

FELIX

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION No. 273 20th FEBRUARY, 1969 6d.

IC changes attitude to LSE students

Following the Emergency Guilds meeting (reported in the last Felix) disapproving of the actions of a "militant minority" of LSE students, the next week was dominated by a reaction against the Guilds vote. On this page is reported the motion proposed at last Thursday week's ICU meeting in support of the student position. On the back page a similar motion at RCSU. On page 4 prolific correspondence on the issue.

The Extraordinary Meeting of ICU was greeted not only by a superquorum but also by one or two non-ICU members, presumably there to hear the inevitable motion on LSE.

Firstly, however, there was George Assimakis' motion proposing a referendum to find the opinions of students on several possible changes to the constitution, including changes of status of the constituent college unions and ICWA, and whether or not IC should join the NUS.

In his proposal speech he stressed that a rejection of college unions and ICWA as a result of the referendum would not automatically lead to their abolition; possibly only a reduction in their powers. It would take a long time and a lot of work to change the constitution, he claimed, so it would be best to make sure that any changes would be as a result of a referendum, and thus the wish of the student body. The motion was amended to include a meeting to discuss the subject before the referendum would be held.

Dermott Corr's basis for argument as opposer of the motion was that the working party set up to discuss constitutional change had not yet progressed far enough to make a referendum at the present time anything more than a waste of time, energy and money, and the seconder of the motion said little except that the Union could be no worse, so any change

would be for the better. John Perrins referred to the "yes-no" nature of the answers required by the referendum as being far too restricting for questions which could result in fundamental changes to the constitution; apart from this he thought that the mass of IC students were too ill-informed for the results of the referendum to be meaningful. The President intervened to tell the meeting that the arguments brought up by the proposers of changes would be printed in FELIX, which reached the majority of IC students. (In fact, a duplicated sheet should be found inside.)

The motion was finally carried by 181-144, and the dates of the discussion meeting and the referendum settled for Feb. 20th and 24th respectively. George Assimakis, Chris Parker, Chris Kent, David Foster, and John Perrins were appointed as members of the working party for the referendum.

L.S.E.

The second motion was proposed by Piers Corbyn, and was that ICU believes that the problems of LSE should be resolved by the students of LSE alone, and that the school should only be re-opened under the conditions decided upon at the last meeting of 1500 students. Despite an unsuccessful attempt to move next business by Mr. Olley and Mr. Mackman, Mr. Corbyn made an informative speech about the school, putting the blame for its troubles on Dr. Adams and his action in putting up gates without any consultation with staff or any warning to students, also in

his supposed victimisation of staff sympathetic with students. He cited two examples of staff at LSE acting as informers to the police, and accused Dr. Adams of believing in double punishment.

C. C. Parker began by speaking against the motion but later proposed an amendment to the motion, that the resolution to the problems of LSE should be based on tolerance. Tolerance did not mean apathy, he said, and spoke of "agitating groups" in LSE, reading some of their literature to the meeting. Mr. Corbyn questioned the constitutional right of Mr. Parker to attempt to change the motion in such a drastic way in the middle of an opposition speech, but Rex Lewin decided it was permissible, and called for a vote as to whether the amendment could be accepted. After Jeff Steer had caused utter confusion by accidentally phrasing the motion in two contradictory ways, and the result of the vote misread, the amendment was defeated.

The seconder of the motion pointed out that the students at LSE were back to the same position as they were in the days of Adelstein and Bloom, although he agreed that the students had taken direct action against the gates in the wrong way. A move to a vote was carried, but 20 people present decided they wanted a ballot vote, which met with disapproval from the majority, but the standing orders upheld their right to do this. The problem was neatly sidestepped by suspending the standing orders whilst a vote was held. The motion was carried 190-159, and the orders reinstated.

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D.E.S. grants reply

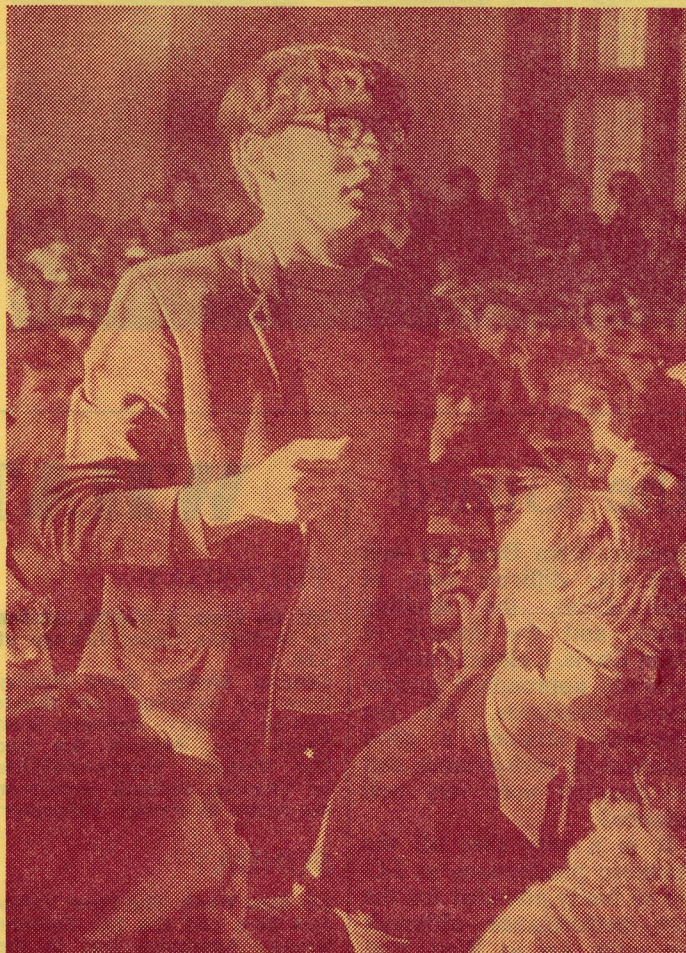
A letter (from the Department of Education and Science) was received last week by the External Affairs Officer, Dave Wield, replying to the petition on grants sent to Mr. Short from IC (for details—see Page 3).

The letter reads, "The Secretary of State has noted the terms of the motion passed at a recent meeting of your College Union. While he is sorry that it was not possible to give full effect to the recommendations made by the Advisory Panel on Student Maintenance Grants, it was unavoidable in the present economic circumstances. At a time when reductions have had to be

made over a wide range of educational and social expenditure it was not possible to justify the treatment of students as a special case.

"Despite this decision there has been no falling off in the quest for university places. The student grant system in this country remains a generous one compared with the systems adopted in other countries and we believe it unlikely that students will or have suffered any serious hardship solely as a consequence of the decision."

The London Regional Organization of NUS are taking action on grants as well as IC, and the timing of the petition happily coincided with the start of their grants campaign.



Les Ebdon making a point at the I.C.U. meeting.

Philip for R.C.S. dinner

This year the Guest of Honour at the Annual Royal College of Science Dinner will be H.R.H., the Duke of Edinburgh. The Dinner is to be held in Southside on 14th May.

A top-class Mooney is guaranteed and with the Union subsidy the Dinner will cost 30/- per person. Out of 300 places, 100 are allocated to guests and the reception committee and the remaining 200 will be for sale. Tickets are by application form only, either from the RCS Broadsheet or from forms to be distributed throughout the Union. However it is rumoured that the Dinner is already oversubscribed and people applying for tickets now would be very lucky to get one.

Challenge

Les Ebdon stood to propose the motion that ICU refuses to accept "double punishment" for students under any circumstances, and mandates Council to open negotiations with the Rector and bring the matter before the Board of Governors before the end of term. Before Ebdon could speak, the traditional challenge to the quorum was made—the time being 2.30 — but astoundingly the number of people still present was 304. Rob Collinge opposed the motion on the practical grounds that the Board of Governors did not meet before the end of Term. Ebdon then amended the motion to overcome this objection — for "Term," read "session" — and after his summing-up speech in which he disassociated himself from the militant opinions of his seconder, the motion was carried on a show of hands.

Culture at Guilds

The Guild's Union meeting on Tuesday 11th Feb. concerned itself almost totally with its Festival of Music and Culture. Chem. Eng.1 won it with a skit containing a budding young female impersonator.

In the aftermath of their controversial motion passed

a week or so before, Guilds seem the least concerned of all about it. No mention of it was made, except, perhaps, for a few cries for P. Marshall himself to perform something. As he was one of the judges of the Festival, his refusal to do so can only be deemed obvious.

BONZO DOG BAND

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aid of Carnival



Photo Pat Rotheram

Dr. Michael Ramsay, Archbishop of Canterbury, visited the college in the first week of February for the Anglican Chaplaincy Teaching Week.



Photo John Langley

Communion

in

Mech.Eng.

Foyer

THEY TELL ME

by Les Ebdon

So much has happened since this column was last written that one is hesitant to write anything unless it is overtaken by events. The reverberations from LSE have caused changes in attitudes in IC not far short of revolutionary.

The first Union reaction, from Guilds, to the LSE dispute was predictable, especially with memories of the distasteful events at ULU still fresh. The press, clutching at straws to prove Ted Short's "agitator theory", reported the affair in lurid detail. Corr and Marshall must have come close to adding a TV appearance to their other glamour prizes. Within a week of this meeting RCSU and ICU passed radically different motions. Why?

Probably the attempts to present the Guilds' decision traditionally a "sporty Union", as a sign of support for the Adams-Short hard-line attitude brought some reaction. The idea that all the trouble at LSE is caused by thirteen "academic thugs" is a far from satisfactory answer to the complex student problems there. As rumours of the manner in which the Guilds' meeting was called spread, and details of its conduct discussed, further reaction was engendered. One Guildsman told me: "I only heard about the meeting on the morning and I was told the motion affected student grants, but our year rep did not know the wording." Opposition speeches were apparently drowned in jeers.

Further stimulation to the radicalization of IC students was given by the vote of the LSE students, at Friends House on 3rd of February. The by now famous "no victimization, no gates, no police" motion finally killed the "agitator theory".

It was these events, plus a new spirit amongst first and second year undergraduates, and increased activity by overseas students, that provided the majorities for the more militantly worded motions of support for the LSE students at both the RCSU and ICU meetings.

There were some attempts by the old guard right-wing to quench this grass-roots fire. Chem. PG. rep., Rodney Hobbs, Weeks hall's stirring barman, brought a large contingent of Chemistry P.G.s to RCSU, but the establishment relied on the old curse of iniquity to prevent ICU passing any pro-LSE motions. So great has the swing of opinion been that even old-guard left-wingers have been amazed and outpaced by popular opinion.

It now seems certain that the ordinary member of ICU is reaching out for some kind of power—let us hope we can all use it responsibly.

After the last issue of *Felix* I received an anonymous letter containing certain interesting "information" I do not use anonymous letters but if "IC theatre-lover" would come forward perhaps I can use what he tells me. Naturally I would treat his identity as absolutely confidential.

At Imperial College London SW7 (01-589 2963), will be found: Editor Paul Heath, Assistant Editor Mary Ford, News Chris Slee, Features Malcolm Williamson, Sport Bob Pine, *Felicity* John Probst, *Business* Tony Kirkham, Advertising Pete Chapman Phil Rainey, *Circulation* Dave Chant, *Photographics* John Rogers John Langley Robin Gostick. What's on Andrew Holman Other Invaluable Contributors Les Ebdon Piers Corbyn Ian Quarrinton Frances Campbell Geoff Craig Ian Carr Pat Rotheram Dud Miles Dick Hale Neil Thorpe Caroline Patsy All our superb sales girls and Rex Lowin.
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Yeoman of the Guard

"The Yeomen of the Guard" by Gilbert and Sullivan, this year's production by the I.C. Operatic Society, was colourful and surprisingly good, considering the size of the stage. The thud of the axe into the block in the execution scene was obviously designed to delight the hearts of ardent G. & S. fans. The chorus work was in general sound, though the blend of singers and orchestra was not always what it might have been.

Undoubtedly, the star of the show from the acting point of view was Richard Hull whose brilliant portrayal of the Head Jailor and Assistant Tormentor brought welcome interludes of

humour. John Bass did well with the difficult part of Jack Point, the strolling Jester, and the singing of Colin Davis, Colonel Fairfax, certainly approached professional standards. All the principals attained a good standard of performance and the quartets were very well balanced.

It is a pity that all the dramatic productions at I.C. are so badly attended for the first performance—although not quite up to West End standards the productions are worthy of more support. The show was very well received by the audience and there were numerous curtain calls.

John Schofield

WHAT'S ON

THURSDAY

I.C. Go Club. A playing session in Southside Upper Lounge at 8.00 p.m.
General Studies. Does History have any meaning? Are things getting better? Answers from Frank Lea. Modern Art and Old Masters: Things—Still-life by Chadrin. Seventh lecture in the series by Patrick Carpenter.

SUNDAY

I.C. Jazz Week. The Fleet Valley Jazz Men and the I.C. Splinter Group: Admission free in the Union Lower Lounge.

MONDAY

I.C. Jazz Week. Jazz, Poetry and Modern Jazz free in the Union Lower Lounge.
Socsoc. 'Underdeveloped Countries'. A Trotskyist discusses the third world.
Wellsoc. Parkinson's Law in the Universities — A lecture by C. Northcote Parkinson.
I.C. Sailing Club. 'Atlantic Adventure' a film at 7.15 p.m. in Mines 153—Admission 1/-.

TUESDAY

I.C. Jazz Week. John Surman-Mike Osborne Quartet. Union Upper Refectory. Admission 4/- (3/- members).
POLCOUN. 'African Revolution?' Africa in the next decade with speakers from several African Embassies.
General Studies. The Ethics of Modern Surgery with S. F. Russell, FRCS. Growth and long-run economic development with T. C. Evans.
I.C. Go Club. Playing session S. Side Upper Lounge at 8.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Dramsoc. One Act Play Festival in place of U.L.U. Festival. Plays from I.C., Goldsmiths College, and C.E.M. in the Union Concert Hall, at 8.00 p.m.
I.C. Jazz Week. Party—Two Blues groups—Union Upper Refectory.

THURSDAY

I.C. Jazz Week. 'Jazz on a Summer's Day'—a film and cartoons in the Union Concert Hall, at 8.00 p.m.
General Studies. Insurance Companies are Rogues with Derek Cummings, an Insurance and Mortgage Broker. Modern Art and Old Masters: Things—Objects made by Claes Oldenburg. The last in the series by Patrick Carpenter.

TOUCHSTONE WEEKEND

An examination of the idea of Progress by Dr. E. R. Leach, the Provost of King's College, Cambridge. Applications to the Touchstone Secretary, 178 Queens Gate, at the cost of 15/-.

MONDAY

I.C. Christian Union. Missionary Meeting with Michael Tarrant in Mech. Eng. 542, at 1.15 p.m. (Sandwiches available).
Wellsoc. Cosmic Black Body Radiation. A lecture by Dr. D. W. Sciama from Cambridge University.

TUESDAY

Consoc. Talk by Commander Brotherton P.P.C. for Deptford. Union Upper Lounge at 6.00 p.m.
Commsoc. Theoretical Marxist Economics—Speaker from 'Militant' at 6.30 p.m. in Mech. Eng. 703.
General Studies. The Methodology of Design with Dr. L. B. Archer from the R.C.A. Jazz—lecture by Peter Clayton.

Smalls

DRAMSOC requires Dog resident locally. Evenings 10-14 March. Int. 2854 or Union Rack.

IC RSSF Student Staff Group meets weekly. Box Q.

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STUDENT HOUSES

About a month ago the second Student House was opened, bringing the number of students accommodated to 180. After their initial teething troubles, and the rumours that have been circulating, it's time for some facts to be provided.

The idea of buying up existing houses to provide accommodation started some years ago, with the old Selkirk Hall which was at 50, Holland Park. This was followed by the building of Southside and Weeks, after which the old Selkirk Hall was sold. However, as the money for providing accommodation in Halls of Residence dwindled, interest in houses was re-aroused. The original feasibility study was done by Council and was based on information gathered from Hull University, which has a system of Student Houses. Although the capital outlay was higher in London than in Hull a significant saving was evident in respect to building Halls of Residence. The ideas were put into practice in 1967/68 and some houses were acquired at Evelyn Gardens, S.W.7. The finance for conversion of the first eight houses into two Student Houses was obtained, the first being opened in October 1968 and the second in January 1969; by October 1969 it is hoped to have a further three Houses, taking 360 students in all.

In contrast to the Halls of Residence, the Houses have to be self-supporting and cannot rely as heavily on College services, or the income from Conferences to subsidise costs. However, by reducing the amount of cleaning provided it has been possible to keep rents low in comparison with similar accommodation. Students are able to rent either single, double or treble rooms, the rents being £3, £2 10s., and £2 and can apply for the multiple rooms as a group. Each student is provided with a chest of drawers, bureau, and shelves in a Ladderax unit, a coffee table, a wardrobe, a bed, a working chair and an armchair. Residents are provided with linen and bedding which they have to launder themselves. In each House there are also communal kitchens with cookers and refrigerators, a small lounge with easy chairs and a television, and also a laundry with an automatic washing machine, drying and ironing facilities.

Although the Student Houses cannot provide all the facilities which the Halls provide, they are distinctly cheaper, better and nearer than any other place in which students may live. Moreover besides their financial advantage, they have less obvious advantages such as no rents to pay over vacations or the soul destroying

GRANTS PETITION

The grants petition which was distributed to undergraduates by year reps last term has finally been sent to the Secretary of State for Education and Science Mr. Edward Short. Just over 1,200 students' signatures were collected.

ically viable in the highly competitive technological world of today".

The National Union of Students conference in November passed a motion instructing their executive to run a grants campaign during this Spring to put pressure on the Government mainly to increase grants by £25 but also to change grants system for Dip. Ed. and some B.Ed. students.

The conference also urged that postgraduate awards be negotiated in the same way as undergraduate awards and that NUS be permitted to submit evidence in the matter. The same motion had a clause strongly urging that a London differential for P.G. awards be instituted immediately.

Petition

The petition "deplored the decision to award only £25 out of the £50 increase estimated as necessary to maintain the students standard of living" and ended "We believe that if the Government continues to adopt such policies the present shortage of graduates in science and technology will become more acute and the Government may be held responsible for Britain failing to become more econom-

Meeting

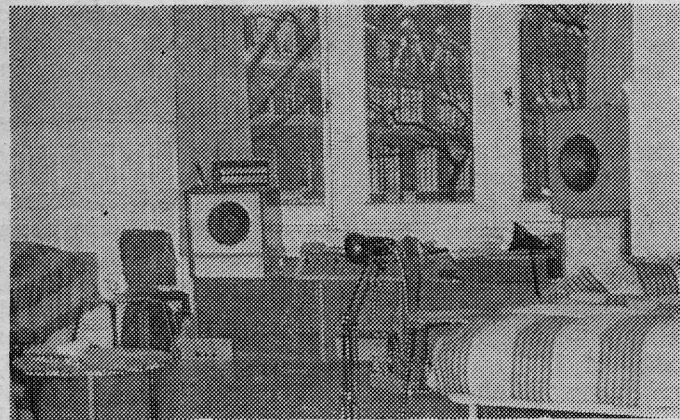
I.C. observes at the grants sub-committee meeting of the London Regional Organisation of NUS. At the moment L.R.O. is only co-ordinating grants campaign activity and is not initiating any action of its own except for a meeting on grants tentatively on March 19th with Shirley Williams as main speaker for the Government.

See back page for reply to petition.

Spike Bantin

search for a room at the beginning of each term. Also being behind South Kensington they are out of the parking meter zone and yet within easy walking distance of college.

So the Student Houses are a real alternative to the Halls of Residence; and remember, one of the next three Houses will be one third WOMEN!!!



RECORD REVIEWS

by Phemius

Rhinoceros EKS 74030

Following their first single release a few weeks ago, here is Rhinoceros' album. 'Rhinoceros' comprises seven top musicians from American groups, who recorded this L.P. last year.

The origins of the group are evident in the exactness and skill with which the numbers are performed; the songs are mostly penned by group members. They do seem to be biased towards

live performance however, and most of the songs are of the powerful, uncomplex type which are not particularly well suited for the translation to record.

I liked a number of the tracks, notably 'Belbuekus', 'Along comes tomorrow', and the two tracks which are on their single. Perhaps here is a clue: I've come to like the single tracks after some four weeks of hearing them — maybe the whole

album simply requires a great deal of exposure.

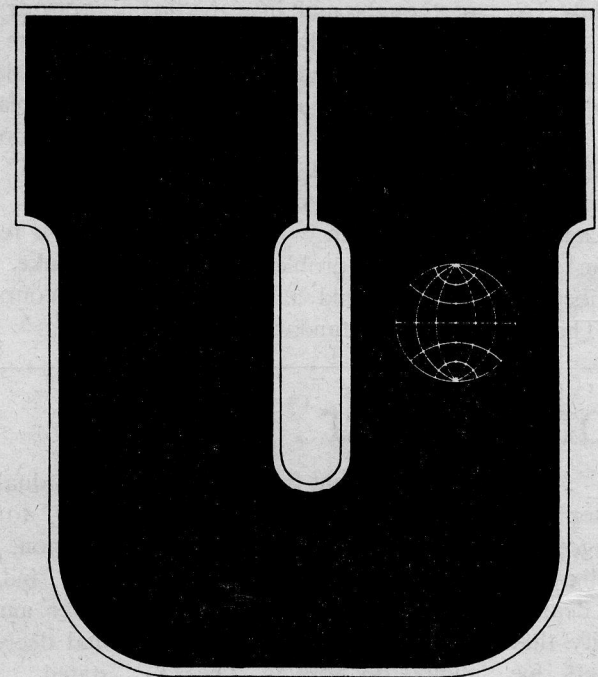
Saga PSY 30001— "The Children of Lir"

Called by the Irish Bards "the second sorrow of storytelling", "The Children of Lir" is an Irish legend telling the story of Lir's four children, Tinola, Aed, Fiaca and Conn. The children were cursed to become swans for 900 years by Lir's second wife in a fit of jealousy. Eventually the swans are stirred by a church bell and change into three ancient men and one old woman to be baptised and die in the Christian faith.

The poem, written by Michael Simpson depicts the story as he believes the old Irish monks told it, as a parable. The language used is simple and descriptive, greatly enhanced by Robert Lamb's symphonic preludes and Ferdy Mayne's moving rendering.

The music ranges from classical through jazz to modern contemporary. Lamb's composition not only adds greatly to the poem but should be considered as seven musical compositions, held together by the words of Michael Simpson.

The record is worth obtaining for both its poetry and its original, enjoyable music.



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LETTERS

The Editor reserves the right to omit all or part of any letter submitted to Felix. Also, the opinions represented in these letters are not necessarily the opinions of Felix.

Stand or Fall?

Egoistic Ebdon?

The Battery-Bred IC

by "Spooks"

Battery Bred

Imperial College will only achieve what it could do when it stops producing its battery bred apathetics and starts giving the country some free range products.

Finally I'd like to remind I.C. of its past, I like to think it's changed, a record of drunken violence against property and persons. One only has to look through FELIX for the damage to property, and some of the attacks on persons (Morphy Day etc.). While I was at I.C. several people were beaten up by one well known personality on one night and no action was taken. I myself received a warning, addressed from certain rugby players, to watch out on a dark night, because I wished to make the Union more democratic. Also an I.C. President, during his term of office, threatened to smash my head in for opposing him.

Before condemning L.S.E. for violence against steel gates placed there to provoke, look at your own unjustified, meaningless violence.

You really make me want to puke.

Yours very sincerely,
Malcolm Duckett

Dear Sir,

Freedom is not a luxury but the recognition of necessity. But democracy in this country is based upon the idea that it is a concession allowed to us by the generous authorities, and is built up in terms of a static morality based on ideas of absolute right and wrong, which it is wrong to challenge. As Moses said, "thou shalt not kill", "thou shalt not commit adultery", and now from FELIX "thou shalt not stir up trouble where no trouble exists". But how can killing be *always* wrong, adultery *always* wrong and most confusing of all how on earth can trouble be stirred up where, we are told no trouble exists.

The 'trouble' is socialists. We do exist and come to our conclusions and act upon them in such a way as to achieve the most success, and publicise our point of view in the most effective way. Obedience is the same virtue as mediocrity in a mediocre society. The contradiction of minority action not being condemned by the majority will always be with us. Democracy is for the protection of minorities. If democracy means more than hot air it means freedom to dissent and take action inside the existing structures (which are ridiculous enough anyway).

The majority can dissociate themselves, as they have done: (C&G Union made absolute fools of themselves; R.C.S. Union were more civilised). The minority who sent the letter have insulted

no-one, but have as yet not even received an acknowledgement which is less than courteous of the Rector.

Now what about the letter itself? We asked the Rector to clarify his position on certain fundamental principles of freedom in universities (implied by our question):

- (1) Freedom of movement and hence association.
- (2) Political freedom from Police.
- (3) Academic freedom from commercial and government interest.
- (4) No victimisation for Political views.

We wonder if the National Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (NCVCP) has any coherent view of these questions. We are sure that even those who feel we are 'irresponsible' to ask these questions would like to know the answers.

In the second part of the letter we ask Lord Penney to help solve the problem by using his influences, which are considerable: N.C.V.C.P.; Sir Sidney Caine (ex L.S.E. Director) and Dr. Ware (chairman of JURGO's recent subcommittee, who are both on the Governing Bodies of I.C. and L.S.E.; Dr. Adams is alternatively chairman with Lord Penney of the joint I.C.-L.S.E. committee on administration technology & economics; House of Lords; Industry, I.C. and L.S.E. are not as separate as most people have been led to believe, neither are universities in general, industry and the government, as was clearly demonstrated by Ted Short's bitter

Hypocrisy at I.C.

Sir,

The criticism from I.C. of the L.S.E. students centres around the use of violence. Bearing in mind the records of the groups concerned (need I say Morphy?) and the fact that the L.S.E. students only attacked selected objects, not persons, and only after much discussion, this is hypocrisy bordering on the illogical. One may conclude that they do not condemn violence, but mass political action.

Mass action is something strange to I.C.; it is not understood and is feared. People feel it might somehow lead to totalitarianism. Their answer is to leave the command of information and decision making to the controlling hierarchy, who reinforce their position by resisting change in most aspects of college life. Occasionally, however, even the doziest student wants to change something. When such

opinion clashes with the policies of the administration, we see the true power-structure.

I.C. is very proud of its staff-student relations, featuring countless committees where both sides get together and discuss matters REASONABLY. What if both sides reason differently? The student-reps on J.U.R.G.O., for instance, may not be mandated on any line of policy, and thus, as they meet the Rector as isolated individuals, personal pressure on them is inevitable. But then, what if the Union were to negotiate over something? Negotiations only mean anything when the two parties command comparable power. The Rector is not going to grant anything against his own wishes and is usually only approached over changes that he would implement anyway.

Castrated politicians like Philip Marshall recognise

Dear Sir,

I should like to say how impressed I was by the very definite improvement in the last issue of FELIX; not only in printing and layout, but also in content and the factual style of reporting.

One thing, however, that requires comment is that Mr. Ebdon should use his opinion column (I doubt if anyone would agree with his statement that it is a "news column *not* an opinion column") to describe ideas that *he* has put forward to the constitutional reform committee as "promising and vital." That appears to be slightly egoistical.

A further note. Speakers at our meeting may have been jeered but none were "shouted down" no matter what the national papers may say. Isn't it ludicrous that while one group who opposed the motion have distributed sheets complaining about the press reporting of the event as "misrepresenting, misreporting, misleading" you tell us to read the nationals for an account of what actually happened.

Yours sincerely,
Dermott Corr

attack on *student* socialists. Students stand or fall together.

Yours etc.,
Matthew Duncan Jones
Chairman Soc.Soc.
Piers Corbyn
Chairman I.C.P.A.G.

this situation and its effect on the awareness of most students, accept it as inevitable and contrive to make it all seem rather jolly.

L.S.E. students, however, have recently shown us the alternatives. They too, eventually recognised the futility of negotiations, but did not just give up. They fell back upon their only strength: their numbers and the level of their committee. Whether or not their demands are eventually satisfied, they have clearly demonstrated the superiority of direct mass involvement over any other method of participation, with regard to both accurate representation and effectiveness.

It is clear then why mass action is so feared and slandered by those who control our environment and so many of our attitudes. It is a direct challenge to their positions.

D. E. Christopher (Maths 1)

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Dear Sir,

I was disgusted to read in the National press the report of "students of I.C." issuing hysterical statements about LSE. Fortunately I have since learnt the true facts—that it was the opinions of a small minority of militant right-wingers—and the press, not unusually, had failed to make this point clear. Despite this it is still extremely disturbing to find out that these students had failed to use their intelligence sufficiently to study the situation before making such grossly inaccurate remarks. One wonders whether the taxpayer is getting full value for his money—scientists with uninquisitive minds?

No Riots

I took the trouble to attend the discussions at U.L.U. (which certainly became more dynamic and attractive during the occupation) and to talk to L.S.E. students, including representatives of the "moderate" minority. At no time were there "riots", academic thuggery, intimidation etc., which were all described so vividly in the press. The re-

ports in the press indicated that the press had been to completely different meetings to those I attended, though they claimed them to be the same. As some of your students know I am a little left of centre, but more conservative colleagues of mine will also witness to the lies of the press.

Bad Reputation

It's about time the students of Imperial got off their fat arses and started thinking of others, and not just themselves. No college in the country has a worse reputation for its students' attitudes—you'll find out when you leave. And if you continue to make statements as nonsensical as the ones made about Tariq Ali the situation can only worsen.

You are the students who are wasting the taxpayers money—your prejudices, lack of thought and investigation and your conclusions founded on no evidence are hardly indicative of good scientists. If you look at those at I.C. who have had enough social conscience to concern themselves with moral and political problems you'll probably find a rather high academic standard also.

Traitor or Arbiter?

Sir,

Originally this letter was written two months ago, but was never sent to Felix.

It was with a great deal of interest and incredulity that one read "They tell me . . ." by Les Ebdon, which appeared in Felix published the 11th December.

Let us agree that nobody should be punished twice for the same offence; this is a very old principle in English Common Law. However, consider a case of arson committed by a student within the college. Local magistrates are very unpredictable. The student may escape with only a six months probation. What does the college do? Should not it protect the other students and administer a punishment. For example, restrict-

ing the student from handling expensive equipment or anything hazardous to other students.

According to I.C. Council, at that time, the College should do nothing. The I.C. Council wish to put the principle of "no double punishment" into the I.C. code of discipline without any reservation. This is so much too inflexible and may be subject to abuse. Surely it would be better to agree in principle to "no double punishment", but for the College to reserve the right, in certain cases, to safeguard the well-being of other students.

As an individual in a free society I demand the right to speak freely. It is most unfortunate that Mr. Ebdon should regard a free-speaking

individual as having "sold-out" to the I.C. Council decision, particularly when the individual concerned never agreed with the original decision for the reasons stated.

Now, two months later, the I.C. Council has agreed to what a few have jokingly called "The Hood Solution". It is a great pity that originally the voice of reason did not prevail and that no-one showed any far-sightedness into the matter.

It is also strange how one may hold one view steadfastly, and be judged traitor one day and arbiter the next according to the whim of public opinion.

Yours etc.,

Barry Hood
(Hon. Sec. R.S.M.U.)

SHOULD THE CONCORDE BE CANCELLED ?

Last week a full-page advertisement suggesting the cancellation of the Concorde appeared in the *Guardian*. It was signed by some five hundred people from many walks of life, though predominantly from the Arts and Science side, with just a few Engineers.

The advertisement raised the question of the validity of continuing the development of the Concorde assuming that sonic boom will prove unacceptable overland. It also questioned the amount of money spent on the project, when there are still many underdeveloped areas in the world which could make better use of the finances.

Here we have the case put both for and against the Project. Attacking the continuation of Concorde is Mr. D. C. Macdonald, lecturer in the Elec. Eng. Department, whose name appeared on the advertisement. In defence we have Mr. F. G. Irving, Senior Lecturer in the Aeronautics Department.

The case for cancellation

by
D. C. Macdonald

The Concorde will almost certainly be a financial failure even if it is a technical success. The Government will do all it can to minimise the loss and maximise the sales. Most flights across the Atlantic start on the Continent, and operators will certainly try to fly supersonically across Britain. As yet there is no fixed policy, and one can see governments allowing overland flights in order to sell more aircraft and minimise the loss.

To permit supersonic flights over populated areas would be a vicious invasion of every worthwhile human activity: in the concert hall, in the lecture room, in the lab, in the park, watching the box, holding up the bar, even lying in bed — BANG BANG — shattering, destructive of thought and mind, all pervading (except perhaps on the Picadilly Line). If you are a light sleeper it will wake you, if the baby is teething it will wake him, not just once every night, but six, eight or ten times.

This misery may have to be borne just because a fraction of a per cent of the population want to get to New York City Centre in five hours instead of seven; and because when a technological challenge presents itself our modern society feels bound to accept it.

... and the case against

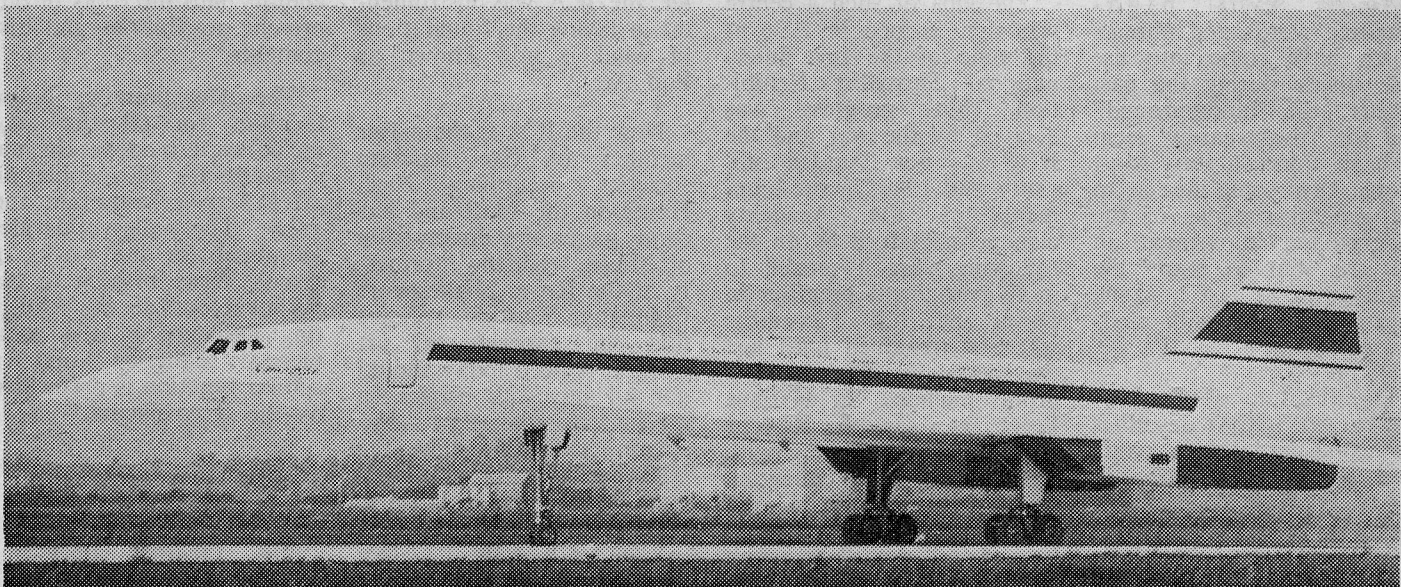
by **F. G. Irving**

The whole raison d'être of air transport is speed. Let us not argue whether it would be nice to return to more leisurely ways of life: it is a fact that the travelling public wants speed. So far, the introduction of newer, faster, aircraft has always generated more demand and, in real terms, has provided cheaper travel. We have now achieved a situation in which the cheapest way of taking people (and some sorts of things) over appreciable distances is to put them in a Boeing 707 or a VC-10, and any packaged holiday operator who can only offer propeller-aeroplanes might as well invite the bailiffs in.

There are, of course, incidental advantages: jet travel is smooth, comfortable and, unless one is totally bored with life in general, immensely interesting.

There is no sign that any of these trends will be reversed by providing even more speed, except that it may be necessary to accept some increase in cost. Even this may be a transient effect, associated with first-generation supersonic aircraft. To go faster with sufficient efficiency, we have to go quite a lot faster. So, the first supersonic airliners are designed for a little over twice the speed of sound.

Let us accept that cutting journey times by over 50 per cent is likely to be very popular with travellers, and let us not forget that potential objectors are also travellers on occasions. The only possible objection to Concorde (or supersonic airliners in general) is the social one of noise. In all other re-



Concorde prototype 001 during the preliminary taxiing trials at Toulouse. (Photograph courtesy B.A.C.)

There are tremendous opportunities in the modern world, and we must pursue the worthwhile projects with the utmost enthusiasm and vigour if we are to remain a wealthy and progressive nation and make our proper contribution to the life of mankind. We must learn to distinguish the progressive developments from those which will make our existence less rewarding. The drug-industry has given us penicillin, and I for one might not be about now without the help of streptomycin, but the same industry produced thalidomide babies and may give us chemical warfare. Concorde may give rise to a waste of money on the scale of the now-proverbial ground-nuts scheme, and a social disaster comparable with the living conditions produced at the beginning of the industrial revolution.

The argument that Concorde is just a stepping-stone to quiet supersonic flight is false. There are several military supersonic aircraft — why cannot they be used to develop a whispering chariot for the modern plutocrat?

Engineers often pride themselves on being men who give the best for the least money, but they are often rightly regarded as people who do this with little regard for beauty or social amenity. It is those who are involved in a project who have the primary responsibility for taking all factors into account and facing up to the eventual outcome. We must use our understanding of the physical world and our vision of the consequences to straggle the monster-projects

spects, in addition to the traveller's viewpoint, it is likely to be highly advantageous. The potential orders for Concorde will bring immense wealth to this country, providing a significant amount of work and keeping us firmly at the sharp end of technology.

Considerable research is in hand on reducing both engine noise and sonic booms, but it is only fair to admit that the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better. Most of the anti-Concorde lobby argues that sonic booms will be intolerable, but this is by no means self-evident. In the middle of a large land-mass like the USA, they could become an unacceptable nuisance, but this is rather unlikely in the UK. Flight in and out of London would generally involve subsonic flight over land, and I suspect that the effects of overflying (e.g. USA to Germany) would not be very great.

Whilst admitting that Concorde brings its social problems, these have to be weighed against the manifest desirability of the project from all other points of view, not the least of which is our long-term national prosperity. Objectors may feel trapped by technology, but what is the alternative? To my mind, sitting in our huts, of clay and wattle made, listening to the sonic booms generated by Boeings.

It would be the height of folly to opt out of Concorde at this stage, and I hope it is only the beginning of a splendid future for British aviation.

at birth. Concorde has gone too far already, but there is still a chance to persuade the Government to drop it — especially if the flight trials are not a great success — and ban overland supersonic flight. You can help by joining the Anti Concorde Project, c/o Richard Wiggs, 70 Lytton Avenue, Letchworth, Herts.

Professional skills in Management

"Going into management is a meaningless concept without the acquisition of some specialist skill."

Sunday Times 1 Jan. 1967.

By entering a firm of chartered accountants you can gain an accounting qualification combined with experience and know-how in a number of specialist fields—financial, taxation, consultancy (including computers, production control, operations research), etc. These skills can be acquired by graduates of any discipline.

Those of you expecting to graduate with a good degree next summer and interested in "going into management" suitably equipped . . .

are invited to

an informal meeting commencing at 2.00 p.m. when graduates of Imperial College will talk of the career prospects and training facilities with Arthur Andersen & Co.—who offer average starting salaries of over £1000 for 1969 graduates in their London, Manchester and Glasgow offices. (Incidentally, in 1969 the firm will be opening an office in Dublin.)

Venue: Contact Appointments Board ext. 2740

Date: Wednesday, 26th February 1969

Come along and meet us or write to:

David Steele,

ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO.,

St. Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London, E.C.2.

“A sustained enquiry into the roots of our present possibilities and discontents”

Among several high-sounding words and phrases which have come into use and misuse during the past decade, the “underground” and the “avant-garde” seem to have come to stay. Most people have some idea as to the general concept of the underground movement in the arts, but to many the avant garde is just a vague phrase connected with modern art.

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) describes the avant-garde as a name given to artists working in and exploring the spaces between the general classifications of Art — Painting, Sculpture, Music, etc., and the gaps between artist and audience. The ICA is at the centre of the avant-garde movement in England, the largest arts centre in London and one of the biggest in Britain.

The idea of such a centre was first formed in 1936 at the time of the first International Surrealist Exhibition, but progress was delayed by the war and the ICA was not founded officially until 1947, in the basement of the Academy cinema in Oxford St. In the following year it moved to more permanent premises in Dover St., off Piccadilly, where it remained until just two years ago. The founding group included Sir Herbert Read, who saw the ICA as a group experimenting with and promoting education through art in Britain, and Sir Roland Penrose, who saw it more as a link between creative activity in Britain and on the Continent.

Besides producing the first London exhibitions of work by several leading foreign artists, including Cartier-Bresson and Dubuffet,

the ICA was instrumental in laying the foundations of what is now known as Pop Art.

Now the ICA is the major member of five separate societies occupying Nash House in the Mall and has come under the directorship of Michael Kustow, formerly of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Kustow believes that the experimental art being produced today should not all have its origins in the underground; that mainstream institutions like the ICA can also provide top-grade non-traditional work. He sees the aim of the ICA to be to provide “a free space in which the deepest questions of the age which concern us as individuals and as a society can be explored in continuity, not just as a series of colour supplements or television discussions but as a sustained

enquiry into the roots of our present possibilities and discontents.”

The new premises house facilities for all the arts, including a modern cinema, a theatre for 250 people, an art gallery, a restaurant and a bar. The gallery provides an outlet for the works of visual artists wishing to experiment outside the restricting influence of the commercial galleries, and a similar function is performed by the ICA cinema.

Outlet

The theatre caters for playwrights trying to break away from traditional theatrical form. The conditions of the commercial theatre preclude the permanent companies and long rehearsal periods the most committed actors and directors

need, and although the subsidised theatres do not have to be concerned with “box-office” to such an extent, they are still committed to public work which prevents their producing much experimental work. The ICA provides a non-commercial outlet for directors and writers working in this experimental branch of the theatre.

The magazine *Mix*, which the ICA produces, provides space for writers trying new forms of expression, and their work can also be reviewed at readings and seminars held within the building.

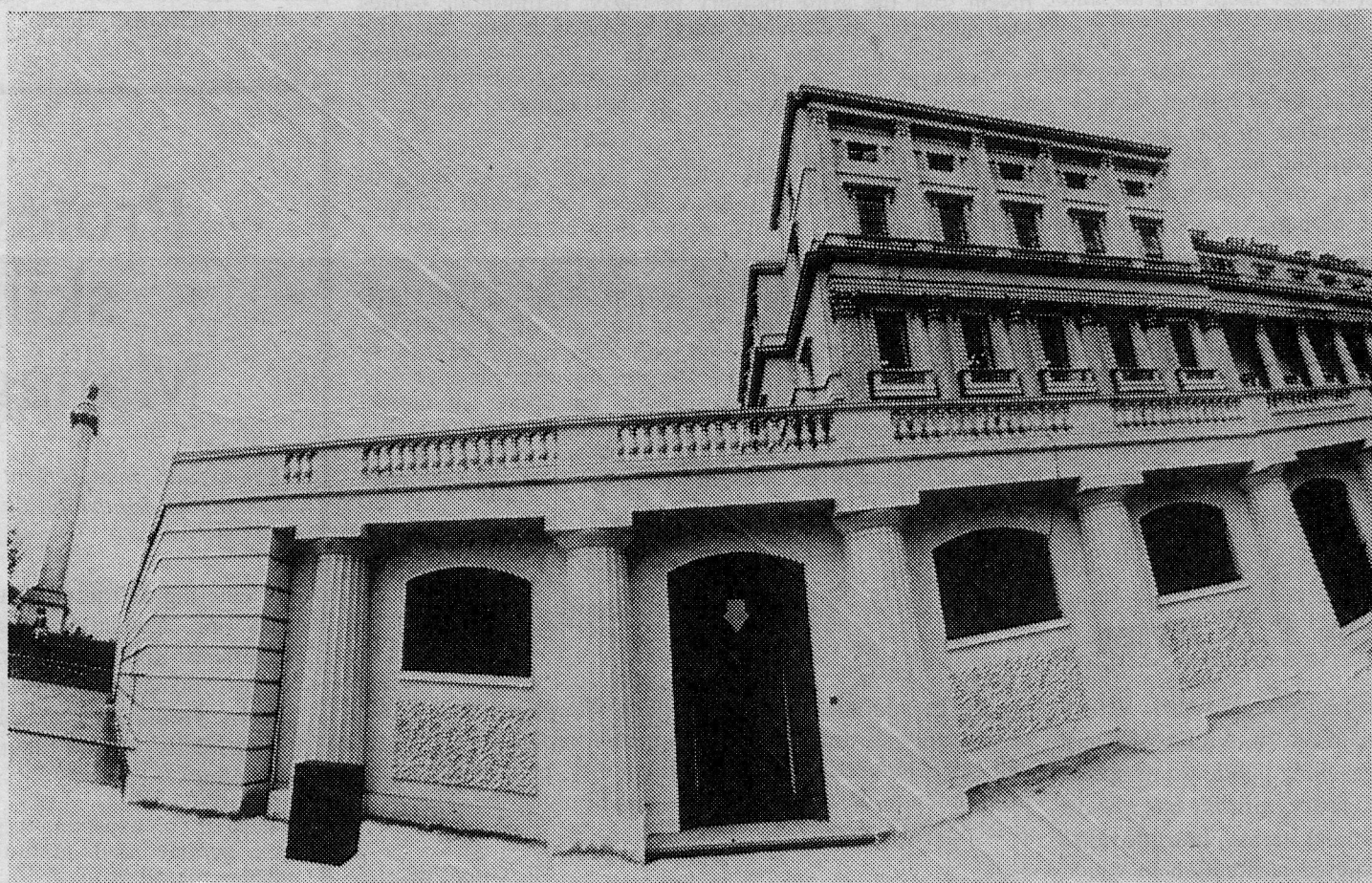
Perhaps the most important area of the arts, however, is that pertaining to modern education, for there is a feeling that traditional education is lacking in some essential moral and imaginative content which could

give it coherence, a role once played by religion, but no longer so. The ICA is a centre where the work of the professional artist and educationalist can be coordinated to fill this gap.

In brief, then, the Institute exists to break down the barriers between artist and audience and replace the few discerning patrons of the arts with a more or less mass public, and to provide the avant-garde with the physical recognition and facilities that the RSC affords the theatre and opera.

To use another word which has taken on a new meaning in the past few years, the ICA is the centre of a new scene, a counter-scene to the underground, a meeting place for the artist and audience which that loose nucleus of ideas and systems cannot supply.

The ICA has been open since early last year. In the article above Ian Carr discusses its history and aims, and below Malcolm Williamson reviews its financial position at the end of almost a year.



Left: Nash House, home of the ICA.

Despite a huge success in building up its membership to 10,000 in nine months (this was originally the target for twelve months), the ICA faces what Michael Kustow describes as “a bitter financial winter”. This position has arisen because of the failure of the Arts Council to meet ICA’s estimation of a reasonable grant. When the ICA moved to Nash House, they presented a set of estimates to the Arts Council for the cost of the new operation. This they claimed would be £75,000 per year, which they

considered reasonable in comparison with the £90,000 subsidy received by the Royal Court Theatre. The Arts Council allowed them only £25,000, which merely covered the rent and services.

The ICA thus started a mass recruiting drive, which has proved to be an outstanding success. Admissions and membership fees together brought in £46,000, which still leaves a deficit of £34,000. The cost of mounting, preparing and advertising their programme is cited by Kustow as the main rea-

son for the large deficit, and the lack of foresight in not comparing these costs with the expected income.

The first year was rather special, however, as costs for such expenditures as equipping the gallery, creating the membership campaign, and paying for the introductory publicity will not have to be met in the future. The ICA is still nevertheless left with the job of repaying the deficit, and to this end they have brought a few economies into force, for example the Magazine has been suspended.

They are also appealing for help from their friends,

both industrial concerns and private individual, to help them through their present financial difficulties.

The demand for a centre such as the ICA has been shown in the large membership they have built up over a short period of just one year. Everyone who has visited any of their functions will realise that in the range and quality of its productions, the ICA is unique as a non-Underground organisation catering for the tastes of the younger generation, and I for one would hate to see it dissolve because of the financial problems it has met in getting off the ground.

“A Bitter
Financial
Winter . . .

. . . in the
Heart of
Traditional
London”

LISTEN HOW IT IS

Jazz Week '69 previewed by Bob Davenport

If Jazz Club means nothing more to you than a noise emanating from above the ICWA lounge at dinner times or an evening of free music in the Lower Lounge on Sunday nights, then prepare to have your nerves assaulted by IC Jazz Week '69 from 23rd to 27th February. "Tell it how it is" I hear you cry.

Well, Jazz Week starts on Sunday 23rd in the Union Lower Lounge with a free trad and mainstream session featuring Imperial College's Premier (and only) Traditional Jazz Band—the Splinter Group—and a very fine outside group who played at last year's Jazz Week—the Fleet Valley Jazz Men. Another free session follows on Monday featuring student modern jazz musicians and, with luck, a collaboration with Henry for some poetry-and-jazz.

On Tuesday the Union Upper refec—pristine home of the Plastic Fairytale and many a nonny-no from Folk Club—will endeavour to contain a quartet led by arguably the best baritone sax player in jazz (winner of the soloists' prize at the 1968 Montreux International Jazz Festival)—John Surman. Surman, a former RCM student, is the most gifted of the group of young musicians from the West Country who, led by Mike Westbrook, have contributed enormously to the robust artistic health of contemporary British jazz. He can be heard playing many musical settings in London, his musical personality remaining intact in the Humphrey Lyttleton Band, the calypso-jazz group he leads with pianist Russ Hunderson, Mike Westbrook's concert band and sextet as well as the quartet which will be playing here.

In the quartet's co-leader, Mike Osborne, is to be found the perfect complement to Surman's musical voice. Whereas Surman tends to play long, almost frenetic, solos, utilising his incredible command of his instrument to play high above the normal range of the baritone into that of the alto sax, building to screaming climaxes but always remaining in full control of the ebb and flow of tension, Osborne tends towards introversion, producing almost bland alto lines in which tension is introduced by subtle shifting of accents. The

addition of soprano sax to his armoury enabled Surman to cover the entire range of the four most common members of the saxophone family with just two instruments and it is on this instrument that his admiration for the work of the late John Coltrane is most apparent.

The quartet is completed by Harry Miller and Alan Jackson, a drummer who on tunes such as Surman's "The Twist" and "Mrs. Brown" does things with pop rhythms that make Ginger Baker sound like Dave Clark.

On Wednesday, two blues groups provide the music for a party, again in the Upper refec., with lots of jelly and trifle and lemonade—or something. Clean up jazz's image and all that crap.

And so as the sun sets slowly in the west and RCS Carnival stops us using the Union on Friday, Jazz week comes to an end on Thursday 27th with a film show including the celebrated "Jazz on a Summer's Day"—a film of the 1956 Newport Jazz Festival featuring Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Chuck Berry, Mahalia Jackson and others too numerous to mention. Probably Tom and Jerry or Dudley Moore cartoons, too, we hope.

So there it is, five evenings of good clean fun with not a jelly-roll in sight. Come, for christ's sake.



Frenetic John Surman

Courtesy Mallard Photographic

As a result of the recent bad weather, this week's sports coverage has been reduced.

First XI smash Kings

Kings 0 I.C. 4

Last Wednesday on a cold wet afternoon, I.C. 1st XI visited Kings to play their first match for over a week. I.C. attacked fairly strongly in the opening minutes but Kings seemed to gain control in midfield and with the college defence rather square at times it took two good saves from Davies in goal to prevent Kings scoring. In attack, however, I.C. were playing fluent football and opened the scoring when a McCardle shot was deflected, rather luckily, into the net.

In the second half I.C. played a tight uncompromising game and gradually wore down the home side's defensive formation. Following a cross from the left, Horlock

was able to score with a fine angled drive. After this the Kings attacks were limited to breakaways and it was only a matter of time before I.C. scored again. The final two goals came from Richards, with a fine solo effort, and Conner who overlapped intelligently from his full back position.

This is the first league game of the season in which I.C. have not conceded a goal and as it is also the first time in about four years that I.C. have defeated Kings in the league it can be considered quite a good performance. If the tight approach in defence had been found earlier I.C. would have had a good chance of winning the league.



A changeover scene in last Saturday's Hyde Park Relay in which race the I.C. team failed to start. The winners were Borough Road college.

President's Piece

During the last few months, several suggestions have been made concerning the use of refectories by various sections of the college community; academics, students, and other staff. Council has always been willing to open the present student refectories to all other members of college, on the grounds that we should do everything possible to help the mixing of staff and students.

However, at present the Senior Common Room does not appear to be so willing to open up some of its facilities. Perhaps the thought is that students, outnumbering staff by five to one, might overload these waitress service refectories. What no-one seems to have noticed is that if there really is such a large demand for this kind of meal then a refectory like this should be opened for students too. In that case, there would appear to be no argument against de-segregating both refectories . . . Q.E.D.

Some people have expressed great surprise at the decision of council to ask for representation on the Development Committee and so an explanation of the ideas involved may be useful. In some high level committees, the membership involves reading several papers before the meeting and only bringing up at the meeting points you disagree with. These tend to be committees for approving new ideas, rather than originating them. If you want to help set up new ideas, you have to make your contribution at a lower level.

These lower levels often mean just informal contacts, but they are usually more useful for advice, information and for working your ideas into the system. At this college we have built up a large informal structure, with the medical staff, refectory staff, registry, and so on. Sometimes student representation on full committees is desirable and sometimes it is unnecessary, creating nothing more than extra meetings to go to. In the case of the Development Committee, the feeling was that co-operation was better than representation.

R. J. Lowin

Running out of steam

Mention was made in the last issue of the forthcoming outing to Reading for the senior half of the boat club and it is the turn in this issue of the novice section to receive attention. These are the oarsmen who began learning to row from scratch at the beginning of the year and who will soon receive their initiation into regatta type racing when crews from Bedford come for a private fixture later this month. They have progressed very well so far and in the past few weeks have also begun to appreciate the subtleties of training on land as well as on the water.

On Saturday 8th February the 3rd crew raced in the

Colleges regatta organised by London Rowing Club in which crews from London, Oxford and Cambridge colleges competed. There were two events, one for college 1st VIII's and the other for junior VIII's, our crew being in the latter of these. This was the first regatta experience for the 3rd crew as it now stands and their race against the Middlesex and London Hospital crews was hard fought until the last minute, when they began to "run out of steam". London Hospital won with Imperial College beating Middlesex by $\frac{1}{3}$ length. The final of this event was won by St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, who were racing in an I.C. boat!

G. W. Harrison

Popularity of Squash

The popularity of Squash in the college has grown enormously since the opening of the squash courts and this has led to the discovery of a number of useful players.

The first team achieved excellent results in the first division of the University of London League by topping the list with 42 points out of a possible total of 54 at the end of last term. This was no mean achievement in the face of the high standard of competition in the field.

The second team have produced very good results this term. They narrowly defeated the first team in

their league match last week, though admittedly the latter were unable to field their strongest side on that occasion. Nonetheless, credit must be given to their fine performance and determination. The highlight of the match was the heroic stand of Chris St. John (second team) against Stuart Cumming, which the former won after a hard 5-game battle, playing one of the finest and most consistent games of his career.

At the present rate of progress, the club can look forward to a very successful season.

M. Ala

RCSU dissociate from Guilds motion

The R.C.S.U. Extraordinary Meeting last Tuesday lunch-time, held in the main Physics Lecture Theatre, was attended by over 200 students. The primary purpose of the meeting was to debate the motion that "R.C.S. Union dissociates itself from the recent C and G motion (passed at the emergency meeting of Friday, 31st January) and requests R.C.S. President to inform the press that C and G is not I.C."

This motion was proposed by Martin Bland who went into details about iron gates and also about the misrepresentation of I.C. by the national newspapers. His opposer, Pete Dolwin, had not prepared a speech and didn't really say very much. The seconder for the opposition put the point a bit more clearly saying that if such a motion was carried, and the national press heard about it, they would naturally assume that R.C.S. was in support of the recent actions of L.S.E.

At this point, Piers Corbyn decided to suggest an amendment to the motion; the amendment being that R.C.S. believes that the solution to the problems of L.S.E. should be left in the hands of the L.S.E. students' union. Various people voiced their opinion of the amendment (and of P. Corbyn as well), but when it came to voting on whether or not the amendment should be made, those in favour won by a large majority.

The first speaker for the amendment motion was an ex-

L.S.E. student who claimed that L.S.E. students had been quite justified in their actions. The opposition maintained that with the amendment the press would be even more likely to misrepresent R.C.S.'s decisions if the motion was passed. Les Ebdon attempted to speak about the "militant apathy in C and G" until it was discovered that he hadn't even been present at the Guilds meeting in question and therefore didn't know what he was talking about. An R.C.S. student who had been at that meeting began to tell us the truth about the meeting but in the face of repeated interruptions and the swift passage of time, he was unable to finish his speech.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried by 123 votes to 89 with 13 abstentions.

The second motion was to condemn the letter sent to Lord Penney a fortnight before. Jeff Warren, proposing the motion, claimed that the letter was an insult to Lord Penney and that the forty students concerned had had no right to make these demands on behalf of the whole of the College. The only opposition came from Les Ebdon—not surprisingly, as he helped to write the letter.

As time rapidly ran out, his views including the one that people should try and think about the real root of the problem, the concept of a university, were disregarded and the motion was carried on a show of hands.

Hard days for Carnival ahead

Tonight sees the first of Imperial College's two concerts at the Albert Hall, when Spencer Davis tops the bill for the Carnival Committee's hopeful big money-raiser. At the time of writing, it seems that tickets will still be available so, if you fancy a night-out, give carnival some much needed support as well. Meanwhile, on the Ents front, the continuing tale of their concert goes on from strength to strength. The Crazy World of Arthur Brown are crying out of their commitments, including next Thursday's Ents concert. So who have Ents got instead—none other than one of their previous choices: The Bonzo Dog Band. Since the tickets had 'Bonzo Dog' printed on them before Ents got Arthur Brown

instead, the re-arrival of Bonzo Dog is doubly fortuitous.

On the financial side, Carnival is not doing too well at all. The last estimate for collections is £1,365 and the cash from the Carnival Walk is being very slow in coming in. At the present rate of syphoning money from the public, IC don't stand a chance of getting anything like the £12,000 that the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child need if they are to be saved from financial collapse. With exams coming up in the summer term, the bulk of the money will have to be collected before Easter. Success means everybody pulling their fingers out in the remaining four weeks of term.

Penney passes letter to Council

Copy of the letter sent to Rex Lowin, I.C. President, by the Rector. This was sent to Lowin on 3rd February.

It concerns, first, the motion passed by Guild's Union on 31st January and, secondly, the letter sent to Lord Penney by P. Corbyn on behalf of 40 I.C. students on the 30th January, both as reported in the last issue of Felix.

Dear President,

I enclose copies of two communications I received on Friday last. The first is a published statement of a series of resolutions passed by the City and Guilds Union. The second is a letter addressed to me and signed by Mr. Corbyn on behalf of about 40 students.

As Rector, I am of course always available and very pleased to discuss with a student any particular matter where he or she is seeking my advice or help. The letter from Mr. Corbyn is a completely different kind of approach, where I am called on to give assurances on some hypothetical questions and also to interfere in the affairs of another university institution.

I feel that to receive and answer group representations puts me in the position of acknowledging that the proper channels for the communication and expression of student opinion—namely the Union can be by-passed.

I should be grateful therefore if you and the Union Council would consider Mr. Corbyn's letter and let me know if you wish on behalf of the Union to make any representations to me on the points he makes.

Yours sincerely,

Penney.



Yeoman of the Guard

Photo Robin Gostock

News in brief

In an effort to play a part in improving staff-student relations, Tizard Hall is "at home" next Tuesday evening when residents are inviting their tutors and supervisors to a punch supper. Heads of Departments and College

Governors have been invited and several have already accepted. An invitation has also been sent to the Minister of Education, Mr. Edward Short.

Several more fork suppers are to be arranged; the Rector will be the guest at the next one, later this term. A suggestion that Enoch Powell be invited to another supper had caused some controversy, but it was later decided not to invite him.

PART TIME COURIER WANTED

The Centre for Computing and Automation require a courier to make daily trips to Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, E.1. Student living in QMC area will be most suitable. Fares and a fee will be paid. Please apply to Mr. G. F. Coulouris, Room 402, R.S.M. Internal Phone 3883.

RSM Newsheet

The first issue of the R.S.M.U. Newsheet was published last Monday. Edited by Eric Rossiter, a 1st year Minesman, the newsheet, duplicated on blue paper, was given away free to all Mines students.

IC on BBC

A team from our College consisting of Miss R. Shakir, K. Faruki and U. Quamar have reached the finals of the first university quiz programme on the B.B.C. Urdu service. For those who wish to see I.C. in action, they come up against U.C. on Thursday, 20th February at Studio No. 41, Bush House, Strand, and would like as much support as possible.

Mr. ICWA

Jeff Steer, Deputy President of IC, was elected as Mr. ICWA for next year at the ICWA Valentine Party.

Bicycle shed

Contrary to last week's Sennet, IC has not taken over the Albert Hall as a bicycle shed. We did, in fact, requisition the Alb' last year for a Railway Station.

£180,000 for college appeal

Following Council's request at the last JURGO meeting the Rector offered representation on the Development Committee.

Rex Lowin was placed in the embarrassing position of reporting that Council had decided against it, and wanted some other 'machinery' set up.

The 3 Deans reported that information on the marking of examination papers and on the relative weightings of courses were being made more generally available.

The expected continuation of the discussions on discipline, begun last term, was avoided by the Rector who proposed that a working party should be set up to draw together all the conflicting views. The three main points are: double punishment, the powers of Wardens and bringing the name of the College into disrepute.

It was reported that £180,000 had been promised for the College Appeal to date, most from Banks, Insurance and the Stock Exchange. Barry Hood suggested that

IC should have commercials on TV. Mr. Holbein thought that LSE and other student troubles did not help our cause but that the publicity following the C & G motion was 'good'.

The Pro-Rector, Lord Jackson, gave a very interesting report on 'Growth Points' in IC; saying 'we must project ourselves into the future', in which he could

see increasing numbers of interdisciplinary specialities.

Attention was drawn to Sir Robin Darwin's (RCA Rector) recent address to the court of the RCA in which embarrassing allegations were made about the behaviour of the Dept. of Ed. & Sc. (and hence IC) in negotiations over the site proposed for the Architectural Association building.

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DRAGONS OVER LEICESTER SQUARE

BREATHING BRIMSTONE IN THE AIR

Yesterday afternoon, Guilds exec., a team representing council (but including 2 guests) and a green dragon performed a wheelbarrow race around Leicester Square in aid of Carnival. Despite a valiant third leg (?)Ed. run by the Welfare Officer and the Editor of FELIX (a special guest), the council team lost rather ignominiously. Returning via the much abused London Underground Railway System via Knightsbridge, Harrods and South Kensington, with the sixty foot long dragon a fair amount of money was collected for Carnival.

'A LOAD OF COBBLERS' - Council Meeting

Last Monday's Council Meeting spent 3/2 hours talking a lot about a very little. The Rector's reply to the L.S.E. letter (see page 8) was read out and discussed. In the letter, Lord Penney asked for Council's views on the subject, but did not have any except to advise Penney that he needn't reply to the letter (if he didn't want to). During the discussion Piers Corbyn proposed a motion to the effect that Council urges the Rector to reply to the letter, but this was overwhelmingly defeated. George Assimakis also proposed that Council regretted the sending of the letter but couldn't do anything about it as this would be an infringement of free speech. Opinion was that this motion said nothing - as Dermott Corr said 'a load of old cobblers'.

There followed a discussion of a letter from Robin Dibblee, I.C.U. Press Officer, regretting the fact that 'the press coverage was organised in an irresponsible manner' at the Guilds Meeting which condemned LSE. Dermott Corr called the letter rude and several people voiced their opinion of Dibblee's work, in various degrees of kindness. Some thought he was doing no job at all, but Dave Wield, External Affairs officer, said later "Robin's job is hard enough without people insinuating inefficiency".

Later Martin Bland proposed that all applications for annual grants from Council be accompanied by detailed estimates so that finances could be allocated in the best possible way. After much discussion, which included the points that this would involve an exorbitant amount of paper work and that it attacked the autonomy of the constituent colleges, The motion was thrown out.

Dave Wield submitted for approval a reciprocal membership document, to be signed by all colleges wanting to have reciprocal membership with us. After a lot of talk and a few alterations, the document was accepted. Immediately afterwards, council refused to accept reciprocal membership with Enfield College of Technology.

Other items of interest were:- Council changed its mind about a gift to Mr. Garby, ex-printer of FELIX, and set aside up to £25 for a present to him. The Reverend Ivor Smith-Cameron is to be made an honorary member of the Union. People leaving the Union bar are in the habit of vomiting over the air intake to the room where the Underwater Club fill their air cylinders. Jeff Steer is to look into this. Dermott Corr resigned from the Constitutional reform committee and was replaced by George Assimakis. Piers Corbyn and Vinod Garga (who was ill) shirked their duties at last Saturday's hop where there was some trouble. They were duly told off.

Finally, during the brief absence of Rex Lowin for personal reasons, Gwyn Hughes proposed that he buy everyone a drink. This was carried almost unanimously and the President duly obliged. Such is the power of Council!

CARNIVAL ARRESTS

Dick Vessey and Dennis Taylor were arrested for bill-posting (Carnival posters) in King's Road on Monday Night. They were fined £3 each.

PANCAKE RACE

The traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race took place in Beit Quadrangle on Tuesday of this week. Members of ICU Exec. and the ICWA exec did circuits of the quad tossing pancakes all the way. As usual there was immense hilarity with five fire hoses and buckets of water drenching the participants and many innocent bystanders.

I C U MEETING

Today at one o'clock in the Concert Hall there is a meeting to discuss the issues raised by the constitutional reform referendum. The referendum will be carried out on Monday. See the rest of this super-duper FELICITY to find out what's going on.

CARNIVAL WEEK

Tuesday night, Carnival swung into action with their S/side discotheque. During the evening, Sir Gerald Nabarro and C.C.Seaford, Domestic Bursar, elected Sue Williams, Civ Eng 1 as Carnival Queen. Second was Pippa Rossetti and third Nikki Mountenay. The evening suffered from competition from the bar, where Steve Moffat, Union Barman, was holding his 21st celebration.

WHAT'S ON

RailSoc: Tue, 25th Feb, Illustrated talk "Planning Bournemouth Electrification"
Tue 11 March "Architecture on British Rail" Both Meetings Elec Eng 1206 at 540

1. Much of the organised entertainment is useful and should be kept. Sub-sections of I.C. Ents could deal with formal balls, carnivals and informal dances.

Rivalry does not have to be initiated by Constituent Colleges. Most Universities have groups which engage in friendly rivalry and if there were no Constituent Colleges rivalry would still be seen, probably through halls of residence and departments.

2. The sporting clubs mostly exist only for the inter-college trophies in each sport. The more important sports e.g. Rugby, have their own teams but I see no reason why I.C. cannot arrange matches as for soccer.

Academic clubs are usually departmentally based and there is no reason why they cannot carry on as they are.

3. Academic Affairs at the moment are dealt with mostly by the constituent colleges. There are staff-student committees in each department and each constituent college has an academic officer (rep) who co-ordinates activities for the constituent colleges. As one who has been particularly involved in this aspect of union activity, I have thought hard about this subject. The Joint Rector Governing Body and Student discussion body, JURGO, concerns itself to a considerable extent with academic affairs. Having worked in both R.C.S. and I.C., on academic affairs I feel that it is at an I.C., not constituent college level that we need academic affairs expertise, the constituent college intermediate level being merely an encumbrance.

One reason for the existence of constituent colleges is historical. I.C. and I.C.U. has always been subsectioned in this way. But, in the last few years students have been much more involved in decision making than previously and have, therefore, had to change their thinking accordingly. For example, Student Welfare and academic affairs have become very important and deserve to have first class people running them.

For the important job of running I.C.U. we deserve much more co-ordinated action than the constituent colleges allow. I.C. must be subsectioned, but the sub-sections do not have to be autonomous. Remember, when you vote that if you vote for constituent colleges you are voting for 3 autonomous unions. I submit that these constituent colleges weaken Imperial College Union.

2. The Case for the Existence of ICWA

Imperial College Women's Association, or ICWA as it is commonly called, fulfils several important functions. It is encouraging more women to come here by arranging for girls to go back to their schools to talk about I.C. and by meeting female interviewees, so that they can ask questions about the college and so that we can attempt to encourage them to come here. ICWA organises fresher arrangements from the first week of term, which range from meeting freshers at the Royal Geographical Society, to entertaining them to coffee throughout the week, if they want to come. Besides this, ICWA organises various social functions throughout the year, and acts as an official body through which contact can be made. It also ensures that the women have a voice on council, which they elect themselves and who they probably all know.

Whether you believe that ICWA should exist or not depends on whether you think that its activities are desirable or not. One of the main arguments against ICWA is its 'per capita' grant. This argument can also be used against the Constituent College Unions and I.C.U. itself because although it is 'compulsory' to be a member, it is always voluntarily that one takes part.

At this time some women are beginning to make their own way in this college and I welcome this as it is a sign that ICWA is achieving its end for ICWA is trying to increase its numbers sufficiently so that it does not need to exist; until then I would urge you to support the existence of ICWA.

continued.....

The Case against the Existence of ICWA

In all recent discussion concerning ICWA, no-one appears to have explained why it exists in the first place. As I understand it, ICWA exists to provide female representation in the Union and to protect the first year girls from the leering males of this college. This may have been necessary in the days when there were only a dozen or so Icwarians, but today the situation is totally different.

Excluding the ICWA President, there are three women on this year's Council, thus clearly making the 'female representation' angle totally irrelevant. I sympathise with those girls who find it difficult to adjust to university life, and would like to see some form of social club to help them. But I cannot see why this necessitates a grant of £350 a year from the Union.

What does ICWA do with this money? It is spent on ICWA sport, the ICWA Formal and numerous sherry parties for ICWarians. In this way ICWA has effectively set itself up as a fourth constituent college. Is this necessary? I should say no. ICWA sport could be handled quite adequately by ACC and a special application for a grant could be made for the ICWA Formal.

It would be grossly unfair for ICU to merely disband ICWA. If the women of I.C. want their own society then they should be allowed to have one.

I do not believe, however, that ICWA deserves its present status. The only direct action that ICU should take is to transfer ICWA to SCC, where it would receive a grant appropriate to its needs.

It is, perhaps, worth noting that only about 40% of Icwarians play any part in ICWA. The need for reform is clearly imminent, though this must come from within ICWA.

I would conclude by saying that in its present form ICWA is an expensive anachronism, it is time the system was changed.

3. Executive - For and Against

The duties of the Executive as laid down in the Constitution, are to deal with matters of urgency and the day to day running of the Union. The Executive consists of the President, Deputy President, Secretary and three Constituent College Presidents, and meets once a week during term time.

The day to day running of the Union e.g. furnishings and the booking of rooms can now be dealt with by the newly formed house committee. In practise the Executive deal with urgent matters and anything concerning the Constituent College Unions and usually has very little to do. Since Council is now meeting approximately once a fortnight, instead of twice a term as previously, the number of urgent matters has dropped correspondingly.

The argument against the existence of the Executive is that there now exists very little for it to do. It is very difficult for such a group of people to meet regularly and do nothing and so the temptation will always exist to bring up matters which should properly be dealt with by Council or a union meeting. Matters concerning the Constituent Colleges could easily be dealt with elsewhere.

Against this, some other body would have to be called (rather than meet regularly), to deal with any genuine matters of urgency. Whilst this could be done fairly easily, it is certainly not as convenient as having regular meetings.

The choice is between a slight increase of inconvenience, and a possible increase of more democratic decisions.

4. For N.U.S. - What We will Gain

Last Tuesday I went along to see what the N.U.S. was all about and came back with an armful of travel brochures, insurance schemes and copies of 'New Student'. We would gain very little in terms of concessions (except simplification) by joining and they are mostly abroad. The solid political issue is whether I.C. can gain from the wealth of experience the N.U.S. has in student affairs and the answer is, of course, positive. It's well worth I.C. joining for a number of reasons.

For instance, the Joint Committee of the Union, the Governors and the Rector (JURGO - look it up in the Calendar, P.38) has been discussing student discipline. The N.U.S. has been consulted by the Department of Education and Science on this and has produced a well-thought out pamphlet (Code of Discipline) indicating guidelines for general procedures, one of which is no double punishment. The N.U.S. view here coincides with the I.C.U. view on disciplinary committees and double punishment.

Ted Short, Secretary of State for Education and Science has said that "Students who had genuine grievances about universities would find almost invariably today that they were negotiable and that they were pushing at an open door". The N.U.S. quite clearly can help us here.

The N.U.S. is the only national student union with mass membership and what it says is taken as being the student point of view. We must have a share in shaping that point of view.

The cost of joining is 5/- for students in an affiliated union, £2 for individuals otherwise. The 5/- is paid by the Social Education Authority with the fees etc.

The N.U.S. produces many useful publications on travel, grants, rents, insurance, education, participation, vacation work, discounts advice and discipline.

N.U.S. is our national students union and while it leaves much to be desired the N.U.S. is the student view. We must end our isolation and take part in the N.U.S.

Against N.U.S.

N.U.S. promised the following to students.

1. To look after student welfare and to speak for students by building up a policy over the years.
2. To provide cheap travel
3. To enable students to obtain certain price reductions and concessions.

As regards the first point of student welfare and representation, Imperial College Union is large enough to put forward its own views to the Ministry of Education and U.G.C., and in fact has done so very effectively in the past. It is better for each Union to put forward its own needs, rather than have it done for them by such a large organisation as N.U.S.

On the second point of cheap travel, most of us now know of many other other organisations such as G.S.T.S., I.S.T.S., Brian Hughes Ltd., which provide travel at prices comparable with and, in many cases, better than those of N.U.S.

You have all heard of the glittering promises of concessions which N.U.S. has obtained and how hollow many of these promises are. N.U.S. claims to publish 1500 concessions and I have found out that many of this number do not exist. Dominion Press issue a publication containing 3500 concessions, at a cost of only 2/11.

continued.....

Against N.U.S. continued

Finally, the cost of joining N.U.S. For Imperial Union to join as one body would cost £1000 (5/- per head). The Union is at present on a very tight budget and has more important things to spend its money on. In any case, what is the point of spending all this money when we cannot effectively get anything in return that we cannot get elsewhere?.

5. The Case for a Sabbatical Year for the President of the Union

With academic work to do, it is highly impracticable for the President to be in touch with students. With no academic work, he would have the time to go the rounds meeting his fellow students. Far from being a professional President, he could be in better contact with student opinion. Thus he would be far better able to act in the best interests of the majority.

The President would have more time to devote to External Affairs, as well as Internal ones - External Affairs at this college tend to be rather neglected.

Also it is possible that with a sabbatical year we may get a third-year or pre-P.G. (better) willing to take on the job. Of late the choice for President has been limited, and there is not much point having a democratic election system if there is only one candidate.

The Case Against a Sabbatical Year for the President

The principle argument against a sabbatical year is that it is not at present necessary. This is true at I.C. and perhaps not so at other colleges - mainly because the Constituent College Presidents deal directly with the academic staff, a function which elsewhere might fall to the Union President, in addition to his other duties. As a result of this, the job at present occupies about half of an average day.

If the President had a sabbatical year, then it would be considerably more difficult to appreciate some of the problems of the average student, and so be a genuine representative. Also, one of the many functions of the Union is to give students some experience of organisation. The move to a sabbatical year could push almost all of this work onto one person, whilst the present system allows the load to be spread over many people and over a wider range of opinions.

Finally, the establishment of a sabbatical year would be expensive to the Union, since the grant for the President's year of office would have to come out of the Union income.

6. Election of President and Secretary by a College ballot

General The present system is that the president and secretary are elected by the joint incoming and outgoing members of council. The candidates can be from the whole college. The proposal has been mooted that the system be changed so that the election is by a ballot of the whole college. This system is used at a number of colleges but little research has been done by I.C. to ascertain its effectiveness. It has also been suggested that the President and Secretary should run for office in pairs of candidates.

Merits of Proposed system The President and secretary represent the whole college and as such should have the full democratic backing of a majority of the college and not just council. Much of the apathy associated with isolated bureaucracies can be alleviated by the involvement of the whole people in determining the future leaders.

continued.....

Election of President and Secretary by a College Ballot continued.....

The campaign can be used by the candidates to put forward points of policy and thus election can be made on the basis of merit rather than which candidate has bought the most drinks for council. This is why we want a plebiscite.

Merits of Present system

The type or person who will be most suitable as President or Secretary is better known by council who are better informed of the candidate's virtues than the general college. Council has to work in close liaison with both the president and Secretary and it is thus better that they should choose people with whom they can work in harmony. An intimate knowledge of the views and ideas of the candidates can be built up during the intensive canvassing prior to the election. There is no possibility of rigging the election. This system has proved its effectiveness and should not be changed for one that is, to say the least, unproved.

7. Case for Departmental Reps on Council

Having Departmental Reps on Council would produce several useful results.

Firstly, the Dept. Rep. would provide (at last) the much needed link between I.C.U., the year reps, and the student floor. The concept of Departmental Subcommittees (which especially in this kind of university should provide the backbone of any flexible and efficient union administration) would achieve more prominence, and the clumsy and limited channels of communication via the constituent colleges would be bypassed.

Secondly, while providing better contact between I.C.U. and its members, a departmental rep, is most likely to be an independent whose aim is serving the student interest, and not that of perpetuating the present petty political scene.

Thirdly, when the Architectural Association joins us, this system is the one which will most easily accommodate them.

The majority of students are apathetic as regards I.C.U. because they feel they have little or no connection with it. The greater personal contact between students, dept. reps and year reps., (a much abused and neglected group of people doing very useful and important work) will make not only for a much more effective union, but one which also serves its members in the way that they want it.

Case Against Departmental Reps on Council

At present Council consists of 24 members of the Union and three old student reps and a Senior Treasurer. If departmental reps were on council it would become a very unwieldy body and Council is an organising body to deal with finance and discipline and is an easier body to manage if its members have specific jobs. Departmental reps would not. By having these reps on Council there would be a 'centralisation of power' which is contrary to most peoples beliefs at present. Major policy decisions would be made by council because it would be felt that it was more representative of the Union members views, but this would take away the usefulness of the Union meeting. In my opinion Council should be left at the size it is, enabling the Union General meeting to make the major policy decisions, (and the vastly differing sizes of the departments could lead to over-representation in some cases.)

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

There will be a referendum throughout the college on Monday February 24th from 10 p.m. until 5 p.m. to answer 'yes' or 'no' to the following

questions:-

1. Do you believe that Constituent College Unions should exist?
2. Do you believe that ICWA should exist?
3. Do you believe that a Union Executive should exist?
4. Do you believe that I.C.U. should join N.U.S.?
5. Do you believe that the president should have a sabbatical year?
6. Do you believe that the Union President and Secretary should be elected by a vote throughout the College?
7. Do you believe that the departmental representatives should be on council?

Voting stations will be set up.

R.C.S. Physics & Hist. of Science & Tech in Physics Entrance Hall
 Maths Huxley Building Entrance Hall
 Chemistry, Chem. Entrance Hall
 Biochem., Biochemistry Entrance Hall
 Botany & Zoology - Botany Department.
 Silwood Park students, at Silwood
 Meteorology, through their department rep. A. Betts.

Guilds Mech. Eng. & 1st yr. Engineers in Mech. Eng. Entrance (Not Chem Eng. 1)
 Chem. Eng. & Aero in the main entrance to the building
 Civ. Eng. Civils Entrance Hall
 Elec. Eng. & C.C.A. Elec. Eng. Entrance Hall

R.S.M. All Mines will vote in the main entrance hall of R.S.M.

Postal Votes will be accepted. Forms will be available from the Union Office and must be signed, with Dept. and Year and addressed to Constitutional Referendum, I.C. Union Office.

These must be returned by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 24th.

Life Members As it is impractical to circularise all life members about the referendum, provision will be made for any life member wishing to vote, to vote in the I.C. Union Office between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday, February 24th, 1969.

Jane E. Pearson
Hon. Sec. I.C.U.

1. The Case for the Constituent College Unions

Constituent College Unions have existed for approximately 70 years within the Imperial College Union. Their original existence was justified for the simple reason that the students wanted them to exist. There were far fewer students in Imperial College when it all started than there are now in either Guilds, R.C.S., or probably Mines - but for the sake of promoting inter-college rivalry and developing 'spirit' both sentiments heavily knocked by many these days - the original students wanted the constituent colleges to exist within I.C.U.

As is obvious to all, the situation is very different now. Whether students as a whole still believe that, for the sake of rivalry and spirit alone, constituent colleges should exist, is now only a minor point. The most important consideration is the role the constituent colleges now have to play within I.C.

I.C.U. is now so large an institution that it is a major task to run it effectively and well - for the benefit of the students. In this context I believe the most important aspect of Union Administration to be the re-allocation of the Union Grant in such a way as to enable as many individual students as possible to have a say in how their money is used. Constituent College Clubs, such as the Maths & Physics Soc., the Chem. Eng. Soc., the Mining and Metallurgical Soc., all have their respective grants controlled by the Constituent College Unions - relieving I.C.U. of the burden of this administration - and enabling students in the relevant technological field to directly control the Society.

There are many other societies and clubs in similar situations and to control them through I.C., would necessitate the introduction of many more committees or sub-committees, which would have to be channelled through a central committee - probably Council. To me, this is to clutter up and confuse the situation needlessly.

Within each Constituent College Union is an Academic Affairs Committee. The benefit to the student of these committees has been proved ever since their introduction, not only by improved Staff/Student relationships, but also, in many cases by improvements to particular courses as a result of work done by the Committees. Trying to organise the same set up on an I.C. basis would, I believe, result in poorer communication between staff/students because the organisation would be too big and impersonal.

Considering the executive side of I.C. Administration, the present system not only works - and despite what the knockers say, works well - but guarantees a permanent cross-section of opinion on the Executive Committee.

One final point about the Constituent Colleges - in addition to the fact that they have a great history - they still add a tremendous amount of character to Imperial College - character which is the envy of most other London Colleges and frequently expressed as cynicism by them.

2. The Case against Constituent College Unions

The business the Constituent Colleges deal with can be divided into three main areas :-

1. Entertainment
 - i. organised ents., balls, carnival smoking concerts etc.
 - ii. carnival (rag) and other inter-college rivalry (swimming gala).
2. Clubs & Societies (sporting and academic)
3. Academic Affairs

continued.....