

FELIX

SPECIAL

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IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION No 276 APRIL 24, 1969

STRIKE VOTE IN A.S.T.M.S. PAY FIGHT

by PAUL HEATH our Labour Correspondent

A mass meeting of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs on Tuesday voted almost unanimously in support of their leadership strike proposals which back a university technician pay claim. The 500 strong Imperial College branch will take part in a national one day strike on 29th April and a three day stoppage at this college from 6th to 8th May (to co-incide with the college open day on 8th May which is designed to further the £2 million I.C. appeal launched in January). Isolated stoppages at other universities will also take place.

The salary claim is for a 10% increase in reply to which the universities nationally have offered 4% from their own resources and indicated that any more would have to come from the Government. The ASIMS see their action as the most serious step they can take to persuade the universities to 'seriously and publically press the government for more funds'. ASIMS Branch Secretary, Mr. Harry Fairbrother, a lecturer in Maths believes it is 'extremely moral to be the spearhead which forces the universities to stand up to the government'. He states that university salaries have not kept pace with either the cost of living or salaries in comparative employment (since January 1966 Medical Technicians have had a 15% increase against 7.9% for the University technicians), and only career prospects and loyalty to the college keeps technicians on. There is a 40% annual turnover in junior technical staff at I.C.

Fundamental differences exist between the two sides on the question of the salary increases and it is hoped a meeting today at the Department for Employment and Productivity will settle them but this seems unlikely. Meanwhile, Imperial



Arthur Sier asks for stoppage

Photo: Dave Chant

College say that they will only abide by what is nationally negotiated and approved.

At the meeting, Arthur Sier, moving the motion for strike action, accused the Universities Committee for Technical Staffs of distorting the facts in a document they are circulating and trying to undermine the technicians. After discussion the 300 members present voted almost to a man to come out on strike.

N.U.S. has asked its members not to take over technicians' work during strike periods and ASIMS hope that students here will follow this lead. The Association of University Teachers has made a similar request to its members. Meanwhile, there are threats of more action in the air if the strikes have no effect.

Sunley smoulders

Bernard Sunley House was once again visited by firemen last weekend when a newly wired Entryphone started to smoulder. While at the Student House the firemen noticed the bad charring of wallpaper behind the landing heaters, a danger reported in FELIX as long as 7 weeks ago. Also the priority job of removing bars across basement windows has still not been carried out.

Residents at the House who have been using unauthorised (and unmetered) electric fires have now been presented with an electricity bill. In many cases residents have discovered the high cost of running a fire continuously.

I.C. SLAMMED

Blistering attacks on the exam system and specialisation of science courses were made at the 1½ day conference on 'Teaching and learning methods' held at the end of last term in Elec. Eng. A child of JURGO the conference was organised by Profs. Ring and Cherry with student help. About 40 people (half staff) attended to hear speakers, 6 from outside I.C. to try and 'increase awareness throughout I.C. of the need for more effective teaching, to discuss the application of new techniques in I.C., to inquire into the content and structure of course and to create a cadre of people who will generate interest in the ideas aired at the conference'.

The first session on Friday morning, 21st March, was chaired by I.C.'s Lord Jackson. Dr. Ruth Beard, of the Institute of Education spoke on 'Effective Teaching', which she defined as 'the successful attempt to modify behaviour'. Dr. Topping, Vice-Chancellor of Brunel, and an ex-I.C. man examined the conflict between Generalist and Specialist Education. While Topping slammed specialist courses which do not teach of the 'web of human relations' science is involved in', or encourage flexibility, I.C.'s Rector, Lord Penney, remained impassive in the chair.

Exams Attacked

This challenge to the existing order at I.C. was continued by Prof. Elton of Surrey who gave a blistering attack on the exam system. The final report on a student should be a profile and not a degree class. Exams should measure achievement, predict future performance, encourage work and help the student assess his progress. Elton suggested exams should be replaced by a number of methods of assessment, tests, projects and vivas to give a profile. The course 'must be fitted to the student'. Claims were made that steps towards this had been taken in Guilds.

Saturday's session, concerned primarily with I.C., was chaired by Prof. Ring. Jon Shields (RGS Acad. Officer) described the functions of staff-student committees and Academic Officers. He reported that RGS questionnaires show a considerable demand for the inclusion of non-technical subjects in the degree course. (The all I.C. questionnaire, which has not been fully analysed yet, shows overwhelming support in favour of 'other' subjects - especially economics and philosophy).

Rakesh Mohan (EE3 Academic Rep.) gave a very amusing (authentic) example of 'a lecture'. It was hoped that lecturing

technique would improve when lecturers saw themselves in action on a video-tape recording.

The use of films as teaching aids was demonstrated by the men from the U.L. Audio Visual Centre. Films of experiments can often reveal far more than paper records. Animated films for illustrating theoretical models are under preparation by the centre, which remains to be fully explored by I.C.

The purpose and methods of lecturing were carefully analysed by Dr. C.J. Carpenter (lecturer in Elec. Eng.). Basically, he said that we should allow students to show more initiative, encourage them to read, and teach them how to learn. This could be done by completely re-structuring the courses. The lecture would have a completely new status which would supplement the main task work.

Further Action

The conference finished with a general discussion in Elec. Eng common room. The present tutorial system came under strong attack: there is no general set method for tutors to work to, so they go about their diverging ways; many tutorials are becoming mere problem solving classes. It was clearly shown that students will continue to avoid tutorials whilst their function remains outside the exam system, hence a reform in the tutorials system must be coupled with a reform in the exam system. Some staff and students felt that 'direct action' might be next to persuade some lecturers to become more effective and to achieve real participation in the learning process. Many other propositions for action were discussed. Some of the main ones being:

1. The setting up of a regular open forum to consider teaching matters.
2. The arranging of Audio Visual demonstrations.
3. Spreading of information on new developments.

Future issues of FELIX will discuss more fully issues raised at the conference.

The next issue of FELIX will be a full sized version out on THURSDAY 8 th MAY

All copy should be in by the previous Wednesday, 30 April

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Looking from my Southside window, I am disgusted by the litter to be seen disfiguring the face of Princes Gardens. The usual imbeciles are to blame - the irresponsible, untidy and despicable dart-throwers. Cannot something be done about these anti-social menaces?

Writing the day after the annual Aeronautical Society Dart Contest however, I in no way blame them, for they cleared up their mess in a most praiseworthy manner.

Yours faithfully,
M. B. Rogers
(368, Keogh)

BSSRS

The British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, founded by a group of scientists who sought to do something about the increasing brutality and menace of science, held its' inaugural conference at the Royal Society last Saturday. Addresses were given on "the drift from science" and attention was drawn to the isolationism of scientists, which has lead to errors in government and public decisions. Members were shocked to hear of the use of the social sciences, often unconsciously, to suppress democratic ideas e.g. in the US. A number of plans for action by the BSSRS were put forward and it was agreed the society could not afford to be timid. Political and educational activity were discussed.

The aims of BSSRS include the stimulation of awareness of science's social significance and the effect of politico-economic pressures on it. They intend to urge the reform of science education at all levels. IOU students can join BSSRS at a special 10/- rate (forms from the Union Office).

IOU's Dr. Stephen Rose, a founder member of BSSRS, has recently been appointed to the chair of Biochemistry at the Open University.

Physics 1 Swim

Preparations are well advanced for the Phys. I Channel Swim. J. Bowler, R. Fisher, P. Lonnen, P. Marwood, J. Singh, and V. Steiner hope to leave France on the 3rd, 4th or 5th of May to raise money for Carnival. Southern T.V. are helping with publicity on 2nd May but because of £130 expenses more sponsors are needed. So far, a clear £120 have been raised and Steve Cann, Phys. I, is keen to find more.

CHEAP TRIPS

Sweden

Delegates from I.C. are urgently needed to attend a conference from 28th Sept. to 5th Oct. organised by the Lund Institute of Technology in Sweden to compare the technical education of European countries. I.C. has been invited to send 2 delegates, one each from Elec. Eng. and Civ. Eng, who must have studied here for at least 2 years. All expenses will be covered in Lund. Apart from discussions and lectures, there will be two parties, dinners, travel around Southern Sweden, and several free afternoons and evenings. Anyone interested should see Miss Hughes in the Union Office as soon as possible, preferably before tomorrow.

France

Students are also required to take part in two events in France this summer, organised by the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges. The first is the International Youth Meetings of Avignon during July. The other is the offer of free places to 90 British Students to visit various parts of France.

Details of these and all other exchange schemes can be seen in the Union Travel Bureau, open Monday 1.0 - 2.0 p.m. and Thursday 1.0 - 2.30 p.m. in Committee Room B (next to the bar) or from the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges at 91 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

COMMITTEE MISS I.C. "PROTESTERS"

Sub-Committee C of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education and Science enquiry into 'student relations' popularly said to be enquiring into student protest, has postponed a proposed visit to I.C. yesterday. The committee including Fred Willey and Van Straubenzee asked to meet 'a wide-spread of opinion from staff, students and the authorities'. The staff reps. were to have included Profs. Coles and Ford, Dr. Newey (AUT Secretary) and Sinclair Goodlad, the authorities included Lords Sherfield and Penney and Dave Harris. IOU President Rex Lowin chose Lilas Campion, Martin Bland, Dermott Corr, Rob Collinge, Jon Shields and himself as 'representative' of student opinion. Members of the left-wing have expressed surprise that the committee will not meet any real protesters.

LSE SACKINGS UNITE STUDENTS

Following the sackings of LSE lecturers, Robin Blackburn and Nicholas Bateson for supporting the students earlier this year, fresh troubles plague LSE.

Bateson and Blackburn will probably fight the dismissals in the courts as LSE articles of association grant staff members the right to hold and promulgate any opinions whatsoever. The apparent attack on academic freedom by Walter Adams (LSE Director) and Lord Robbins (Governor's chairman) has provoked opposition from staff, workers and all types of student. Right-wing LSE President Chris Pryce condemned the sackings as a "deliberate provocation" and the students voted 468 to 42 for a lecture boycott which started last Monday. Support from the staff union (AUT) and the workers (ASTMS) is expected. NUS has already "fully supported" the action of the LSE Union.

Latest FELIX reports from LSE suggest both moderate and militant opinion is united and the boycott is going well with growing staff support.

SELKIRK STORM

George Assinakis has resigned from Selkirk Hall Committee after a storm over the appointment of the three man selection committee to review next year's applications. The selection committee consists of three well known Rugby Club stalwarts and George says:

"It is not exactly representative".

Selkirk Warden, Carl Seaford, on thanking George for his letter of resignation expressed the opinion that he was 'mad'.

Hi-Fi Raid

A Linstead resident has had £ 36 of Hi-Fi Speakers stolen from the basement storage area in the Hall. He had left them there as instructed over the Easter Vac. It is not clear whether goods left in the care of the Hall are left at the owner's risk or not, and so it is not yet known whether the owner can get any compensation.



Show of hands shows overwhelming support for A.S.T.M.S. strike. See front page article.

RISEN AGAIN

with twice its former glory is the literary magazine of I.C., the PHOENIX.

Yes, the new issue, of no less than 56 pages will soon be out

With the literary content more than doubled, this issue represents even better value at only 2/6.

Saturday May 3rd.

PINK FLOYD

+ WATCH US GROW.

10/- or 12/6 on door.

Queen Mary College,
Mile End Road, E.1.

FELIX

Editor; LES EBDON.

With: Paul Heath, Tony Kirkham,
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I.C. SAILING CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

The Rubens Hotel
Buckingham Palace
Road,
15th May, 1969

36/- (inc service)
Dress Optional
Tickets: Tim Slack,
Rm 15, Weeks Hall

A FELIX wide screen stereophonic production by the Tony Kirkham Duplicating Service.