



6th FEBRUARY, 1973

Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

No. 327

DON'T TAKE A LETTER TO THE DES

"TAKE A LETTER TO THE DES" was quashed at Thursday's Union Meeting as the primary motivation and slogan for tomorrow's demonstration to the Department of Education and Science (DES) on South Bank organised by the ICU Grants Action Committee.

A motion submitted by Piers Corbyn stating ICU's belief that letters sent to MPs or the DES should be on an unofficial and individual basis was carried, leaving the secondary slogan "Demand a living grant" as the main line of the demonstration. Letters will, however, be handed in to the DES.

The demonstration will assemble on the Mechanical Engineering concourse at 1.15 p.m. on Wednesday 7th (tomorrow) and march to South Kensington underground station, where participants will board a train for Blackfriars. The march proper will take place from Blackfriars station to the DES building. John Lane, ICU President, explained to "FELIX" that the march had to take this somewhat unusual route because of the limitations on marches within a mile

of Westminster: the DES falls into this zonal restriction.

John Lane is expecting a large measure of support from IC students, and hopes that hundreds of you will turn out. The demonstration is exclusive to Imperial College — Thames Polytechnic had a similar one last week supported by 200 students. The first national demonstration will be on February 21st, when the NUS is organising seven regional demonstrations, one of which will be in London. This will be followed by a "National Day of Action" on March 14th, essentially a further series of demonstrations.

5 PER CENT OF IC GRADUATES STILL UNEMPLOYED

5% of IC students who graduated last summer were still unemployed by mid-December, according to the Annual Report for 1971-2. More students than ever are now going into accountancy, banking, actuarial work and the Stock Exchange: between 1965 and 1971 the percentage of students with first degrees going into "legal, commerce and others" categories of employment rose from 3.1 to 13.9.

The other main finding of the report is a drop in applications for undergraduate courses of 12.1% and a drop in anticipated admissions of nearly 8%. The intake in 1971 was only 877, and the total number of students rose by only 0.6% to 3,920, made up of 2,472 (63%) undergraduates and 1,448 (37%) postgraduates. This year's estimated student total of 4,048 would indicate a rise of only 0.33% over last year.

Financially, IC succeeded in making a surplus of £114,000 over expenditure of £10,430,000 last year, which will be carried forward into the new quinquennium. The insured value of the buildings in IC comes to £50.5 millions — with furniture and fittings, £66m.



DING-A-LING SOUNDS

I've just come back from one of the most enjoyable concerts I've been to for some time. Full of good old rock and roll, which you can't get fed up with no matter how many times you've heard it before.

The Rocking Devils did a fine job of warming up the audience, turning out such vintage numbers as "Lets Go Do the Hop", "Little Darling", "Teenager in Love", "Runaround Sue" and "Howa Nagila", the latter being played at the back of his neck. They simulated the part well, even to the greased back hair and playing the guitar while kneeling on the ground. Having been on the pub and club circuit before, they were quite overcome by the hot reception they deservedly received, and continued long after they were due to finish with more numbers from Bill Haley, Elvis Presley, and Eddie Cochran. One thing they could have done would have been to move closer together, as the stage looked ridiculously empty.

After the interval Chuck Berry's band, consisting of Mick Clarke (guitar), George Ford (bass) and Dennis Elliot (drums) turned in a very short set before they were joined by the man himself. At his entrance everyone on the floor rose to their feet, presumably because the people at the front wouldn't sit down, and they wanted to see too.

His set was quite predictable with all the old classics "Roll Over Beethoven", "School Days", "Sweet Little Sixteen", "Carol", and "Memphis" which he did with all his usual fire, playing his guitar from his waist, his hip, horizontal, vertical and every other conceivable position while he hopped and jumped across the stage.

"Reeling and Rocking", his new single, has, I hear, been sent to Mary Whitehouse with the hope she gets it banned and it emulates the same success as the song they followed it with — "My Ding-A-Ling". This was radically different from the recording at Lanchester, and even funnier. They finished with "Johnny B Goode", and Chuck was off the stage and in his car ready to leave while his band finished the song off, — the first concert I've been to without hearing an encore.

G. J. Kes.

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- (1) From Mineral Technology, Royal School of Mines, an Adler 800 Calculator, serial No. 553042.
- (2) From Electrical Engineering Department, a small battery operated Electronic Calculator (pocket type) Hewlett Packard make serial No. 1143-A51365.

Should either of these items have been borrowed for any purpose would the persons responsible please return them to the appropriate Departmental Superintendent or the College Security Officer.

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Letters

Partisan?

Sir,
Letters in FELIX attacking cleaners as being "lazy" and "unnecessary" must be wholeheartedly condemned as being on the same level as those calling students "long-haired layabouts, who have never done a day's work in their lives". An important question is raised here for, as we are entering this enormous campaign for grant increases, should letters and articles attacking cleaners or any other section of workers in the college be published? In the Grants Campaign we are going to need the support of every group of workers or professional people we can get, to ensure the defeat and removal from office of this government. When you go in for a battle, for that is what the Grants Campaign is, one does not want to alienate one's friends and support one's enemies. The whole of society is being polarised; today you must either be on one side or the other. On the side of students, hospital workers, pensioners and civil servants fighting to stop living standards being cut—or on the side of big business, property speculators and the Tories, fighting to maintain their rate of profit.

A successful Grants Campaign must be seen as a part of the entire class struggle. Plans must be made and forces mobilised to demonstrate that we are not prepared to lie down and be trampled over: we must fight back. "Felix" should be part of this fight for it is a student newspaper. It should be a paper that discusses all the issues involved in the defence of students' rights—not one that sets out to be non-partisan.

Yours, etc.,
PETE GILLETT.

(Note—this letter has been adapted slightly to ensure grammatical correctness and continuity).

Editor's Note: It would be sheer hypocrisy to suppress free speech in a student newspaper, which is exactly what Mr. Gillett is suggesting! Felix will continue to attempt to show all sides of the argument wherever possible.

More UGMs

Comrade Editor,
I am continually shocked, surprised, disappointed and bored to tears by reading such inchoate bourgeois political sub-thinking as portrayed in the letter from Charles Rusden.

The habit of rambling on about democracy in student affairs is repugnant to all members of the Union with a trace of dialectics in their souls.

As I understand the system, in order to ensure that union meetings are representative, a random numeral, chosen between the greatest and least number of students likely to attend a Union meeting, is called a quorum and shouted out at inopportune moments by Bill (I hate myself for doing this, but ...). Gerrard.

I find it very difficult to believe that we really need less than one Union meeting every week—be they general or Extraordinary general—to decide on the best tactics in the continual struggle against Capitalism, but fortunately one section of the revolutionary vanguard of the student proletariat (i.e., the Exec.) is not afraid of ignor-

ing the irrelevant whinings of the average "moderate" apolitical twits and take votes on contentious motions in order to defeat Tory attacks.

In closing there is one question about democracy to which I would be grateful for an answer from Mr. Rusden: Why should anyone who isn't a political activist be allowed a vote at Union meetings?

Yours fraternally,
ALASDHAIR ULYANOV
(No relation).

Left-wing thinking

Sir,
At last the final solution has been found! It is well-known that there currently exists a global glut of unemployed graduates; the taxpayer must pay these people not only whilst they study, but also when they find their expensive education unwanted. The result is a total waste of both public money and these young people's time.

Now if the state were to stop giving grants to students altogether, fewer would attend universities, of course. Thus, the surplus-graduate problem would be solved most neatly, as would the student-nuisance problem, since most would be too busy earning and studying to play at revolution. Most important of all, more than £100 million of public money would be saved each year, and could be used for such worthy causes as the abolition of supertax and death duties.

Yours faithfully,
J. PELLY-FRY.

Volunteers!

Sir,
The Wandsworth Housing Aid Centre is a voluntary organisation which provides housing aid and advice to families and single people. It is run by a committee of members and is staffed during the day by one (soon to be two) full-time paid Co-ordinator. We receive most of our financial support from Shelter and our services are free.

The main work of the volunteer members is to give preliminary interviews to people who make appointments by phoning or calling in during the day. The interviews take place between 7.00 and 9.00 Monday to Friday. We also have a meeting once a month. We desperately need more member/interviewers who can spare about two evenings per month. No-one is expected to interview alone until they have sat in with an experienced interviewer for a while. Once the interviewer has taken all the details and given any advice he can, the case is taken up by the full-time Co-ordinator.

I should be very grateful if you could mention our need for more volunteers in your newspaper so that any of your students (or staff) who live in the Wandsworth area and who are interested will get in touch with us. The people to get in touch with for more information, date of next meeting, etc. are—Dave Ferris (Co-ordinator) Wandsworth Housing Aid Centre daytime only 870 2679

Jackie Edwards evenings and weekends 223 2016
Ann Fowler, Tricia Ross evenings and weekends 870 3259

Thank you,
Yours sincerely,
JENNIFER BEARDWOOD.

Case History

Sir,
As you have asked for letters concerning the grants campaign, I thought I would write and tell you what my particular story is, with regards to grants.

1. Early in 72, I applied as normal for an LEA grant, and was awarded £360 pa for 3 years, £120 pa being deducted because of parental income.

2. At Christmas, I got married to a girl who had a 4 months old baby. She did not have a job then, and does not have one now.

3. Twice, on phoning my LEA, I was told that my grant could not be changed for the whole of the 3 years, either by virtue of my married status or because of the dependent child.

4. We moved into a basement flat in Hammersmith, and are paying £5 plus per week rent, where my wife does domestic cleaning for the landlady.

5. My situation can now be summarised. For an income of £360 a year, or £12 a week during term time, with nothing during vacation, I have to support myself, my wife, my child including all food, clothing, travel expenses and books.

If Mr. Norman St. John Stevas can think of how we are to live, I hope he will please tell me.

BILL WOOD, EEI.
(Thank you Felix).

ASTMS

Sir,
A token stoppage by some hundreds of members of the Imperial College Branch of ASTMS took place last Tuesday afternoon. There is a Branch Meeting this Tuesday, February 6th, and it is likely that the same event will occur. Thereafter it is likely to become more serious and I have no doubt that we will come to the President of IC Union to invoke the agreement made between the College based Unions (including I.C. Union) during the presidency of John McCullough.

The situation is complex, but simply it is as follows. In 1969 ASTMS was challenged to co-operate on an equal basis with the governmental Manpower Service Unit and the Universities to provide the correct salaries and correct gradings for University Technical Staff. This challenge we accepted and have been heavily involved in detailed and constructive work. As time has progressed national and local agreements have evolved to which ASTMS and the Universities have put their signatures, binding in honour only. Elsewhere up and down the country the administration of Universities have broken such agreements made. It now appears to be the turn of Imperial College administration.

Having demolished every single argument that the College administration have brought forward, we find that the College is breaking two agreements because it is their decision to do so.

There are other matters that also concern us. A group of dedicated and provocative non-trade unionists, who demand as a right every concession that their trade union colleagues win from the College locally and from the Universities nationally, have been given the most favoured treatment. This, including a special meeting with the Rector. It may not be widely known but it is College policy to deny the ASTMS any representational rights as a body on any College Committee except one. We sit on that one because we threatened many years ago some drastic action. It may not also be widely known that the present Rector has ruled that he will not see representatives of

ASTMS and IC Union jointly on any matter.

With the conscious breaking of agreements by the College and in this kind of atmosphere, who can blame our members for demonstrating their disgust.

Yours sincerely,
H. FAIRBROTHER,
Secretary.

Thank you, Sonia!

Sir,
I refer to the letter from Sonia Hochfelder in last week's "Felix". Rather an interesting point of view is put forward as regards the exploitation of the students by the bourgeoisie. This class is responsible for calculating the future increased value of our students as a result of our education. Does Sonia realise that by her letter she might have provoked some bourgeoisie exploiter somewhere to thinking that perhaps pure research in science is rather unprofitable?

Just think of all those intellectuals, who do little teaching, turning out very little profit for the bourgeoisie—and being well paid for it. What does she feel like to be a potential destroyer of one of the sections of our life untainted by the profit motive?

I feel the bourgeoisie should be very grateful to Sonia for pointing out such an efficient system for making the most from education. One wonders why they do not take immediate action.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS STEVENS.

Boring

Sir,
A glance at a substantial part of your Letters Page last week prompted me to ask the following question.

If I were to translate a few pages from a particularly boring book, such as the Patagonian edition of "Mein Kampf", and sandwich the resulting tract between the word "Sir" and my signature, would you print it (with perhaps a neat heading such as "Fascist Conceptions")?

Yours quizzically,
ADOLF VON WEASEL-GROPE,
President, C.&G. Y.N.S.S.S.

Responsibility

Sir,
The responsible Union. One year a levy on Hall fees for a new Hall of Residence was decided upon. The following year there was an attempt to cancel it.

One week there was a decision to get students as a body of Union members to write letters to the Under-Secretary of State at the DES. The following week this was cancelled.

The responsible union. Yes, I know, it isn't necessarily "the Union Exec" which does this. It is a number of those people who try to guide Union policy with their shortsighted, narrow and sometimes ignorant motions, resolutions and demands.

People who want to be taken seriously should behave in a serious fashion. Yours faithfully,
DORI SCHMETTERLING.

TIME FOR ACTION!

At long last after 3 UGMs the Union is now going to DO something about getting higher grants instead of simply making demands with nothing to back them up.

The demonstration next Wednesday to the DES and the refectory boycotts to be launched bring us right into the thick of the fight for higher grants. With 42 colleges on rent-strike and many more running refectory boycotts with the excellent demonstration of 500 students from Thames Polytechnic to the DES last Wednesday and that of 1,000 in Southampton the previous week, there is every sign that this grants campaign is going to be the biggest success students have ever had.

OUR CASE

The justice of the claim is beyond doubt. Not only has our standard of living been slashed, not only is there gross discrimination against married women and students in the FE colleges, but in fact the last rise in 1971 was a CON. Our parents are paying most of it in increased contributions—many of them either cannot or will not pay them.

But reason has no effect on this Government. It has taken over a year to agree to meet NUS to discuss the claim. Any trade union faced with a similar response would have been out on strike months ago. Unfortunately students cannot have the same effect by striking but we must use what power we have—the economic power of rent strikes and refectory boycotts against the colleges and the disruptive power of demonstrations, lecture boycotts (and of course refec. boycotts as well).

So far the militancy of the nation-wide campaign has won us two things—firstly the DES has finally agreed to meet NUS on 27th Feb., secondly a number of vice-chancellors have made public statements supporting us.

REFECTORY BOYCOTTS

The UGM voted for this tactic by a vote of the order of 3 to 1 rejecting the threats made by Victor J. Mooney in last week's Felix. We must totally oppose any suggestion of closing the Union lower refectory next year. It is becoming increasingly viable. If the bar in the Union Lower lounge had been opened at the beginning of term as it should have been the Union ref. might well have been breaking even due to the increased custom attracted.

As for Mooney's suggestion that the refectory staff will take the boycotts as a personal insult, the boycott is aimed at getting higher grants and the staff will surely realise this—unless, of course, someone is stirring up trouble to set the students and workers against each other. The Union is pledged to fight against any threat to jobs and we must take this pledge very seriously indeed. We can use our representation on the Refectories Committee to fight redundancies but in the last analysis it's up to the union as a whole to take action alongside the trade unions in College if this threat is made.

WEDNESDAY'S DEMO

This must be seen as a part of the build up to the big demo on Feb. 21st covering all colleges and universities in the S.E. of England. By marching to the DES we can firstly put some more pressure on the Government, secondly get press coverage and thirdly involve hundreds of union members in the campaign. After the demo we won't just crawl back and lie down again. We have to keep up the activity, building up to an even bigger turn-out on February 21st.

HORROR STORIES!

The national (and local) press like the personal touch. So if we want publicity on grants we read: "J. Bloggs of IC is living on chips because his parents can't (or won't) give him the £150 parental contribution he is due."

Anyone with grant difficulties out of the ordinary should come into the union office and give the details to the President who will use the case history to get the sort of favourable press coverage we need.

JOHN LANE

ISRAEL



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JOIN THE FELIX CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN BRITAIN

In response to widespread public alarm about the quality of life in Britain today, Felix, with the support of the Advisory Centre for Bolshevism, launches its nationwide campaign to rid our once green and pleasant land of that most insidious and widespread hangover from the Industrial Revolution: Capitalism.

Even as you read this the deadly tentacles of capitalist exploitation put you in danger of losing, inch by inch, that generous span of modern life allotted to every member of the fledgling proletariat.

Every second nearer that moment when you finally receive your degree brings you closer to a lifetime of barren servility stretching away to the grave, to be a cog in the vast machine of production with no future, but to keep grinding away producing surplus value for the enrichment of that porcine few they call the bourgeoisie.

Hamstrung unions, sell-out leadership, Phase II, Phase III, inflation, urban pollution, rural desecration; how can this miserable prospect be reconcilable with the giant technological leaps forward leading up to the 1970's — if you think that sounds grim, remember the sagacious words of the Careers Advisory Officer: "If the graduate unem-

ployment doesn't get you, the premature redundancies will!"

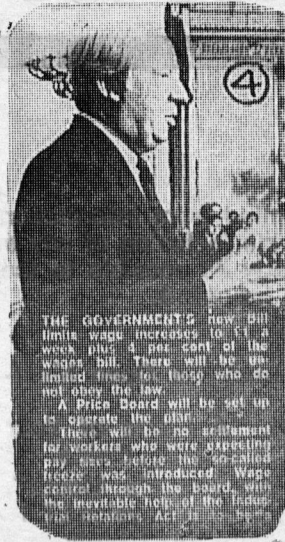
Vladimir Catnip, Felix's Political correspondent, writes: The facts are plain for all to see, but facts are not enough, we need empirical evidence with which to arm a revolutionary party so it can lead the working class to victory. Therefore we call on every man, woman and child to help us in the compilation of a nationwide Nauseating Money-makers' Map, which will enable us to pinpoint every capitalist in Britain today.

With the aid of a grant from the ACB we can equip everyone who asks with a special Felix Kit 4 consisting of a camera with telephoto lens, long range conversation monitors, lapel microphones, Rolls-Royce proximity meters, tape measure for measuring girth of suspects, Daily Torygraph sensors and the address of the Athenaeum.

A trial run of the kit

with a random selection of students from Imperial College resulted in 5 electrocutions (2 fatal), 1 Bentley S3 identified out of a random sample of minis and Fiat 500's, 23 irrevocably knotted tape measures and 14 blue movies of Sonia Hochfelder. We feel however, that with a larger number of participants, the results obtained should be of greater revolutionary significance.

The preliminary results of the trial survey show that only a small region of bog west of Cater's beam on Dartmoor may be the only area in Britain today still free from capitalism. But with this special FELIX kit you should be able to start Britain on the road to Socialism (no relation) and increase your own political consciousness at the same time. Enough data should be collected by this campaign for the ACB to correctly analyse the current objective political factors in Britain today that will enable them to lead the mass action to force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government pledged to Socialist policies.



Phosphorous the Jobrot and Ferocious Din

Part eight of the serialisation of the book by S. J. Swailes

George's boat floated gently on her moorings, as the three adventurers, and the proud owner stood by the water's edge staring out over the deep blue sea.

"Jolly nice," said Ferocious, "but how are we supposed to get out there?"

"Ah," said the smiling captain, "I have a dinghy for just that purpose, cunningly concealed yonder." Ferocious followed George's pointing arm. He could see nothing even vaguely like a dinghy. The Jungle Controller beamed at his companion's confusion. "Over here," he said, leading the party towards a huge shell-like object, half buried in the sand. When they drew near they could see that it was a vast clam, with "Tender to Overdraft" painted on the top half.

"Overdraft?" said Ferocious incredulously. "Yes, um," mumbled George, "before coming to the jungle, I worked in a bank, and I bought her on an Overdraft, so it seemed appropriate at the time. Actually, I call her Fanny, now."

"Quite understandable, dear boy," said Ferocious with a smile, "but surely that mollusc is not the Tender?" George laughed knowingly.

"No, no," he said, "the dinghy is inside." He leant forward and banged on the huge shell.

"Push off," said the clam, "this is private property," George sighed.

"Don't be silly, Enid," he said, "it's me, George."

"O.K.," said Enid, "just checking." With a creaking of sinews, a crack appeared at the joint in the two halves of the shell. Slowly the upper half lifted to reveal a small black rubber dinghy, and an outboard motor.

"There we are," said George proudly, "that's how we get out to Fanny." With Ferocious' help the Jungle Controller lifted the dinghy from its hiding place, and Enid shut down behind them.

"Cheerio George," she called after the adventurers, as they made their way down to the sea.

"I think," said George, "that we had better make two trips, considering the size of some members of the party."

"Sorry," said the Twigworm.

"No trouble," said George, as he pushed the little boat into the water and jumped in. "You come with me, Phosphorous and Ferocious; I'll come back for the Twigworm in a moment." Phosphorous and Ferocious clambered into the boat, and George pushed off with a paddle. As soon as he was in deep water the Jungle Controller lowered the outboard motor and pulled the string. To his surprise it started first pull. "Not often that happens," he said with a grin, "perhaps it's a good omen." With the motor buzzing angrily the dinghy headed out towards the Fanny.

Meanwhile the Twigworm sat at the water's edge, in its usual heap, idly burying its huge feet in the sand, and wondering sadly where its Twigwormery had got to. A shout awoke the large creature from its dreaming. George had returned, and was suggesting that the Twigworm step aboard. With some stumbling and much splashing, this was achieved, and, bow practically beneath the waves, the dinghy returned to the old ketch. Again at risk to life and limb, the Twigworm was persuaded out of the dinghy and onto the scrubbed decks of George's boat.

"Right," said the master mariner. "let's get some sail up, and we can be away." Unfortunately neither Phosphorous nor Ferocious had ever been sailing before, and the Twigworm had only been afloat on a Twigwormery which just drifted. "Never mind," said the ever-optimistic George,

"you'll soon pick it up." He gave them a short lecture on the principles of sailing, with amusing anecdotes and little diagrams. They felt none the wiser. "Never mind," said George, less optimistically, "if the worst comes to the worst, I can handle her by myself."

It was time to make a move. Under George's instructions they managed to raise the mainsail and a jib — the latter upside-down twice. George's good humour was wearing thin.

"Right!" he shouted, "Cast off the mooring, Ferocious."

"Come again?" asked the acting first mate. "Untie the rope at the front, the one that's fixed to the Buoy," said the captain through clenched dentures.

"Why didn't you say so in the first place?" shouted back a tactless Ferocious, as he dropped the jib on the Twigworm's head. "Sorry, wrong string," came the cry from up forward. George said a seamanlike rude word under his breath. With much shouting of "haul hard me handsones!" and "splice the upper fore goolies!" Ferocious managed to get the jib back up and finally to cast off. The old boat swung round onto a port tack, heeled gently in the light air, and headed out to sea. George stood proudly at the helm as his pride and joy sliced smoothly through the swell. He was joined in the cockpit by the rest of the crew. To fit them all in, the Twigworm was pushed down below, and told to make some coffee. "But I don't know how!" he protested. "Twigworms don't usually drink coffee."

"Alright, dear old enormous nautical person," said Ferocious, "you come out here and I'll make the coffee." There was a moment of panic when it appeared that Ferocious and the Twigworm were going to be jammed in the companion way, but somehow it resolved itself leaving the Twigworm on the outside and Ferocious on the inside as intended.

George had been studying the trim of the sails and considering the weather.

"As there isn't much wind," he said "I think that we should put some more sail up." Phosphorous and the Twigworm looked at each other sadly.

"I'm right in the middle of making the coffee," came a voice from below. "I'm afraid you'll have to count me out, as it were." George raised his eyes skywards.

"Alright," he said "Phosphorous and the Twigworm can do it. I want you to get the mizzen and the staysail up."

"Eh?" said Phosphorous. George did his best to explain. "Well we'll have a go anyway, won't we Twig?" said Phosphorous.

"Oh, yes," said the Twigworm, "we'll do our best."

With much falling over, and pulling of ropes they managed to raise the appropriate sails, but not before the Twigworm had fallen through the fore-hatch twice, and Phosphorous had shot up to the top of the main mast with a cry of "Haul away, Twig!" Bruised, but not unduly discouraged the pair returned to the cockpit. Certainly the extra sail had made a difference; they were bowling along now with a creaming white wake, and sufficient heel for Ferocious to drop George's coffee down the back of the chart table.

"Sorry about that, dear old captain sir," he said. "I'll prepare some more, as you might say." None of these disasters could detract from George's happiness. Standing, feet apart, at the tiller of his own boat, the wind in his face, the deck creaking and swaying beneath him, the heavy red canvas bulging above his head — he was contentment personified.

Examples of Capitalist Spoor



The Intelligent I.C. Student's Guide to Extra-mural Entertainment & Edification

The Intelligent Student's Guide to Extra-Mural Entertainment and Edification is obviously a conglomeration of the Felix Diary and the Reviews Page. However, we hope that it will become rather more than that.

The Diary has been steadily extended since the start of the year, and now includes all relevant content from IC News, Entsheet and Octopus in addition to the information Felix is regularly sent. We also propose to add dates and times of other interesting things going on in London... so if you know of anything, let us know! London is the entertainment centre of the country, so there must be something around!

The number of reviews is to be reduced, and we hope that they'll vary in coverage from week to week. A new addition will be the "Six of the Best" column, a selection of theatre, films, records, etc., with brief comments.

A list of programmes at Cinemas local to the areas where IC students live is now included, and this will be extended to other area happenings. If we've left your area out, please let us know.

Good things don't all happen at once, and Felix researchers are now working on other items for inclusion soon: these include a list of Church services, restaurants recommended by our gourmets, TV programmes, art exhibitions, walks, places to go, etc. If you think of anything, write and tell us.

One important note — we have no intention of either duplicating or imitating "Time Out" or "What's On". The central emphasis will be on items of interest to IC students.

Finally, it's been quite a marathon to get this lot together, and it'll be difficult to keep up. If you are willing to help compile it, please come along to the special ICSGTEMESE meeting at 4.30 p.m. on Friday afternoons, or drop in and see me in the office or in my pad in Weeks some other time. Oh, and Felix still needs a regular film critic. Offers?

THE EDITOR

Felix Diary

FELIX DIARY is compiled from information sent to Felix and culled from IC News, USK Entsheet, Octopus and a scouring of Union noticeboards. However, no guarantee of the inclusion of any event can be made unless information is sent direct to Felix. Please write all the details down on a piece of paper and send it as early as possible to the Editor, Weeks Hall to arrive by Sunday 1400 hours for that Tuesday's issue. Or ring it through to him ON SUNDAY before 1400, Int. 4236.

TUESDAY, 6th FEBRUARY

- 1300 External Affairs Committee Open Meeting. Stoic presents film, "A Home of Your Own" on TV in JCR and Southside.
- 1330 "Mortgages from the Horse's Mouth", starring Derek Cummings in Physics LT 1. "Equality and Freedom", 4: Liberty and the Law, by Dr. D. D. Raphael. Mech. Eng. 220. "Listening to Contemporary Music" by Miss Sarah Thomas, 4: Debussy and Impressionism, in ME 342. "The Nature of Religious Belief" by Father John Coventry, SJ, in ME 542.
- 1740 Railway Soc. ME 664.
- 1745 Wine Tasting Society on the Loire, Phys. Level 8.
- 1800 Transcendental Meditation introductory talk. EE 606.
- 1930 SEAsoc's Malaysian Cultural Evening happens in College Block SCR.
- 2000 Catholic Society shared prayer, More House.
- 2100 Queen Elizabeth College disco in their bar, 10p.
- 2100 St. Bart's Hospital film club presents "Get Carter" in Physiology LT, Charterhouse Square. 20p.

WEDNESDAY, 7th FEBRUARY

- 1300 "Students and the Wage Freeze", a Red Mole (=IMG?) meeting in EE 305.
- 1315 Demonstration to the DES. Join in IC's very own demo (see front page). Assembl. Mec. Eng. concourse.
- 1630 London Student Press Association interviews Peter Hain, Young Liberals leader and the man who "Stopped the 70 tour". All budding journalists welcome. ULU, Malet Street, Room 2C.
- 1830 Islamic Society meeting, CB 002.
- 1915 QEC Film Club present "Every Home should have one", Allen Theatre, non-members 15p.
- 1930 IC Folk Club presents Anne Briggs in Lower Union Refectory; 15p members, 25p non-members. There's also folk tonight at the Holy Ground Club and University College. Maria Assumpta College disco, in common room. 15p.
- 1945 "The Mikado" presented by Marjons (College of S. Mark and S. John) 30p & 40p.

THURSDAY, 8th FEBRUARY

- 1230 Scout and Guide Club presents D. B. Hernandez-Castanos on "Mexico — the country and its people". RSM 3.03. No Union Meeting!
- 1300 Catholic Society Bible study group. Fal. 118.
- 1315 Stamp Club. Civil 412.
- 1330 The Archbishop of Canterbury gets "face to face" with students in the intimate surroundings of ME 220. "Architecture and Metaphysics in Medieval Europe" in Phys LT 1. Presented by Dominic de Grunne. The Emperor Horn Trio of London plays Brahms' Horn Trio, in the Library, 53 Prince's Gate.
- 1900 Joint Christian Service and Party in JCR College Block. Patron's Fund Concert at Royal College of Music Concert Hall. Free. Art Club meets in RCA annex (behind the Hux).
- 1945 Marjons presents (i) The Mikado (see Wednesday) and (ii) films, "The Last Valley" and "Friday Cat" and "Hare Splitter" for 20p.
- 2000 Bedford College Folk Club (doesn't clash with IC, so they can have a plug) in their Union Common Room. More folk at the Church of Christ the King in the Crypt. "Come and Sing". Valentine Massacre Disco (let's face it, it's some massacre) at Institute of Education. Free beer, but 30p to get in.

FRIDAY, 9th FEBRUARY

- 1000 Cruft's Dog Show opens at Olympia. Woof, woof!
- 1245 Islamic Society congregational prayers. CB002.
- 1300 STOIC presents the "Ever-Popular Monochrome Show" on-TV in JCR and Southside.
- 1800 STOIC repeats the "Ever-Popular Monochrome Show".
- 1830 Christian Union meeting. 53 P.G. "Easy Rider" is the IC Filmsoc presentation.
- 1900 "Never on Sunday", "Zorba the Greek" and "Bride of Frankenstein" are the ULU films in Malet Street.
- 1930 Folk at the Institute of Education, Malet Street. "The Gambit" is the Bedford College film, 15p.

- 1945 "The Mikado" at Marjons (see Wednesday).
- 2000 Plethora of discos. Besides the "People's Disco", held as ever in the Union Lower Refectory, there are others at Chelsea (College House Refectory), RCA (canteen), Institut Francais, Birkbeck College and University College Hospital Medical School.
- 2100 "Easy Rider" again at IC Filmsoc, non-members 20p.

SATURDAY, 10th FEBRUARY

- 1000 Celebration — Liturgy Workshop at Christ the King (Gordon Square, WC1). Second and final day of Cruft's at Olympia. Groww!
- 2000 IC Ents present Sharks, 50p. Other gigs: Chelsea have Wheels. Horror films and disco. LSE have Plainsong, Long Dancer and Spirogyra. ULU have Bridget St. John.

SUNDAY, 11th FEBRUARY

- 1000 Sung Eucharist in CB Ante-Room. Preacher: Rev. Barney Milligan.
- 1100 Mass, preacher Dom Columba Cary-Elwes. More House.
- 1800 Mass, preacher Dom Andrew Brenninkmeyer. More House.
- 1930 Catholic Society: "Radio, TV and the Community", by Father Agnellus Andrew. More House.
- 1900 "Gumshoe" at Chelsea Film Soc., 10p.
- 2000 QEC Bar Disco, 10p.

MONDAY, 12th FEBRUARY

- 1930 Wellsoc presents "Subliminal Projection" in ME 220.

LOCAL CINEMA

Fulham Road ABC (370 2638) "Portnoy's Complaint" (till Thurs.), Kensington Odeon (937 6131) "The Ruling Class" (till tomorrow), Paris Pullman (373 5898) "Andy Warhol and his Clan" and "Erosissimo".
 Notting Hill Classic (727 5750) "The Go-Between". Late night 10th "Accident".
 Paddington Classic (723 5716) "Buck and the Preacher" and "Dynamite Man from Glory Jail". LN Sat. 10th "Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice". "Loving".
 Chelsea Classic (352 4388) "Blow Up", "Dance of the Vampires". LN Sat. 10th "The Blob". "Tickle Me".
 Chelsea Classic Curzon (352 7488) "The Garden of Finzi-Continis".
 Putney Cinecenta (788 0032) "The Mechanical Impasse".
 Wimbledon ABC (842 2082) "Clockwork Orange".
 Wimbledon Odeons 1, 2 & 3 (542 2277) 1: "Innocent Bystanders". "Sun on the Skin". 2: "Clinic Exclusive" and "The Girls Most Likely To". 3: "Nicholas and Alexandra".
 Ealing ABC (567 1333) "Portnoy's Complaint" and "Hunted".
 Odeon, Northfields (567 3939) "Precinct 45" and "A Reflection of Fear". LN Sat. 10th "Barbarella".
 Ealing Studios 1 & 2 (579 3022) 1: "Hands Off Gretel". "Sextroverts". 2: "Midnight Cowboy". "The Thomas Crown Affair".
 Shepherd's Bush Classic (743 6446) "Fritz the Cat". "Peeping Tom". LN Sat. 10th "Alfie". "The Love Goddesses".
 Shepherd's Bush Galaxy (743-6155) "Love in the Afternoon".
 "Escalation".
 Shepherd's Bush Odeon (749 1116) "Precinct 45". "A Reflection of Fear".

Looking Ahead

Spring seems to definitely be the season of Gilbert and Sullivan. The D'Oyly Carte Company are into the second of their three-month season at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in Rosebery Avenue, and it seems as though every college in London is doing its own season as well.

Imperial College amongst them: our very own G & S Society are presenting "Iolanthe" next week, with daily performances from Monday to Friday at 7.30 p.m. in the Union Concert Hall. Tickets are 30p on Monday and Tuesday, 40p on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and are on sale now daily in the foyer of the Union building.

The Royal College of Science Union is holding a "Folk Carnival" on Friday, 23rd February. Running through from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., it features the Ian Campbell Folk Group, Barry Dransfield, Hamish Imlach, Dave and Toni Arthur and special guest star Viv Stanshall. Tickets are 90p each, from the RCSU Office, Southside.

"A Night of Joy" is really a pun on the name of the President of the University of London Union, but "Spring Fever", the President's Ball to be held also on February 23rd is no joke: it is an all-night affair (9 to 6) with Georgia Fame and Alan Price, John Rounbourn, the Ray Jackson Orchestra, Wild Wally's Balloon and Banana Band, Mask, Cottonwood, the Nightingales and Juliana's Disco. Supper will be served from a buffet. A formal dress occasion, the highlight of the ULU year and attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, double

tickets are £6.50, obtainable by voucher from Linda Creagh, IC Union Clerk.

Another major "scoop" for IC Ents is the booking of Elton John for March 12th. To enable IC students to get in without competing with bookings from others the concert is not being advertised outside for the time being, and advance tickets are now obtainable from the bookshop, price £1. Ents tells Felix that they are already going fast, and advise you to be quick about getting yours.

Readers will remember us telling them last term about Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park and the weekend courses that they run. The programme continues this term with "Cryptography and Decipherment" on February 16th-18th; "Perception and Illusion" on February 23rd-25th; and "Genetics and Heretics" on April 27th-29th. Full details can be obtained from the Programme Secretary, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, Windsor, Berks., SL4 2HP.

Not too far away at the IC field station at Silwood Park near Ascot, 3rd-4th March sees the next Touchstone weekend when a discussion on "Human Rights" will be conducted by Dr. D. D. Raphael, Academic Director of Associated Studies, and Sergio Cotta, Professor of Philosophy of Law at Rome University. If you would like to go, send your name to Mr. C. K. McDowall, Room 331, College Block, as soon as possible. The cost of £1 includes the coach fare.

PAPERBACKS

Future Shock

Alvin Toffler

Pan 50 pence

Alvin Toffler is dealing with people, he is dealing with reality, he is dealing with people when they are overwhelmed by change or when they fail to adapt to the future.

Very carefully this author takes everyday events, the products we buy and use, the places we travel to and how we travel, the people whom we know and the speed with which they disappear and shows how all these things are changing, turning into a visible torrent of change, sucking and tugging everyone of us into a future out of our depths. He shows how future invades us, how she rushes closer to grasp us in her open arms and points out the importance of not sitting back and sucking the future from the safety of history but grappling with her as real live flesh and blood — now!

Future Shock is unrivalled in its comprehensive study of the human race, original in its approach and unique in its examples. The author selects these examples well and there are really so many good ones it's difficult to know which one to choose to illustrate his point, however, the following did particularly appeal. It appears in the chapter on "throw-away society" along with paper wedding dresses, throw-away bottles, cans and paper handkerchiefs.

Recently Mattel announced a new improved Barbie doll. The new version has a slimmer figure, 'real' eyelashes and a twist-and-turn waist that makes her more human than ever. Moreover, Mattel announced that, for the first time, any young lady wishing to purchase a new Barbie would receive a trade-in allowance for her old one.

DAVID HOBMAN

The Other Concert

A piece of classical music for introduction, as always, and then a smartly dressed Flash, led by Peter Banks, took the stage and leapt straight into a lengthened version of "Small Beginnings" on its completion. The stage looked a little different from usual, with three banks of lights and two enormous flags — one Stars and Stripes, and one Union Jack (nicely hung upside down) presumably to denote the fact that the Beck Bogart Appice band are Anglo-American. Their introduction was an announcement of each member of the band along with his nationality followed by the bashing of a rather large gong, though the number they followed it with was very average, each instrument drowning the other two.

Flash and B.B.A.'s sets seemed to be directly opposed. Flash did three more long numbers, "Black and White" of their forthcoming "Flash in the Can" L.P. and "Children of the Universe" and "Dreams of Heaven" from their first L.P. which if you've seen once you won't forget. It was banned from display in one of the countries in Central America (which one I can't remember) because the President had a heart attack when he saw it in a shop

window. Each of the numbers contained a solo spot for Peter Banks, proving that, as widely acclaimed, he is one of the finest guitarists in the world, stroking out chords, picking out notes and plucking out riffs with great beauty, perhaps he did overdo the feedback. Unfortunately several people in the audience had neither culture nor manners, and just wouldn't keep quiet. The rest of the time reminded me a little of the early Yes days, which isn't surprising, with Ray Bennett's powerful bass and Banks' runs (and Colin Carter even sounded like Jon Anderson on the record), so I was quite pleased with them.

B.B.A., however, tended to play shorter numbers riled together, and produced a far fuller sound, with some gutsy guitar work by Mr. Beck, though they did perform a few slower numbers in which he exploited the more delicate use of the guitar. Their set included a bass solo and an interesting and quite lengthy drum solo, and I was quite looking forward to Beck's solo, but this was not to be, as such, for he just continued with his short bursts every now and again, though the audience didn't mind and dragged them back for an encore.

G.J.K.



Sex, dental surgery and watching a film have one similar after-effect — they leave me in a vague, mindless daze. "Portnoy's Complaint" (Warner Rendezvous and ABC, Fulham Road) completely drained the life out of me. Maybe it was because it was 10.30 a.m., or because I hadn't had any breakfast, or simply that it was my first trip to the cinema for at least six months: I don't know. But, devoid of any hope of diversion, I spent most of the 99 minutes it lasted wondering what could have driven Ernest Lehman to make the film in the first place and what would drive anybody to see it.

I guess they're hoping it'll be the posters declaring that "Portnoy's Complaint is catching". Of course, this presupposes that you know what Portnoy's Complaint is, and that if you don't you'll be driven by a manic desire to find out. Revelations ensue.

Well, there's this guy called Alexander Portnoy (Richard Benjamin, no I hadn't heard of him either) who's the Assistant Commissioner of Human Opportunity for the City of New York (whatever that is). And we meet him lying on a psychiatrist's couch, recounting the history of his complaint and its effects.

His complaint is sexual obsession, and Mr. Lehman gives us a thousand or two feet of celluloid insight into his teenage years as an inveterate masturbator in his family of self-suff-

ering mother, constipation—suffering father and obesity—suffering sister. What happens to him between the ages of 16 and 33 is anyone's guess, for by an ever-confusing system of flashbacks that's where we find him next, picking up the Monkey, alias Mary Jane Reed (Karen Black) on a street corner at midnight. Three frames later she "fulfils his most exotic sex fantasies", according to the press release—but they don't show you any of that. Mind you, it needs little imagination to fill in the blanks in the rest of the film, which consists of shots of them alternately driving across open country and muttering foul nothings whilst curled up in bed.

To cut a long and incredibly boring story short, they go on holiday in Europe, just about fall out, when they pick up an Italian girl and have a three-way affair in Rome and fall out completely the next day in Athens (fast movers, these Yanks). He leaves her threatening to jump out of the window, flies back to NY, and finds himself imagining seeing her jump down at him every time he looks up at a building. So he whips along to the headshrinker. Which is exactly where we started.

I found the film neither entertaining nor inspiring. Don't waste money on seeing it.

PAUL ROCHFORD

The Landsnapper Sneeze by Dave Gribble



THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

-What it's all really about

When you leave I.C. what are you expecting to do? — get a good job with an expanding, science-based industry, marry, settle down and raise a family in conditions of material comfort — central heating, car, refrigerator, colour television, hi-fi, etc. — and then when you are sixty, or maybe less, retire and live out your last years in a leisurely and contented manner? Frankly, you have not got a hope in hell of succeeding.

Today we live in an era of unprecedented material affluence; but it cannot last much more than another twenty years or so in its present form. Why is this? It is simply because there will not be available sufficient

material resources to make this possible. The shortage will partly arise because of the growing difficulty of meeting the exponentially increasing requirements of the developed world out of a finite reserve. It will be exacerbated, however, by the perfectly legitimate and necessary increase in the use of raw materials by the developing countries. Thus the demand will not only increase exponentially at the rate of 'x'%, say, but the magnitude of 'x' is also liable to increase.

The situation is made even more serious by the fact that, not only do enough resources have to be found to produce the goods we require, but we must also find additional resources to enable us to control the pollution we thereby generate. Pollution of the environment is something which, not surprisingly, we want to eliminate; but its prevention is something which, in conventional economic terms, we shall be increasingly unable to afford. We allow it to occur at our peril, for once sufficient quantities of pollutants are released to upset the basic processes of the biosphere, there is really no knowing what the effects will be on the various forms of life on the planet, including ourselves and the plants and animals on which we rely for our food. Indeed it appears from recent research¹ that some of the most fundamental biospheric processes are only just being discovered, let alone understood in sufficient depth to enable us to predict how easily they may be disturbed, or what the resulting effects will be!

Thus the environmental crisis is not merely a collection of localised, unrelated problems such as pollution, noise, shrinking countryside, etc., which it is just convenient to lump together under one heading. It is much more fundamental than this, and is basically concerned with the material constraints placed by nature upon mankind's efforts to progress towards a more ideal world. This is in sharp contrast to conventional political ideologies which are mostly concerned with the human constraints. Things have come to a head because industrial civilisation has for too long allowed itself to accept in a relatively uncritical manner, as a measure of what is good, the rate of increase of material wealth. This has been a workable standard until now because our demands upon the earth's resources have been easily satisfiable. Such a situation cannot, by definition, continue for ever and we are now in the uncomfortable position of seeing that, having due regard to the political realities of the world today, a major disruption of the growth process is going to occur well within the lifetime of present-day students.

Needless to say, such a perturbation will have colossal economic and political repercussions. I may have given the impression earlier that the 'environmental thesis' can be regarded as an *alternative* to conventional political ideologies; if so I apologise. For any political theory to be complete it must obviously have due regard to both the physical and human realities of the current world situation. What, therefore, does the environmental argument imply in terms of the conventional left-right political debate?

First let us deal on a global scale. If one asks the average intelligent person in this country how they can justify living in conditions of material affluence whilst the majority of the world's popula-

tion lives in relative poverty, they will probably say something to the effect that, life being what it is, civilisation develops in some areas faster than in others and that we needn't really worry about being so rich since the poorer countries will in time develop and catch us up. One of the most important political effects of the environmental argument is that it exposes this idea for the absolute nonsense that it is. The poorer countries of the world have no hope of all simultaneously enjoying the present European-type standard of living since there are not nearly sufficient resources to enable them to do this.

Of course we must not make the mistake of assuming that all the peoples of the world will necessarily want to develop in the same industrial manner as today's 'developed' countries have. However, it is apparent that very many countries are intent on doing just this, and that they are being greatly encouraged in their efforts by the developed world. Furthermore it would be cruelly unrealistic to deny that the developing countries will have to greatly increase their use of resources simply in order to bring their material standard of living up to a minimum acceptable level.

As far as politics within the developed world is concerned, the environmental argument totally transcends the conventional left-right dichotomy. It has been suggested, rather irresponsibly I think, that the environmental crisis has been caused solely by capitalism and that all we have to do is to change to a socialist system and the problem will automatically disappear. This is not true since the problem can only be solved by abandoning the ideal of non-stop economic growth in material terms, and not merely by changing the way in which the fruits of our labours are distributed. This of course does not mean that the left-right argument is now irrelevant or unnecessary. It will naturally remain arguable as to what is the most favourable political system under which to come to terms with the present crisis.

I have not covered here every aspect of the problem by any means and I hope to discuss some other issues, particularly that of population growth, in a further article.

MIKE ROBSON
(Chem. P.G.)
I.C. Eco-Action.

¹ J. E. Lovelock et al., *Nature* 1973, 241, 194 and refs. therein.

The RCS Broadsheet

presents



My last "Broadsheet-in-Felix" article stimulated a response I did not anticipate and which I had intended to ignore on two grounds. Firstly, I do not like to, or wish to, indulge in pointless derogatory and back-biting remarks about anyone but prefer to present my point of view and facts in a relatively straightforward manner without attacking any particular individual. My last article was not aimed at anyone specifically and if people felt certain facts had been omitted they could have merely said what these were (any other remarks would surely be irrelevant to the point of the article). Secondly, I refuse to get involved in a childish "slanging-match" that would only serve to waste Felix space and bore the rest of its readers. I shall therefore merely answer the points raised in the guildsheet article and curious letter that appeared last week, without being too nasty, and hope the matter will subsequently be dropped (with the exception of new developments of course).

The letter by Mr. van Weaselgrope is hardly worth commenting on, not only because of its obvious lack of seriousness, but because the writer has not the courage of his convictions and is too cowardly to put his own name to his literary excreta, but prefers to sling his mud and hide behind some pseudonym. I shall remark however that the "revenge squad" that took the records, files, etc., had not indulged in a mascotry raid before and merely desired to annoy those concerned by removing these articles which were promptly returned within half an hour with apologies. Any damage incurred in a raid was of course accidental (not deliberate as was claimed) and I notice when guilds retrieved the shields they were not reluctant to leave the R.C.S. office in a mess by knocking things over and pinching copies of the latest Broadsheet (which they would have received anyway, even though they have difficulty finding someone in guilds who can read).

This brings me onto the guildsheet article, I'm glad to see Broadsheet is no longer the only C.C.V. publication to respond to the Felix editor's request for regular opinion articles and hope that in future guildsheet will have something to say that is worth reading (unlike the monotonous format and low standard of guildsheet itself). I was a little puzzled at the fact that the editor did not write the article (although judging by what I've seen of guildsheet I doubt that it has one) and instead this was done by a gentleman who apparently dates bearded young ladies (I draw this conclusion from the fact that he was uncertain of my sex at the start of the article but managed to guess right by the end—well done, sir!). I also wondered why this article was on the sports page, considering the unnecessarily nasty comments it contained, its hardly cricket, is it chaps? Perhaps they are trying to initiate a new sport—Ron bashing! Well, Mr. Hanson should "get his facts right", had not the guilds twats in their office attempted to throw one of our valiant lads over the balcony to the ground some ten feet below then perhaps their cheap ashtray would not have got broken in the scuffle. Admittedly, some letters for the guilds float got broken, but Mr. Hanson has exaggerated the actual number from four to his "breaking half the letters".

I forgot to mention that the R.C.S. sign WAS seen by our lads in the infamous glass cabinet but no attempt to retrieve it was made since the cabinet was locked. Perhaps I should add that the shields are still in our possession as is Mr. Newman's (guilds president) hat following the Morphy Day antics and that mysterious V.C. anchor (beautifully painted in the R.C.S. colours) was wheeled into the R.C.S. U.G.M. last Tuesday.

The general feeling of those associated with Broadsheet is that mascotry is to be encouraged as long as it is done by "sleight of hand" and does not degenerate into open warfare, which was regrettably becoming the case at the end of last term. I therefore hope that any developments this term are of a more sedate and sophisticated manner.

RON APPLEBY (Broadsheet Editor).

Feelsick No. 327, Tuesday February Sixths 1973 were Edited by Oliver Dowson F. with implicated, as well, Ron Applebee, Martin Black, Alasdair Campbell (Vomitaria L.T.D.), Derek Cummings, Arbro Schasm, David Hobman, Graham King, John Lane, Gordon Reece, P David Rose, Michael Silverleaf, John Stares and Steven Swales. In alphabetical. Not in alphabetical Peter Crawford.

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a poem

*Double your pleasure
Double your fun
Get FELIX and read about
Mart Doughty's bum.*

*We used to say
That poem at school.
Only with different
Words then.*

*The weekly article
From Martin D. is a
Sight for sore eyes.*

*A spark of genius
In a*

*Literary oasis,
As my mate Keith
Used to say.*

*He got a call while on
Nightline*

*The other night
(my mate Keith that is)*

*Putting aside his Beano
He listened to someone*

Depressed

*By the lack of soul
And art*

Here at I.C.

*I think that's it
In a nutshell.*

*Scientists are
Scientists*

*And poets and artists
Are poets and artists.*

*Ah well. It takes all
Sorts I suppose.*

*With apologies to E. J.
Thribb (17)*

ALASDHAR CAMPBELL

ON DEMOS

Last Wednesday a very successful demonstration was held by students from Thames Poly and Erith Poly. They marched from ULU to the DES by Waterloo station shouting "Grants Up", "Thatcher Out", "Tories Out" and "Can you live on £275 p.a. Mrs. Thatcher?". Organised by rank and file action committee, many were angry at the lack of leadership which NUS had given. All they were told was that they would not get much support, and that they should wait for the day of action on February 21st. Many of them being on discretionary awards or getting no grants at all, they were not deterred.

There are people at IC who say the same about our demo tomorrow, but we will not be deterred either. The rapid price increases and the effects of the growing trade war, the possible cancellation of Concorde and the subsequent cutback in jobs for technologists make it essential that we come out now to defend our democratic rights. All students who want to help make this the most successful campaign ever and wish to steward, make banners or help with mass leafletting on Wednesday morning should contact the Union Office.

PETE GILLETT

FELIX FINANCIALLY

goes shopping — for a Bank!

This week FELIX FINANCIALLY is going to lower its sights just a little. When the idea of a financial page was first conceived, our intention was to cover the whole spectrum of money problems and particularly to try to clarify some of the more obscure points we are all likely to run up against when we set out into the wide world beyond the comforting walls of Imperial College.

We've talked about such things as insurance policies, home loans, house prices and other related problems that we are bound to face in the future. And, thanks to our financial adviser DEREK E. CUMMINGS, we think we have covered the field in a more than usually refreshing and interesting way.

In this issue, however, we felt we ought to get down to the ground floor and have a look at where most of our money comes from. So we're going to talk about banks and bank managers.

It happens that they are the subjects about which DEREK E. CUMMINGS will be speaking when he delivers the third of his General Studies lectures on February 13.

This lecture will be of interest to anyone who has ever crossed swords with a bank manager (and I imagine most of us could show a few scars from that particular battle) since Cummings' guest that day will be the manager of a bank less than a mile away from I.C.

His name is Roger Roseboom. We think he's a bank manager with a difference: a man who has the almost revolutionary view that banks — or rather his bank — should be in the business of helping people rather than just counting their money or writing smoothly insulting notes when they're a pound overdrawn.

He's coming along to answer your questions about banks and their managers — how they work, how they think, their attitudes towards students and so on.

He'll lend an ear next Tuesday and — who knows? — he might even lend you some money one day. But he's a shrewd cookie and he'll be looking for some penetrating questions.

But before we put him in the hot seat, we asked our man to give us his ideas on what banks and bank managers ought to be about.

There's no question about it, banking is a lovely business. It makes money on all sides. On the one hand they take your money and keep it for you — and then invest it to make a little profit for themselves. On the other hand, they lend you money — and charge you interest on the loan. It's marvellous. They can't lose.

OK, that's a very simplistic view of a complicated organism. But very often the simple approach reveals the fact of a matter. And it is true. Banks do make money out of money, whether guarding it or lending it.

But, pursuing the simple approach makes it obvious that banks wouldn't even be in business if it were not for their customers. Customers are not just important to them, they're absolutely essential.

So all of you with bank accounts ought to think about that, for a start. Like Kitchener's army, your bank needs you.

For that reason, the banks spend millions on trying to attract customers. Leaflets, handouts, posters, pamphlets, display advertisements and television are all weapons they use to try to get you to put your money where their mouth is.

My own favourite approach is in the commercial showing the happy home with the bank manager in the broom cupboard — if only because I know one or two bank managers I'd love to lock in a cupboard and then lose the key! But aside from that, this ad points up a basic truth about the banking business, namely, that your fortune can depend on your bank manager as an individual.

And this is a serious point. Unless you have a lot of money, there are bound to be occasions when the bank can help you out of a fix. That's when you have to walk into the bank and face the manager. Providing your needs are not outrageous, it's odds on that he could help you, since bank managers have a large degree of autonomy and can lend fairly substantial amounts of money without reference to anyone else.

But will he help you?

It depends on the man and on you. After all, you chose him, didn't you? When you opened your first bank account, you could have gone to any bank in the land.

If your man turns you down on what you feel is a reasonable request, then there's only one conclusion. You've chosen the wrong bank manager.

The answer to that is to shop around. Go to a bank and have a chat

DEREK CUMMINGS will be delivering the second of his four General Studies lectures today at 1.30 p.m. in Physics Lecture Theatre 1. (More than just a lecture, quite an experience in fact!). Today he'll be grilling — and inviting you to grill — a leading building society manager. If you think you're ever likely to buy a house, you owe it to yourself to drop everything and go to the lecture. See you there!

with the manager before you open an account. Talk to him, tell him your situation and what sort of services you expect from the bank. Ask him questions, pose a problem or two. You'll soon find out whether he's your sort of bloke. If he isn't—leave.

Remember that, in your search, you have one factor working for you. In a highly competitive situation, where all banks are going out of their way to attract custom, they have been forced to change their traditional outlook. These days, they have to make themselves more attractive to the public. They have to be prepared to lend money on much less secure grounds than they previously demanded. And the decisions on questions like that rest firmly with the man in the back room—the manager.

They have the powers. The trouble is that so many of them cannot be bothered to use them, to take the risks, to back their judgment. Luckily, a lot of those gents in striped pants and black coats are being pensioned off and replaced by younger men with a younger outlook.

Which type you choose is entirely your concern. It's as simple as that.

And it's not only a question of being able to borrow a few quid, is it? An intelligent and aware bank manager will be a man with whom you can confidently discuss the whole range of money matters.

Banks have learned some painful lessons in the past few years. They've seen a lot of their business siphoned off by such institutions as merchant banks and the finance houses. They got into the business which the banks ought to have monopolised. In fact, the banks allowed it to go by default, simply because they weren't prepared to take the risks.

But these days, they're right back into it. So why sign a hire purchase agreement at an inflated rate of real interest when you might be able to do it more cheaply with a bank loan?

After all, a bank is just another shop—except that it sells cash. Why on earth shouldn't you, the customer, feel entitled to use it on those terms?

If you don't do that, the reason probably is that your bank manager doesn't encourage you to do so.

If you're in that situation, leave him to go on sending out his little overdraft notes and go and find a manager who knows what modern banking is all about.

Look at it this way. If you went to a doctor with a broken arm and he prescribed aspirin, you'd soon find another doctor, wouldn't you?

As with medicine, so with finance. All the facilities you are likely to need are there —somewhere. You have to find them. Or rather, find the man who is prepared to make them available to you.

And that means going shopping—for a bank manager.

Just out of interest, FELIX FINANCIALLY took DEREK E. CUMMINGS at his word. We went to talk to a bank manager —Roger Roseboom himself.

These are some of the things he said:

"As I see it, banks have a duty to offer a real service to their customers, whether they be students, property developers or old age pensioners. And by service I mean more than just taking their money and making them wait in line to cash a cheque. Service means listening to and trying to understand their problems and then, if it is in any way possible, helping them to solve them. That, I think, is a bank manager's prime responsibility to his customer.

"Now students. You ask what my bank can offer a student that another bank cannot. And the answer is very little. Any bank can offer the same facilities. Whether they are used depends on the manager.

"What I offer any student is an intelligent dialogue and a willingness to help them in the best way I can. We want student accounts—every bank does. We realise that today's student is tomorrow's man of property. If any student from Imperial College came to me and made it clear he had worked hard to get there, was working hard to get his degree and was going to make the grade when he left college, I'd jump at the chance to get his account in my bank. I'd give him a cheque book and a cheque card to back it with. I'd handle his account without charges—although I would have to charge interest on any sum overdrawn, naturally. And when summer term came and times were hard, I'd be prepared to listen if he wanted something to tide him over. I'd make it quite clear that I wouldn't expect him to go and buy the money on a new tape recorder, but if he was sensible and impressed me when talking across my desk, I'd very likely be able to help. I already have a number of student accounts, and I think I've been fair with them all.

"It's my job to listen to problems and to try to unravel them. After all, a talk with your bank manager ought not to be like an audience with the Pope. I like to see my customers. I make my judgements on them through meeting them face to face and I'll back my judgment every time.

"That's what a bank manager's job is all about".

hockey

Last Saturday the 1st and 3rd XIs travelled to Harrow by a team coach. However, this coach was delayed for forty minutes whilst all those who had brought cars to go in found somewhere to park them. From the start trouble was evident, since the strongmen of the committee, Ron Palmer and Mick Downs, had to persuade the driver that Harrow means Stanmore. Not to be outdone got well and truly lost in Harrow — or was it Stanmore?

Things then became more confused as the two teams had to be dropped off at two different grounds. Well the 3rd XI were taken to the door, but the 1st XI — even with the help of an A-Z — had to climb over a railway bridge and trundle through muddy fields before they caught sight of the mud-heap that became the pitch.

Mention here should be made of John Astley who thought it would be better to go by scooter armed with an A-Z. After an even greater tour of Harrow than the coach, John finally found the 3rd XI ground, but then decided it was too late to try and find the 1st XI; so he went home!

The match itself — shortened due to our late arrival — was very average. Harrow, even with an extra man, did not live up to expectations as members of the 1st division of the Middlesex League. The first half ended with a blank score-sheet, mainly due to the home side's erratic shooting.

The second half had some memorable scenes: Mick Downs clearing off the goal-line with everybody else beat; Mick Downs — again in defence — wildly swiping, but missing the ball and knobbling Tim Hansen's shins. He even swore after the match he wasn't pissed the night before.

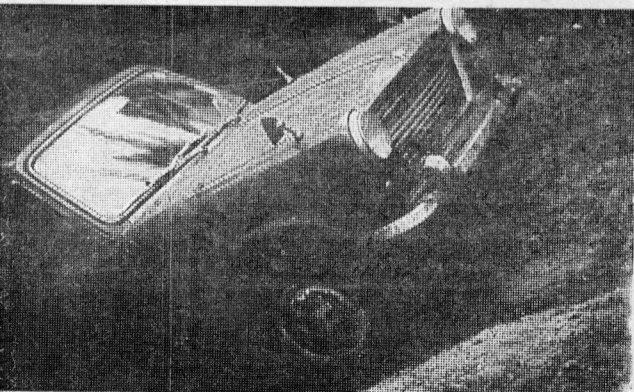
The final score was 1—1 Colin Dyer scoring for IC after a fluff by the keeper. The equaliser by Harrow followed a free hit from just outside the circle.

Team: S. Boulton; R. Cameron, R. Palmer; B. Evans, T. Hanson, G. Popple; A. Tatchell, M. Downs, J. Gahir, C. Dyer.

Rumour has it that the 2nd XI lost 3—0 and the 3rd XI drew 1—1, John Andrews being the scorer; but rumour of the result of last Wednesday's 1st XI match against Brunel still has to seep through to darkest Clapham. Doesn't anybody know where the Math's letter racks are?

After last week's report Mick Downs demanded an apology for his mention but I move that he should drink a pint of Heineken since he arranged a Sunday morning match which was called off by the opposition — a fact I did not learn until I arrived at Harlington.

motor sport



MARTINS BIT

Readers of other College publications will have noticed that I am once again contributing to BROADSHEET (wotzat? —Ed). If the editors of any other publications — guildsheet for example — want to improve the whole tone of their periodical they should drop me a note (preferably blue with a picture of HM the Queen, Visitor to Imperial College) and I will see what can be done.

on Parking

There is insufficient space for all those students who have parking stickers to park their cars. Therefore no permits will be issued until further notice.

on Wine

Wine will be sold by the bottle in Southside Bar. There will be a good selection of low and medium-priced wines which should compete with WAIT . . . sorry, local shops.

The College Cellars are very well stocked and it is possible to purchase wine in bulk — at a discount (my boy?) Further details and list from Mr. Victor Mooney (int. 2878).

on Booze

By the time you read this, the new improved College Block Bar should be open and serving a wide range of ales.

Rentaweld Treasure Hunt Rally

The ever active Guilds Motor Club held a Treasure Hunt Rally in the wilds of Hertfordshire on Friday evening (2nd February). Eleven enthusiastic crews set out from the start near Windsor, and ten managed to find the finish.

The infamous Perry Newton had to be rescued at one point as his car took to the water like a duck—it loved going in, but wouldn't come out again. Mart Clemow managed to find more mud than anyone else, but managed to finish.

The rally was won by Simon Briscoe (again!) with John Coxon and Pete Wilkins second and third, and the majority of crews seemed to have enjoyed the event.

Les Wilkins M.E.3.

GIRL wanted to share large room in comfortable self-contained flat. £25 per cal. mth. Call at Flat 15, 19 Courtfield Road, SW7 any evening (top flat).

STUDENT WORLD

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY has now decided to come out on Rent Strike, despite a decision of last term not to do so. The result, however, is disappointing: only one of the seven halls has come out in support. The Communications Secretary of the University Union told a Felix reporter in early January that each hall's JCR had individually voted against strike action; it would seem that they are sticking to that decision. "Red-brick", their newspaper, was the only other in the country besides "Felix" to run a special Rent Strike issue at the start of term.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY halls have been plagued by hordes of Assurance salesmen — one hall had no less than seven visits last Sunday alone. "Leeds Student" names the firms as the Graduate Assurance Bureau, Lynn Assurance Services and the University Assurance Service, which are not known to operate in Imperial College.

NOTTINGHAM halls seem to be losing a lot of glasses — so one of them has set up a deposit system for half and pint glasses. The deposit is 10p, refundable on return of the glass . . . but it looks as if the hall could lose out, as there is nothing to stop people collecting glasses from elsewhere and claiming the deposit!

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY staff and students are complaining that the interdisciplinary teaching system is being discarded. The scheme involves teaching science to arts people and arts to science people. One of the problems is that there are more arts than science students.

LANCASTER students Nina Thomas and Geoffrey Foote, banned from attending political meetings on campus for disrupting a right-wing meeting, have withdrawn their appeals to the Vice-Chancellor, Charles Carter.

OPEN UNIVERSITY applicants number more than 10,000 . . . even though they are now only six weeks into their six-month enrolment period.

The Steering Committee of the NUS STUDENT JOURNALISTS' CONFERENCE to be held in London in April voted last week to abolish all awards for student newspapers, magazines and journalists at once, and there will thus be no Paper of the Year or Journalist of the Year this year. The Committee, made up of about ten editors from around the country, has set up sub-committees to investigate the setting up of a National Student Press Service and a National Space Brokerage for advertising.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Cheap Weekend Coach Travel from London to :

- Bath Birmingham Bradford Bristol Leeds
- Leicester Loughborough Manchester
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BIRMINGHAM	1500	1945	£1.00
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BRISTOL	1430	2015	£1.00
LEEDS	1600	1830	£1.50
LEICESTER	1400	2040	£1.00
LOUGHBOROUGH	1400	2015	£1.10
MANCHESTER	1630	1815	£1.50
NOTTINGHAM	1400	1945	£1.25
SHEFFIELD	1600	1910	£1.50
SALFORD	1630	1745	£1.50

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