



Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

16th JANUARY 1973

FREE!

No. 324

**"THE
GOOD NEWS
PAPER"**

NO!

... BUT IT'S A CLOSE THING

UGM rejects Rent Strike New Halls levy to continue

Militant students at Friday's UGM erupted in uproar when the meeting narrowly threw out the idea of a rent strike in aid of the grants campaign.

About 350 students turned up to vote at the meeting, fifty less than attended Thursday's meeting which had to be adjourned to Friday.

Starting twelve minutes late because of the late arrival of the ICU Executive and general disorganisation in the Great Hall, Thursday's meeting really got under way with Mike Terry, National Secretary of the National Union of Students, speaking on rent strikes and the grants campaign and answering questions from the floor about them. He told the meeting that using the rent strike weapon: "the only economic power we have": was the best way of forcing the government to pay students higher grants.

Strong concern for postgraduate students was expressed in the questions put to Mr. Terry, mainly focused on the opinion that the campaign seemed to concentrate solely on increasing undergraduate grants. Mr. Terry said that this opinion was fallacious, and that the campaign was for an increase for all students. (Our political correspondent, however, points out that it is significant that little if any mention of postgraduates was made at either the NUS conference at Margate last November or at the Campaign Co-ordinating Committee's first meeting in December). An amendment to the motion, passed by an overwhelming majority, called for an

immediate £100 increase in the postgraduate grant and the restoration of the London weighting, and demanded that the NUS executive should give these points equal priority with the other objectives of the campaign.

Dori Schmetterling then spoke against the part of the motion which would have abolished the 35p per week new halls levy. Paul Jowitt, Deputy President, told the meeting that he was sure that future generations of students would look back in gratitude to the meeting and think that "in 1973 ICU acted to get its students a higher grant, yet banished them to live in Wimbledon". It was further pointed out that were it not for the existence of the levy it would be impossible to finance the building of the new Northside Hall.

The paragraph of the motion calling for the abolition of the levy was forthwith removed from the motion by an amendment that was passed overwhelmingly.

The meeting then moved on to consider amendments to the motion. To save time the president, John Lane, who proposed the substantive motion, accepted large parts of these; but considerable time was spent on

the others because of protracted speeches from Piers Corbyn and Pete Gillett.

So long, in fact, that the meeting had to be adjourned at 2.25 until Friday.

Gaining in inefficiency, this meeting started a quarter-of-an-hour late at 1.00, but, fortunately for the quorum, few left for lectures at 1.30. The withdrawal of a motion by Dave Brown recognising "that a rent strike in Imperial College would not achieve any useful purpose and only aggravate public opinion" in favour of his speaking against the substantive, and the rapid defeat of a Pete Gillett amendment, meant that considerable discussion (by IC UGM standards) on the substantive was possible. Major speeches in favour came from John Lane, John Murlis, Rob Armitage and Sonia Hochfelder; speeches against came from Bill Gerard, Ron Marples and Dave Brown.

The motion was voted on in parts (all 14 of them) and the majority of it, pledging the backing of ICU to the demands of the NUS for higher grants and a new grants structure was passed overwhelmingly.

The decisive moment came when section F2 was arrived at: "ICU resolves to use the only economic power we have, the ability to withhold house and hall rents, to force the college authorities to put in-

tense pressure on the Government to concede our claim."

On the count, the vote was:

IN FAVOUR 166

AGAINST 175

ABSTENTIONS 13

— very close. The other section of the motion referring to rent strikes was defeated much more substantially.

However, a call to form a rent strike organisation committee was passed — this committee will now co-ordinate the grants campaign in IC.

Following the vote, a militant faction headed by Piers Corbyn issued a petition for an EGM to be held on Thursday, the 18th. The text of the statement is reproduced in the box on this page.

The Petition

CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY GENERAL MEETING

"Thursday's 550 strong UGM voted for an amendment which said: "The demands of the rent strike apart from the points which are part of the NUS campaign to be: i . . . , ii . . . , iii . . . , iv . . ."

This amendment — carried after a debate and vote by a substantial majority — assumes there is to be a rent strike.

An issue once voted on cannot be voted on a second time at an adjourned meeting. We all know that.

So the chairman of the smaller 354 strong adjourned UGM on Friday was out of order to put to the vote sections of the motion concerned with whether the rent strike would take place.

The voting after a lot of time wasting therefore of 166 for a rent strike and 175 against, 13 abstaining, was null and void. Especially since there was only 9 in it!

The rest of the motion supporting the grants campaign was passed almost unanimously.

Can a smaller adjourned meeting overturn the decision of a larger meeting? Of course not!!

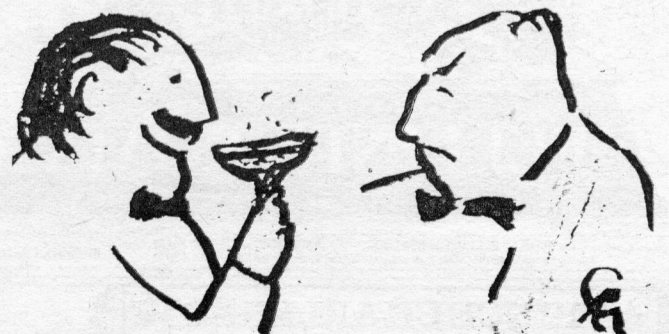
The only fair solution is to rediscuss the motion as amended so far at an EGM.

We therefore call on the President to organise an EGM on Thursday, January 18, at 1.00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Meanwhile don't pay your Hall Bill.

Sign this Petition. Get your friends to sign. Return to the Union Office."

MOTION: Page 5

GORDON BEECE



"One thing, though: This stuff should soon be down to £4.50 a bottle."

MARTIN'S BIT

How many times have **you** thought that one aspect of the Union Activities was misguided.

Do **you** ever think that we aren't doing something we should?

I want to know what **you** want out of Imperial College Union.

Complaints are useful to us to know what it wrong, but it is even more useful to know what the cure is.

People have been complaining about "Felix". What sort of articles, information or stories do **you** want to see in "The Newspaper of Imperial College." Have you enjoyed reading "Phosphorous the Jobrot and Ferocious Din", for example?

Do you go to Ents Concerts, or the Friday Night discotheques or do you spend every evening in the Bar because you don't like the entertainments the Union provides?

I want you to write to me in the Union Office with your suggestions, ideas and

complaints about any aspect of IC Union: which reminds me of a true story:

"Once upon a time in a far off land a dictator awaking one morning decided that he wanted to know what the people thought of him. He thus made a proclamation.

"I am a dictator, but I am a benign dictator and I want to know what you think about the regime. Please write to me and tell me.

*By order,
The Dictator."*

Now the people did write to him, but so many of them wrote that he didn't even bother to read the letters and decided that he would stop being a friendly dictator and dictate a little, because it was obvious that the plebs didn't know what they wanted and he knew much better. And HE lived happily ever after."

I am not a dictator, but I will read every letter and take note of what **you** want — and we might even get something done about it.

And until then, I remain

Martin C. Black

Getting Clean — Minded

Most people at IC will have at least heard the name TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION. The name by itself is misleading, conjuring up images of Eastern mysticism.

T.M. is simply a mental technique for inducing a state of consciousness in which the body enters an extremely profound rest state while the mind remains alert (R.F. *Scientific American*, Feb., 1972). This has a wide range of effects, for example the **complete** removal of stress and tension from the nervous system (think about the implications of that).

If taught properly, the technique is easily learnt, and a course is held at IC most weekends. If you want to find out more about T.M. and its uses wander along to Elec. Eng. 606 any Tuesday at 6 p.m.

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S. J. Swailes

THE STORY SO FAR: Having escaped from the fairground, and from floating in mid-air, by use of the partially-invisible gumboots, Phosphorous, together with Ferocious and Twigworm, are trying to escape the clutches of the Luigi Rabbit organisation. They have just met the plane on the beach. Now read on . . .

The Luigi Rabbit Organisation was coming steadily nearer, waving its arms and shouting.

"A further problem," said Ferocious.

"Don't just stand there waffling," snapped the plane, "get in and we can go. It is after all what I have been waiting for all this time."

"Smart thinking", murmured Ferocious, as they clambered into the cockpit. For all the plane's size, the cockpit was not very large. It was quite a tight squeeze, and after a moment of panic when it appeared that the Twigworm was going to sit on both Ferocious and Phosphorous, they sorted themselves out — with Ferocious and Phosphorous sitting on the Twigworm.

"All right?" asked the plane and without waiting for a reply started its engines. They coughed and spluttered into life and clouds of foul smelling black smoke spread over the sand.

"Just like the modern stuff," said Ferocious, topically. The whole framework of the aircraft began to tremble and shake. An ominous rattle came from beneath the Twigworm's seat.

"Oh dear," he moaned, "I don't think I like this flying."

"Nonsense," grunted Ferocious unfeelingly.

The Luigi Rabbit Organisation had nearly reached the plane — they could make out the Rabbit's staring white-rimmed eyes, and Dino's battered face — when the huge machine slowly turned, and began to move along the beach. Sand whirled up in the roaring wind from the twin propellers, and as the plane gathered speed, the Luigi Rabbit Organisation dropped out of sight.

"I can't say I'm sorry to see the back of those dear chaps," said Ferocious.

"Me neither," said Phosphorous. While they were talking the plane had risen smoothly, if noisily, from the beach, and the palm trees were already tufted match sticks beneath them.

"Uuuuurgh!" gulped the Twigworm as he inadvertently glanced over the side.

"Don't look out there," said Ferocious helpfully, "study the inside of the cockpit if the outside is worrying you." The Twigworm stared industriously around the inside of the cockpit. It was luxuriously padded in leather, with a huge steering wheel on a pole, sticking up between Phosphorous' legs.

"What's this?" asked that worthy, giving it a push. The plane plunged forward into a dive, throwing the three adventurers into an untidy heap.

"Idiots! Fools! Incompetents!" bellowed the plane, as, with a singing of rigging, and a throbbing of engines, it pulled out of the dive.

"Don't touch anything," it shouted, "I am doing the flying in this aircraft, do you understand?"

"Sorry," said Phosphorous.

"All right", said the plane, "just watch it. I don't know what adventurers are coming to . . ." he grumbled on under the throaty roar of the engines.

Ferocious had been thinking.

"Where, exactly, are we going, dear old airborne structure?" he inquired.

"I have absolutely no idea," said the plane proudly.

"But you can't keep on flying around indefinitely, can you," protested Ferocious.

"Look", said the plane, "I've had just about enough cheek from you. My instructions were to pick F. Din and P. the Jobrot plus Tiny Twigworm off the beach, and fly around in an adventurous manner."

"What happens when we run out of petrol?" asked Ferocious, casually.

"I would assume that we come down, or land, as we say in the trade."

"Bue we are over the sea."

"Um," pondered the plane, "Perhaps you've got a point there. I must admit that thought hadn't occurred to me." Ferocious was used to Phosphorous' brain, so he was not desperately shocked.

"Perhaps it would be a good idea," he suggested, "to look for somewhere to land?"

"Perhaps you're right," conceded the plane, "I will keep an eye out."

Hardly had he spoken than a small, black cloud appeared on the horizon. It moved slowly towards the travellers.

"Looks like rain", said Phosphorous.

"Oh dear", squeaked the Twigworm, "and I've left my umbrella behind."

"Hang on, dear lads," said Ferocious, "I don't think that's a rain cloud. It looks more like some jolly old birdies." As the cloud came nearer, they could see that Ferocious was right — it was a flock of birds. Strange birds they were too — long scrawny necks; bulbous bodies, like bundles of dirty washing; and tiny wings flapping furiously to keep their grotesque forms in the air. Their long furry legs dangled unhappily beneath them, and from their tiny pin-heads protruded razor sharp stabbing bills, lined with spiky teeth.

"Yuch!" said Phosphorous.

"What on earth are those nasty things?" asked Ferocious, "and are they friendly?"

"Those," said the plane with a note of terror in his tick-over, are Greater Gnashing Scrawns, and they are never friendly."

"Oh," said Ferocious, "shouldn't we do something?"

"Well, if I just cruise on, and turn my engines off," said the plane "then they might not notice us." Ferocious did not think this particularly likely, but he kept quiet.

The plane cut its engines, and began to glide, its complicated rigging singing in the slipstream. The Scrawns were nearly level with the adventurers, and seemed to be about to pass without noticing them, when the leader let out a screech.

"Hold it, me laddos, there's a nice juicy plane as 'ud make a tasty snack."

"Oh no," screamed the plane, "they're airborne crocodiles, those things, they'll tear the canvas off a fellow, and leave only the under-carriage."

"Well do something!" shouted Ferocious. The approaching danger drove the plane into action. With a splutter and a roar he restarted his engines, and began to dive steeply towards the sea. Zoom, throb. Down he plunged, the three passengers clutching frantically at the side of the cockpit. But the Scrawns were not to be put off so easily. Like a screaming black wedge they plummeted out of the sun in hot pursuit. In a matter of moments they were up with the plane, and snapping and tearing at its tail.

"Great!" shouted the leader, "It's a late '28 I think, probably Handley Page, Eastern hangar. Very acceptable." With Scrawns chewing at its wing-tips the plane tried to climb again, and outstrip the terrible birds. But to no avail; it had neither the power nor the height.

"Try and find somewhere to land," bel-lowed Ferocious, over the skwacking and smacking of beaks

The Plane was not really in any state to make rational decisions, but he blipped his engines, and dropped even lower, until his wheels were practically touching the sea. Phosphorous and Ferocious were standing up in the cockpit swatting at the Scrawns, when the Twigworm let out a squeak.

"There!" he shouted, "look, an island." Sure enough a tiny palm-fringed atoll lay in their path.

"Land there, dear old hard-pressed air person." The plane needed no encourage-

(continued on page 5)

Distillers' make £20m offer

- but spirits boycott continues

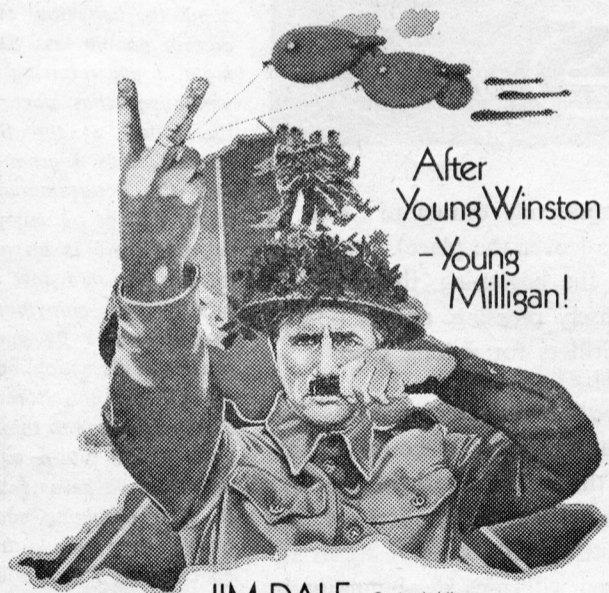
There has been controversy over the case of the thalidomide victims for quite some time now, and on Friday, 5th January the Distillers Company Limited made an offer of twenty million pounds, to be paid over a period of ten years, to the thalidomide victims, with this an immediate cash payment of £50,000 to the parents. This offer has come about mainly as a result of the pressure applied by Prudential Insurance. The leader of the parents involved, David Mason, has not as yet commented on the offer.

Following a vote by an ICUGM to boycott DCL products, the College Refectory Committee have showed their sympathy with those concerned by agreeing not to stock any spirits from Distillers in their bars. As a result of this decision they have replaced them with other brands, and now there should be no Distillers' stocks remaining.

On the subject John Lane said last Thursday at the Union meeting that the boycott should continue until the parents have finally accepted an offer.

The matter continues.

"ADOLF HITLER
-my part
in his
downfall"



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

THE BASICS OF LIFE ASSURANCE EXPLAINED

Life Assurance is basically a very simple subject and the purpose of this article is to give a quick thumbnail sketch of the main principles involved. There are three types of insurance cover:

Whole Life—Endowment—Term

Whole Life Assurance is what it says. The cover is on a person's life until he dies.

Endowment Assurance: Here a term of years is selected by the buyer. If he survives that term, he collects his money. Should he die within the stipulated period, the Sum Assured is paid out to his dependants.

Term Assurance: This is the very cheapest form of Life Assurance. A person takes out a policy to cover himself for a period of years. Should he die within that period the full amount of the Sum Assured would be payable to his dependants. If, however, he survived, he gets nothing at all except the satisfaction of knowing he had bought a term of protection at a very low cost.

With and Without Profit Policies

On both Whole Life and Endowment Assurance, the prospective buyer can elect to have his policy with or without profits.

Examples:

(a) A man decides to take out a without-profits policy for £2,000 Sum Assured. Should he live or die that exact amount is what someone would eventually receive.

(b) If, however, the same man had decided on a £2,000 sum Assured with profits policy, he will share in the profits made by his chosen company on their investments. The top companies over a 25-year period paid out in 1970 a return of 7% per annum net to their policy holders. The true returns are actually higher than this. Life Assurance premiums qualify for income tax relief; this is now worth 15% of the premium for a standard rate taxpayer. These kinds of return are a very impressive investment.

The most important thing to bear in mind on a with-profit policy is the enormous difference between the Life Assurance companies. For instance,

a man starting a with-profit policy in 1945 at aged 29 paying £50 a year would have received in 1970 £3,183 from the top company and £1,899 from one at the other end of the scale.

Do ensure that you obtain good impartial advice from a reputable broker, preferably one who is either a member of the Corporation or the Association of Insurance Brokers.

Unit Trusts

The last decade has seen the introduction of another type of insurance linked with investment. Unit Trusts enjoyed a boom period in the Sixties, when the Stock Market was generally buoyant. With this type of contract, the companies invest your premiums on the stock exchange and several Unit Trust groups have recorded very impressive capital gains for their clients. One must remember, however, that the Stock Market can go down, as well as up, but the growth rate shown in most companies' projections 5% — 7% per annum net, should be attainable. One well known Unit Trust has, in fact, appreciated by 18% net per annum every year

since its foundation 7 years ago. Do, however, choose a policy which gives you freedom to let your contract run on for a while if necessary after the maturity date, just in case this date happens to coincide with a Stock Market slump. Again, the advice of a good qualified broker is essential.

Life Assurance plays an important part in our lives. It both protects us and provides us with a safe but good investment and incidentally can prove useful for House Purchase.

House Purchase

Most discerning men wish, eventually, to own their own homes. The normal way of setting out to do this is to approach a Building Society for a loan. The amount they will lend you is normally three times your annual salary, but one or two new schemes have come out recently in which the advance is greater than this. Assuming you are accepted for a loan, you will have to repay both the capital you have borrowed, and the interest charged on it, at monthly intervals.

Most young men with responsibilities (wives and families) protect

this loan with an insurance policy, so that should the worst happen his dependants will have a roof over their heads. The most advantageous way of buying a house is without doubt to have this insurance cover on a with-profit basis. This method is the most expensive to adopt, but should be aimed at. Like everything else in life one gets what one pays for.

Summary

Ironically enough, the greatest advantage of Life Assurance is derived by the people who begin at a young age. Their premium payments are low and irrespective of inflation cannot be increased, though you can bet everything else will. It also makes sense because generally the younger you are, the healthier you are. Every day middle-aged men of poor health are asked to pay heavily for the Life Assurance cover they ideally should have had as younger men.

Worthwhile policies for men in their early twenties can start from as little as £1 per month.

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EDITORIAL

"Solidarity with the workers!"
 "Workers and students for the struggle!"
 "Workers and students against the State!"

These phrases, vogue expressions of '72 destined to become the clichés of '73, seem to ring in my ears perpetually. I always expected it of the NUS. Now it is becoming the dominant voice of IC as well. Swept in with the wave of politics that crashed over IC at the end of 1972, they are now glibly and confidently being used as the voice of IC students.

I cannot believe that you, the students of this fine, traditionally super-reactionary college sincerely subscribe to these emotions. The broad mass of students would be horrified at being dropped into the stagnant vat of "the organised working class", and justifiably so. Even the TUC wouldn't lump us with the workers: witness their refusal of membership to the NUS.

Students are, in general, educated people, and gentlemen: and educated people and gentlemen, in general, are proud of the foundations of bureaucracy on which this country is so successfully built: negotiation and compromise.

One has to stretch one's imagination quite considerably to describe our "elected" representatives in the NUS as "gentlemen", in the common sense of the word, anyway. It is they who negotiate on our behalf with the government for such things as higher grants. But the NUS Executive, and sufficient SU presidents around the country to twist the arm of NUS conferences, believe in the student-worker concept. And they believe that, like militant trades unions, they should not be implicated in any decision made by this "Wicked Tory Government".

So they won't even negotiate for higher grants. We are workers, not students, so we can't ask for more. Action not words. Go on strike. Rent Strikes. And force the Government to lick our feet and give us a rise.

Go on, laugh—what else can you do? What does a Rent Strike do? Make life uncomfortable for the universities. The universities are not popular with the Government (presumably since they won't opt to become polytechnics)—but they are negotiators. The whole idea is that the universities will negotiate for higher grants for us. Is it not much more likely, that they will negotiate better terms for themselves—like direct payment of hall fees?

Getting someone else to negotiate for you is an easy way out: but it is dangerous. And, in your home, the NUS is in danger of muffing it up. The sooner we persuade our "representatives" that we are educated gentlemen, and not the "organised working class", and wish to deal as such, the better. It will be necessary if we are to get the grant increase we would like next year: there is little hope under the system we are at present lumbered with.

You have dissociated yourselves from a rent strike in IC. I wonder what it will mean to the NUS. Maybe they'll be thinking that we are just the misinformed working class. So watch those "representatives" of yours—unless you really want Days of Action, not words (and figures, and bigger ones) on your grant cheques.

Letters

Rent Strikes: losing public sympathy?

Sir,
 I write this letter as storm-clouds are gathering for Thursday's U.G.M. over the 'rent-strike' issue, and in partial anticipation of the decision to be reached.

Firstly, I agree that student grants have, once again, become inadequate, especially to those people in flats, digs, etc. However, I think that the action of withholding hall and student-house fees would not achieve its purpose.

Point 1. In the "campaign" aims, listed on the bump-sheet distributed to Hall residents, is to "win public support."

This will probably sound 'old-hat', but to, once again, put up the 'revolutionary students' image, although it might appeal to those of us with more extreme views, will certainly not "win public support". We have only to remember the Stirling affair last year, which cost the student cause thousands, to realise that the same thing is likely to occur if rents are withheld. At the moment the public are bored with student demonstrations.

Although the Union might consider that they are not out to cause such strife, surely they must realise that if they got to work on the public rather than the authorities they might produce better results.

I see no logical reason why the withholding of rents should do anything towards getting grants increased—in fact quite the reverse. I hope that I am proved incorrect for the sake of next year's grant earners.

Yours, etc.,
 R. C. WOODWARD,
 Chem. 3.

Cutting the cleaners

Sir,
 I agree wholeheartedly with Tim Bradbury's remarks in last week's edition of Felix. After all, we already have a million unemployed: a few more on the scrapheap would not really be noticed, would it? Also, since a great number of the women involved are widows or have sick husbands to keep, let us follow the trend of this present heartless society, Tim, the most needy must be the first to go. What I would also suggest is that if you are prepared to clean your own room, why not also maintain the buildings, deliver your own mail, keep the sports centre clean, cook your own meals, and serve your own drinks. Just think, this would reduce the staff by several hundreds. Who knows? Such reductions might not only keep the halls fees stable but may even reduce them. Therefore, Tim, why don't the Students' Union and the trade unions in I.C. get together on this. Who knows, perhaps one day you will become a Tory M.P. and even be knighted for services to the country.

Yours sincerely,
 RON PARKER
 (Be it Hall Messenger and Sometimes N.U.P.E. Shop-Steward).

'Cancerous growths'

Dear Olly,
 This is a letter for printing in Felix.

I am dismayed to find that the articles I write for Felix—MARTIN'S BIT for example—often seem to have suffered from cancerous growths. I refer to the nauseating practice of amending articles without the knowledge or consent of the author.

I respectfully remind you of your obligations:—"to report and provide independent comment on Union affairs, to publicise future Union and College activities and to provide articles of general interest or of inoffensive entertainment value". (Felix constitution)—my underlining.

I hope that you will let me see the form of this letter after you have castrated it before publishing.

You are Sir, the Union's obedient servant.

MARTIN C. BLACK

A JOWITT COLLECTION (again)

Sir — I wait with bated breath for the final episode and presumably the end of "Phosphorous the Jobrot and Ferocious Din".

Yours T.T.C.C.H.,
 PAUL JOWITT

Unless I receive a pile of letters this week asking me not to, I have decided to end "P the J and FD's" adventures in this issue, although there were to have been four more episodes.—Ed.

Sir—Likewise "The Land-snapper Sneeze".

Yours I.W.T.W.,
 PAUL JOWITT.

I will not stop the "Sneeze". What does "I.W.T.W." mean?—Ed.

Sir—Up.
 Yours,
 PAUL JOWITT

A reference to beef prices? —Ed.

"...an experiment in plotless absurdity and formal playfulness on the order of *Duck Soup*, *The Big Sleep* or *A Woman is a Woman*... James Ivory's first American film displays a sheer precocious love for what movies can 'say' that I haven't seen since the films of this early New Wave."

STUART BYRON
 ROLLING STONE



Starring: Susan D'Amico, Margaret Drummer, Jasper David, Neil Fitzpatrick, Adam Freeman, Salome Jens, Martin Howe, Christopher Pennock, Asha Datta, Guy Sledge, Donald Sutherland, Kevin Statten, Ross Hunter, Ultra Violet, Sam Waterston, Kathleen Wilkes. Director: James Ivory. Director of Photography: Walter Panchak. Screenplay by George Swift. Story by Michael O'Donoghue. Music: Max Elster. Production Designers: Walter Panchak, Associate Producer: Anthony Brown. Executive Producer: Joseph W. Seltz. Distributed by Associated Artists Merchants, Inc. Productions.

FROM JAN. 18

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When my future biographers finally get around to analysing my intriguing literary style, I think that they will be mystified. "Could it be," I can imagine their saying "that there is here an absolutely unique style in Twentieth Century Literature? Is this man the true descendant of Shakespeare and Swift? The heir of the golden styles of Jonson and Surtees?"

The answer (lest I stray from this in-depth film review), of course, is that my reading at school was totally dominated by Charles Dickens and Alistair Maclean. So, despite the dreadfulness that the film-makers made of the "Ice Station Zebra" and "When Eight Bells Toll,"

I was compulsively drawn to "Fear is the Key" (all over the place). I will say right from the beginning, that the film was immensely pleasing, and is one of the best thrillers for a long time.

There are the usual components—an excellent car-chase, a few bouts of fist-cuffs—but the real strength of the film lies in its clever adaptation of the original plotting. All Maclean stories are very involved with niggers abounding in wood-piles, but this has been neatly handled and the two people with me (neither of whom knew the book) were not mystified at all. Light entertainment but fun.

I feel I must write to you about the behaviour of some certain people last Saturday night. I am referring to the vandalism that occurred in the toilets at the Strawbs concert. It is a great shame that the entertainment provided cannot be enjoyed by all, but there is no need at all for the odd few out to spoil the enjoyment of everyone else by such behaviour. This action, as heard by all present, forces the Ents committee to think carefully about future concerts, and it would be catastrophic, if, after obtaining such fine bands, they should have to cancel any. I just wish that the people involved show a little more consideration for others in future.

Yours faithfully,
 GRABBLE THATCHETT,
 (Name and address supplied)

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Entertaining Mr (and Ms) Student

Another sell-out series?

Having already had one sell-out this term (Strawbs on Saturday) IC Ent's has got a lot of good concerts lined up for the rest of the term. This Saturday was have an all-night event with J. Geils Band. Also appearing are Sam Apple Pie, Baby Whale, Gasworks, the film "The Magic Christian" and Disco Tim. The price for this goody is just 70p in advance, 80p on the door, advance tickets available from the bookshop.

The following week we have a stomp in the Union with Brett Marvin and the Thunderbolts (of Terry Dactyl and the Dinosaurs fame). Price only 50p.

On Monday, January 29, we have an exclusive Chuck Berry date, the only British college date. Price for this is £1.20.

On Saturday, February 3rd we have Jeff Becks new band, Beck, Bogert, Appice. This is their first tour and great things are expected of them. Price is 90p in advance, £1 on door.

On February 17 we have the reunited Fairport Convention. This replaces the date they were unable to fill in last October. Price is 60p advance, 70p door.

On March 12, we have a triumphant return of superstar Elton John. The price will be £1 advance, £1.20 on door.

Some IC students may have realised that some of our concerts sell out. This makes it useless to try and buy tickets the day before the concert. The reason tickets are sold in advance in the book-

shop is to enable YOU, the student, who doesn't have to travel far to obtain your ticket easily. This can only be done if you obtain your ticket at least a week beforehand. We are withholding outside publicity for the Elton John date to allow local students to obtain tickets.

If there are any queries there is usually at least one Ent's person in the Union office at dinner time and of course we shall soon be moving to the Room at The Top where we will have posters and information available. I leave you then with a list of dates as we know them.

January

- 20 J. Geils Band, Sam Apple Pie, Baby Whale, Gasworks, Films and Disco, all-night. 70p adv. 80p door.
- 27 Brett Marvin and the Thunderbolts, 50p
- 29 Chuck Berry £1.20 adv.

February

- 3 Beck, Bogert, Appice, 90p adv. £1 door.
- 10 Sharks (price to be announced).
- 17 Fairport Convention 60p adv. 70p door.

March

- 10 Can, 60p adv. 70p door.
- 12 Elton John, £1 adv. £1.20 door.
- 17 Home (price to be announced).

THE GRANTS MOTION

(COMPLETE AND UNEXPURGATED)

AS PASSED AT UGM,

FRIDAY, 12th JANUARY 1973

Imperial College Union reaffirms its demand for "£100 increase in the grant now" and "the full grant for all who study". ICU reiterates the principle of the full grant for all students this aim to be accomplished by the abolition of the means test. ICU recognises that the means test, like the discretionary award, is a pennypinching and discriminatory measure, and that its retention would make nonsense of any claim for immediate increase, since the 80 per cent of students who do not receive the full grant would only gain a part of the claim, unless they get the corresponding increase in parental contribution.

In the interests of a united campaign, ICU pledges full backing to the immediate demands of the NUS for

1. An end to the discretionary award system which allows local authorities to pay lower grants to many students, particularly those in FE colleges.
2. An end to discrimination against married women students
3. An interim grant increase of £65 to cover the cost of inflation since 1971.
4. An annual grant review based on a student cost index.

This union demands an immediate increase of £100 p.a. in the post-graduate grant, the restoration of the London allowance; and the NUS Executive to give these two points equal priority with the four points in clause B.

ICU notes the rent strikes by nine student unions last term and those proposed by 25 unions this term, and expresses its wholehearted solidarity with all unions on rent strike, whether against excessive rents or for higher grants as part of the NUS campaign. It is to be understood that the rent strike is part of the grants campaign and not directed towards lowering hall fees in IC.

ICU is aware of the implications of the freeze policy in respect of the declining value of the student grant and that any attempt by the government to "freeze" grants must be strenuously and vigorously opposed.

ICU notes that the major activities of the Grants Campaign will coincide with the expiration of the first 90 days of the freeze,

and that at this time a large number of demands for wage increases will be coming forward from the organised labour movement.

ICU resolves on a two-pronged campaign aiming

1. to win public support, and in particular that of the organised working class, for our claim to demonstrate the united anger of 600,000 students at the deterioration in our living standards and thus make it politically very difficult for the government to reject our demands.
2. To explain that the Government must take full responsibility for the financing of higher education — neither students nor workers are responsible for this. The Government and its backers must pay for their problems here and elsewhere, students will not pay with higher rents, nor workers with loss of jobs.

ICU therefore mandates

1. the executive not to accept as sufficient reason for ending local action an offer by local college authorities to reduce hall or catering fees.
2. the President, Executive and Council to organise support for the NUS grants campaign, in particular for the USK area activities the London demonstration on February 21st the National Day of Action on March 14th
3. the President and Departmental Representatives to organise departmental meetings to discuss the grants campaign.
4. this meeting to elect a committee to organise a rent strike. This committee also to investigate the possibilities of using the experience of other colleges of organising lightning refectory boycotts and to report back to the next UGM.

The demands of the rent strike apart from the points which are part of the NUS campaign to be:

- (i) £100 increase in the grant now; and a full grant for all who study tied directly to any increase in the cost of living.
- (ii) No cut-back in cleaners' jobs
- (iii) No rent increases
- (iv) The DES must pay for all future Halls

(continued from page 2)

ment, and headed straight for their only hope of rescue. Over an idyllic lagoon he flew and plunged down on the beach. Sand flew everywhere, and the plane crashed into the undergrowth. Bits of bush flew everywhere, tiny creatures fled from the careering plane as it skidded to a halt amongst a clump of stinging nettles. Fuel pump throbbing, and propellers still slowly turning, the plane was in no condition to talk.

"Won't the Scrawns land, and finish us off?" asked Ferocious.

"No," gasped the plane, "they can't land, their legs are too long, they just fly around up there devouring innocent planes, and never coming down."

"Thank goodness for that," said Phosphorous, "they weren't very nice at all."

Despite having escaped the dreaded Scrawns, the intrepid trio were still in trouble deep. They were marooned on an island, they knew not where, with no food and a broken aeroplane.

"Are you broken?" asked Ferocious of their late transport.

"Not seriously," answered the plane, "a certain amount of canvas seems to be missing from my tail plane, and my undercarriage is a trifle bent, but otherwise I'm not so bad, thank you." Ferocious looked thoughtful.

"But can you fly?" he asked.

"If I can get out of these bushes — undoubtedly."

"Right, dear boy," said Ferocious, "May I suggest that you do just that, and then we can be on our way." With much revving and churning, the plane extricated itself from the bushes, and positioned itself facing down the beach.

"O.K.," he shouted, "Chocks away, and all that." The rumble of the engines rose to a whine, and the plane began to move slowly forward. Its speed increased and the wind played around the passengers' ears. The tail left the ground, and the whole craft began to rise. But the end of the beach was fast approaching.

"We're off!" shouted Phosphorous, hopefully. They were not. With a squeal of passengers, the plane plonked back on to the beach once more, and skidded to a halt in the dunes at the end of the beach.

"Um," said Ferocious, "we appear not to have made it, as it were."

"We've too much weight aboard," explained the plane, "for the length of beach."

"Well, we will just have to throw something out," said Ferocious. They peered around the inside of the cockpit for something to throw out. There was nothing that immediately caught the eye.

"There doesn't seem to be anything that we can throw out," said Phosphorous.

"Oh yes there it is," said the plane, nastily.

"What?" asked Phosphorous, before he noticed Ferocious looking pointedly at the Twigworm.

"Oh," said the weighty creature, "please don't throw me out, I wouldn't know what to do."

"You could hail a passing ship, or something," said Ferocious, unfeelingly.

"But I'm the whole reason for your adventure," protested the Twigworm.

"You can have too much of a good thing," said Ferocious.

"Oh Ferocious," implored Phosphorous, "you can't leave the poor Twigworm alone on this beach, and we are supposed to be taking him back to his parents."

Ferocious pondered for a minute.

"I suppose, dear boy, that you are right. In which case we will all have to get out and let our friend here go without us."

"You're quite right, I'm sure," said the plane, whose one desire was to leave the island, and preferably the adventurers as well. "You just hop out," he continued, "and I'll have another go. If I do get back, I'll tell the adventure people where you are, and I'm sure they'll send some help."

"I'll bet," muttered Ferocious, and they all climbed out. The plane swung round and shot off down the beach again. With a zoom and a bounce it left the ground, taking a small tree with it, and just clearing the bushes. The huge machine turned and roared overhead, wagging its wings once, before heading out to sea.

"What do we do now?" asked Phosphorous.

"Once again, dear lad, your guess is as good as mine," came the reply.

Ferocious stretched out in the sun to think, and the Twigworm did its pile-of-putrescent-rubber impression beside him. Meanwhile Phosphorous was wandering about at the water's edge. Idly glancing out over the surf, he caught sight of something floating, about a mile off shore.

"Hey!" he yelled, "Look at that, Ferocious and Twigworm, what do you think it can be?"

"At first glance, dear boy," drawled Ferocious, "it would appear to be a floating council refuse tip, ho, ho." But the Twigworm had leapt to his feet.

"It's a Twigwormery," he cried, "oh, and it's My Twigwormery. Stop it, please. Oh dear, it's going to go past. What are we to do. Oh, stop it, please." Tears welled up in the Twigworm's soulful eyes, and great sobs shook its huge form. Ferocious was on his feet, and running down to the water.

"Shout and wave and such things," he told Phosphorous, "We must make a fire to attract their attention." Phosphorous obligingly waved his arms in the air and shouted "Help" and "Hello, Twigworms" and even "Good Afternoon". Ferocious dashed back up the beach to make a fire. Suddenly a thought struck him. They had no matches.

"We can rub two sticks together," he thought. The more he thought about this idea, the less practical it seemed. However it was worth a try, so he gathered a handful of dry twigs from the edge of the jungle and rushed back to the water's edge. Phosphorous still bellowing at the slowly departing Twigwormery, and the Twigworm was crying quietly in a heap on the sand.

"Are they all asleep, or something?" asked Ferocious angrily, and received no reply. He bundled his sticks into a fire-shaped pile, and started industriously rubbing two of the larger ones together. Very little happened, except that some of the bark came off the sticks, and Ferocious' arms began to ache. "Baden-Powell never had this trouble," he complained.

It was no good. The Twigwormery had slowly drifted past and disappeared behind the island.

"Drat!" said Ferocious. The Twigworm sobbed to itself.

"What do we do now?" asked Phosphorous.

"Dear old chum", said Ferocious through clenched teeth, "If you say that just once more, I'll bang you one on the nose."

"Sorry", said Phosphorous, stepping sharply back. Ferocious was losing some of his much-prized cool.

"O.K.," he said, "just watch it, that's all." Phosphorous turned his attention to the Twigworm.

"Cheer up," he said, "I'm sure we'll get you back in the end."

"Oh, I do hope so," sniffed the Twigworm, "but to see them float away like that is awfully sadifying." Ferocious had been thinking.

"Gentlemen," he said, "the Twigwormery went out of sight behind the island. It is just possible, if anyone was steering the thing, that they intended to stop on the other side of the island. Therefore I propose that we abandon this beach, and head into the jungle — hoping to emerge on the other side where the Twigwormery was last seen heading. Any questions?"

Phosphorous was sure that there were several holes in Ferocious' argument, but could not put his finger on them at that very moment.

"O.K.," he said, "that sounds fine to me."

"Won't there be any fierce animals in the jungle?" asked the Twigworm nervously.

"I wouldn't be at all surprised," said Ferocious, "but you are about three times as big as an elephant so I don't see what you've got to worry about."

Phosphorous thought that a world which included Scrawns amongst its fauna, might well have bigger and crosser animals than a Twigworm. He didn't like to mention it in Ferocious' present mood, and the Twigworm seemed satisfied, so he kept quiet.

"Good," said Ferocious, "if we are all agreed then let's go." The three brave explorers walked up the beach, and into the looming jungle.

THIS MAY BE THE LAST EPISODE OF PHOSPHOROUS THE JOBROT AND FEROCIOUS DIN TO APPEAR IN FELIX. Those who are vociferous about FELIX object to it. Therefore, unless there is considerable correspondence from you, the reader, requesting the contrary, we shall not publish the remaining four episodes. Please write to the Editor with your opinions on this or any other aspect of the paper.

“And what has King's that I.C. has not too?”★

Well, they've got an Arts Festival for a start.

King's College Union have asked FELIX to tell you about their Arts Festival, which begins tomorrow and continues until Saturday week. Eighteen events, timed both at lunchtimes and evenings, are packed into the ten-day festival, ranging from Tom and Jerry cartoons through poetry recitals to films and a brass band. None of the events will cost you more than 30p entrance, and many are free. Even were you to go to every event it would only cost you £2—and those of you who do can buy a season ticket for £1. A double ticket to both Wednesday night concerts—the Sutherland Brothers on the 17th and Renaissance on the 24th—will cost you 50p.

We have printed the events in the coming week in the FELIX DIARY, marked “KCAF”. The others appear below.

For those of you who don't know, King's is in the Strand . . . catch the District or Circle line to the Temple, turn left out of the station then first right. Or catch a No. 9 bus to the Aldwych. And, should you get lost, or want more information, or want to buy a season ticket, try ringing 836 5454 ext 2602.

Events from January 23:

Tuesday 23rd: Stravinsky's “Rites of Spring” (Piano Recital) 1315, Gt. Hall, 10p.

Trad and Brass: Melster Swingers? and Fulwell Brass Band. 1930, NLT, 15p.

Wed. 24th: Film “Goddard Polanski and the Do-it-yourself cartoon kit” 1315, NLT, 10p.

Concert with Renaissance, City Waites, 16th & 17th-century music. Gt. Hall, 20.00, 30p.

Thursday 25th: Play: “New Year's Resolution”. NLT, 1315, 10p.

Talk on Art by André Kalman. Council Rm., 1700. Free.

Friday 26th: Chamber Recital, NLT, 1315. Free.

Arts Films: “Electra” and “The Nun and the Devil”, NLT, 1700 and 2100, 15p.

There's also an exhibition of arty things like sculpture and paintings from the 22nd to the 26th in the Council Room and Great Hall. And not the least arty part of the Festival may turn out to be the Graffiti wall in the entrance to the college. Felix will be sending a photographer to record it for you—watch next week's issue.

* With apologies to Shakespeare.

FELIX No. 324; Tuesday, January 16, 1973. Edited by Oliver Dowson, with gratefully-received contributions of words, pictures and time from Martin Black, Rob Carter, Jim Fenner, Dave Gribble, David Hobman, Graham King, John Lane, Gordon Reece and Paul Wadsworth (in alphabetical order).

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Felix Diary

Key: KCAF indicates “King's College Arts Festival” Event. GS indicates a General Studies event.

TUESDAY, 16th JANUARY

1300 Young Socialist Society meeting: “Supplementary Grants”. ME 214.

STOIC presents “Music Alive” with sounds of Pink Floyd and Fat Jack on TV in JCR and Southside.

1330 Publications Board meeting. Cttee Rm A. “Equality and Freedom”. 1: Social Class, by Dr. D. D. Raphael. GS. ME220.

“Lost London—the River” by Hermione Hobhouse. GS. Phys LT1.

“Listening to Contemporary Music”. 1: A Diversity of Styles, by Sarah Thomas. GS. ME 342.

1800 “The Cruel Sea” (Charles Frend; Britain; 1952; 126 mins). Film in “Attitudes to War” series. GS. Free. Great Hall.

I.C. Transcendental Meditation introductory talk. EE 606.

1930 Ballroom Dancing for beginners. Concert Hall.

WEDNESDAY, 17th JANUARY

1315 KCAF. Tom & Jerry Cartoons and Tele Goons. NLT (means New Lecture Theatre??). Free!

1830 Meeting on Government White Paper on Education at ULU.

1900 I.C. Art Club in RCA annexe (behind Huxley). They especially want prospective sculptors.

1930 I.C. Folk Club presents Jeremy Taylor. Union Lower Refec, be early.

2000 KCAF. Sutherland Bros. in Concert with Lloyd Watson. Great Hall (theirs not ours). 30p.

THURSDAY, 18th JANUARY

0930-1730 DAILY UNTIL 10th FEBRUARY. — Exhibition of paintings, collages and watercolours by Joyce Clissold, Elizabeth Stewart-Jones and Muriel Rose. Consort Gallery (Ante Room, College Block).

1300 SUBJECT TO SUFFICIENT SIGNATURES BEING OBTAINED: Extraordinary General Meeting of ICU re Rent Strikes. Watch boards for details.

1315 KCAF. Poetry Recital by Dr. Dannie Abse. NLT. Free.

1330 “Ancient China”. 1: Chinese Sculpture and the Buddhist. Message, by Dominic de Grunne. GS. ME 220.

“Poets in Anger”. 2: Society, by Patric Dickinson. GS. Phys LT2.

Concert with Rolf Wilson (violin), Carlina Carr (Piano): Cesar Franck's *Sonata in A Major*, Prokofiev's *Sonata No. 2 Op. 94*. GS.

1730 FELIX meeting. Come and write, draw, lay out, moan, challenge the Editor's ruling or just watch. Felix Office, Union, 3rd floor. Yoga. Physics Common Room. (Enquiries: stand on head and ring Int 2193).

1900 I.C. Art Club in RCA annexe (behind Huxley).

1930 “Monte Carlo or Bust”: Wellsoc film show in ME 220.

KCAF: “Barrow Poets”. NLT. 15p.

FRIDAY, 19th JANUARY

1230 I.C. Community Action Group meeting on Old People visiting. Cttee Room A.

1300 STOIC presents “Topic” magazine programme on TVs in JCR and Southside.

1315 KCAF. Concert with the King's Singers. NLT. Free.

1800 STOIC: Repeat of 1300 transmission, some places.

1930 “Z” and “End of an Agent”: IC Film Society presentation in ME 220. Non-members 20p at door.

2000 KCAF. “Sal's Meat Market” (Mime) NLT. 15p.

Khorovod Russian Song and Dance Company.

International Student House, 229 Gt. Portland

Street. 25p members, 50p non-members.

SATURDAY, 20th JANUARY

1000 on. NUS Areas Briefing Conference at ULU.

1930 KCAF. Classical Night. Piano recital by Marguerite Wolff. Great Hall (theirs). 15p.

2000 ULU ents presents Edgar Broughton Band plus Ro-Ro plus Lloyd Watson. 65p adv, 75p on door.

2100-0700 ICU Ents presents the J. Geils Band plus Sam Apple Pie. All-night in the Great Hall. 70p in advance from IC Bookshop, 80p on door.

SUNDAY, 21st JANUARY

1000 Holy Communion (C. of E.). Ante Room, CB.

1100 Mass (RC). More House, 53 Cromwell Rd.

1500 & 1630 New Zealand action songs, poi dances and stick games performed by the London Maori Club. Free. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High St.

1800 Folk Mass (RC). More House, 53 Cromwell Rd.

MONDAY, 22nd JANUARY

1315 KCAF. “Passion”—a play by Edward Bond. NLT, 10p.

1700 KCAF. “Alice's Restaurant” (Arts Film). NLT 15p.

1930 Wellsoc: “New Approaches to the Treatment of Cancer” by Prof. P. Alexander. ME 220. ULU Students' Representative Council Meeting, ULU.

Ballroom Dancing—Advanced Class. Union Concert Hall.

2000 KCAF. Recital by Eve Fisher (Opera Singer). Great Hall (theirs). 10p.

THEATRE

CANTERBURY TALES

Comparing this performance with that of a year ago, *Canterbury Tales*, unlike *Hair*, has remained unchanged, if not slightly improved. The cast shows no signs of fatigue or perfunctory performance; it is as lively as last year.

Superficially, the show entails a series of sketches more-or-less based on Chaucer: bawdy beautiful (Pun). If all you want is an evening of good entertainment, enough said. However, there is a more subtle story underlying the tales, requiring careful attention, and retention of the sketches.

The opening starts with a banging "I have a noble cock!" (Yanks will catch this), goes through various stages of sexual relationships to end by answering (correctly, I thought) the question "What do women most desire?" A bit

melodramatic — perhaps daunting — but it leaves one thinking, as every good play should.

Well worth a visit, even if the music does drown some songs, (an unfortunate indictment against every musical I've seen in London) the worst case being the beautifully haunting "Love Will Conquer All". It's performed twice a show, making it four tries — I've yet to hear it, even though sitting in a £1.50 Stalls or £1.50 Dress Circle seat.

But one need not pay a pound; early performances and student groups of any size have reductions. My ticket each time was 25p for the £1.50 seat.

I recommend a visit — except Chaucer addicts, who may not recognise it. It's at the Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, one with reasonable acoustics.

Jim Fenner

Felix Culture

PAPERBACKS

"Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" by Hunter S. Thompson (Paladin, 40p)

"The American Dream is something that most of us are probably not looking for, unlike Nixon and Agnew": yet Mr. Thompson presents a good take-off of this very subject in his latest book. The story starts with our heroes somewhere around Barstow, on the edge of the desert. When the drugs take hold, a voice was screaming "Holy Jesus! What are these goddam animals?"

Then it was quiet again.

The attorney had taken his shirt off and was pouring beer on his chest to facilitate the tanning process and so on . . . across the desert at frightening speed.

Not having tried out most of the drugs used in the book, I felt a little left out of the story. Even so, one can still imagine the "perilous drug-enlivened confrontations with casino operators, bartenders, police officers with a special interest in the narcotics problem and other representatives of the silent majority who have a hallucinatory humour and nightmare terror rarely seen on the printed page."

The book is very "interestingly" illustrated with drawings by Ralph Stendman hitched from *'Rolling Stone'*. I say "interestingly" as I found the drawings of the characters grotesque and quite horrifying—but perhaps that's what it's all about.

Hunter Thompson is an unusual and refreshing writer who contributes regularly to such unlikely publications as the *New York Times Magazine*, *Ramparts*, and, of course, *Rolling Stone*. Thompson's most famous book is probably "Hell's Angels", and it is easy to see a resemblance in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas".

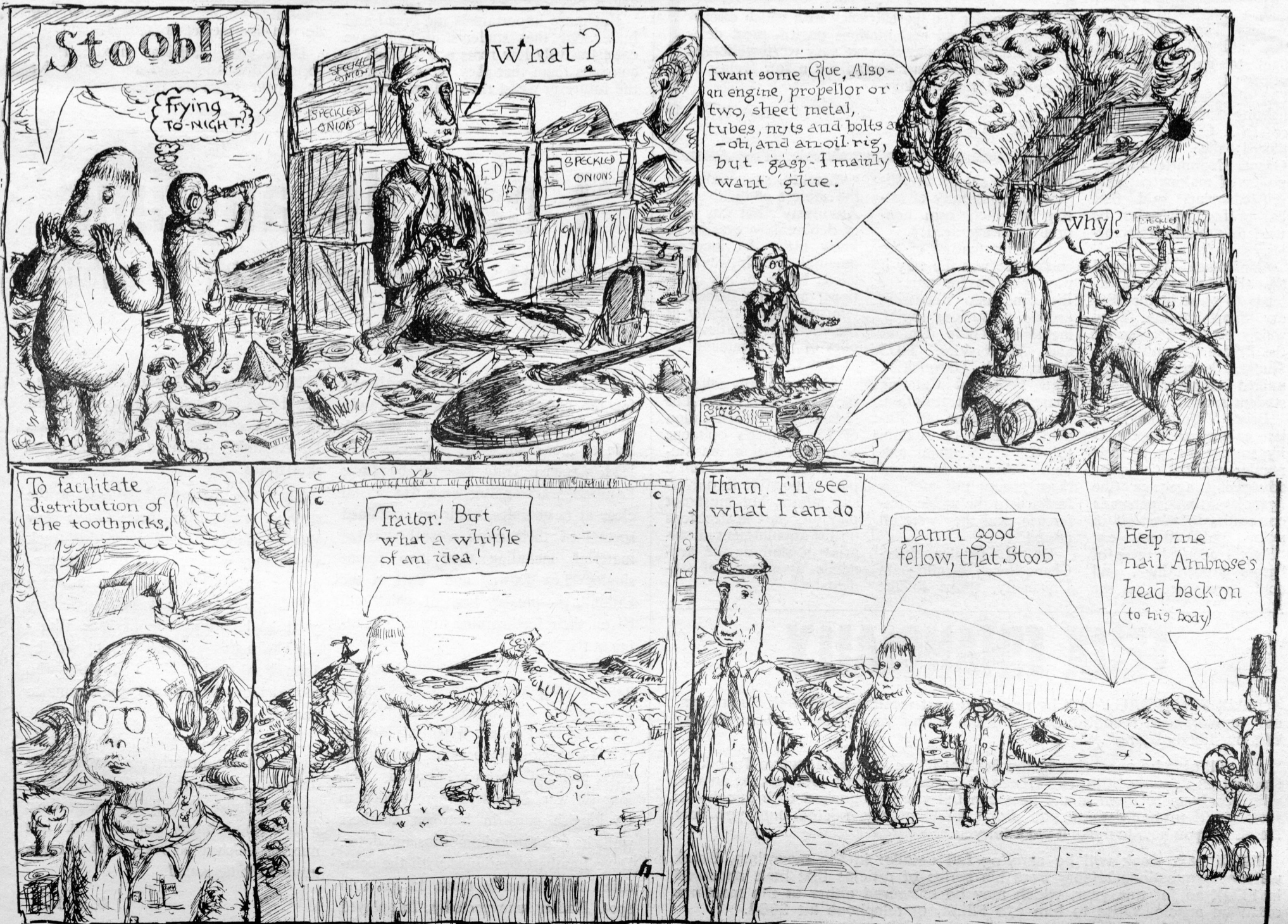
The whole book tends to boil down to a mad, corrosive piece of prose poetry going, where who knows, but certainly going. The NYT claims that it picks up where Norman Mailer leaves off. I don't think that that is a very good comparison, as Mailer certainly gets more out of his writing than Hunter.

I enjoyed my savage journey to the Heart of the American Dream—but I'm glad I bought the return ticket.

DAVID HOBMAN

The Landsnapper Sneeze

by Dave Gribble



Dip. H. E. Blacked

Government cut-back in Higher Education condemned

The Universities' Specialist Conference at Sheffield on January 5th-7th voted to black the introduction of the Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) award which was outlined in the recent Government White Paper on Education (reported in last week's FELIX).

The motion on the White Paper said that it was considered that the introduction of this two-year course requiring University entrance qualifications (5 GCEs, 2 at A-level) was simply a move to reduce student numbers, since it would become a substitute for existing three-year courses.

The Motion, which has been prioritised for discussion at the NUS National Conference at Exeter in April, also condemns the cutback in projected student numbers for 1981 from 835,000 to 750,000 and the increase in the student:staff ratio of 10:1. The conference regarded the posing of different parts of the education system against each other as "short sighted and educationally disastrous", and condemned the Government for paying little attention to education while they were increasing the defence budget, for example, by 10 per cent.

Other motions discussed and carried included ones on Catering, Binary Sport and a Space Advertising Agency. The catering motion affirmed that "the fight to reduce catering prices is part of the Union's general policy of fighting for a grant increase". Conference deplored the Universities' Grants Committee (UGC) policy of making catering self-balancing, said that bar profits should not be used to subsidise refectories.

Conference recognised that the binary system extends to sport in the Binary Sport motion. They welcomed the decision of the British Committee for Student Sport to form a unified organisation for student sport.

Bristol University, at last gaining an opportunity to put forward their regular motion on space advertising agencies (the agencies that persuade companies to advertise in union publications, e.g. "Felix") accused these of "gross profiteering", and conference voted that the

Universities' Specialist Conference

The University's Specialist Conference is, as its name implies, a mini-NUS Conference about university affairs and attended exclusively by delegates of university unions. The most recent was held at Ranmoor House, a hall-of-residence-plus, at Sheffield University on Friday-Sunday, 5th-7th January. Rather more than 100 delegates attended from Britain's 44 universities, including five from Imperial: Rob Armitage, Charles Dingley, Trev Phillips, Malcolm Matthews and Piers Corbyn turned up too to lend his voice and that of the IMG to the proceedings, and with yours truly there to report the jamboree, Imperial was probably the best-represented College there.

The Universities' Specialist is one of several specialist conferences run every year by the NUS for different sectors of higher and further education which report back to the national conferences in December and April.

Impressive for the efficiency with which discussions were held and motions passed, most delegates thought the conference very worthwhile—as well as an excellent excuse for a few frolics in stainless* surroundings.

*a reference to steel.

NUS Exec should investigate the possibility of setting up their own non-profit making agency.

A major feature of the conference was the way it was split up for part of the time into discussion groups on various topics, including Trade Unions and Universities, NUS Areas and Universities, Hall Fees and Catering charges, Representation, the Environment and Student Community Action, the E.E.C., Vietnam and South Africa. Most of these groups put motions forward to the whole conference, and they were all passed.

Dr. R. Hunter, Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University, spoke to the

conference, supposedly on the subject of "University Autonomy", but was either deliberately evasive or knew little. An inconsequential speech was followed by an hour's questions, and the delegates' tempers frayed rapidly at the seemingly endless replies of "no comment" or "I don't know".

About the only coherent facts to appear from this session was the reiteration of Dr. Hunter's opinions on representation: that students should play as full a part as possible in university affairs, but must not play any part in decisions on the appointment or salaries of staff or the academic assessment of students!

JOHN LANE

Well, at least we have a grants policy! No rent strike and not much in the way of suggestions as to what else we should actually do to get the much needed increase, but at least we have a start — what I.C. students actually want: the interim increase of £65, an annual review based on the student cost index and a big fight at NUS conference on the £100 increase, abolition of the means test and the post-graduate demands for an extra grant for London, the "London weighting" (Everyone except PG's gets more money for living in London).

An increase for postgraduates and an end to the means test are NUS policy — it's up to us to see that NUS as a whole pushes for these demands and that will not happen unless IC is very active in the rest of the grants campaign. For instance IC is over one-third postgraduates. Unless the union gets them organised and active we can hardly expect the Government to listen to the NUS claim on their behalf. Although the election of PG Affairs Officer has been postponed there are quite a number of my fellow PGs getting involved and there is no reason why a PG affairs committee could not start to function almost immediately.

Also if we hope to convince delegates from other universities at NUS conference that our more militant demands are serious, we must explain to them the reasons why I.C. let them down over the national rent strike. We must not get the reputation of being talkers and not doers!

Why No Rent Strike?

One reason I must say was a tactical error on my part. The withdrawal of the new halls levy should have been discussed, at length, separately. On Thursday it just confused the issue.

But more important is the bread and butter one that students in hall have comparatively low rents and I failed to convince them that they should look to the future or assist their fellow students

or even help themselves for next year.

I think also we have failed to realise that no matter how eloquent a case the Rector may make for us to the Government the simple fact of IC students being on a mass rent strike would have revealed far better our determination to put an end to the drop in our standard of living.

We will be trying to enlist the Rector's support for our case of course. But I can't see that his humble plea on our behalf will carry anything like as much weight as those vice-chancellors facing rent strikes and refectory boycotts. But every drop counts, of course.

And now on to brighter things, cast off this gloomy spell and on to the idyllic surroundings of happier regions of IC—like—

Mooney

I haven't eaten in Mooney all week owing to writing bumf sheets, speeches, President's Pieces and attending UGMs (Also my grant/pay isn't through yet). I've almost forgotten what "it's" like! However, it was rather disturbing to hear at the Refectory Committee that nothing had been done on the problem of hygiene and cockroaches since the previous meeting. Admittedly this was the holiday period and a steam cleaning machine had broken down, but as I said before the holidays, the situation needs to be watched carefully.

Ents.

Due to some mess and damage at a few concerts last term, the College has asked the union to consider its entertainments policy. Do we want really big concerts weekly, letting in a very big proportion of non-students to subsidise our own students? Are too few students interested to make it worthwhile? Or do you like the set up as it is?

Democratic decisions need an informed discussion and the sooner we hear your views the better.

"I can do anyfink"

Guitarist proves wild claim in public at Ents Concert

The Great Hall was packed, as always, for the concert last Saturday. Strawbs have now turned more towards the rock side of music since the replacement of lead guitarist Tony Hooper by Dave Lambert, whose guitar work was crystal clear at most times. Their set contained several of their more recently written material, including their two recent singles "Lay Down" and "Part of the Union", presumably both of which will be on their forthcoming album "Bursting at the Seams".

Their old material was not forgotten, however, and no Strawbs concert would be complete without the classic "Hangman and the Papist". When introducing this Dave Cousins became serious for once, giving a short voicing of his opinions on war, otherwise there tended to be longish gaps in between numbers while he told rather humorous anecdotes. Dave Lambert continued with the comedian role, when it came to his solo spot. Rather unexpectedly, he played

"The William Tell Overture" by slapping his cheeks and holding his open mouth to the microphone, followed by "I Can Do Anyfink", which he dedicated to all skin heads.

They also performed several of the stronger tracks from their "Grave New World" album, including the title track which they used to open their set, producing a very full sound, each musician blending together nicely, with some very good keyboard play from Blue Weaver. The acoustic piece was played by John Ford and Richard Hudson, who moved from bass guitar and drums to acoustic guitars.

The supporting group, Wheels, consisted of three guitarists, a bassist and a drummer. Their set tended to lack sufficient substance, though they did produce a few good tunes, notably their last number which stood out from their more usual melodic sound.

G. J. K.

FELIX FINANCIALLY

FELIX FINANCIALLY will be returning next week, when Derek Cummings, our regular expert contributor, will be telling you "How to Lose Money Without Really Dying".

He will also be appearing in the flesh at IC on four consecutive Tuesdays, starting on January 30th. His General Studies lunchtime lectures, as anyone who has been to them in the past can tell you, are packed with punch—in fact, you'll probably think you didn't know money existed until you hear Derek tell you how to make it work for you.

FELIX next week will be carrying full details: in the meantime, Derek welcomes questions arising from his series of articles that have appeared in FELIX so far this year, which may be answered either at the meetings or in an article. Write to him c/o FELIX, or telephone Int 2881.