



Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

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5th December, 1972

This is
a good
question



John Lane gets presidency

John Lane was ratified as President of Imperial College Union at a meeting last Thursday Lunctime. A Computing post-grad standing on a Communist ticket, he is the first political president we have had for several years.

The poll was 30 votes short of the required minimum: 25 per cent of the electorate must vote for the poll to be constitutional. In order to make this election constitutional, a Union General Meeting had to ratify the election and the College authorities must approve.

The Union meeting called for Thursday lunctime was the least publicised one of term, no posters, bump or even ad in felix appearing. However, quite a lot of people came, mainly at the instigation of the candidates.

However the Secretary (Martin Black) and Deputy President (Paul Jowitt) did not: they put up a notice in the Great Hall announcing the cancellation of the meeting before the time that it was due to convene and did not come along to check whether anyone actually turned up. By twenty past one, a meeting of Imperial College Students had been started under the chairmanship of Rosemary Parker, President of RCSU when along came the ICU Executive to find a

good three hundred people in the hall, and accordingly started a UGM proper.

After agreeing to ratify the election, even before the result was announced, various amendments were passed and defeated, and it was deemed that the elected President would become Acting President if the College Authorities did not ratify his election. The results were then announced: on the first count John Lane got 424 votes, to Ian Farnell's 288, Adrian Smith's 83, William Wood's 29 and Pete Gillett's 24. It took until the final count to get John Lane past the quota and it was perilously close. (Under the Single Transferable Vote system, there is a quota figure which is the minimum votes a candidate must get in order to be elected).

So amidst much cheering and clapping, John Lane was announced President, pending official recognition. The meeting went on to vote on a motion put forward by Sonia Hochfelder which censured the Secretary for cancelling the meeting before it even started. This was passed overwhelmingly, but a call to Martin Black to resign was equally overwhelmingly defeated.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Union is to be held today at 1 p.m. in the Great Hall to discuss the question of the Presidency and everything else that should have been discussed last Thursday had there only been time

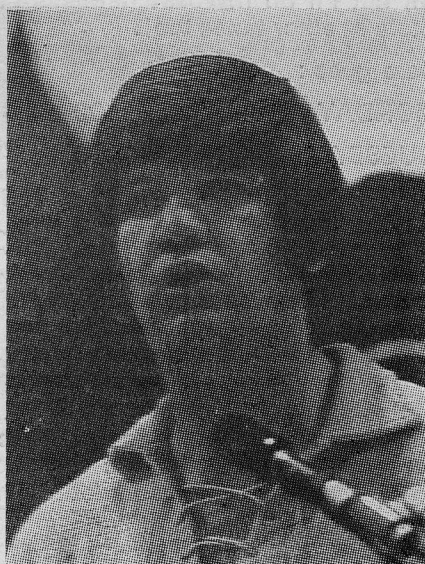
Margate Frolics



Trev Phillips



Bill Gerrard



Charles Dingley

"I slept with Piers Corbyn" — Bill Gerrard

Full revelations Page 5

Last Wednesday, at about 9.30, a robbery took place within Imperial College.

The National Westminster Bank has a branch with the College and regularly has money delivered to it.

This time, however, two men with coshes intercepted the guards from the Security Express van as they were carrying the money into the building. After a short skirmish the two attackers made off with the loot.

It appears that they had parked their car (a

blue Cortina of undefined type and age) within the College precincts.

This makes it all the more likely that some unsuspecting members of the staff or even a student although this is unlikely at 9.30! saw something suspect occurring.

Did you see two men casually dressed in stocking masks strolling out of the back door of the bank?

They would most likely have been carrying a rather heavy container filled with money.

Stop Thief!

Did you see a rather ordinary Cortina speeding out of the Prince Consort Road exit as though they had planted a bomb in College Block?

Have you seen any students with a Jensen Interceptor II recently?

Although you may have dismissed such a sight as the early morning light playing tricks on your

eyes (assuming you had them open) please tell the College Security Officer (Mr. Dawson) if you vaguely remember something happening.

We have it on good authority that a reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the villains.

Your friendly Nat. West Bank needs you.

EDITORIAL on Power of Editors

A lot is talked about the power of the Editor in student newspapers. Taking the national dailies and Sundays as examples, critics both state and believe that the Editor, having dictated his policy to his staff, invariably alters every article to suit his own political or other doctrines; or, should this be impossible, either leaves out the article altogether or reduces it to trivia by judicious use of accompanying matter and headings or snide editorial comments, or by placing the article in an entirely incongruous position.

In the case of national newspapers, it is true that such policy is actively pursued. After all, the journalists are paid to follow the Editorial line. The primary object of national newspapers is to make money. No businessman sinks millions of pounds in a newspaper just for the sheer hell of it. In order to keep any paper going, advertising is necessary, and a lot of it; to get a lot of advertising, the publisher has to sell a lot of copies to the sort of people the advertisers want to sell to. The editorial content is adjusted according to the sort of readership the advertisers want. The spectrum of style and political thought of newspapers is as wide as the spectrum of advertising markets.

Take an example. A very useful market for many advertisers is the mature businessman or professional man and his wife, who can afford to enjoy their creature comforts, and own a nice bungalow in a good residential district. Quite a number of them are probably retired officers from the services. These people form the majority of the buyers of expensive cars, furniture, spirits, etc.; the "Style Goods". By sheer coincidence, these people just happen, in general, to be dyed a deep blue, are quite reactionary, go to the opera, go to the races, and are strong believers in the Empire. Do you begin to recognise the leanings of the Daily T.?

So certainly in the case of the nationals the Editor dictates the policy and ensures that every article published conforms with it. This policy is in turn dictated by the advertisers. If there were a number of advertisable products that appealed especially to Buddhists living in Scarborough and voting Communist, it would not be long before the "Scarborough Buddhist Morning Star" appeared on the newsstands.

This is not the case with student newspapers. Only one of them in Britain is just about self-supporting through advertising (Sennet), and even here the advertisers just want to advertise to students — not any particular sect of them. So there is no reason why there should be hard and fast editorial policy in student newspapers. After all, the purpose of student papers is to inform and entertain students — not to indoctrinate them.

The life blood of a student newspaper is not its Editor. It is its staff, the people who give up their free time to go to meetings, interview people, do background research, and write articles about it all. The people who spend their free time designing page layouts. The people who come and polish up other people's contributions, and make them literate and fit the space available. The people who

Continued on Page 7

THALIDOMIDE, and why we should boycott Distillers'

The drug "Disteval", otherwise known as Thalidomide, was withdrawn from the open market in 1961 on account of its danger to human life. The past decade has been characterised by legal impasse in the Courts and staid acquiescence on the part of the drug distributors, Distillers' Company (Biochemicals) Ltd., with the result that Thalidomide victims have received little or no recompense.

In 1968 62 of the 430 Thalidomide victims agreed to a settlement of 40 per cent. of what they might have expected amounting to £16,200 per child.

LAST YEAR DCL GROUP PROFITS WERE £64 MILLION.

Why do DCL refuse to face up to their responsibility in this matter, when in a recent poll of some of their shareholders, 70 per cent. thought the offered compensation inadequate?

Why have they tried to silence public debate on the matter by legal action against the Sunday Times, and why, if the Court is truly concerned with "the public interest" did it not consider the voracity of the articles in question?

It should not be the Government's job to meet the obligations of DCL.

Are DCL worthy of your continued custom?
Come to the Union Meeting this Tuesday.
Vote to boycott Distillers' products.

A Letter FROM the Editor

Dear Readers,

It seems that lots of people are still not managing to find me, and have curious ideas as to my whereabouts. Well, since I have to go out to see advertisers, agents and on other necessary Felix business, all of which has to be done during office hours, it means I am out fairly frequently. Therefore, by popular request, I am instituting "Office Hours". Unfortunately I can't promise to stick to them, but I'll do my best (and it's certain that I'll be there at other times too).

Here goes:

- MONDAY —0830—1100
- TUESDAY —0600—1200
- WEDNESDAY —0830—1200; 1230—1500
- THURSDAY —0830—1100; 1530—2100
- FRIDAY —0830—1100; 1530—2000
- SATURDAY —Closed
- SUNDAY —0900—1200; 1300—2100

It also seems that people are STILL trying to ring me on Internal 2881. If you want to know why I never answer, well, it's 'cos the phone isn't connected! Ring PO extension 2229, which IS connected.

Love,

OLLY

Mugging, Big Dogs and Twelve Foot Tools

Evening Standard headline . . . "Mugging is on the Increase, says J.P."

The popular press has a peculiar knack of seizing on to some minor new trend or incident which it considers to be anti-society and giving it high prominence. A major section of the public, knowing no better, duly respond. Several Conservative M.P.s duly respond. The prominence is maintained until the next bit of trivia comes along.

So mugging is on the increase. Well, of course it is. The word only came into vogue recently so it had a zero rating just a few months ago. Since then almost every single form of violence and direct theft has progressively become classified as mugging.

Certain sections of the community often figure in these onslaughts. Much destructive criticism is dissipated on youth; bestiality is often condemned by newspapers owned by old men who are too old to enjoy it or younger men who sell their papers by obsessively highlighting it. Particular fringe sections — students, rock groups etc. — who exist outside the accepted day's work, day's pay, marry the girl/boy who you dropped/dropped you in the club who lives in the next street, think like dad/mum syndrome come in for special treatment.

It doesn't even have to be people engaging everyone's attention. If you were to search through the past ten years of newspapers one bathetic press occurred about April last year when all the Alsations in the country were apparently conducting a vigorous terrorist campaign against small children. (No doubt, if this were to be repeated now we would see headlines like "Another Dog Baby-mugging in Fulham".) Looking through that 10 years of press offerings would also put events into perspective and probably only a handful of headlines would be at all relevant to the history of the period.

It would also show the way certain words and expressions come in and out of fashion. Recent in-vogue terms are "chauvinist", "credibility", "juggernauts" and "environment"; before that "viable" and "pragmatism". New words and expressions spring up though these usually appear in non-establishment publications since new is deemed equivalent to unconventional:—

"Like, man, it's too much. Got any straights, man. Got the skins and grass, man. Wow, feel real heavy. Pass me some bread, man. Must score a Wimpy" OR

"Jeez, Sheelagh. Must go choke a Darkie before I part the Tiger all over the Ferrett" OR "Bag of Spam" etc.

Just as the written and spoken word changes so other visual forms of communication alter — new art forms, advertising gimmickry, graffiti etc. Drawing highly decorative, disproportioned male organs seems to have reached epidemic popularity in the Monastic sanctuary of IC in recent years and the guys who drew a twelve foot tool for all to see from College block certainly knew the quickest way of getting a response from the College.

I just pity the guy who cleaned it all off. That's penile servitude for you!

The Landsnapper Sneeze



JOHN LANE First President's Piece

I think I should start by thanking all those who voted for and ratified me as President of I.C.U. — thank them before I change my mind about wanting the job.

Since last Thursday's Union meeting has given rise to a certain mild controversy, I'd better explain my view of it. When I heard that the UGM was cancelled, I told my class and began gathering signatures for the EGM on Tuesday. I wandered over to the Great Hall to tell any friends who turned up and found a vast gathering of seething masses — a very healthy sign indeed. Even healthier the meeting proceeded to railroad the Exec rather than vice-versa. The UGM itself decided to ratify the election without further discussion, before the result was known. It clearly indicated that it would stand behind whoever was elected even if the College Authorities did not accept the election.

With any luck, this new enthusiasm can be built on to get this union moving again.

E.G.M.

It is vital that NUS conference would be properly discussed before end of term. A number of important Government decisions may be taken soon on student union autonomy and post-graduate loans instead of grants. Next term the NUS grants campaign gets under way. We must come to some clear decisions about IC's role in these campaigns and that means good discussion at a well attended EGM.

Refectory Committee

My first involvement in the College Bureaucracy

came only 2 hours after becoming President at the Refectory Committee which consists of representatives of staff, students, admin, etc. Some interesting points came up. The kitchens are infested by cockroaches and have a really big problem with cleanliness. Steps are being taken but student vigilance is essential both to keep the clean-up permanent and to spot the mice pie.

Complaints about cuts in portions and long queues were, I think it would be fair to say, fobbed off. Your portions of chips have not been halved merely to cut back to what they would have been if the servers hadn't thought that the nice boys needed to eat! I think students should discuss in more detail a proposal I made in the election campaign. That is that as well as the present representation the refec committee would have to report to students, staff, etc. in a general meeting where more direct criticism could be made and the extent of discontent felt.

Lastly an interesting sidelight on the way private companies can influence a college. Rob Armitage brought up the NUS boycott of Distillers' Co. (DCL) products, e.g. whisky, until they compensate the thalidomide children out of the vast profits they made by high pressure salesmanship of Thalidomide. When it was under strong suspicion. Could the refec committee back up the Union if we decide to run a boycott by providing clear notices and labels in the bars? The answer was that the college couldn't upset DCL because they supply liquid gas and run some scholarships. Also, it would be embarrassing for anyone to buy a DCL whisky with a Union boycott notice nearby. The last reason was a point of principle. Perhaps there are higher principles?

MARTIN'S BIT

I apologise to the readers of Felix for not providing what must be one of their favourite features in the last few weeks. This, basically, is because there was then very little to write about. I now put my pen to paper to write.

on Ballot Boxes

I am very grateful to all those people who gave up their time to man the ballot boxes on Friday and Monday last. I would write to thank them all in person, but unfortunately a person or persons unknown lost the list so I don't know who the majority of them were. I do however recall that Alicia Lesniak and Hilary Pickett spent nearly six hours on Monday doing their bit for the Union.

on Athletics

People who wish to organise Athletic fixtures at Harlington should fill in application forms obtainable from Pam Johnston, the Union Receptionist, to whom they should be returned. You must give two weeks' notice of hire. Equipment hire costs are (examples) Cricket 60p, Soccer and Rugby 40p and Hockey 40p.

on Elections

At its last meeting Council instituted the post of NUS secretary and accepted John Rogers' resignation as Post-Graduate Affairs Officer.

Nomination papers have been posted on the Council notice-board in the Union Lower Lounge.

on the E.G.M.

There **WILL** be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Imperial College Union on Tuesday, December 5th (TODAY) at 1 p.m. in the Great Hall. Petitions are available in the Union Office.

Opportunities for Graduates in the Probation and After-Care Service

If you are concerned about people, would you like to offer a professional service to the community and face the challenge of helping offenders and their families? The probation and after-care service offers real opportunities for young men and women graduates. This is demanding but satisfying work which calls for an unusually high degree of initiative and personal responsibility if effective help is to be given to a wide variety of people. Training before and after entry helps the new officer to develop his skill and confidence in dealing with difficult problems of human relationships.

Career prospects are good and there are opportunities for work connected with research, training and administration.

There are vacancies for trained probation officers in most parts of England and Wales. Courses last between one and two years, depending on your degree, and lead to the award of the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work of the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work. During training a salary of at least £1,311 is paid.

After training a Probation Officer's salary starts between £1,632 and £1,746 (not less than £1,689 for graduates) depending on qualifications and experience, and rises in all cases to not less than £2,232. Officers have opportunity to reach a higher maximum of £2,661. Promotion to Senior Probation Officer would bring it up to £3,216. The highest grades can earn up to £6,000 according to Probation Area (£7,000 in Inner London). Officers in the London area get additional remuneration.

For fuller information write or telephone:

STANLEY RATCLIFFE,
University Liaison Officer,
INNER LONDON PROBATION AND AFTER-CARE AREA
73 Great Peter Street,
LONDON, S.W.1
Telephone: 01-222-3851

**UNION
MEETING
TODAY
1300
GT. HALL
Come !**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jews, Jowitt, and Jeneralisation

Sir,
From Paul Jowitt's comments on my article in CEFE No. 6 concerning Israel and the letter bombs, it is quite obvious that he has not actually bothered to read properly what was stated there but has simply taken a totally biased point of view.

I clearly stated six points of fact which indicated that Israeli intelligence was implicated in the recent letter bombs campaign. Paul Jowitt goes so far as to admit the truth of the facts, yet then says that surely the Israeli government couldn't have done anything quite so nasty and unscrupulous. What sort of logic is this? It is most unscientific, illogical and totally biased to accept all the evidence and then say but anyway it just can't be so".

In any case the Israeli government has shown frequently in the past that it is nasty and unscrupulous and will even murder Jews simply to make propaganda. During the 1950's Israeli intelligence operators were sent to Arab countries to set off explosions in Jewish shops and synagogues to arouse Jewish fears and encourage tension between Jews and Arabs, and to increase the desperately-needed Jewish immigration to Israel. The victims, of course, were the Jews living in the Arab states such as Iraq and Morocco.

The Israelis have particularly used the letter bomb in their terrorist campaigns. In May, 1948, 25 years old Rex Farran, student brother of a British Army officer in Palestine, was killed when he opened a parcel bomb addressed to his brother. Earlier, on September 3rd, 1947, a letter bomb addressed to a Brigadier in Intelligence at the War Office exploded in a GPO sorting office in south-west London. Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang were the suspected culprits at the time.

Eight letters posted in Turin to prominent British politicians and senior Army officers were also intercepted. Intended recipients included Arthur Greenwood, Minister without Portfolio, Sir Stafford Cripps, John Strachey, and Major-General Edward Spears, former minister to Lebanon and Syria. A parcel-bomb also arrived at the home of General Sir Evelyn Barker, former Officer commanding in Palestine.

Israel later renewed its parcel-bomb war. The Sunday Times notes: "In 1963 they (the Israelis) mounted a short campaign against West German scientists working on rocket and missile projects in Egypt."

"It was very successful. Four Egyptian technicians died when a scientific manual addressed to their German superior exploded in their office. The secretary of another German rocket scientist working in Egypt was blinded when a parcel, sent from Hamburg, exploded as she opened it. A parcel sent from Stuttgart failed to explode".

Paul Jowitt then accuses me of saying that it was the Israeli government who was also involved in the various hijackings and the Munich massacre of Israeli athletes. Nowhere in my article did I state any such thing. On the contrary; I quote, "Whatever Western Public Opinion thinks about incidents such as hijacking or Munich the Palestinians at least have the honesty to accept responsibility . . .". I would be interested in an explanation of

how this amounts to accusing the Israeli government of these acts. On the letter bomb campaign, responsibility by the various Palestinian organisations has specifically been denied.

Nor did I anywhere state that the gassing of Jews in Germany by the Nazis was a propaganda exercise. I absolutely condemn the brutal acts of the Nazis against the Jews or anyone else, however, I equally condemn similar acts committed by others including the Israeli government. The daily acts of terrorism carried out by the Israeli army against the Arab people in Israel and the neighbouring countries, the burning of Arab homes, destruction of villages in South Lebanon and Syria, the bombing of refugee camps with napalm and splinter bombs may not be so well publicised as the Nazi gas chambers but the Nazis and their sympathisers too tried to hide their existence for as long as possible.

Where in my article Paul Jowitt found any mention whatsoever of the persecution of Jews in the Bible I do not know; perhaps he could point this out to me.

Paul Jowitt's statement that "the population of Israel is 100 per cent behind the Israeli government's attitudes towards the surrounding Arab countries" is firstly completely unsubstantiated, secondly illogical — nowhere is there 100 per cent support for any similar issue —, thirdly, disputable from a factual basis. I would advise Paul Jowitt to read (without turning every sentence around to say the opposite) the book "The Deceived Testify" by Ghenrikh Gafman, which gives actual examples of what the people of Israel really think.

Zionism is in fact not in the interest of the Jewish people. The aim of Zionism, which began in the last century as a reaction to European antisemitism, was to gather all the Jews together in Palestine — the Chosen People in the Promised Land. This is a defeatist and escapist solution which never gained much support among Jews so that even today 90 per cent of Jews still live outside Israel. It did however win support from countries with an interest in the oil resources of the area.

Zionism's first success was when Balfour declared official British Government support for it in 1917. Subsequently the British mandate over Palestine opened the door to the refugees from Nazi persecution. When the numbers had swollen sufficiently, a short sharp military campaign established the state of Israel in 1948. The Palestinians, who had lived in Palestine for 1,500 years, were driven out by Zionist terror (the massacre of Deir Yassin, in which the total population of a village, men, women, and children were murdered and thrown down a well, will rank forever in the annals of barbarity).

As for the borders, the Israeli State has continually tried to expand itself. The state established in 1948 was larger than the United Nations Plan for a Jewish State in 1947. Even now after the huge expansion of 1967, Israel is still trying to extend its borders into Syria and Lebanon. The so-called "genocide threat" is just a pretext for expansion. Most of the Palestinian groups have as their aim to establish a non sectarian state of Palestine with Jews and Arabs living together. It is the Israeli government which is being unreasonable by insisting on a totally Jewish state where a few Arabs are permitted provided they forego most of their rights.

As for Paul Jowitt's five closing paragraphs, they are quite unrelated to the question. I suspect that he is on an ego trip and is trying to

show off some knowledge of ancient history.

Finally, Paul Jowitt's whole letter is based on his assumption that I support the Black September movement. I nowhere said this or implied this in any way (even Pete Gillett was capable of pointing this out to me at the time). I do not in fact support this organisation as I believe that terrorism gets one nowhere and is in fact harmful to the Palestinian cause. I was merely giving evidence that this organisation was not in fact responsible for one particular act (i.e. letter bombs) which has generally been blamed on them.

I would repeat the Felix editor's footnote to a different article by Paul Jowitt in the same issue — "Next time, please Paul, read the article before criticising it. I think, to quote you, 'you got it wrong'".

Yours sincerely,
SONIA HOCHFELDER.

Foot Speaks

Sir,

After nearly a term now of 'closed-shop' union activities, I hope that this letter will help to improve the quality of our representation committees.

Very often, the Union has representation where many people do not realise (did you know there is a computing services committee?). Furthermore the people who get elected (usually by Council) to such committees tend to communicate very little to the Union as a whole.

In some areas—e.g. Academic Affairs,—people get to know their reps fairly quickly—good.

But judging from the number of letters to Felix on refectories, it appears that few students realise we have a refectory committee—let alone who we have elected to it.

One of the main purposes of floor reps—yes, they do have a purpose!—despite two columns on the front page of Felix two weeks back telling you to the contrary—thus preventing any mention of the fact it was Rag Week on the front page of Felix (honest!—it was Rag Week!)—as I was saying, one of the main purposes of floor reps is to help you find out who your reps are on any particular committee and to badger them on your behalf if you wish, or even, if necessary, call for their resignation.

Furthermore they can represent you at joint council and help elect the council members you would like to see on Bookshop Committee, Bar committee, etc.

It is a pity I have left it so long telling you what my job is, when my job is telling you what jobs other people do.

Yours, etc.,
G. W. FOOT,
Maths 3, ICU Floor
Rep on Council.

Foot Speaks Again

Sir,

I must confess I have never seen a waste of £1.00 as ICU is wasting on its two sabbatical officers this year.

Our Secretary (not Hon. Sec. — we pay him you know) spends all his time on committees which ordinary members of the Union can do — and his spare time doing other peoples jobs and leaves his work unfinished.

1) The minutes of the previous Council meeting, and the reports to be presented to council, arrived in council's letter rack the morning

before the meeting.

2) The minutes of the last Union meeting were, as ever, unpublished before the meeting.

3) He was late to that meeting.

4) He could not organise anything so simple as having two people on each ballot box for the last election.

Regardless of how much work he does, if he deprives us of valuable minutes, reports, etc., we can make no contribution whatsoever, and the Union becomes a one man show (Yes, a show).

Our other sabbatical officer spends his time editing a newspaper he is too lazy to distribute around I.C. (Sennet) and leaves Felix to his spare time.

He makes the task of editing Felix easy, by serialising books in a Daily Mirror manner, having a large area devoted to sports and reviews (he doesn't have to do any work on these pages) and padding out the letters with sarcastic comments (why should he be the only one in the Union who can get his own back?).

After he has written large, well-spaced-out articles, with big boxes saying "Personal viewpoint of Oliver Dowson" in the middle, there is just a tiny space left, usually on page 2, for some real news.

We wanted a secretary and an editor of Felix and we made them sabbatical so as to give them plenty of time to chase up other people — but they do the 'job' or something approximating to it, on their own and make a right mess of it.

Hoping for a return to the days of Sugden's Daily Mirror . . .

G. W. FOOT,
Maths 3.

Foot-note

I am afraid that I cannot help but reply to Mr. Foot's two letters. In his first, he shows that he has no knowledge whatever of what a floor rep is meant to do — surely to represent the floor of the Union? I sent a Felix reporter to stop passers-by on the walkway and ask them what they knew about floor reps. Most of them had never heard of them . . . even fewer had heard of Mr. Foot, and few of them knew he was one. "People who get elected to these committees tend to communicate very little to the Union as a whole" he says. I look forward to the day when he communicates to the Union Floor what he is doing in their name, and makes them know that he is their representative. I haven't had any letters on refectories this term. What's the good of someone who only tells you what other people are meant to do and does nothing himself, please?

As regards the comments about myself in the second letter, it would be nice if Mr. Foot got some facts right. I spend little if any time on "Sennet" — a mere four hours every other week. I am no longer Editor of that paper. I do have to work on sports and reviews pages — I have to make them literate, a task which really needed doing on both your letters, especially the first one which wouldn't get past the 11-plus. I also have to type out all the articles, and lay them out on the page. Any news that there is — and there isn't much — gets on page 1, unless technicalities force it to appear elsewhere. If you want to know what the job of editing Felix is like, and what I do, I suggest you follow me around for a week and find out. But get some sleep first, because you won't get much on the job. If your job is telling other people what jobs other people do, find out what the jobs involve first . . . now I wonder what a floor rep is meant to do . . .

More on Lager

Sir, — I must thank Richard King for pointing out the finer points of Carlsberg/Watneys marketing technique.

I did know that the "Golden Mermaid" Carlsberg was an important but, as Richard King rightly explained, it is virtually unobtainable in London and my accounting for the difference would have involved a disproportionate amount of space in the article.

Incidentally, Bass, Charrington last week declared a profit of £48.9 millions, an increase of 24 per cent over the previous trading year. Turnover, however, only increased by 14.4 per cent . . .

Yours affectionately,
MARTIN DOUGHTY

Livestock Export Concern

Sir,

May I, through the courtesy of your paper, draw the attention of students and staff to the RSPCA CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE EXPORT OF LIVE FOOD ANIMALS, which follows a report by their Chief Veterinary Officer on the appalling conditions our livestock are exposed to during and after export. Britain joins the Common Market on 1st January, 1973, and while it will not be possible to get the necessary legislation through Parliament before then, it is the intention of the above Society to continue to put pressure on the Government to pass a law prohibiting the export of food animals to countries (several of which are in the EEC) which are not using humane killing methods in their abattoirs.

It is quite clear from recent investigations that the old Balfour "Assurances" (1957) are no longer sufficient to protect these animals and many of the foreign abattoirs are being allowed to slaughter our livestock in conditions which would not be tolerated in any of our abattoirs. If old laws, to which some of these countries are signatories, are being ignored at will, it is imperative that our Government realises this and puts a stop once and for all to this despicable treatment of our British-reared livestock. For many reasons a carcass-only trade must be substituted, and these reasons are clearly outlined in an excellent leaflet produced by the RSPCA which also contains a report by their Chief Veterinary Officer. I strongly recommend that your readers see this. The facts are presented in a non-emotional way and quite apart from this human angle there are cost implications for the British Taxpayer which everyone ought to know about. Supplies of this leaflet may be obtained from me on ringing Int. 2593 or direct from the RSPCA, 105 Jermyn Street, London SW1.

I appeal to everyone interested to please get in touch with me with a view to signing a petition in support of the campaign or if preferred they may write direct to the RSPCA. All letters, petitions, etc., will be taken to the House of Commons before the end of December by the Vice-Chairman of the RSPCA who is also an MP and presented in support of a Bill which it is hoped will be quickly passed through Parliament. There is a very strong feeling, I am told, in the Commons about this campaign and more and more MPs (over 200 to date) are signing motions to put pressure on the Government to end this needless suffering.

The RSPCA needs YOUR support. This is not an appeal for money, only for signatures. Will you please help?

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA D. STUART,
College Block.

Union v. Parker Resolved

Sir,

May I express my appreciation to you and to the many students who supported me during my dispute with certain members of the I.C.S.U. This dispute arose mainly through a misunderstanding on both sides and a vast exaggeration of the contents of the letter by a member of Management. I am pleased to say that the dispute has been resolved amicably and that the previous good relationship has been restored.

Thanking you all once again,
Yours sincerely,
RON PARKER,
Messenger, Beit Hall.

Felix Minuted?

Sir,

We suggest that the Hon. Sec. of I.C.U. publish the minutes of I.C. Union meetings in Felix. This would provide an excellent opportunity for the minutes to be read before they are taken as read at subsequent meetings. Why this is not done at present is a mystery.

Yours, etc.,
M. BROADHEAD,
M. WITHERS,
Chem. 1.

DAD

Sir,

As part of its general activity the College Branch of ASTMS (Association of Scientific, Technical & Managerial Staffs) is engaged in PAD activity . . . where PAD equals Participating Actively in Democracy.

One type of PAD activity is organising Political Affairs Debates, bringing MPs to open a debate on current policy points. Another type, which we would like to commend to IC Students, refers to local councils and this is particularly relevant now because of the GLC elections next May.

In this connection we are attempting to formulate in practical terms particular policy points which we think local councils can carry out and then find one or more councillors/potential councillors who think likewise. At the same time we would like to train/organise a canvassing team to support such a friend(!) in the forthcoming GLC election. If he/she is elected, we would maintain contact in order to see how the policy points could actually be carried out.

At the moment we have formulated a number of general policy points under the headings 'FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT / LAND UTILISATION / COMPREHENSIVE FREE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICE / OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE / FORMATION OF LIVING ART-GRAPHIC SECTION OF COUNCIL STAFF (to improve ways and means of improving communications with the public)'. The next step is to produce short supporting documents which can then be printed and circulated to councillors / prospective councillors/political parties starting in the Kensington area and extending it as far as is practicable depending upon the number of persons who wish to 'participate actively'.

Any student who would like to participate in these democratic activities can do so by dropping a note to me and they will then be kept informed.

Yours sincerely,
H. FAIRBROTHER,
Secretary
Maths Dept.

NUS:

What's in it for us?

Another NUS conference has come and gone. What has it achieved?

How many of the decisions at it are likely to affect you, the people in whose name it was justified? The conference lasts for four days during which time about 35 hours of debates take place. Obviously, someone, somewhere, thinks it of great importance that this should occur. Hopefully, this article will help you to understand more about NUS and its relevance (or not) to most students.

As indicated last week, the main business of the conference revolves around the debating of these motions which have received the highest "prioritisation". This year the top five items to be discussed were Representation, Housing, Conference Reform, Grants and Autonomy. These took up most of the time available but such things as Executive Reports, Finance Reports and Elections take place too. An Executive Report is a summary of what the Union Exec has achieved during the period between conferences. Finances are discussed during a "closed session", that is, one from which all press and visitors are excluded. Elections are held for posts that fall vacant due to resignation or expiration of term of office.

The most important part of conference is definitely the production of a motion duly amended and passed by the delegates which is then used by the executive as an indication of the line it has to pursue during the next six months.

The dominant theme in all these debates is a fight between the Executive (mostly Communist Party members) and the extreme left groups on the conference floor (International Marxist Group and International Socialists). The ludicrous state of affairs leads to the situation in which the Executive is given the appearance of an almost reactionary group. Undoubtedly this is one of the major weaknesses with the NUS as it stands. The conference debates are normally so bogged down in ultra-left wing amendments that the main motion is almost forgotten by the time it

comes to voting on it. By this time most of the delegates have lost track of what is happening and so the motion is always passed. Hence a Communist Party line on student politics is invariably the result.

In the Representation debate for example, Surrey University had included an amendment which rejected representation as a "Sop to the students". Their position was that any form of representation weakened the students' position in that they could never affect the workings of the committee they were on since they were always in the minority. Along with this negative position came the statement that "It is time students realised which side of the class barrier they are on". This amendment was eventually defeated, but not before three quarters of an hour of debating had taken place. This was only one of four amendments and at the end the amended motion was thankfully disposed of. In it was included some strong lines on what would be acceptable to NUS but little thought was given to the students who might be called to implement a strike or similar action.

Again and again this lack of consideration for the 500,000 students which NUS claim to represent was evident. The naive excuse that the ordinary students are represented by their delegates is not good enough. Theoretically, all delegates should have a mandate from their own unions on all topics of debate, but this is totally impracticable. Too much work has to be done by individual union members for comprehensive

mandates to appear. In the case of our own Union the deficiencies are seen only too clearly. The main motions had to be submitted before the beginning of the Christmas term so that the complicated procedure of prioritisation and returning amendments can be completed in time. This limits all the decisions to, at most, the External Affairs Committee and normally just the External Affairs Officer. Inordinate Union meetings resulted in all the amendments being unapproved and the delegates being virtually unmandated.

Under these circumstances the correct action for the delegates would be to abstain from all votes. This is clearly absurd and indicates the need for some basic thought on the matter.

As far as I can see there is no solution. The nearest comparable situation is that of the Government of the country. No attempt is made to mandate an MP and it is accepted that this is the only way the system could work. It is assumed that MPs have sufficient expertise and concern for their constituents that they will vote for them where they can. However, on most issues, of national importance, the MP invariably votes on conscience, the debate over Common Market entry being a good example.

Although some people would disagree (mostly those who go to NUS conferences!) the system has and is still working well. Where, therefore, is the difference between this and the NUS which is not working at all well?

The crucial item is that of interest. People are interested in who governs the country. They know that a government has immense powers and that these can be used to affect their lives. Hence when the time comes for an MP to be elected he has to be easily identifiable with a group which has certain defined responses to running the country. MPs are very rarely chosen by personality, they are chosen by the party they belong to. This selection process eliminates radical elements automatically. The whole system is founded on the fact that MPs have to believe in the process of Parliamentary control of the country

otherwise they are not selected as an "official candidate".

However, the NUS is not in such a position. The people who are eligible to vote for delegates or stand as one are not convinced that the NUS has any power to affect their lives. Therefore, when the time comes to elect the delegates, the vast majority do not care who is chosen. This allows the small percentage of activists to dominate the proceedings. Hence when the NUS claims to represent 500,000 people, no-one listens.

This sad state of affairs is self-perpetuating. As long as most students are not interested, the government will recognise that NUS has a minimal amount of bargaining power and act accordingly. This reinforces the students' view that the NUS cannot affect their lives and so the circle is closed.

This is an inevitable consequence of the fact that students are not dependent on the NUS to provide their jobs and security as is the case with Trade Unions. Even assuming that the NUS could cause a national student strike, no-one would suffer as a result of it. However, if the TUC decides to call a general strike, the country grinds to a halt. Obviously the fact that society is immediately dependent on workers gives them a power which NUS can never have.

It is therefore impossible for the NUS to have any serious effect on any one. This removes the main reason for its existence as a union, and certainly brings up the question of belonging to it.

Imperial College Union pays several thousand pounds for the dubious privilege of belonging to it. If the NUS could actually affect the government in any significant way (no, I do not include the "withdrawal" of the DES Green Paper on Union Autonomy) then this might be worth the money. The fringe benefits such as cheap travel, insurance, etc., are of use only to the individual, and do not justify the whole union belonging.

It is therefore, with a heavy heart, that I recommend serious consideration by the Union of discontinuing our membership of NUS.

Ross McBeath

CONFERENCE NEWS

THALIDOMIDE

A total boycott on products of Distillers' Company Ltd., the company that marketed the drug Disteval (commonly known as Thalidomide) between 1959 and 1961 was called for. Distillers' main products on sale in Unions are their spirits: they account for more than 90% of whiskies and a large number of other spirits. Common brand names are Black and White, Johnnie Walker, Gordons, etc. DCL also make most yeast used in Britain, market a considerable number of pharmaceuticals, and have large interests in a number of breweries.

Conference also called for the nationalisation of the pharmaceuticals industry and for Distillers to pay suitable compensation to the victims.

GRANTS

A major grants campaign is to be launched in the New Year. C.O.'s and the NUS Executive aim to mobilise the entire student body behind their demands for an immediate grants rise, an annual review of grants in line with a student cost index, the abolition of discretionary awards and the means test, a better post-graduate grants system, and 1/30 of the full grant for each week over the 30th spent working.

Major springboard of the grants campaign will be a national rent strike in January to make hall fees and/or catering prices compatible with the national element allowed for them in the grant. (They already are at Imperial and all London colleges, but living in the provinces, it appears, is much more expensive!).

HOUSING

Re-iterating the demand for a national rent strike until hall fees fall in line with the national element in the grant. Conference also called for the abolition of the "self-balancing" system for halls imposed by the University Grants Committee (UGC) and the Local Education Authorities, suggesting that halls be subsidised. The motion also said that no more "totally inappropriate" halls should be built, but purpose-built student flats should be provided instead. Deviating slightly, Felix will be publishing a novel solution to the student housing problem — which will work — in the series "Felix Financially" next week.

REPRESENTATION

Conference overwhelmingly defeated an amendment to the substantive motion calling for the ending of student representation in the government of Higher Education, tabled by Surrey University. This amendment said that, since students have not got an equal say on committees, they cannot influence the decisions of these committees and are implicated in the decisions of them whether they agree or not.

The substantive, which was equally overwhelmingly carried, called for maximum student representation on all college committees, and for the abolition of Privy Council "Reserved areas". It also stressed that student representatives should be elected from and by the Union floor, something which does not always happen. "There should

be the maximum democratic control of students union representatives," it said.

WOMEN

Certainly the best report compiled by the NUS Executive for years, "Women in Society", the work of the only women on the NUS Exec, was presented to Conference. Conference condemned the discrimination against women and all other oppressed sectors of society, especially homosexuals.

STIRLING

"Conference believes that (Digby Jacks') remarks clearly represent a stab in the back directed at a group of students already under heavy attack from the bourgeois mass media; and we note the glee with which they have been received in this quarter". It was thus that conference censured the NUS president for his opening remarks at conference. Conference pledged its full support to the victimised students at Stirling, and to the right of Stirling students to demonstrate against the "extravagant and unnecessary" visit of the Queen to Stirling.

CONFERENCE REFORM

Extensions of time had to be granted several times to get this set of motions, more than 20 of them, through conference. Even so, not all of them were debated. This debate saw Imperial delegates at their most vociferous, especially on the powers of steering committee who, as you may remember from an article in "Felix" a couple of weeks back, are the ones who really run the show. IC were instrumental in preventing several extensions of power to Steering Committee getting through. No one is looking forward more than the student press to finding out whether the new procedures will make conference more comprehensible!

STUDENT NURSES

Conference condemned the abysmal pay of student nurses, and the appalling conditions they were required to work under. They are, it was claimed, treated as menials at work and subject to oppressive and archaic systems of hostel accommodation. Conference urged that they be brought as members into the NUS, and that the NUS immediately starts campaigning on their behalf.

AUTONOMY

Under its favourite Chairman (and the only competent one), Ed Straw, Conference ploughed through the substantive motion and seven of the ten amendments (defeating all the amendments except for a small instruction calling for a national campaign on Autonomy) in two hours — quite an achievement in terms of time. The remaining substantive, which was carried overwhelmingly, contained instructions to the Executive should the government suddenly re-introduce its plans for SU's. In the meantime, it condemned the freezing of Union funds by College Authorities. It also called upon the Executive to initiate a campaign against staff treasurers of unions, and upon C.O.'s to remove them where they exist. (This is the case in Imperial).

Phosphorous the Jobrot and Ferocious Din

A book in
9 parts
by S. Swailes
PART TWO

As Ferocious sat, still stunned by the instant disappearance of his house, staring bemusedly at the palm trees, Phosphorous bounced around chattering aimlessly.

"Gosh, Ferocious, isn't this wonderful? I've never been on an adventure before, unless you count getting on the wrong train last week and going to Glasgow instead of Cricklewood. That was more surprising than adventurous, I suppose. But this is quite different to Glasgow — I mean the trees and the sand and all that. And there don't seem to be any Scotsmen round here, which there are in Glasgow of course, Ha, Ha, . . . Phosphorous' voice died away when he saw the look on Ferocious' face.

"Do shut up, dear boy".
"I'm sorry, Ferocious, but it's so exciting".

"Doubtless for you, dear lad, it is. I am more concerned for my humble abode, and its exact whereabouts, as of this moment".

"I know it is worrying for you, but this is a real Adventure, and we must do something adventurous. Perhaps?" Phosphorous added, as he saw Ferocious beginning to look more irritated than usual.

"Just what do you suggest, my impatient chum?" inquired Ferocious.

"Well, um", went Phosphorous, glancing around. Suddenly something in the distance caught his eye. "Look Ferocious, look at that", he pointed to a hut-like object in the far distance. "Let's go and see what that is".

"It is I suppose, marginally preferable to sitting here pondering", said Ferocious. "Let us proceed in that direction".

So the two friends set off along the beach. Ferocious strode languidly over the sand, as Phosphorous trotted on ahead — stopping every now and then to wait for his friend. The sun was high in the sky and the sand soft under foot, as the intrepid adventurers trudged along. Even Ferocious' long legs were beginning to tire as the distant hut became less so. By now Phosphorous and Ferocious could see that the hut was on wheels — it was obviously a converted bathing hut. Peeling pink paint decorated its sun-bleached timbers, and over the door hung a large sign:

"MOBILE ADVENTURE RECEPTION CENTRE. Knock and enter"

"Oh look, Ferocious", said Phosphorous, "what shall we do?"

"We could try knocking, and even perhaps entering", replied Din, drily.

"Tremendous", said Phosphorous. So they knocked and entered.

Inside the hut sat an elderly man, behind a large mahogany desk. Little tufts of hair sprouted from his cheekbones, and he wore a high wing collar. His fingers, long bony and ink-stained, gripped a quill pen with which he was writing industriously in an old ledger. He did not look up when the two friends came in.

"Ahem!" coughed Ferocious politely — there was no reaction. "Ahem", he coughed again — still there was no sign that the man had noticed them. Phosphorous was just drawing breath to join his friend in a little polite throat clearing, when a small piece of fluff which happened to be passing was sucked in on the draught.

"Cough, splutter, choke, wheeze", went Phosphorous as politely as he could in the circumstances. He clasped his throat, coughing and spluttering, and staggered about the little hut banging into walls, slowly turning purple.

"I say, dear boy, that's going a little far, don't you think?" said Ferocious.

"Spit, writhe", went Phosphorous, as the fluff finally exploded from his throat. "Sorry", he said.

"Can I help you?" inquired the old man, seemingly unaffected by Phosphorous' breathing troubles.

"Ah", said Ferocious Din, "May I introduce Phosphorous the Jobrot, and I, myself, am Ferocious Din".

"Hello", said Phosphorous.

"Grunt", said the man.

"We", went on Ferocious, "are supposed to be on an adventure, if you'll excuse the term, and seeing the most explicit sign over your door, we felt that you might be able to — ah — furnish us with some assistance — so to speak".

"Well, you have, as it happens, come to the right place", said the man, whose name was Mr. Drains, "but I must say they are sending us a very different class of adventurer nowadays".

"Eh?" said Phosphorous, suspecting an insult.

"Why I can remember the days", went on Mr. Drains, "when your adventurers were real gentlemen, as would have gold watches, and fine clothes. Y'es people knew their place in them days — oh y'es".

"My dear wizened old idiot", said Ferocious, "nostalgia is all very fine in its place,

and it's certainly not what it used to be, but this is not really helping with our adventure".

"Typical", grunted Mr. Drains, "however, I am obliged to set you off on your adventure. Let me see now". Turning from his desk, the old man pulled open a vast filing cabinet which stood at the back of the hut. "Din F. and Jobrot P, the." he muttered, flicking through piles of documents. "Ah, here we are — Ferocious Din and Phosphorous the Jobrot: the adventure of the Tiny Twigworm". Ferocious' eyes lit up. Since the death of Tonsil he had been looking for a new worm. "Here you are", snapped Mr. Drains, handing Ferocious a long, sealed envelope, "read it outside would you, we're very busy at the moment".

"Thank you for making us feel so much at home", said Ferocious, taking the envelope, and smiling offensively at Mr. Drains.

"Young people got no manners nowadays, it was different when I was a lad, why for one penny . . ."

But Ferocious and Phosphorous had left the Mobile Adventure Reception Centre, and walked a little way back down the beach. They sat down on a convenient sandy hummock and Ferocious slit open the envelope. Inside was a long, folded piece of paper with an official looking crest at the top. Ferocious unfolded the paper and began to read:

ADVENTURE OF THE TINY TWIGWORM

"Summary of situation so far. Two weeks ago there was a severe storm in the area of the Permanent Adventure Centre, and the Tiny Twigworm was found washed up on the beach. When he had recovered sufficiently, he told us that he had been swept overboard from the Twigwormery where he lived, and remembered little more until he woke up at the Centre. Twigwormeries are the floating nest or group of nests on which the Twigworms travel the Oceans of the world. ("Gosh" said Phosphorous). The Tiny Twigworm is, of course anxious to rejoin its Twigwormery, and its presence in the Centre has become something of a problem. It is with this situation in mind that Ferocious Din and Phosphorous the Jobrot are invited to remove the Twigworm and return him to his home. Each Adventurer is entitled to one piece of Amazing Equipment. You will therefore call at the Adventure Equipment Stores, Back of the dunes, 3rd Palm Tree on the Left, before starting the adventure. GOOD LUCK!"

"A concise if not very informative document" said Ferocious, shaking the envelope to see if there was any money stuck inside. There was not.

"Ooh, ooh, it's really starting", squeaked Phosphorous, "come on Ferocious, let's get on".

"All in good time, dear boy", Quoth the wily Din, but Phosphorous could wait no longer. Leaping to his feet, he rushed off down the beach.

"You are going the wrong way, dear old impetuous buddy", shouted Ferocious. Phosphorous skidded to a halt in a cloud of sand and came back. "On the left, it says, Back of the Dunes, Third Palm Tree on the Left" explained Ferocious.

"Oh", said Phosphorous.

"Follow Ferocious Din, navigator extraordinary", said Ferocious walking into a palm tree. He was not seriously injured, and replacing his monocle, set off for the Back of the Dunes, with Phosphorous trailing along behind.

The two friends had hardly passed the line of palm trees at the back of the beach, when there could be seen the Adventure Stores ahead of them. The "Stores" was a yellow-painted Nissan hut with a large sign over the door which read: "Adventure Stores, Prop. A. Drawers. Licensed to sell Amazing Equipment and That".

"This seems to be the place", said Ferocious, and in they went.

A wooden counter divided off the main area of the Stores from the little bit by the door. Behind the counter stood row upon row of shelves draped with mysterious objects. Piles of THINGS littered the floor and yet more weird devices hung from the ceiling. There was no-one to be seen.

"Er, shop?" said Ferocious, a little nervously. From behind one of the piles of THINGS emerged a stooping figure, coughing like a lung full of gravel.

"Yus, mate", he croaked — and the cigarette in the corner of his mouth trembled as he spoke — "what can I do you for?"

"I am Ferocious Din, and this is Phosphorous the Jobrot" announced Ferocious, "and we are, ah, adventurers so to speak, and we claim our Amazing Equipment".

"Well, you come to the right place, 'ent you" replied the man, "I am Alf Drawers and this here is your Adventure Stores. I'll just look in me book and see what you gets".

From under the counter Alf drew out a

large, well-thumbed book. Slowly turning the pages, he ran an oily thumb down the inky columns.

"Ere we are", he said, digging a nicotine-stained digit into the page, "You gets the Partially Invisible Gumboots and the Strikingly Offensive Cloak — you can fight it out amongst yourselves as to who has what". So saying he half turned and let out a strangled cry, "Reg! You done them P.I.G.s yet?"

"Aargle, graaably, mumble, next week, mate, at the earliest", came the muffled reply.

"Don't mess about, Reg", shouted Mr. Drawers, "I got two blokes here who wants them boots now". There was a clattering and banging from the other end of the shed and Reg appeared.

He was younger than Alf Drawers and carried what looked like a perfectly ordinary pair of gumboots in his hand.

"You can have them now if you wants", he said, "But I wouldn't want to walk any distance in them meself. They're done, mate, your main fusion condenser'll go any minute. They don't make 'em like this any more, you see, we gotta get parts from Dagenham. Well, it'll take at least a month, what with things as they are. Cost more than the boots is worth".

"But we can't possibly wait a month", said Ferocious, "We'll just have to leave the boots, and make do with the Cloak".

"Don't you worry about them boots, mate", said Alf, "They'll hold up so long as you treat 'em careful, and don't do no stamping".

"But, my dear old mate, what exactly do they do", asked Ferocious. Alf and Reg exchanged glances.

"They're called Partially Invisible Gumboots, right?" said Reg, finally, "so that's what they do. 'Ere, let your little mate put 'em on and you'll see. I hope" he added under his breath.

Phosphorous took the Gumboots and step-

ped into them.

"They don't seem to be working", he said.

"Don't you believe it, dear boy", said Ferocious, paling visibly, "Look at your legs". Phosphorous looked down. There stood the Gumboots, but where his legs should've been going into the boots there was nothing at all. As his gaze travelled up his little body there was more nothing.

"Help!" he said.

"How does one turn them off, so to speak", asked Ferocious. "You just gets out of them, they're quite automatic", said Alf, proudly. Phosphorous promptly stepped out of the boots and slowly reappeared.

"My dear old Alfred", said Ferocious, rather impertinently, "They really are not much good unless they turn invisible as well as the person in them".

"You can't have everything, mate", said Reg, "They is only PARTIALLY Invisible Gumboots. They'll come in real handy if you has to hide in a shoe shop". Ferocious did not reply.

"Right", said Alf, "and you'll be wanting your Strikingly Offensive Cloak, what I had right in front of me a moment ago". He turned from the counter and started to burrow about in one of the Piles of THINGS on the floor.

"I had it in me very hand", he muttered, digging furiously.

"Here it is, Alf", shouted Reg, pulling a long purple cloak out from under a stuffed Boa-constrictor.

"What, dear old mechanical chaps, does that thing do?" inquired Ferocious.

"This, mate, is your Strikingly Offensive Cloak", said Reg, "what Alf and Me has come up with for putting the frighteners on undesirables. Highly effective, though I says it as shouldn't. You try it on, mate, and you won't half get a shock".

(continued on page 7)

Christmas Cards

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The RCS Broadsheet

presents

RON'S $\frac{1}{3}$ PAGE

It suddenly occurred to me when I was thinking about how to best use the first third of an opinion page that Felix had turned over to the RCS Broadsheet, that the publication that I am privileged to edit is the only one of IC's newspapers that is not distributed free. So what better way to start than to explain why this is so?

Apart from the obvious fact that Broadsheet is the only one worth paying for (and we only charge the mere pittance of 1p) the main reason is that charging is the only way to ensure it is distributed properly and read by those who are really interested. My job would be a lot easier if we just dumped a number of Broadsheets in each department and left them to be picked up, but by getting the social reps to sell them in their departments we ensure that not only every department has the opportunity of buying a copy but also can keep a check on how well certain editions do and which departments are keen to buy it and which not. The fact that we actually get some money back to help cover costs (although it never can since each copy costs over 1p in paper alone) is really of secondary importance. Sales in all departments, with the notable exception of Botany and Zoology (despite persistent efforts of the social and departmental reps) have been very encouraging this term, reaching the magic figure of 500 for all of RCS. Of course some copies are given free and the few left over stored in the RCS office where they may be purchased any lunchtime (hint, hint!).

The purpose of Broadsheet is to inform and entertain the people of RCS

in matters concerning them directly and also to cover some wider topics in the interests of variety and completeness. We have established this term a number of regular features, namely a serious crossword, literary serial "Boggin the Bog", strip cartoon serial "Dart", hitting comment column "Necromancer", and Ents Page (of varying sizes), as well as the usual news and reviews features, editorial and presidential comments, vice-column and (following hot on the heels of last year's Martin's Bit) "John's Bit" (who's she—Ed.). We also welcome, and frequently get, articles from members of RCS on all sorts of topics, some humorous, others very serious. All articles received, via the Physics letter-rack addressed to me, or left in the RCSU office, are considered for publication and inclusion depends on the amount of space available.

Owing to the extreme difficulty (i.e. virtual impossibility) of getting foolscap paper at present, Broadsheet last week became an all A4 edition for the first time, complete with new front page heading. Every edition now is usually 12 sides in length which means even more hard work for the non-sabbatical editor, comes out every other Thursday morning.

Now that you all know about Broadsheet, next term I'll have other items of national urgency and international interest. Until then I'll leave you with a little problem I mentioned a couple of editorials ago. What sings Chinese operas in the bath, dances on top of Queen's Tower at full moon, but is read all over?

Happy Crimble and a very new year,

RON (Appleby)

Broadsheet Editor.

PAPERBACKS

THE QUILLER MEMORANDUM

Adam Hall (Fontana, 30p)

Exciting, frightening, true to life . . . "Quiller, British agent, lone-wolf living close to the knowledge of his easy expendability sets out to upset a neo-Nazi plot. Remorseless . . . a story that holds you".—Evening Standard.

I think to a certain extent I agree, as James Bond type-thrillers go. In fact, this stands out as one of the best. The Quiller Memorandum, or the Berlin Memorandum as it was called when it was first published in 1965 has certainly stood the test of time well.

I had never read this novel before, yet it still maintained its grip of fear over me. Written at a time when the cold war was still in our minds and the Berlin Wall had only just been completed, this must have been a really devastating novel. I suppose that most of the techniques used by our hero Quiller are not used by the real-life Rosenbergs, Vassals and Kimbys —

however, who am I to know. It all seemed very realistic to me. I must admit that Quiller is pretty lucky with some of the things he gets away with: his reasoning doesn't exactly make him the next Chomsky. Perhaps the most annoying habit of Quiller's is to manage to get out of his tight spots with the absolute minimum of physical violence but by the maximum of mental effort.

The story is very strong and holds you to very nearly the end of the book although I did find the end rather scrappy and a little untidy. This may be because trying to finish a novel such as this in an acceptable yet realistic way is not particularly simple. Adam Hall carries out a fine job and I think that Fontana have made a wise decision on reprinting, especially when you consider some of the terrible novels released recently.

This will not probably make a very good present, but buy it for yourself to read over the boring Christmas aftermath.

Editorial

(continued from page 2)

develop films at all hours of night to meet deadlines.

Any student newspaper is only as good as these people. And since these people are students themselves, it is not unreasonable to suppose that their views can be identified with by a number of the readership, whatever the views expressed. The overall aim is communication: thus every student paper should carry as wide a range of views as possible. No student paper can afford to turn down good contributions, whatever the views expressed.

Anyone who gives up time on a project for which he gets no reward other than to see his name in print has a completely justifiable pride in the paper he has helped to produce, especially in those parts of it which he has directly been responsible for and which bear his name. To have his work altered or mutilated in a way repugnant to him does nothing but alienate him from the Editor. Student should not be set above student, especially not in the student press world: as the ULU Handbook puts it, "People willing to work on the student press are gold dust and treated with the same love".

Regrettably this is not always so. There are, so it seems, still student newspaper Editors around who

believe that everything in their papers should be just the way they like it — regardless of what anyone else thinks, let alone the person or persons responsible for the contribution in the first place. These editors call it "Editorial Control" — their unfortunate staff have other, harsher, words for it. I have just heard of a case in a London student paper where a correspondent spent much of a day compiling information for and writing a full-page feature. The feature was a serious one, and the correspondent — needless to say, after spending all that time on it — was anxious for the article to appear as she wanted it to. But the Editor decided to put an entirely incongruous picture on the same page, with a "funny" caption which made it seem to relate to the (dead serious) article. It reduced the whole page to trivia. It reduced the correspondent to tears. She won't write for that paper again, and I can't blame her. That paper has lost one of its biggest contributors . . . and in most student newspapers, losing your least contributor is a disaster. The Editor didn't even confer with her before doing it. He won't budge on the picture's going in. It's a rather puerile attitude.

As one of the few sectors of the press not controlled by the advertising barons, the student press should be showing the way forward in catholic journalism. There is no place for autocracy in the mental build-up of a student newspaper editor.

Whether it is a question of politics or one of purely subjective likes and dislikes, no Editor should ever impose his whims on his staff of contributors. There is an enormous range of opinions held by students: who is the Editor to decide which ones should be voiced and which not? There is a limit to how far an Editor can put himself above his staff if he wishes to retain the loyalty of both them and the readers: it is not a very high one. Those who go above it do their readers, their contributors and the student press in general a grave disservice.

Of course this aim of printing all shades of opinion is somewhat utopian; it is only possible to print what gets contributed. Felix doesn't print the articles some suggest it should purely and simply because no-one contributes them, and none of the existing Felix staff are capable of writing them. (Their views don't tally). If they were contributed, they would get printed, and no-one is keener to see this happen than me. So before those of you who are critical of Felix's politics (and there are many of you, I know) flood my pigeon holes with angry letters, and my ears with angrier sayings, please sit down and write an article for publication. I don't know if anyone is trying to suppress you or your views, but I'm not . . . and I won't guillotine your article or trivialise it either. You'd better guillotine me if I do.

OLIVER DOWSON

Next Week's FELIX is the Christmas Issue

All the usual twaddle held over in favour of fun, games and FREE GIFT!!!

Phosphorous the Jobrot and Ferocious Din

(continued from page 6)

So Ferocious took the cloak and slung it negligently around his shoulders. Nothing happened.

"Put the hood up, mate", said Alf. Ferocious put the hood up.

"Bleeeeech!" said Phosphorous jumping ten feet backwards. Instead of Ferocious' usual angular features, there appeared beneath the hood a hideous skull-face, faintly luminescent, with deep-set blood-shot eyes.

"Has something untoward occurred?" asked the skull.

"Ferocious, you're horrible", said Phosphorous, trying to climb over the counter.

"Not bad", said Reg. "Pretty nasty isn't it?"

"Do you mind", said the skull, "I've never claimed to be handsome, but there is no need to be rude".

"Take the hood off and you'll be back to normal", said Reg. Ferocious lowered the hood and beamed around.

"Not much difference really, is there?" said Alf.

"Watch it, inventive sir", said Ferocious. The intrepid duo were now fully equipped, so they took their leave of Alf and Reg, left the Adventure Stores, and set off along the beach.

"What do you think we ought to do now?" asked Phosphorous.

"Your guess, dear boy, is as good as mine", replied Din, "I suppose we search out this Twigworm character, and do something about his plight, so to speak". Just where to search did not immediately occur to the hardy adventurers, so they sat down on the sand for a moment to think things out.

Ferocious was just starting on a comprehensive recap of the situation as he saw it,

and Phosphorous was dropping off to sleep, when the sand in front of them began to tremble and vibrate.

"I say", said Ferocious, "can this be a minor earth tremor, do you think, old fruit?" But no, it appeared that something was burrowing its way to the surface of the beach.

"Perhaps it is the Twigworm itself", said Phosphorous, stepping back to avoid the flying sand.

"A not dissimilar thought had crossed my mind, old friend", said Ferocious. With a final flurry of sand, a small sign on a pole appeared, as if poked up by an invisible hand from beneath. The sign was yellow-painted, and in black letters it carried the legend "TO THE TWIGWORM" with an arrow pointing down the beach. In the bottom left-hand corner were the letters "A.A."

"That must be Adventurers Association", guessed Phosphorous.

"Possibly", said Ferocious drily, "What an organisation these people have, to be sure. I would suggest, dear lad, that we follow the sign, and see where it leads us".

"O.K." said Phosphorous. And they did. Trudging along the interminable beach, Ferocious mused on the problems inherent in this adventure.

"You see, Phosphorous", he said, "this being a TINY twigworm, I would surmise that finding it in all this sand may prove something of a, shall we say, problem". Hardly had he spoken than the two rounded a dune to be faced with a huge pile of old tractor tyres.

"Oh, look at that", said Phosphorous, "what a rotten thing to do, to dump a pile of old rubbish like that on this nice beach".

"Dearie, dearie me", said the pile of old tyres, "Oh woe is me", and burst into tears. They had found the Twigworm.

the sports page

arnold rugby badminton hockey

MIXED RUGBY

Gentlemen of I.C. versus the Ladies of Maria Assumpta College, Hyde Park, Sunday, 26th November

It was not the bitter cold that made the knees of the gallant I.C. lads knock, but the assembled multitude of desperate women of Amazonian proportions who lined up to provide a public spectacular never before witnessed by the Sunday afternoon crowd by the Round Pond. M.A. won the toss (well, they were big girls) and I.C. took the kick off and they were off. From the start it was a scrappy game, neither side capable of a clean take and the I.C. men failed to get on top. Scrum followed scrum with the M.A. scrum-half not liking the way the I.C. scrum-half was putting it in, but eventually I.C. were penalised for foot up (even though the I.C. hooker reckoned it was only seven inches). I.C. players came in dribs and drabs till at last they had a full side up and had to give two extra players to satisfy the other side's needs. The chauvinists from I.C. managed at last to show their prowess, when Ken "don't touch me, I'm married" Horseman stormed over for the first try. However, Boadiceas Anonymous were undeterred and came back (a trifle kinky but quite practical) and soon levelled the scores by a devastating series of net-ball tactics.

Half-time followed and the I.C. team reckoned the present emergency demanded "Women and Children" tactics, so straight from the kick off into the Round Pond went big Ethel and her babe in arms Laurence "Stand Up" Adams. However, these strong arm tactics were of no avail, and despite being well chaste (tactical misprint) I.C. failed to capitalise on M.A.'s boobs in defence and they had it with the screaming horde ending up on top. Despite I.C. putting up a firm stand, M.A. soon wore down their left and right to go straight up the middle and touch down twice to take the match. I.C., puffing and panting hard, covered well until the final blow brought proceedings to an end. The end of the game however, was marred by the arrival of two gentlemen in blue uniforms pushing bicycles (try one, better than pot any day), who said it was not the done thing to play Rugby in a Royal Park (a cunning Thatcher plot after Stirling University, we ask?) but were informed it is not the done thing for dear old ladies to bring on their precious little dogs to soil a nice clean pitch.

Fun and frolics were had by all and I.C. claimed a moral victory as no virginites were lost, though Johnny McDonough was last seen groping in the park looking for his.

Quote (by I.C. player): "It was against the true amateur traditions of the game, they were all pros".

2nd Quote (by another I.C. player): "They played like a load of women".

3rd Quote (by I.C. player leased to M.A.): "I hope My Dinga-Ling is still number one".

4th Quote (by the Big Lad): "It was too short".

Teams: I.C. Dave Ranson, Dennis Shakesheff, Jim Hunt, Ken Horseman, Roy "Big Lad" (if only they knew) Matthews, Pete Ranson, Charlie Wrigley, Tony Walton, Johnny McDonough.

M.A.: Rich "I'm only here for the beer" Sutton, Laurence "Dinga-Ling" Adams, Ethel, Jane, one transvestite and many female friends too numerous to mention.

BY YOUR ROVING REPORTER.

boating

Sailing against Brunel University proved difficult as we lost John Labard somewhere on the Kingston Bypass. However, we made up the team by recruiting an overworked star member and eventually arrived at Brunel's gravel pit. There was only a light breeze so sailing positions changed frequently on the downwind legs. In the end Brian Rogers got clear wind and went ahead to win with Simon Briscoe 3rd and Nigel Charlwood 4th. In the second race IC boats got ahead from the start. Ian Hopkins forgot what boat he was in and succeeded in ramming the opposition so had to retire and watch from the shore as Jim Scott and Dave Law finished 1st and 2nd, winning the match.

On the Sunday, John managed to find Southside on time and the whole team set off for Reading. Sailing the Thames with little or no wind and a current was

With 21 matches played and only 2 lost, the club is having another successful season. Once again it seems that none of the other ULU teams are capable of beating our 1sts, led by club captain Dave Ward, so we won't pay any more attention to them. The second team, playing in the same division as the firsts, are also doing well and are, in fact, unlucky to have lost a match. I don't know who's captain of the seconds but John is probably the biggest, oldest and hairiest —so we won't pay any more attention to them either.

THE THIRD TEAM

This is a separate club altogether, being the Imperial College section of the Wigan Cricket Club (and as such must conform to committee regulation 27 which stipulates that all juniors must leave before 9.30 p.m.) The club is captained by Pete Dunbavon, Keith Thompson or Phil Lee—depending on who writes their name on the score card first—and plays in a different division to the above teams. They've lost one away match but that was because the home team didn't bring enough biscuits. The smooth running of this team depends entirely on players arriving late, or not at all, as this has been of vital strategic importance on more than one occasion. (We claim the match if they do it to us.)

The third team also boast about their trophies obtained this season: 3 beer glasses, 1 tube of shuttles, several packets of biscuits and 5 signs.

IC IVths or the third team reserves are also having a good season, winning all matches so far. Notable asset to the IVths is Graham Wilson who has stood in for Mr. Dunbavon on several occasions.

In conclusion, any prospective IIIrd team member should have the appropriate kit viz—badminton racket, shorts, screwdriver, shirt and socks.

KEITH THOMPSON Met II

rapid rambles

And so this happy band of wanderers, though somewhat depleted by injuries suffered in action, set off for the leafy dales of Bristol and there joined other sundry colleges from London in a race against Bristol University, Surrey, Southampton and various other classy runners, and brilliantly excelled themselves (so modest, these sportsmen.—Ed.).

Rob Parker, after nearly disappearing over a precipice, finished twentieth, followed by Paul Clarke, recently emerged from swaths of bandages, at 33rd. Rob Allinson, Dave Payne and Neil Boag were 48th, 77th and 88th, followed by Steve Webb who was 101st after twisting an ankle and trying to go the pretty way. Dave Jones was 102nd. A combined team from the London Colleges finished second to Bristol out of 15 teams.

And then we went to Kings. And won. Steve and Ian (Both Knees and an Ankle) Isherwood were taking scores and so, with a Lancashire-accented "Go!" twenty-two runners from King's, LSE and IC burst into action, in the drizzle, trying to find their way round a long and winding course, led in fine style by Dave Payne. After crossing railway lines, running beside the Wandle (I Wanded lonely as a cloud . . .) (Since when have sportsmen been literate ???—Ed.) and generally causing chaos in the streets of Mitcham, three intrepid runners from IC surprised our score-takers by storming in in the first three places. Relieved for once from early pacemaking, Paul had yet another truly amazing race finishing first, followed closely by Rob Allinson and Barry Dabrowski and several King's people. Dave Payne was 8th and Neil 12th. Packing at the back were Dave Johns (15th), Pete Johnson (17th), Paddy Donnelly (19th), Ray Maddison and Hugh Culverhouse. Team scores were IC 26, Kings 39 and LSE 63. Thanks go to a fireman and a mobile library for directions on the course.

And so, a tired but happy crowd of runners set off in the sunset into the traffic jams of London wondering what would befall them in the UL Championships that Saturday. Answers next week.

Hockey

Saturday saw our fifth league match, against the league leaders, Old Thamesians. Before the game was ten minutes old T's were two up and many long faces in the defence were wondering whether they should have stayed at home. At this point a good run and shot by Dave Richman put the ball in the back of the net, but the umpire ruled no goal — outside the D or something. This decision was hotly disputed, but to no avail.

In the second half the defence bottled up the opposition attack so well that even when an open shooting chance appeared, they were so surprised that they wasted it. The attack was in devastating form—everyone has their own methods! — and produced first a goal by Mick Downs from a corner scramble and then probably the best solo goal of the season by J. Gahir to equal the score at 2-2.

TEAM: C. Steel, R. Palmer, R. Cameron, R. Evans, D. Richardson, T. Hanson, A. Tatchall, D. Richman, J. Gahir, J. Astley, M. Downs, Umpire: J. Allen.

On the same day the 2nd XI beat BAC Weybridge 4-0 and the 3rd XI went down to St. Albans extra IV's by 2-1. I think they were the scores, since nobody yet again, sent in a report.

Last Wednesday, on a rain-soaked afternoon, IC 1st XI entertained Silverwing, on a pitch not up to the usual Harlington standard. It started well for IC when straight from the bully-off, a cross from the left was slotted in by Dave Richman. However, later, in the space of ten minutes Silverwing scored three times. Within ten minutes of the start of the second half IC were back on level terms with a fine run by Dave Richman who took the ball to the goal-line, from where he crossed for Jag Gahir to touch in, and then a flick-on-the-dive by Dave which completely fooled the goalkeeper.

The game then began to swing from end to end with Silverwing retaking the lead from a short corner. However, Andy Tatchall broke through on the right and flicked the ball into the net to make the final score 4-4.

Mixed Hockey

Having travelled out to the wilds of Royal Holloway College on Sunday, a depleted IC mixed team—yet again! — managed to emerge with a creditable draw. RHC proved to be a very strong team, and a very entertaining match ensued. The first half was very evenly balanced with first one side then the other gaining the upper hand. The second half was very similar to the first, but thanks to some strange umpiring decisions RHC gradually became more dominant. Despite this, the IC defence was never seriously troubled. As the game was drawing to a close, IC almost snatched victory when Jag Gahir was demolished by a rather uncompromising RHS full-back.

Dear Sir, Felix No. 321, December 5, 1972, was edited by Oliver Dowson, with contributions of words, labour and hoot (in Alphabetical glit): Philip amodio Sid amor Ron appleby Bob carter Peter crawford Martin doughty Arnold sprog with teeth Dave hobman Graham king Andy mafeld Ross mCbeath Colin mCcall Mr s j swailes, and the rest of the cast of one.

Contributions for "felix" are always welcome and should be addressed to the editor (residence Weeks hall 14ourteen)

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Yours with much
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