawn out of the Editor's Hat at noon next Wednesday 5th May. The Editor's decision will be final.

ICU DIARY

TO ALL OFFICIALS of ICU clubs and societies: If you have regular meetings or any special events already planned for the 1976/77 session, why not publicise them in the ICU Pocket Diary which is now being prepared for next year.

In fact, ANY college member with information suitable for inclusion in a diary for ICU members is welcome to submit it to the Diary Editor, Publications Board, ICU Office.

SOCIAL COLOURS

Anyone can nominate any member of the College. All nominations with WRITTEN reasons to John Downs, IC Union Office by Monday 10th May, 1976.

Clarke and Slipman in, Lanning out

Broad Left landslide

Tory on Executive - first for 10 years

THE NEW EXECUTIVE of the NUS has 12 out of 15 members of the Broad Left; two are International Socialists, and, for the first time in ten years, a Tory has been elected.

FCS TRANSFER

The voting pattern at Llandudno was quite clear: the Broad Left could command 300 votes, the Federation of Conservative Students about 90, and the remainder went to the ultra-left groups. The FCS transferred consistently to the Broad Left, giving them the necessary majority in all the top eight positions on the Executive.

Charles Clarke, last year's President, beat Hugh Lanning (retiring National Treasurer) by the 80 or so votes transferred from Mark Hapgood, the FCS candidate (who came third), and in the same way, Sue Slipman was re-elected to her post of National Secretary. Perhaps the greatest shock,



Hugh Lanning

though, was when Hugh Lanning (Independent Socialist) was beaten by Chris Morgan in the election for National Treasurer; Hugh commands quite a large personal vote, and it has been four years since an incumbent officer

has been defeated in an election. Pete Ashby was elected Deputy President the way made clear by Alistair Stewart's retirement from student politics.

TORY SPOKESMAN

Trevor Phillips, Jez Lloyd, Penny Cooper and Dave Aaronovitch are the Vice-Presidents. Stephen Moon, the only successful FCS candidate, is going to have a hard job on the Executive; he is not only the "spokesman" for the Tories, but is, in the eyes of many, the custodian of the Conservative Principle. How well the FCS do in the next election will depend to a large extent on his performance.

The full Executive for 1976-7 is Charles Clarke (President), Pete Ashby (Deputy President), Sue Slipman (National Secretary), Chris Morgan (National Treasurer), Trevor Philips (VP Areas), Jex Lloyd (VP Welfare), Penny Cooper (VP Education), Dave Aaronovitch (VP Services), Kay Copp-Brwon, Andy Durgan, Paul Perkins, Paul Blomfield, Harry Dean, Stephen Moon, and Graham Threlfall.

CONFERENCE CONCISELY...

STUDENT PRESS are to be allowed into closed sessions at future conferences.

THE GRANTS CLAIM is now £1140 for all students (£1250 in London), with no means test or discriminatory awards.

NUS TRAVEL is on the road to recovery, with a breakeven expected this year.

EDUCATION requires a new approach and deep analysis.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS are not to be left on their own, but we can't do it all for them.

A CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY has been ruled out by Conference.

EEC AFFAIRS need more publicity in the CO's, as does the whole of International work.

SABBATICAL SALARIES are to be linked to the current grants claim.

FASCISM and RACISM have been denounced and its total opposition has been reaffirmed.

Graduates face dole queue

ONE IN EVERY seven students leaving college this summer will "have no chance of getting jobs before Christmas, and a substantial part of those will stay on the dole queues for far longer", claimed Charles Clarke, NUS President, in his opening address to the conference. School students were, however, in an even worse position.

"In the cuts which we are told are so necessary, the projected number of students in higher education has been cutback to 600,000", he said.

At the same time, the number of school leavers was steadily increasing and this trend would continue into the

1980's, said Mr Clarke.

The Government policies which gave rise to this situation and which represented a concerted economic strategy were not being accepted lying down. The fight to change these policies, and this economic strategy, was one to which the whole of the student movement must be committed, Mr Clarke said, "The question at stake is whether we can change the course of society?"

In order to do this, said Mr Clarke, the NUS "must put forward an alternative economic solution and win to its side the student body. If we do not succeed in that we condemn ourselves to

political impotence."

Continuing his attack on the Government, Mr Clarke accused them of spreading, through conventional political life, cynicism among the membership of the national union. Cynicism had become the political watchword, as the Labour Government had become the government of the Establishment, he said.

It was the duty of the NUS to break down this cynicism and to overcome the rejection of political life that existed among many members of the Union. "All students must recognise that the decisions of government matter to us all", Mr Clarke said.

Bucharest delegation censured

CHARLES CLARKE, Alastair Stewart and Trevor Phillips came in for heavy criticism over their conduct at the 13th European meeting of national unions of students held in Bucharest last December. The conference felt that all three had acted inappropriately by not adequately representing NUS policy on topics discussed at the meeting.

Delegates were also displeased with the signing of the final communique issued at the end of the meeting. It was felt that the delegation had followed to much of a pro-Soviet line during the meeting.



Charles Clarke (top) and Chris Morgan

All three were censured and the report of the meeting which included the offending communique rejected by the conference. Charles Clarke was also censured for not making available, before the conference began, the text of the communique as he had promised at the Universities Policy Conference. The motion of censure on Mr Clarke was moved by Mr Peter Teague, ICU President.

The section of the communique which angered delegates most dealt with women. The communique stresses "that due to continuance of a capitalist order in many European countries, women remained totally oppressed and were denied equal rights in education and many other fields of endeavour."

"Inadequate sex education, contraception and abortion facilities means that much hardship and pain was caused to women in the capitalist countries. Their position as sex objects in society was accentuated by these inadequacies", the communique continued.

The socialist countries, the communique claimed, were way ahead of western European countries in establishing equal rights for women. However, it was noted by some delegates that in Romania, the host country, abortion was illegal.

The conference rubbed salt into the wound by deciding to elect the next delegation from itself despite determined opposition from the Executive.

Eighteen candidates put themselves forward for the three posts that were available. Of these, Mr Peter Ashby, Deputy President elect (Broad Left), Mr Andy Durgin, executive member (International Socialist) and Mr Tony Fekete, Edinburgh University (Conservative) were elected.

The conference further gave vent to its disapproval over the international section of the Union's work by censuring Chris Morgan, Treasurer elect. Mr Morgan, was censured for not doing enough work on the Southern Africa mandate. No direction had been forthcoming from the NUS Executive to COS to campaign on this issue it was said.

What was seen as a Broad Left ploy to limit debate on the international work of the Union was defeated when the conference decided to extend time for the debate well into the time allotted for lunch. This came about when the guest speaker from the Chilean NUS, Mr Alejandro Rojas, was allowed to speak for nearly 45 minutes — well over his allotted time — this taking the morning session right up to lunch.



Pete Ashby

"NO CUTS" DEMAND

IN POSSIBLY the most comprehensive of all policy motions passed at this conference, total opposition to all forms of cuts in Public spending was reaffirmed. The Government's economic policy, which is leading to a reduction in Social Services and Education expenditure, was deplored and criticised throughout the nine page document dealing with "Grants and Cuts".

The case of 16-19 year olds, for whom education in the form of day-release courses had been promised by the Government, was specifically mentioned. Large cut-backs in FE's and Tech's are expected; and policy is now that we should press for compulsory (and fully paid) day-release education for youths who left school at sixteen.

It was felt that on this, as other topics, we should liaise more closely with Trades Unions, in the belief that cuts affect not just students but the whole of the community. Indeed, the same view was expressed concerning the rise in the pupil-teacher ratio. In most, if not all, schools; especially since, at the same time, trained teachers are finding it impossible to get employment as such, and the training colleges themselves are reducing their intake. Conference resolved that the Government must "come to terms with the demand and need for Education."

Whilst no single point in the grants campaign was prioritized (many felt that they should be); the abolition of the means test and the discontinuation of discretionary awards received most

attention. The Anderson Report of 16 years ago called for an end to the means test, but there was still little progress in this area. It was claimed, that this caused hardship to students whose parents cannot, or choose not to, pay their "contribution". It was also stated that the main-rate grant claim has always taken precedence over the other, equally important aspects of the campaign; the Press were criticised for heightening this differential by ignoring the parts not considered newsworthy. All the same, the motion says, "the main rate is abysmal . . . anything less than the main rate is totally unacceptable" — quite clearly a request for a higher grant, of £1140, with no deductions or exceptions.

Conference comments

Jackie Webber: "No conference, you can't suspend the constitution."

Pete Ashley: "The pattern of Tories transferring their votes to Broad Left candidates after the first ballot must be seen as a recognition of the Broad Left's remarkable competence."

Elections Committee: "There were so many spoilt papers, Mr Chairman, that the candidate "Rubbish" nearly won this election." (VP Welfare)

Stewart McIntosh: "Am I correct in my assessment of your parts?" (to delegate requesting a vote to be taken in said manner)

Charles Clarke: "I do intend to be rigid." (on interpretation of standing orders)

Al Stewart: "The ultra-left is to the right of the Broad Left."

Al Stewart: "I have developed a taste for the jugular veins of Trots."

Al Stewart: The SRP are not a political group: they are an insult to all other groups on the floor of conference."

Charles Clarke: "I really must apologise for my voice."

S McIntosh: "Sir, I think you are trying to drill a hole into a piece of wood that nobody has got."

NUS Services report, Easter 1976

NUS Travel-the hardest road back

NUS TRAVEL will break even this year, and is in a good position to recoup its £¼ million deficit over the next four years. This was the message from Mr. Mike Naylor, Managing Director of NUS Travel Services Ltd, at this year's Llandudno Conference.

In a briefing, he explained that the figure of £250,000 was grossly inflated by the way in which the accounting procedure had been altered—the January/December financial year was changed to May/May—to make reports to Conference more accurate and up to date. This itself was loss making, due to inefficiencies, mistakes, and the fact that a large outlay was required to move headquarters from London to Cheltenham Spa.

SATA flight records out by £90,000

But the worst loss, he pointed out, was the discrepancy amounting to some £90,000 between their record of flight bookings and those held by SATA, the international student flight administrators. Since this was brought to light, fortnightly checks have been made, and all the staff handling the TELEX booking equipment have been retrained and tested. This has brought the previous error rate of 3% (costing about £12,000 last year) down to less than 0.6% for January and February of this year.

NUSTS streamlined

In fact, the whole company has been cut back and trimmed until only the essentials remain 40 of the previous 60 flights and train routes have been dropped, leaving just the most popular lines still running, and as a result, a possible further £80,000 loss has been into a breakdown situation for this year. Unfortunately, the cutbacks meant that 8 people were no longer employable; the redundancies caused an angry flare-up at Conference, but, on the whole, it was realised that the choice was of some redundancies or more redundancies and possible bankruptcy.

Fair play

NUSTS has an ever increasing share of the student market, and Mr. Naylor is confident that, given fair play, this summer will realise a profit of over £280,000—which, allowing £200,000 to cover the winter "slump", will make up the on-going deficit of £¼ million within four years if continued.

On the subject of fair play, he pointed out that some foreign students' travel services are operating (quite unethically, in his opinion) within the UK, selling (and getting commission on) some of NUSTS's own flights. He asked all students to notice that these practices were going on and called on all students to boycott these companies. Other competitors (specifically, Transalpino), he said, were "no longer so much cheaper than ourselves". In a recent check, of the Easter brochure, *NUSTS were cheaper on some routes by up to 20%.* This is due to the international cooperation of some European Students' Travel Services in bulk-buying train space, and could bring prices even lower if demand was sufficient.

"Set Off" agreement

Mr. Naylor also explained the "Set Off" agreement with the bank; it does not mean that the bank can confiscate funds of the National Union. What it does mean is that, in the event of any of the NUS Services going bankrupt, and at the same time having an overdraft at the bank, the bank has the right to take the amount of that overdraft from any of the other accounts in credit: this would then be reclaimed from the receiver put in charge of the case. In return, for the purposes of calculating overdraft interest charges, the accounts are simply treated as one, and so the amount paid is considerably less, as most of the accounts are in credit for the period when NUSTS is in overdraft.

NUS Marketing—beer's the latest thing

NUS Marketing, set up in January, is branching out into the field of beer: it has arranged with the Yorkshire brewery Theakston, to supply their beers to Union Bars throughout the country. We were given a chance to sample the wares at the NUS Services Disco, where the Old Peculier (Theakston's Strong Ale) flowed freely: it is indeed a brew worth sampling, and I look forward to the possibility of having it in our Union.

They also have wine, T-shirts, calculators, and a whole store of other lines—all of which are selling well and proving the need for the companies existence.

Endsleigh—6-month policy hit with student

Endsleigh Insurance's new 6-month policy, underwritten by the Federation Mutual Insurance Limited, may not be the cheapest on the market, but the company feels that the ease with which the system operates will in time bring the overheads, and hence the premiums, down to a much lower level. They say that the reduced paperwork involved, the simplicity of the pricing system, and the competitiveness of the scheme are attracting 600 students a week. Last year's loss (the first recorded for many years) does not appear to be repeating this year: the figures so far indicate that there will be a trading profit of some £70,000.

Solidarity with overseas students

A RESOLUTION condemning the attacks on overseas students as racist and "calculated to divide and weaken the whole student body in its opposition to the educational cutbacks" was overwhelmingly carried with only two votes against. These attacks, the resolution said, were "only a precursor to attacks on the entire student body."

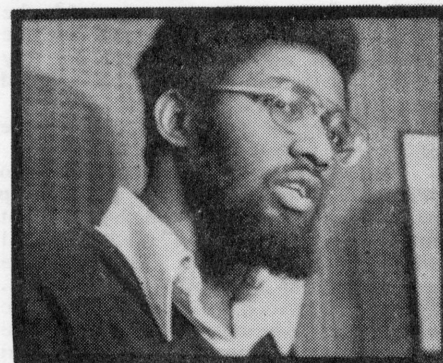
The resolution also rejected the "myths and lies spread about overseas students", in the press. It noted the defeat of the ILEA proposal to cut back the number of overseas students in ILEA colleges by 60% and the agreement signed by LSO (London Student Organisation) and the Inner London Division of NATHE (National Association of Teachers in Higher Education) opposing these and any such proposals.

The resolution itself was moved by Mr A. Tucker, a Turkish student at the City University. By the implementation of imperialist policies overseas,

students had been deprived of the right to education in their own countries, he said. "Without the support of British students, overseas students cannot campaign effectively against the fees increase and victimisation they faced." Overseas students were not the vanguard of the anti-discrimination fight—the fight had to be a "shoulder to shoulder" one with British students, he concluded.

A Trot amendment attacking the NUS executive for not showing any initiative on the issue of overseas students and describing NUS publicity on the plight of overseas students as "offensive and passive" was decisively defeated.

The amendment that brought the conference to the boil, however, was that tabled by TACT, the College of Commerce and Technology in Hull. The TACT speakers were consistently heckled and had considerable difficulty in putting across their case for British first.



Trevor Phillips

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, moving the amendment, said that the high standard of education in this country was a marketable commodity which had been

Continued on page 8

Sabbatical salaries slashed

FULL TIME OFFICERS (FTO's) of the NUS executive are to have their salaries linked to the grant claim. They will now receive a net salary of 52/30ths of what the Union considers is a fair grant. Officers who previously received £3,200 plus £100 for each re-election will now be on about £2,600.

This situation raises the possibility of future conferences voting for small or zero increase in the main rate grant claim if it is decided that FTO's should not receive a big pay increase. However this is rather unlikely; thus in this "index-linked" type situation, the FTO's seem to be guaranteed annual salary increases in future. Previously, FTO's had to negotiate for pay increases and this year had agreed not to receive an increase, in view of the Union's financial situation.

The constitution debate was, however, more concerned with the direct election of the executive by national secret ballot. But once again, direct elections were decisively rejected by the conference. The resolution, which was eventually carried by a two-thirds majority, condemns direct election of the executive as undesirable, expensive, impractical, and liable to lead to bureaucracy and careerism.

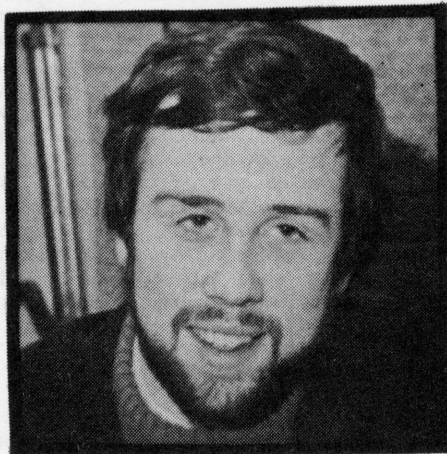
Two major amendments were put to the main motion, one backed by the Conservatives and the other by the ultra left.

Mr. Steve Moon, executive member, in moving the Conservative backed amendment, called for a "coll, long look at the constitution". To do this, the conference should elect a working party of ten by STV to "investigate the feasibility of the direct election of the NUS exec-

utive and report on the alternatives involved."

Mr. Peter Teague, ICU President, supporting the amendment, said that a look at the representative nature of NUS was required. "I hope we won't see Mr. Stewart speaking on this motion and make unrepresentative statements about the undemocratic Electoral Reform Society," he added. He was later to be disappointed in his wish.

Chris Morgan, National Treasurer, opposing the amendment, said that it proposed disunity at a time when a fighting NUS was needed to combat educational cutbacks and an iniquitous grants system. The amendment was heavily defeated by 332810 votes to 110516 with 50874 abstentions - a majority of



Pete Teague

3 to 1.

The second amendment, backed by the ultra left, supported the main resolution in rejecting direct elections. Instead it called for the election by STV of the bottom eleven members of the NUS exec. The amendment was thrown out by a majority of 2 to 1.

An amendment mandating the NUS executive to allow the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge to use the Conference Subsidy Fund was defeated by a substantial majority. During the debate, the Merton College delegate (moving the amendment) described the executive as fascists.

It was resolved to hold composite meetings prior to the two NUS conferences to enable individual colleges to get mandation on the final drafts of motions that appear before these conferences. The NUS holds two conferences a year, one in the autumn and one at Easter.

The conference also decided that, in future, the student press would be admitted into the closed sessions of conference. The amendment which proposed this move instructs the NUS exec "to fully inform the student press of major moves within the campaigning and service activities of the Union."

The NUS is to hold a one-day conference on the question of its structure and communications. In addition, a survey is being mounted to look into the way colleges elect their delegates.

It will now be possible for students to find out who are the candidates standing for NUS executive posts. This follows a recommendation in the main motion that candidates manifestos should be distributed to colleges at least six weeks before conference.

Continued from p.7

Solidarity with overseas students

abused in certain cases. "Overseas students are here by invitation and should accept the decisions of a democratically elected government," Mr Fairbairn said. "It was up to each government to ensure the post school education of its own nationals, he added.

Replying to this, a delegate from Portsmouth Polytechnic said the NUS had a commitment to the aim that education is a right. "Who invited the bloody British imperialists into half the world anyway?", he asked.

At this point the debate became a heated and severe condemnation of fascism with Ms Valerie Coultas leading the attack. She accused the Broad Left of backing down on the question of opposing fascism by any means in the face of the campaign waged by the bourgeoisie press.

The amendment was even more decisively defeated than the first one.

The remaining amendments were also defeated. Mr Trevor Phillips summing up on the main motion said he did not want to see overseas students sold down the drain. "The Government is using overseas students as scapegoats. The only way to fight this is to preserve unity with overseas students. If we lose this fight, then I think we have lost the whole fight against cuts", he warned.

The motion calls for organised action including picketing, lobbying and properly co-ordinated disruptions of meetings discussing the fees and number of overseas students "where this can influence those decisions in favour of overseas students".

Critical look at education system needed

A MOTION calling on the NUS to take a searching and critical look into the education system as a whole was unanimously agreed to by the conference. The motion identified four fundamental issues affecting post school education today viz, the poor level of finance, democracy, content and structure of education.

Central validation of all further and higher education courses and compulsory part-time education for all workers between 16 and 19 are called for. The latter call was embodied in a successful amendment sponsored by the Part Time Students National Committee. It was opposed by IC.

Mr Rick Parker, IC Union Academic Affairs Officer, opposing the amendment said he objected to the word 'compulsory'. The amend, said Mr Parker, was "a rubbishy amendment".

The motion advocates continuous assessment in favour of competitive assessment. The abolition of the latter should be the long term aim of the National Union. Examinations, the resolution declares, "can restrict educational opportunity and can, therefore, be detrimental to the community as well as the participants." Examinations only tested the candidates ability to assimilate information.



Rick Parker

On the question of course content, the motion says "All courses must be the subject of consultation between students, staff and representatives from subsequent fields of work; students should not be provided with 'terminal' courses which become educational 'blind alleys' wasteful in time, effort and resources."

Individual colleges are instructed to form content committees in every department with equal representation of students academic and non-academic staff. In addition, colleges should set departmental staff-student academic boards which would be responsible for, and take all decisions affecting the department.

The motion also commits the NUS to fighting against "the increasing control of education by business and military interests."

Reports by
Paul Ekpenyong
and Duncan Suss.

Pictures by
Duncan Suss
& Phil Dean.

Reviews

Theatre

The Lyttelton Theatre

IF THERE were one event that could prevent me from beginning my review with a paean for Ralph Richardson, Wendy Hiller and Peggy Ashcroft in Ibsen's John Gabriel Borkmann, it could only be the opening of the new National Theatre buildings on the South Bank, east of Waterloo bridge.

It is now 128 years since the wrangling over the setting up of a theatre for the nation began. Among the sites which have, over the years, been earmarked for a National company is that plot opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum now occupied by a well-known car hire company.

The new building is magnificent — almost overwhelmingly so, since it nearly takes over as the focus of attention from the prime target of the play and its performance. I hope that this is only a transient effect, for, although this is one of the very few new theatre buildings to open in Europe in recent years and presents a radical new concept in theatre going to the public, the actors should really be the central attraction.

The National Theatre has always provided concessions to students in the form of cheaper seats for those willing to queue early on the day of the performance, but its new policy of seat booking in the Lyttelton requires that you arrive early at the theatre to stake your claim to a particular numbered seat. Apart from the 100 £1 seats (half to be sold in advance

and half on the day of the performance from 8.30 am) all seats cost £2.35, which pays for admission to the auditorium. A premium of £2 will secure the seat of your choice, the remaining seats are distributed to those with £2.35 tickets, not more than two hours before curtain-up. However there is plenty to do and see if you arrive early.

There are two buffets, a restaurant and several bars, which are all open in the daytime as appropriate. The cramped bookstall of the Old Vic days has become more spacious and there are, at present, two exhibitions of theatrical objects. On most evenings there are events beginning around 6.15. These take the form of readings or concerts in the spacious foyers or in a special room set aside for the purpose.

When the National Theatre project was being tossed around by committees there was a general consensus that one auditorium would not be enough. You cannot have an auditorium versatile enough to hold Shakespeare — ideally on a thrust stage — and more modern plays written for the proscenium arch. So this building holds three stages. Only the Lyttelton (proscenium) is open so far — one of Peter Hall's great successes in that, in his own words, "He got his foot in the door" — the Olivier (thrust) is hopefully to open early in July, with the Cottesloe (a small studio) coming later. The Grand Official Opening by the Queen comes later still; but for the time

being the building is at last living.

The architect, Denys Lasdun, has done the nation proud, using shuttered concrete to enforce a strong vertical line inside the foyers, with numerous levels and balconies, from which to observe the arriving audiences and the special events. Perhaps he has failed in respect that the Thames is almost invisible from within the building for, although the windows are there in profusion, multi-level terracing, which will clearly be well occupied on warm summer evenings, obscures any views across to Somerset House.

The Lyttelton seems to justify the new ticket scheme since all the seats appear to have an equal advantage. There is no feeling, at the back of the stalls, of being tucked in under the circle, and there are a few long rows instead of the usual tunnel in which the stage seems a million miles from the back rows. In fact the Lyttelton seats twelve more than the Old Vic, in a great deal more intimacy.

John Gabriel Borkmann is one of six plays transferred to Lyttelton for an introductory season. I didn't see it at the Old Vic but the larger Lyttelton stage seems to make more of the claustrophobic interiors with large dark voids on either side. Sir Ralph and Daine Wendy, with their idiosyncratic fidgeting in particular filled the theatre with their distress. A splendid performance in a splendid new theatre.

Thomas Stevenson

Music

David Bowie — Station to Station (RCA)

Excellent

THAT MAN Bowie does it again. Not content with exercising his superstar talents in the film genre, he has augmented his already excellent catalogue of albums with yet another vinyl masterpiece.

He departs from his usual musical trend and produces music that is not easily categorised. However, this does not in anyway detract from it. On the contrary, categorising is made difficult by the individuality expressed in the music.

The album features the hit single "Golden Years" — a far superior version of which is on the album. In fact, there isn't a single dud track on the whole album but one must single out "Word on Wing" and "Stay" as absolute Bowie classics of the future.

The former combines the remarkable voice of Bowie, the neat and tight drumming of Dennis Davis and the piano playing of Roy Bittan to excellent effect. The latter is surely one of the best pieces of contemporary funky-rock music I have heard for some time.

I have always been somewhat reserved as regards Bowie's music, but without hesitation, I can heartily recommend this album to you.

Harry Nilsson — Sandman (RCA)

AN ENIGMA OF MEDIOCRITY

This album is a complete enigma as far as I am concerned. It is neither of anything and when the first line of the lyrics to the first track on side one is "Deep down in my soul I hate rock and roll" then a feeling of utter contempt begins to creep in for the whole album.

As my dear friend Lorna pointed out, "It doesn't have 'Without You' on it" and I would agree with her in so far as there is no tune on this vinyl which is of the calibre of that song.

The only remotely decent song on the whole album is "Pretty soon there'll be nothing left for everybody". The way things are going at the moment I'd agree.

I must, however, not finish without mentioning "The Flying Saucer Song". A really amusing song about two drunks having a conversation in a bar — the sort of conversation that every drunk dreams of having. It is beautifully put to music with a great deal of effect. I can imagine people buying the album just for this song. A word of warning, however; beware of ending up as crab dinner the same way Nilsson seems to have done!

Paul Ekpenyong

Cinema

The Slipper And The Rose by Bryan

Forbes: starring Richard Chamberlain, Gemma Craven, Anette Crosbie etc.

THERE ARE only two things wrong with this film in my view and these are that it is produced by David Frost and the songs are written by the Sherman brothers. However, once I'd got over these two unsavoury facts, the film became, for me a thoroughly entertaining one.

It overflows with the British stars, some of whom go in for this type of film and some who don't. Richard Chamberlain manages to hide his discomfort and struggle through, but the honours must go to Annette Crosbie as the Fairy Godmother.

She plays the typically charming but resigned mother always coming to the rescue with a sigh. This together with her insistence to look ordinary is in marked contrast to one's idea of a Fairy godmother.

Kenneth Moore as the Chamberlain and Julian Orchard as Montague, the Prince's cousin, are definitely the biggest pair of jokers in the film except possibly for the Dowager Queen (Edith Evans) whose interjections are a humorous treat.

The film is overplayed in parts as in the scene in the King's Court but otherwise moves at a fairly brisk pace with romance and disaster coming through tit for tat.

DRAMA IN

The 21st National Student Drama Festival

FRIDAY – THE FLYING SCOTSMAN does the 375 miles to Edinburgh in just over five hours – amazing. As we cross the border the hills are suddenly covered with snow. At Waverley station the temperature is 1° C compared with the balmy 14° C of Kings Cross. Although no more snow falls, the slush is slow to clear from the pavements.

The usual chaos at the Festival Centre; "Are you from the BBC? We've changed your accommodation. How much money do you owe us?"

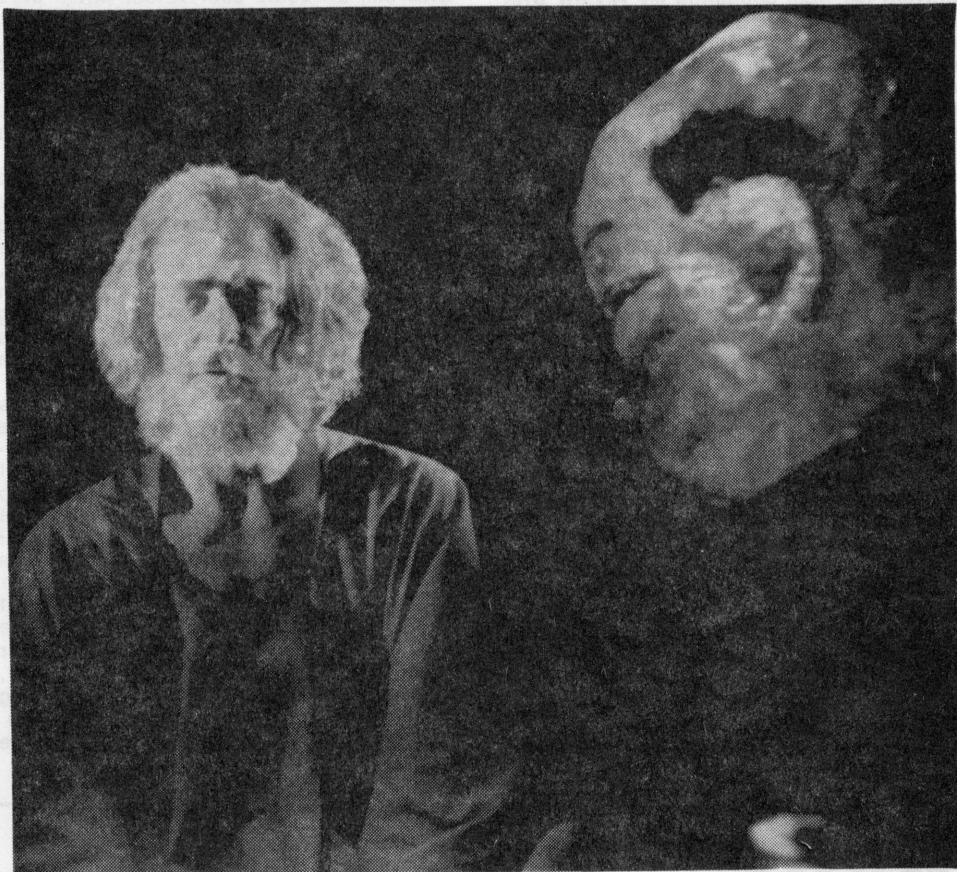
Charles Marowitz's *Palach* opens the proceedings. We all sit within a circle, whilst the action takes place around us on four raised platforms, often simultaneously. The message is in the form, that whatever personal sacrifices a man may make to express a want for freedom, society is so confused by the continuous bombast from the media that his single small voice is lost in a sea of advertising slogans. Do you remember Jan Palach's self-immolation in Wenceslas Square, Prague, in 1968? To some extent it is the conditioning that we receive from newspapers and television to the news that they present that dulls the sharp edges of our memory.

SATURDAY – After last night's Marowitz play, the man himself. He seems to set himself up as the establishment figure of experimental theatre, attacking everything in sight. "What a spectacular lack of imagination the National Theatre has. Why is so much theatre centralised in London? How much the Arts Council Drama Panel is in a state of jobs for the boys and doling out enormous sums of money to large charismatic organisations like the RSC and NT." At last the students get their teeth into him: "Why is your Open Space Theatre in central London, Mr Marowitz?" "Because I need the criticism and the atmosphere that being in London gives me!"

A ten minute walk down the Royal Mile brings us to the cosy Netherbow Theatre, where the Central School of Art and Design have got together what I can only describe as a piece of performed design. Twelve students have each visited a different town in England and distilled his or her impressions of it into a five minute performance. What are our reactions supposed to be? Should we end up by having some idea of what distinguishes one town from another. Swindon is depicted with foam rubber railway tracks and usherettes come round the auditorium dispensing tea. At Grimsby they are painting a Russian ship and maintaining the street lamps.

SUNDAY – A talk from JW Lambert, Literary and Arts editor of the Sunday Times, by whose grace the festival has been brought to the age of majority, and continues to survive. He gives us a good look at the role of the critic in the theatre and the method by which he works.

One of the aims of the Festival is to bring the work of student playwrights to the forefront. Frank Oates is a 45 year



Detail from a scene in "GAS" by Georg Kaiser performed by Leeds University.

old Open University student. He is also a prisoner in Wakefield gaol and has used his experiences, however remote, to write a play set in a South African prison. Apart from the prisoner under sentence of death it is apallingly acted. An acrimonious discussion ensues between those who are enchanted and those who are amazed that such work has been selected for the Festival. The selectors patiently explain for the umpteenth time that, of course they are fallible, but you should have seen the amount of rubbish they had to sit through.

We all spill into the Royal Lyceum for a professional performance – *Yobbo Nowt* by John McGrath – by the 7.84 Theatre Company (England). Their name comes from the reported fact that 7% of the population own 84% of the wealth. Their work is designed for the 93.16 majority; they set out to use the theatre to educate the working man politically with a great deal of fun thrown in. It is difficult to judge how it would go down with its intended audience but the students certainly enjoy the vitality which has been missing from the Festival so far.

MONDAY – The Strathclyde Theatre Group has come across from Glasgow with four productions; three of which we see this afternoon. Of particular interest is *Not I*, a monologue for a

disembodied mouth by Samuel Beckett. It is a curiously compelling performance of a rarely seen work, though much is in the writing.

Coup d'Etat, from Keele, is another student written production. An urban guerilla comes to dinner in order to commit suicide under the noses of his media-orientated hosts. Gordon Honeycombe complains that the revolutionary's black polo-neck uniform is exactly what he himself is wearing. There is a fascinating study of the cultivated city gent putting forward his right wing views and getting slowly drunk. Minor details in the production worry me; why are they drinking vintage claret with bouillabaisse and without decanting it? Especially as the city gent is teased for his knowledge of fine food and wine!

The Scots have a curious custom of closing the bars at 10pm, effectively reducing the social life of the festival.

TUESDAY – A fascinating day's work with Mike Leigh, a director who uses improvisation to create drama. His talk in the morning serves only to whet the appetite for the afternoon's practical session. What we can learn in an afternoon is severely limited (he generally takes eight weeks to produce a play) but, in small groups, we create characters based on people we already know and put them into situations where we hope themes will develop and a story will build up.

NSDF EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH

Leonardo's Last Supper is a Rabalaisian romp in the charnel house at Amboise, where Leonardo da Vinci's body has been brought. The glee of the owner's family over the fame their work will bring them soon turns to despair when it turns out that the master is not dead after all, however they quickly restore the status quo. The actors put a lot of spirit into the production and carry the audience with them on a sea of enthusiasm.

Many students, it seems, cannot survive more than ten minutes without a cigarette. The audience is distracted by the flare of matches and the unpleasant atmosphere created in a situation where the non-smokers are stuck in their seats.

WEDNESDAY — The inhabitants of Edinburgh seem to possess a strong fear of crossing roads, perhaps motivated by the apparent disorder in the traffic flow. Cars and lorries come at me from all directions.

A new play from St. Andrews — Jacek Laskowski's *Galatea* — or as the Scotsman apparently misprinted it *Gala Tea!* The widow receives a visit from her brother-in-law and goes into a neurotic monologue which is as much a trial for the audience as it must be for the actress. The play leaves a lot of confusion in its wake. I am worried that the same record is played twice in the play and once it contains guitar music, the second time the Brahms violin concerto; it is these apparently insignificant details that distract the audience from absorbing the whole. In the formal discussion after the play various conventions have to be explained by the author/director/leading man; it leaves me wondering what he will do when there is no formal discussion after his plays.

THURSDAY — Martin Esslin, head of BBC radio and chairman of the Arts Council Drama Panel talks on today's theatre. The British Theatre has a great lead over theatre in other countries because of the basis of tradition and the clash between the subsidised and commercial sectors. There is a discussion of the political power of theatre in Europe. It is theatre, more than any other medium, which can provide images and make points that will be remembered for a long time.

To the Traverse Theatre to see a new play by Robert Pugh with his group from Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama. *The Key* is a remarkable play with a tremendous force. Three Irishmen dig up their hanged brother to recover a key. The programme says that the play takes place in County Clare, but the appearance of English soldiers sets up an uncontrollable resonance and confusion in my mind. In the final scene the brothers perch the corpse on a chair behind the altar. After the soldiers have taken away the ringleader, the idiot brother, who has hidden under the altar to escape detection, rises from his place of concealment as the priest mutters his prayers. What a tremendous theatrical moment when the priest turns to see the corpse apparently come to life!

FRIDAY — An end of term spirit prevails. We discuss the next festival and there is what turns out to be a prize giving ceremony, with mysterious envelopes handed to the winners.

What has the Festival achieved? As a showcase for the display of student written and student-performed theatre it has worked. There has been ample time for discussion and professional opinions have been freely available. At times the discussions have been in severe danger of drowning in a sea of intellectual argument. What it all boils down to is what goes on on the stage and each member of the audience's response to that experience.

A series of familiar names have appeared and talked and discussed the theatre but everyone has been very polite to each other. There has certainly been too much talk of theatre as an intellectual exercise and not enough on the practice of theatre.

My regrets are twofold; Firstly that I missed Leeds University's much acclaimed performance of *Gas*, a German expressionist piece of around 1920; and secondly that I had to return to London without seeing John Hurt, the well-known actor, who was scheduled to talk on Saturday.

One of the inherent factors of a crowded festival programme is that items are met or missed suddenly and without preparation. Literally at the last minute I decided to run across to the other side of Edinburgh for a final chance to see a piece of German Expressionistic drama from the 1920s—Georg Kaiser's 'Gas'. This bit of 'impulse buying' turned up a rare and fascinating purchase. German Expressionism is never seen on modern stages because of its scale, its unrelenting verbal attack and sheer lack of objective insight into character, but Leeds University should be congratulated for

taking these challenging problems and giving as authentic a production as possible.

The play, in its time, was a prophecy of the doom which would result when a world was destroyed by the exploding of its entire energy resources — the gas of the title. It is a prophecy which rings true. The first hour of the play deals with the aftermath of the explosion and the confrontation of the two central characters, the millionaire's son and the engineer — the former owns all the industry and determines that he will not rebuild it but replace it with a garden city (a modern-day conservationist and environmentalist) while the engineer argues that we must put up with occasional from future gas explosions in order to continue the technological advance of civilisation. (Surely a vitally relevant question for a college such as ours.)

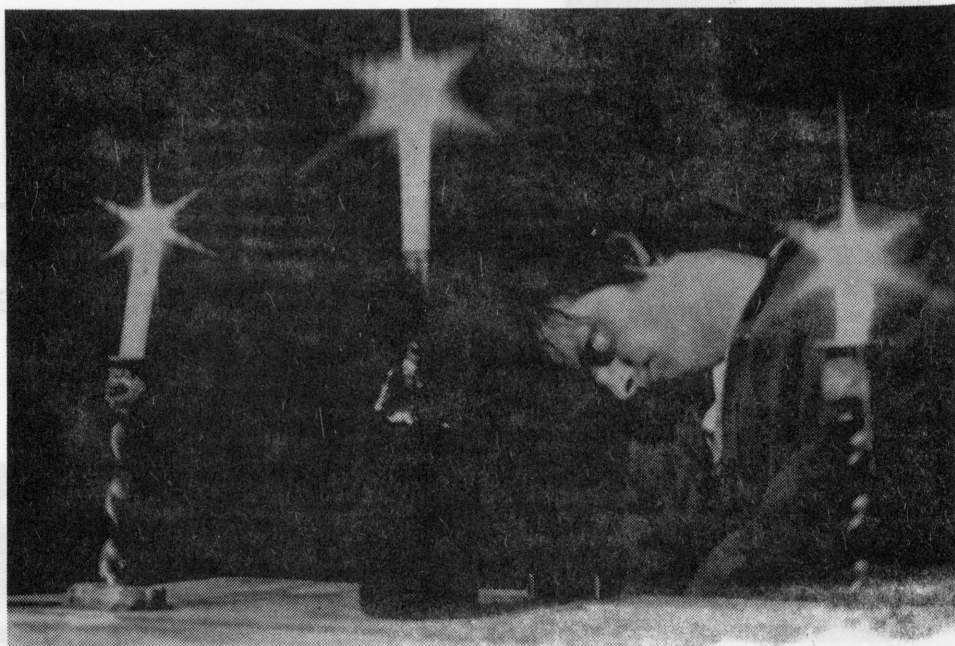
For the second half of the play, we were led out of the small TRAVERSE Theatre, along the drunks' quarter of Edinburgh, at about 10 pm, past decaying tenement blocks and under Piranesian archways to a nearby hall where the Workers' Riot, led by the engineer, was acted out, while the audience was forced to stand for another hour.

The combined effect of aural and visual assault from words; white noise; strobe lights; harsh, evocative, futuristic sets and costumes, not to mention the late night walk, all summed to produce an overpowering effect and a theatrical experience I shall remember for a long time.

Reports by Thomas Stevenson
and Eric Stovell.

Pictures courtesy of
'The Sunday Times'.

Below, a scene from "The Key" performed by Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama.





FOUNDED IN 1949

Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

SPORT
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page



No. 417

Friday April last, 1976.

FREE!

IT'S A SELL OUT!

FELIX Dinner sell out scandal

A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT from Mr. Paul Ekpenyong, Editor of FELIX, at the Editorial Board Meeting last Monday, revealed that the FELIX Annual Dinner, planned for the 17th May, has been sold out even before the printing of the tickets.

FREE REAL ALE

"This success is not surprising," he commented, "when you consider that the price is just £4.50 for a single ticket and £8.00 for a double. And there is free real ale, a barrellfull, for afterwards."

FREE SALT

Members of the Board are taking the announcement with a pinch of salt - as they recommend all readers to - since no returns from ticket sales have yet appeared in the accounts. Neither has Mr. Ekpenyong's standard of living risen so drastically as one would expect of a person who has just come into money. Although he was seen buying himself a drink in the Union Bar just last weekend.

FREE GEORGE DAVIS

"We confidently expect that tickets will be available from this Monday," said Mr. Duncan Suss, Business Manager of FELIX. "This statement from Mr. Ekpenyong is totally without foundation. None of the Board have even seen these tickets yet, let alone sold any, and we are sure that he hasn't. We feel that he said it merely to create the possibility of a spoof article like this in order to advertise the Dinner. Which, by the way, is very good value indeed and promises to be a great do."

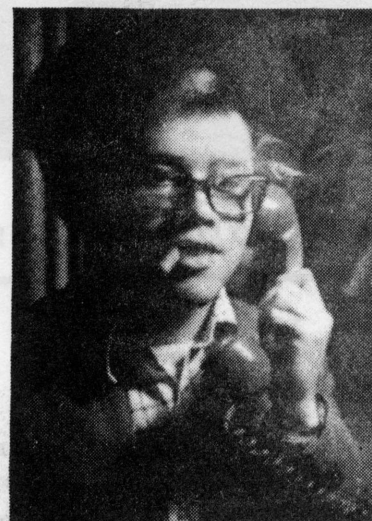
RAQUEL WELCH

Any person who does bring her will receive the grateful thanks of all the FELIX staff, and a vote will be taken as to whether or not that person should be admitted free of charge. (She certainly would be.)

THE POSTERS which caused a lot of problems (right) were removed this week, and will be replaced by our "new improved" version. Watch out for it, folks!

MORE
INSIDE!

Right; Mr Paul Ekpenyong



A word of explanation.....

TO THOSE of you who have already noticed something different about this week's front page, this note of explanation is offered. (And to those who haven't - read on!)

First of all, we needed to advertise the FELIX ANNUAL DINNER (get your tickets here, folks). Anyone who still doesn't want to come was either crippled in the rush to grab FELIX off the newstands or belongs to a class of people best unmentioned.

The second reason could be described as temporal. (It could also be described as sheer bloody cussedness - Ed.) It fell about this year that we were deprived of our one legitimate opportunity to pull a real fast one over our readership.

APRIL the FIRST LANDED SLAP in the MIDDLE of HOLIDAYS So this issue, being dated the 30th of April, or April the Last, has taken over the role that the non-existent April Fool edition would have had.

TO ALL OF YOU WHO FELL FOR IT-

!!! LOOF LIRPA



Felix

ANNUAL DINNER MONDAY

17th MAY 1976

Tickets available from the FELIX Office