



# Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

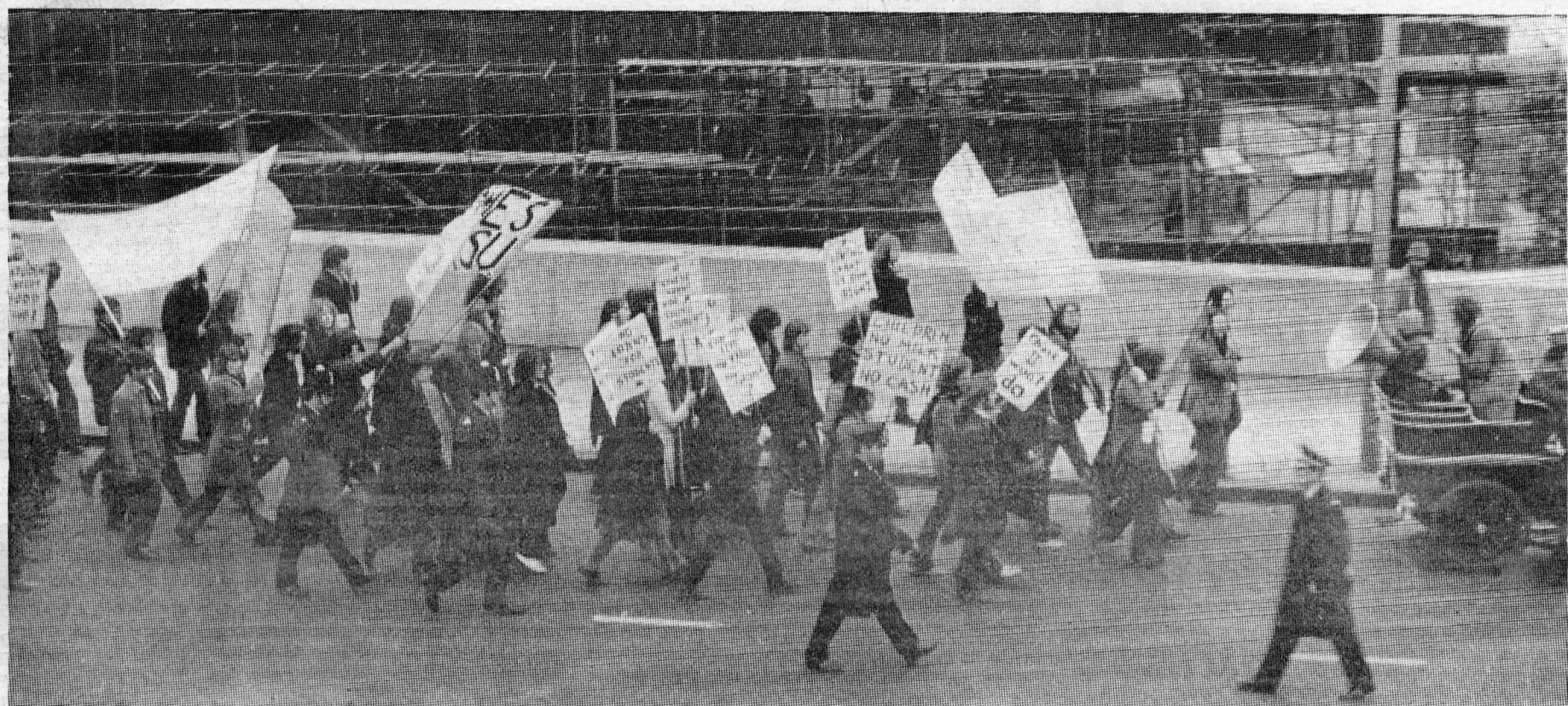
No. 328

13th FEBRUARY, 1973

## UNION MEETING

### Thursday

### 13.00



# 200 march to DES

Last week, I.C.s very own demo finally got under way. About 200 people assembled on the steps in front of Mech Eng on Wednesday and, just after half past one, they formed up behind the I.C. banner to set off. The march started with a tour of the college along Imperial Institute road and up Queensgate where Bo took over the lead, it stopped off at the Unon to pick up further recruits, and then proceeded to South Kensington station to catch the tube to the Temple.

The column reformed outside the station and was joined by a contingent from Thames Polytechnic. After a slight delay, the march again set off. The police, whose numbers had risen considerably since the start of the march, were now very much in evidence.

There was a control van heading the march and completely usurping Bo's position. As well as the foot patrols containing the marchers, two motorcyclists to clear the road ahead and two busloads of Police behind (almost more Police than demonstrators, in fact).

Interestingly, there was another march just after the I.C. one and the Police made sure that there was no chance of the two marches joining together.

The route taken went along the South of The Aldwych, over Waterloo Bridge, round the roundabout and along the York Road to the Department of Education and Science building, just beside Waterloo station. The march was accompanied by continuous chanting of slogans such as 'Higher grants today, the DES must pay' and 'Higher grants in, wage freeze out' and, all along the route, leaflets were handed out and attempts were made to explain to passers-

by exactly why the demonstration was taking place. There was a complete absence of ugly incidents and, on the whole, the members of the public who were approached seemed sympathetic. In particular, Trevor

Phillips was very well received when he handed leaflets to motorists going northwards across the bridge as we were going south; except in one case where a gentleman in a Rolls Royce refused to accept the offering.

At the DES, the marchers formed into a crowd on the pavement opposite the building while the sack of letters was taken from Bo and a deputation was assembled to present them. They were then taken into the DES and handed by Paul Jowitt,

leader of the deputation, to Michael Smith, Private Secretary, who accepted them on behalf of the Under-Secretary of State.

After the presentation, John Lane explained to the crowd what would be done with the letters and then introduced further speakers, Malcolm Madden from Marjons, Judy Cotter President of ULIESA and Ray Dawson a chemistry PG, who all spoke on various aspects of the grants campaign. The meeting finished at half past three.



**GORDON REECE**

"Come, come, Professor ffortescue. You...must have SOME 0 Levels."

FRIDAY, 23rd — SUNDAY, 25th FEBRUARY

## SKI-ING WEEKEND

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# Letters

## Nice one, Cyril!

There now follows the text of a Very Exclusive Interview Indeed with Myself.

You state that 'Felix will continue to attempt to show all sides of the argument' (note to letter, page 2, col 1, Felix No. 327). I beg to differ. Felix has not yet shown all sides of the argument.

Letters explaining some socialist viewpoints have been forthcoming, even if they appeared with the usual sectarian signatures [see the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist - Leninist) v. the Communist Party of Great Britain (Stalinist\*) in "External Affairs" 'at the Neasden Hippodrome']. Where are the explanations of dynamic Conservatism (almost as much of an oxymoron as "Young Conservative")? I find a neutered Catnip column, and letters disagreeing with the CPBM-L militant here in earth. Where are the articles which suggest that banks should build halls of residence and point out that they might well be financed in part by the massive repayments on private loans — loans such as young couples must take out to start a home at the price levels of a free, competitive market? Felix shows both sides of the argument?

I suspect, Mr. Dowson, that you could write an excellent article extolling the virtues of Conservatism/capitalism and free enterprise, including the usual references to late delivery which seem to be a plague of the British

Print Industry (and don't say that strikes are the cause!). When will it appear? Why must we be content with ludicrous editorials telling us we are middle class and should therefore choose to remain politically impotent? Why is a member of an opposing faction ridiculed, and then his suggestion that Felix should be partisan called "sheer hypocrisy"? Some may say it already is.

I believe, Mr. Dowson, that although Felix has improved in some ways, you are still trying it on. "Don't take a letter to the DES" indeed. You know very well it is too late to unseat you from your sabbatical without conclusively writing off Felix for this year at least. I say no more.

Yours,  
ROB ARMITAGE and  
SIMON ALLNUTT

\*Apologies to John and 7 comrades. Keep recruiting.

## More on Felix's Politics

Mr. Gillett's letter last week was not, as you claimed, advocating the suppression of free speech. Surely quite the opposite, in that Felix, as a student newspaper, should discuss all the issues involved which affect students; in particular the grants campaign and the defence of student rights. You, like so many other great advocates of free speech, felt the need to bend over backwards to give extra coverage to a non-student (Mr. Mooney) in an article attacking our grants campaign. You gave that article front page coverage and did not even bother to obtain any comments from the NUPE shop stewards who are in a better position to know what their membership

feels than their "boss" Mr. Mooney. Those people who cry loudest about free speech are amongst the first to justify the need for censorship. Over the suppression of Granada's 'World in Action' programme on the Poulson Affair, not one newspaper's editorial (those great bastions of free speech) spoke out against this blatant censorship.

J. VEALL

## APOLOGY

The Editor would like to apologise for any ill feeling caused by his notes to Mr. Gillett's letter last week.

## French Letter to Editor

In replying to Adolf von Weaselgrope, could I quote from F. Temple Kingson's book "French Existentialism — a Christian critique". "The non-Christian existentialists make a distinction between the cogito pre-reflexive and the cogito reflective. It is upon the ambiguity based on this distinction that their two methods of communication are founded. For the non-Christian existentialists, the pre-reflexive cogito concerns an immediate awareness in sense, experience, emotion and action that precedes any objectifying by the mind".

I remain yours essentially,  
JEAN-PAUL SARTRE  
(Name and address supplied)

ED.: Thanks for suggesting the "Fascist Contraceptions" headline—hope you approve of the adaptation.

## Encore Sonia

Referring to Chris Stevens' letter, he seems to think that pure research is totally use-

less, i.e. is unprofitable. Surely he must realise that research is a long term investment. Some of the research may turn out to be useless, other research produces results which are very profitable. Unfortunately for the bourgeoisie they cannot predict the results in advance. There does take place some research "for the sake of it" but somebody has to pay for this — either the government or industry — neither of whom are prone to paying out money without seeing a return. It is very difficult to get government grants for research without giving good justification for it. So regrettably the profit motive extends even here. It is only when the profit motive has been totally abolished that research too will serve the people.

As for the bourgeoisie not taking action to make the most from education — that is exactly what they are doing—by providing education.

Yours sincerely,  
SONIA HOCHFELDER

## A Plea

We feel there is a certain lack of clarity in some of the ideas put forward in the grants campaign. Therefore to help build an effective campaign we issued the enclosed leaflet on the grants demo, where it was favourably received — so far as we could assess. Will you please therefore print it in Felix.

Yours in Springtime hope,  
PIERS CORBYN  
(1st letter for 1 year)  
ADRIAN SMITH

I'll seriously consider it — but sorry, it came too late for this week's issue. — ED.

## Solidarity Challenge

A student-worker relationship to fight the freeze gain higher grants for students: these slogans begin to look

sick when letters attacking defenceless workers are allowed to be printed in FELIX. I am not in fact saying that Felix should censor all letters, but that the students and Lane in particular should come to the defence of these workers. CEFE is the only publication which does this in fact, and I firmly believe that the article proving that the Hall cleaners' wages were not the reason why the Hall fees were so high compelled the management to issue a denial of possible cut-backs in hall cleaning staff. Come on, John, stop sitting on the fence; if you really want a good student-worker relationship in IC then prove it in next week's FELIX.

RON PARKER  
(Nupe)

## Even more boring

I was most distressed to see that your correspondent Mr. Ulyanov ('Letters', February 6th, 1973) suffers from that extremely discomforting disease 'tautophony'. It caused me such sorrow to see a brother in this piteous state that I would humbly, through the accommodating medium of your esteemed columns, proffer treatment for his relief.

Dear, dear Comrade Camp-balls, there is an ancient proverb (formulated when all our ancestors were revelling in the delights of total social freedom) stating that "empty vessels make the most sound". Perhaps, as a dialectically thinking scientist (or have you recanted?) you would agree with the advice that, if you stopped spouting, in a short while enough spunk would have accumulated for you to perform the actions and not just the motions.

If this fails — God forbid — then may I suggest that you adopt the prescription of Aetius, of a firm cucumber applied internally.

Yours in Hippocrates,  
H. el EBORE

## Adolf's Answer

My letter two weeks ago stimulated a response which I thoroughly anticipated, and which I have no intention of ignoring.

It was rather fun to see Mr. R. "Gosh, haven't I got a lovely beard, lads," Appleby continuously contradicting himself in a whole column of "pointless derogatory and back-biting remarks", written apparently against his will. Poor chap — one could almost detect the walrus tear-stains on the paper. One would hope (though in vain, I fear), that any future articles from Broadsheet, whose only correspondent appears to be its editor, will discuss subjects of greater interest.

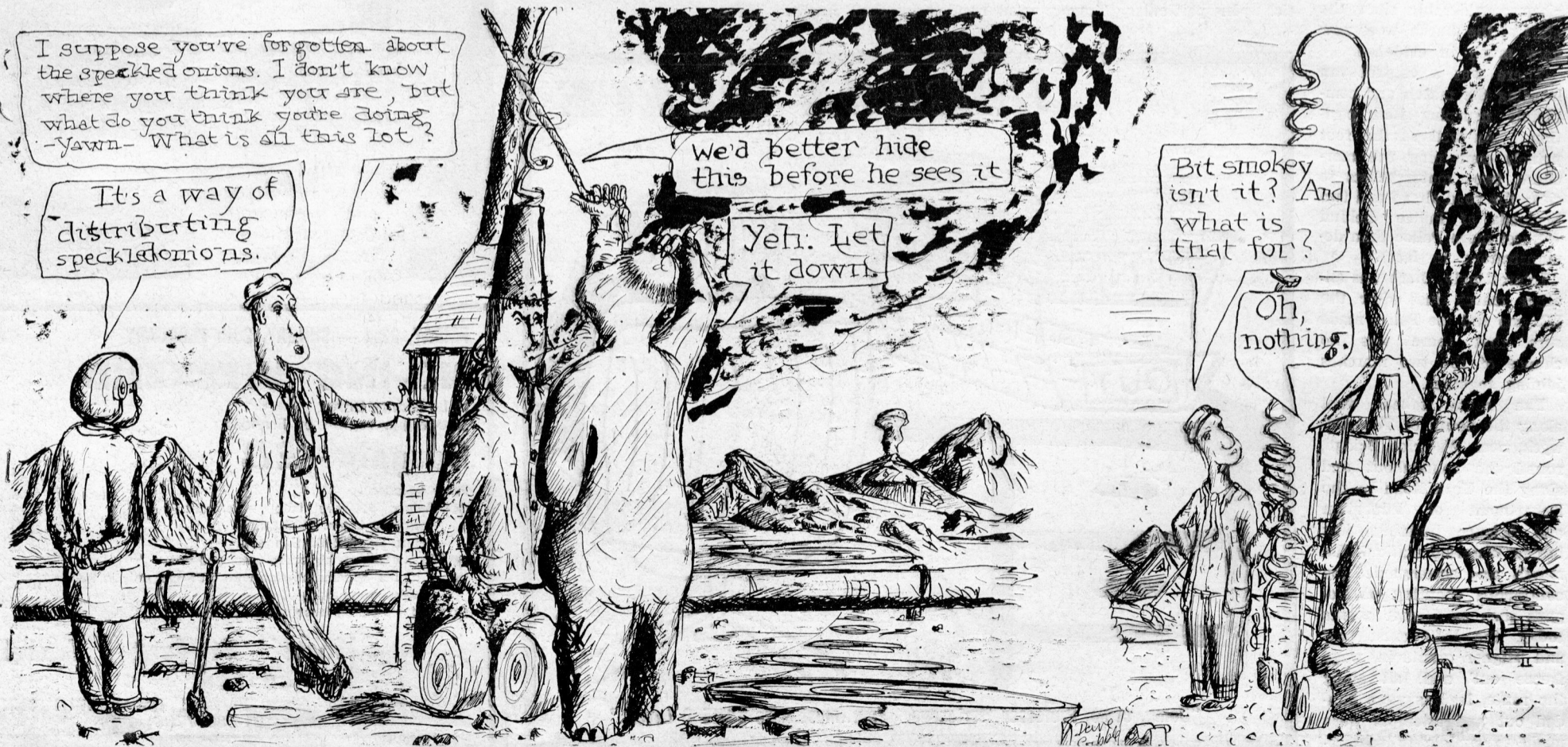
Incidentally, as a reader of of Guildsheet, Mr. Appleby should be well acquainted with my nom-de-plume. While being factually more correct than his article, my letter was not, as he pointed out, written in the most serious of veins, and I saw no reason to make an exception with the signature. Suffice it to say that I am familiar enough with Mr. Appleby to put my views to him personally if I so wished (or to put cyanide in his beer). Isn't it nice to know who your friends are?

Yours amicably,  
ADOLF VON  
WEASEL GROPE,  
President,  
C. & G. Ron Bashing  
Society.

ED'S NOTE: Correspondence on this topic is now closed.

Correspondents are reminded that the Editor reserves the right to shorten letters or refuse publication where he thinks fit. Letters will be published under a nom de plume only if the correspondent signs the letter and supplies his address.

# The Landsnapper Sneeze by Dave Gribble



# FELIX FINANCIALLY

## What was that about four new halls of Residence? by Derek E. Cummings

Yes, it was a long time ago.

It was last year, just before Christmas, when I wrote an article suggesting how Imperial College could get itself four new Halls of Residence and thereby ease its accommodation problem.

I suggested, you may remember, that there was land available held by the Greater London Council, and that there was money available held by the banks. And that what was needed was a concerted effort by all concerned to bring the two together. I make no excuses for bringing the subject up again. As a matter of fact, I am delivering a General Studies lecture on precisely that, next Tuesday, February 20. I would like you to come and hear me, because I am interested in the reactions of everyone involved.

And, surely, you are involved?

### BEEHIVES?

One student who thought he was involved was John Porter. He wrote a letter to the editor of Felix and it was published in the January 8 issue.

I'd like to commend John Porter for his interest. He wasn't entirely in agreement with what I had written but his letter did raise a number of points which I would like to take up.

In the first place, he questioned whether students really need to be housed in little cubes stacked on top of one another and suggested that what they really need is a home instead of a unit of accommodation.

Well, that's a humanitarian view, I agree. By implication it makes a hall of residence sound like a latter-day workhouse. But apart from the fact that almost any living space can be defined in terms of cubes—simply because we live in a three-dimensional world—I simply do not agree that a hall of residence has to be no more than a series of cells. **What I do say is that vertical building is economic and that if there is not the cash about to provide every student with a country cottage, the idea of a well designed apartment block is the best compromise.**

**And in any case, isn't a hall of residence, properly designed with facilities the student needs — such as shops, a bank, a launderette, and, of course, a good bar — isn't that preferable to some of the over-priced, under-sized private flats that many students live in now?**

John Porter also draws the parallel with Surrey University at Guildford, and the kind of village community they have built there.

It so happens that I live near Guildford and I have visited the campus at Surrey many times, and I have talked to just as many students there who dislike the design of their accommodation as do like it.

I suppose it goes to prove that you can't please all the people all the time and that perhaps there is no perfect answer to the problem. I don't for a moment hold my project to be the perfect solution. What I do say about it is that it is the most obvious one.

And there is really very little point in engaging in that kind of polemic just now. There are four thousand students at I.C. and I have no doubt that every one of them could put forward a blueprint for the ideal type of accommodation and every one would be different.

**Derek E. Cummings' lecture next Tuesday will be of importance to us all — and certainly should be of interest. Whether or not you agree with his solution to the accommodation problem, he's prepared to stand up and say it again. It's YOUR opportunity to get into the argument and perhaps to make a point. After all, this is our concern. Even if you are among those who think that halls of residence can be built by willpower alone, or believe that the accommodation problem can be solved by waving a wand, come to the General Studies lecture and say so.**

What is really important is the need for some kind of accommodation and the will to find an answer to that need.

### FINDING THE MONEY

All right, it is going to cost money. There simply are not enough Wolfsons and Gulbenkians around to grant all the cash necessary, even if there is the inclination. And if we all sat back and waited for some government to answer all the problems, I should think we'll be sitting in the cold for a long time to come. And this is where we come to the crux of John Porter's letter. He is fairly scathing about the plan I put forward to borrow the money from the banks and couples his argument with some mathematics to demonstrate how expensive it is all going to be.

Well now, there are a couple of points I'd like to make in reply. First, the bank is where the money is. If there is going to be any accommodation at all, the plan will have to be submitted to whoever has the money to translate it into bricks and mortar. And at the moment, that looks like the bank. Of course, if the majority of you feel that borrowing money from the bank is contrary to your principles, I'll forget the whole thing. Assuming, of course, that no-one has a bank overdraft or is buying anything on hire purchase . . . Second, it was a bit tough of John Porter to hit me with figures. After all, we are really talking about possibilities — practical ones, nonetheless — and I am not prepared to argue pounds and pence until we have something more concrete to discuss.

### IT CAN BE DONE!

You see, what I am driving at is this. The project I have in mind is a likely answer to the student accommodation dilemma. I am quite willing to stick my neck out and go and ask for the land and the money and all the rest, but what I have to know is that you are behind the idea, as an idea. I could fill the whole of Felix and talk all next Tuesday about it, but it isn't worth a damn unless you give it your support.

But before I have the last word, I'd like to take up the final point in John Porter's letter. He mentions a successful rent strike at Sussex, which resulted in the authorities there scrapping a project to build halls of residence and in their place, agreeing to some other form of housing.

Surely the point here is that the university was ready to start building—something. Whether it was a tower block or a mineshaft makes little difference to our theme. The money was there: the argument was about how it should be spent.

We are in a wholly different ball game. The problem with I.C. is to find the money and to find the land. I only suggest that we all put our minds to that problem first and argue about exactly what to make of them afterwards.

I pointed out in my original article that I would be perfectly prepared to assist any group which feels strongly enough about this thing to try for a solution. That offer still stands and I shall repeat it at my General Studies lecture next week.

I also said that nothing at all would happen unless you, the students, wanted it to happen and got up off your seats and made it happen.

That remains true, and I shall repeat that at my lecture, too. Which is why I commend John Porter. He didn't go along with the views I'd expressed, and he said so and he said why.

And if John Porter represents the majority feeling among you all, well, there's nothing much for me to do but drop the whole idea. But before I did that, I'd want to make quite sure that you all knew what I have been talking about.

I have been — I am — talking about an opportunity to create four new halls of residence for Imperial College. I'm talking about getting the land and getting the money. I'm talking about a chance you have to create something for yourselves and for future students.

I'm talking about you.

And — forgive me if I'm wrong — I don't think I've heard too much of that kind of talk recently.

### COMMUNITY ACTION NEWS

#### APPEALS GROUP

Anyone interested in forming an 'appeals group' to represent claimants on tribunals, that is, to fight supplementary pensions claims, especially discretionary heating allowances, for elderly people? If so—training provided — contact M. Matthews via the Community Action pigeon-hole in the Union Office.

#### ANTIQUA FAIR

As you may have read in the Guardian the Imperial College Community Action Group, together with Task Force, have arranged an antiques auction (to raise funds) to be held at the college on March 3rd. Help is needed now — people to go round antique shops and collect the goodies — phone Pete Edmonds at Task Force (723 7663). Help is also needed on the day — contact Diana Hains (Chemistry 3).

#### RATT

The following publications are now lying about in the Room At The Top: Student Community Action Kit.

#### SCANUS. CONSERVUS. Science for PEOPLE.

LEFT in the COLD. Movement. SQUAT. Bulletin of Environmental Action. BSSRS Paper No. 1. and many more as they become available.

#### Community Science Conference.

To be held at Notting Hill Ecumenical Centre, Denbigh Rd., W.11., on 17/18 Feb. at 10 a.m. Designed particularly to interest 'community activists'. Will be informal and self-managed. Projects/sessions on Paddington Day Hospital, Swansea Carbon Black, PHILAG, Westway, Covent Garden, Liverpool Free School.

#### Play Training

A training scheme for prospective (adventure) play leaders who want to work on playgrounds over Easter and/or Summer. The training is spread over six weeks— one evening per week and Saturdays. Held at IC. If interested phone OSCA (580 0966).

For more information on IC Community Action Group contact Malcolm Matthews (Physics 3).



# The Multi-Spectra of an I.C.U.G.M.

— or how to understand  
the nut behind you

Superficially, the "political scene" in Imperial College Union seems to comprise 3 groups.

1. "The Apathist" who never turns up to anything.
2. "The wishy-washy liberal—cum—20 per cent reactionary — cum —let's-keep-the-lefties-out.
3. "The Left" who may be regarded as the prime mover of the political scene.

However, the classification above does not by any means define the state of the problems. "The Apathist" subdivision is not solely comprised of the people we like to think of who are not aware, cannot be informed and whose only occupation is the pursuit of a degree. Included in the group are the "defeatists" (as John Lane would call them) who are the people who think the Union can achieve nothing and deliberately opt out of UGMs. The Union cannot affect them, they have no wish to affect the political activities of the Union, often their views are not reflected by the

Union's General Meetings. The Union is more of a social organisation, a facility that helps them play sport, and continue other pursuits.

No, the people who don't turn up aren't all apathists in the true sense of the word; their decision is a conscious one.

The second group is perhaps the most difficult to define; sometimes it could be said that they are the floating voters. The "Left" often label some of them the obstacles of democracy when they challenge the quorum with only 150 people present. They are often the most patient at UGMs; they will wait through the usually low standard debate to vote with their conscience on matters such as Vietnam or Northern Ireland. On matters like that, the wishy-washy Liberal's vote rarely floats. One could say that they turn up out of duty. Whether or not they are the main launchers of paper darts is debatable!

That leaves "the Left." The tide of public opinion of the rest of political thought (or lack of it, say the Left!) is that once you've seen one Lefty, you've seen 'em all. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Left is split, not only by its definite subdivisions into various factions, but more distinctly by the attitudes displayed by the factions themselves: IMG (International Marxist Group), YSSS (Young Socialists Students Society) and the CP (Communist Party) are the three main contenders in the Left.

The rivalry between the groups is perhaps best demonstrated by a few of the happenings at IC UGMs. The CP idea "Take a Letter to the DES" was shot to pieces at the last UGM by the Marxists who called for individual letters and support for our actions.

1. If you support our aims, support our actions—IC IMG.

2. If you support nos amis, support our actions—Black September Movement.

The CP line was to appeal to as many people as possible, the IMG opposed purely on principle, substituted altruistic nonsense in its place, confused the UGM and jeopardised the Take a Letter campaign.

Meanwhile, the YSSS is battling away in favour of supplementary grants, shunning publicity as next to useless, and basing its aspirations on a mass movement involving all the working and lower classes to force the Tories etc.

Even more depressing, than this petty political manoeuvring is the current policy of both YSSS and IMG and, to a lesser extent, the CP of no-negotiation. The methods of Tio-Pepe Diplomacy have been rejected because of alleged sellouts, but perhaps they were unable to produce any decent TP Diplomats. The latest weapon of the Left is that of just stating the demand and allowing no compromise.

Effectively, they send round a memo to the offending person/body/institution stating their demands, and receive a polite reply telling them what do with them.

The whole procedure smacks of lack of style and puerile adolescence.

Meanwhile, under the leadership of the split left and a confused centre, ICU must somehow push the grants campaign along. It is not likely to do so until the wounds in the left heal, if only temporarily, and UGMs become reasoned and co-operative. The campaign will not be won by high-powered political dogma from the Left or by low-powered non-cooperation from all sections, but will be won if the Union can advance on all fronts by using tactics of truth and honesty in stating the facts.

PAUL JOWITT

## MARTIN'S BIT

### on Cloakrooms

Neither the Union nor the College will accept responsibility for things that have been lost or stolen. Please deposit coats, bags ad hoc genus omne in the Cloakrooms in the Union (ground floor to right of stairs) or Southside (basement) rather than leave them lying around outside a refectory.

### on Noticeboards

It appears that people do not take down notices after they have ceased to be of use. There are some small advertisements on the board in Southside that are four years old. In future, notice-boards will be cleared during each vacation.

N.B. Please collect UGM minutes from the Union Office.

# Phosphorous the Jobrot and Ferocious Din

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

They were out of the shelter of the island by now, and the winds seemed to be freshening, as the Fanny dipped and rose over the waves. Ferocious had finally managed to conduct a cup of coffee to the waiting helmsman.

"Thanks, Ferocious," said George, "most welcome. You might tell the others that I think we may have to shorten sail in the near future." Ferocious looked puzzled.

"But they've only just lengthened sail, as you might say." An expression of seaman-like wisdom spread over George's face.

"Ah" he said, "that's the sea for you — never constant for more than a second at a time. One minute a glassy pond, the next a raging maelstrom; there's never a dull moment when you're sailing."

"You can say that again," said Ferocious, "hardly had I got used to one wall becoming the floor, when it became the roof—most confusing."

George was right. The weather was certainly taking a turn for the worse. White horses began to appear on the surface of the sea, and the elderly craft creaked and protested as she crashed from crest to trough.

"Come on!" shouted George, "get up on deck, you lot. Some of this sail has got to come down." Complaining, the trio wriggled their way out into the open. The strength of the wind was increasing all the time, and the leeward gunwale was under water. "I want the main and the staysail down, we'll be fine on the mizzen and jib alone," shouted George over the rising howl of the wind. He was already letting his sails flog to take some of the pressure off his ancient craft. The cracking and flapping of the huge canvas shook the whole boat, and the rigging throbbed and vibrated in the wind. Gingerly the adventurers scrambled their way along the rolling deck, and attempted to lower the mainsail. The Twigworm was more hindrance than help, falling over ropes, and being struck repeatedly over the head with the boom. But despite this living handicap, Ferocious and Phosphorous managed to lower the mainsail and the staysail. George was able to pay off a little, the remaining sails filled, and the old boat felt more at ease again. The now soaking wet crew made their unsteady way back to the relative shelter of the cockpit.

Fanny thrashed her way through the steepening waves, bursting through the crest of one, and dropping bodily into the trough of the next. Great gallons of green water exploded into the cockpit; streams of spray were flung back from the rigging, and salt stung the faces of the crew, making them duck behind the deckhouse.

"I think I'm going to be sick," said the Twigworm precipitately.

"To leeward, if you have to," said George quickly.

"Where?" asked the Twigworm.

"That way," said George pointing down wind. With some jostling the Twigworm positioned himself, staring over the leeward rail in a sickly manner. Secretly Ferocious was feeling a mite queasy himself, but he felt bound to keep silent, seeing as the Twigworm had already mentioned the subject.

"Not something I want to bring up at present," he thought and regretted it.

By this stage it was difficult to see much further than the end of the bowsprit, as the spray blew across the boat in solid sheets, and the wind watered their eyes. The Twigworm was violently sick.

"So that's what the poet meant by 'blown spume'" thought Ferocious, thankful that the Twig had taken George's advice about which side of the boat to stand. But all thoughts of poets were soon swept from Ferocious mind as he joined the Twigworm at the rail.

George, however, was in fine fettle, his hair plastered to his head, salt encrusting his eyebrows, he hummed a nautical ditty.

Phosphorous too felt pretty good, and was rather enjoying himself. He beamed at George.

"I suppose that's what sailors call 'heaving together'" he said pointing to the dishevelled forms of the Twigworm and Ferocious. The latter was not amused.

"O callous chum," he moaned, "were I not on the verge of leaving this mortal coil, I wouldn't half land you one." His head shot back over the side of the boat. Phosphorous' kind heart was stirred, and he was just stepping forward to help his friend, when George gave a shout.

"Look! The Twigwormery!" Sure enough, through the torn seas they could see the floating refuse tip outline of the Twigwormery — shooting down wind at the rate of several knots.

"After it!" shouted Phosphorous, and George leant hard on the tiller. Round swung the old vessel, rolling as she lay momentarily broadside on in the trough of a wave, then steadying as she came off the wind, the sheets run out, and finally surging away down wind. Now that they were no longer fighting their way to windward, there was less water in the cockpit, and the Fanny was surfing along on the crests of the waves.

The Twigworm seemed to have recovered instantaneously.

"Ooh, ooh," he squeaked, "quickly, oh dear, do stop it, catch it, oh faster please."

"Doing my best", said George. They seemed to be going at three hundred miles an hour, streaking down the face of one wave, and shooting off the top of the next. But the Twigwormery was not hanging around. Its huge surface area acted as a sail, carrying it along at express train speed. However, it was not exactly sleek of hull, and the Fanny slowly began to catch it up.

"Oh, oh, we're gaining on it," shouted the Twigworm, turning blue in the face with excitement, "Mummy, Daddy," he cried, "it's me, Gosport."

"Gosport?" said a green-gilled, incredulous Ferocious, "is that your name?"

"Yes," said the Twigworm, "did I not mention it before? I am sorry. It just never came into the conversation." Ferocious was flabbergasted.

"All this time," he said, "and we've been calling you the Tiny Twigworm, when you have actually got a name all along. Well, well. What kind of a name is 'Gosport' anyway?" The Twigworm looked a little sheepish.

"Um," he said, "you see the Twigwormery was floating past Gosport at the time of my birth, and my parents thought it would be a good name for me." "I've heard worse," said Ferocious.

"I think it is a very nice name," said Phosphorous, encouragingly, "but perhaps we should go on calling you Twig, to avoid confusion."

"Good thinking, Phosphorous," said Ferocious, "Twig you were and Twig you remain — we can keep Gosport for formal occasions only."

"I don't mind at all," said the obliging Twigworm.

They were now only forty or fifty yards behind the Twigwormery, and they could make out a large Twigworm throwing a bucket full of potato peelings over the side.

"Look!" squealed the Twigworm, "It's my Uncle Tubing throwing out the rubbish. He waved his rubbery arms and squeaked but Uncle Tubing did not seem to notice."

"Bit slow on the uptake is he?" Your Uncle Whatnot?" asked Ferocious. He never received his answer for George suddenly gave a cry and fell spluttering to the floor of the cockpit. Without her owner's hand on the helm. Fanny swung into the wind, heeling frantically as she did so, and tipping the crew into a wriggling heap. It seemed that once again the Twigwormery was going to escape them.

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## a poem

The Archbishop of Canterbury came  
To IC the other day.  
He talked for an hour  
To Mech Eng 220  
Full of members of  
Godsoc and  
Jesus freaks and  
Monks and  
Nuns and  
Cameramen and  
Me,  
And my mate Keith.  
Someone asked  
What is the devil?  
And he replied in a  
Posh and  
Portly voice  
That the devil was  
Many devils  
Some of which may be  
Aliens.  
From other planets.

He once experienced an  
Evil  
So terrifying  
That it must have been  
Supernatural or  
Extraterrestrial.  
But he quickly added that  
Most evil is caused by  
Us humans.

My mate Keith thinks that  
All evil  
Is caused by fat people  
Who live in  
Palaces and  
Mansions and  
Who preach at others so that  
They do  
What the fat people want  
Them to do.  
He says God is a  
Crutch  
For people who can't  
Come to terms with  
Objective reality.

He is very clever but has  
No soul.

So what?  
With apologies to E.  
Tharg (17).

Alasdhair Campbell.

## AN INTELLECTUAL WEEKEND

Four times a year, the weekend solitude of Silwood Park field station is upset by the arrival of a coachload of pseudo-intellectuals under the TOUCHSTONE banner. Occasionally FELIX manages to infiltrate a pseudo-reporter into this exclusive group. Our chance this year came with Lawrence Burton who spoke on "Democracy versus the Expert".

### HISTORY

Touchstone first saw light of day when Sir Roderic Hill (rector of the 50's) made the initial moves in IC towards General Studies. Its format, like college attitudes to General Studies, has changed very little since. This is not intended as criticism (of Touchstone) though which has acquired a character and tradition belying its comparatively short existence.

### FORM

For the multitudes who have never enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere of a Touchstone weekend (would you believe even more people go through college without a Touchstone than all those who never go to Union meetings?) a quick review of form shouldn't go amiss. The weekend starts outside the Union Arch at 1415 hrs Saturday when the coach arrives to take us away (ha, ha). Upon arrival at Silwood we start eating, and eating, and eating, and . . . (more resemblance to a Gourmet's Gobble than an intellectual weekend). Interspersed between meals come a talk by the speaker, discussion groups, a walk in the park (or read of Sunday newspapers depending on weather) and a review of the discussion topic by the speaker. At 1600 hrs Sunday the coach returns to the hallowed precincts of IC proper. Since, owing to college subsidies, you get all this for only £1.00, everybody (even you, my boy) can afford to go — your esteemed reporter wholeheartedly recommends it.

### TECHNOLOGY v. THE INDIVIDUAL

So to the subject of last weekend's discussion, Democracy versus the Expert". General consensus was quick to agree that the topic had the makings of a "good" Touchstone (don't forget, they know . . . they've practically all been before!) being almost infectious in its appeal.

As technology advances we become increasingly unable to counter the views and agreements placed before us by our

(frequently) self-appointed experts. From the days when Newton first stifled general discussion of the concepts of mechanics (by his new, mathematical, approach) experts have been endeavouring to elevate their status above the coffee-room proletariat. Do you know more about Concorde than the brains of BAC?

### A CHANCE ?

Fortunately there has been a concurrent increase in media-coverage which attempts to provide basic facts (e.g. Piccadilly). This is a necessary prerequisite for general consumer participation, which should undoubtedly follow. There are exceptions to be noted here though when (e.g. shoes, cars) it is questionable whether the consumer actually gets what he wants; or what advertisements tell him he wants — remembering that experts have ideals (special shoes, safety cars) which far from being attained, aren't even being moved towards.

### KIDS

Touchstone discussion groups follow general question time guides. The speaker questioned "Who decides how to bring up children—parents or child-psychoanalysts?" similarly "Who runs schools and colleges?" It was agreed that within limits democracy may be intended within a university but within the wider constraints of society pressures are brought to bear overruling the wishes of those most immediately concerned.

### PADS?

Term-planning was considered too. In the question of the "Englishman's Castle" how can conflicting opinions all be taken into account. How many new towns are aesthetically appealing to the passing visitor and yet unsuited to the permanent inhabitant?

So to the question of transferrable expertise. It is incredible how many experts in one field (one of your department's profs?) are consulted, in an expert capacity, in totally unrelated fields. Perhaps, bluff and deception play a large

part with such people. Ponder for a while, when you hear an "expert" — are you the right kind of expert to be quoted on this subject?

### YOU . . .

This article is NOT intended to review personal opinions expressed during one weekend at Silwood Park. I have endeavoured to prompt YOU the reader to think, so try these guidelines:

Think about the Touchstone questions noted above

and think about coming to a Touchstone weekend in the future

and Go along to listen to Lawrence Burton when you next have the opportunity.

Finally I, the FELIX reporter, would like to thank Mr. McDowall, General Studies, for having me along, and MCB for giving me a lift (with seven other passengers) in the Jowitt - christened Kosher Kit-e-Kat Carrier Express.

JOHN B. STARES

## CEFE on the grants campaign

**We demand a living grant — end the means test now**  
**We want more money — starving isn't funny**  
**£100 now**

These were some of the slogans of the demonstration last Wednesday; the first action of the grants campaign in IC. For the first time IC students turned words into deeds and came out on the street demanding higher grants. But demonstrations alone achieve little. They certainly don't force the government to do anything and the publicity value is minimal. We have already shown by voting in favour of refectory boycotts that we know it is only by putting pressure on the college authorities and thus the government that we can win our demands.

The refectory boycotts are a start to effective action. The college authorities are already very worried about the consequences and Mooney is attempting to get a 25 per cent increase in prices. We must be aware of this and be prepared to take action against any such price rises. By boycotting the refectories we are hitting the college authorities at their weakest point, since the refectories have to be

In a Welsh farm set up by BRAD — Biotechnic Research and Development — a heat pump is being built which will warm the house by extracting heat from a nearby stream.

Yes. It sounded a bit silly to me. It works as a sort of inverted refrigerator with Freon being pumped between the house and the stream. The Freon is heated by the water and, after being pumped back to the house, cools and thus heats the house by an evaporation/condensation cycle.

I had never thought of that sort of possibility from my knowledge of refrigeration gleaned at I.C. (which may say little for my imagination). But surely, with the probable impending exiguity of energy — and energy is inherent in the teaching of Science and Technology — the social implications of present energy consumption and ideas, developments and research into new energy forms and ways of harnessing existing sources — wind, solar energy, etc. — ought to be basic to any syllabus at I.C.

Why this is not so is because the curriculum mortis at I.C. is establishment-orientated particularly towards the needs of industry. Now, since it seems to be the thing to do in Felix to interpret every single facet of modern society in terms of what Marx wrote nearly a century ago, I thought I'd have a go. One thing Marx believed was that the culture — art forms, literature etc. — of a society should interpret that society rather than implant ideas from outside it. This to me is one of the worst of Marx's concepts, stifling free expression which, in its many forms, is essential to the development of a better society. Technology is inherent to any modern Western culture and that practised at I.C., being mainly orientated within the framework of the society, is therefore taught in the best traditions of Marxism.

Logic of this sort is of value as a bit of a giggle and little else. Logic and objectivity are a necessary tool of modern Technology, but it can be wrongly used where critical subjectivity and compassion are a better alternative. The idea of setting 0.001% population affected, say, as a "safe" or "permissible" level of pollution or radiation

is surely a wrong approach, particularly if you are one of the 0.001% (one of about 30,000 in the World). It is certainly true that the problems created as side-effects of Technology cannot be solved by further Technology alone and it is essential, therefore, that the teaching of Technology propounds the sort of approach that BRAD has under consideration.

This God industry, this great energy consumer and GNP worshipper, is still producing masses of its products with little consideration towards the by-products they liberate. In my department (Public Health Engineering) each student is making a survey of the effluent treatment and disposal methods of a particular industry. Many companies have refused to sanction students visiting them. Many have had the crass rudeness to not even reply. (Presumably there is little financial return in students hanging round your factory.) And those who have given a positive response are mainly the larger, international Corporations who, being susceptible to public opinion, are doing quite a PR job on their pollution abatement successes.

The teaching orientation at I.C. will probably change only very slowly. The momentum of institutions such as this is sluggish, principally because the teachers are primarily researchers and most research is heavily committed towards industry. Hence a natural conservatism results in the curriculum and its proponents.

Many, too many, technologists efficaciously carry on their research and development work into some detail without ever considering the implications of the whole. Peter Laurie, in a recent Sunday Times article discussing the Post Office defence system sited around the country, said of the engineers who had designed them: "Few of them have any idea what they're doing or why they're doing it . . . if you speak, as I have often done, with the engineers . . . and ask them why their tower is on this hill and not that one, they don't know. It is not part of their job to ask that kind of question. . ."

Perhaps it ought to be.

MARTIN DOUGHTY.

self financing; our actions thus have the greatest effect. This is therefore a tactically correct way to begin our campaign. Those who came on the demonstration must now work to explain to the rest of the students why we are boycotting the refectories, and get them to see the need for such action, thus building up support and getting more students involved. For we can only continue our campaign if we have greater awareness among the rest of the students. From refectory boycotts we can go on to lecture boycotts, occupations, short-duration strikes, etc., which disrupt the running of college and thus also put pressure on the authorities. These actions would involve all the students; therefore those students who were not on the demonstration and never go to union meetings must also become convinced of the need for action. The grants campaign must be extended. The harder we fight the greater will be our success.

As regards students as a whole the present action in which we are engaged is a very significant step forward. Students are now involved with issues which directly affect us and, having been forced into action

by necessity, are learning that we have the strength to win our demands provided we take effective action. In this we are in the same situation as the rest of the working class; however, we are only now beginning to realise what other workers have realized all along: that it is only through struggle that we can defend our interests.

The fight for a decent standard of living will not end with the present campaign. Even £100 hardly brings us back to the 1962 level let alone gives us any real increase. As long as prices continue to rise there will always be the need to fight for higher grants. The strength and experience gained in this campaign will serve us in the future.

### ICU Elections

Nominations are now open for the main posts of the union including the sabbatical posts. The strength of the union of course depends on the awareness and involvement of the members but good strong leadership is essential. The grants campaign throughout the country has shown that we need a union prepared to take action to defend the interests of its members. The President of the union must be actively involved in leading the union to fight against all attacks on students and get all students involved in action. We call on all students to vote for the candidate who has demonstrated these qualities.

SONIA HOCHFELDER

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# the sports page

## hockey

Last Saturday the 1st XI got back to serious business with a league match against the league leaders, Silver Wing. It turned out to be a hard match which Silver Wing just managed to win 1-0 with a disputed goal.

The game got off in a good fashion when straight from the bully Silver Wing broke through and hit the post without an I.C. player touching the ball. Most of the action then seemed to be centred in I.C.'s circle, but Silver Wing were unable to score as Sid Boulton was having one of his better games in goal.

During one of I.C.'s bursts of pressure in the first half the ball did actually find the Silver Wing net but Mick Downs was, rather harshly, blown up for sticks.

The second half continued in much the same way with plenty of action in both circles. However, tempers became a bit frayed and a few people squared up to each other after silly little fouls.

With only ten minutes of the match remaining Silver Wing were awarded their goal. Following a break on the right, their centre-forward broke free into the circle — helped by what seemed to be a foot — and, on the challenge of the goalkeeper, pushed the ball into the net with his back-stick.

Overall it was a fair performance only marred by some of the decisions that Ron Palmer gave in the second half, when — in his own words — it became too dark to follow a dirty ball.

Team: S. Boulton; R. Cameron, D. Browne; B. Evans, T. Hanson, G. Popple; A. Tatchell, M. Downs, D. Richman, J. Astley, C. Dyer.

On another pitch a few yards away a full-strength 2nd XI entertained a weakened U.C.M. 2nd XI to a 5-0 thrashing. After much argument I.C. gave U.C.M. a player — the Old Age Pensioner — to strengthen their left wing.

I.C. scored three goals in the first half through Alan Brown, Dave Neal and Tim Feline. Dave Neal then added two more in the second half, but "forgot" to buy his jug. There would have been many more goals but for I.C.'s inability to hit the ball accurately towards the goal.

The O.A.P. playing for U.C.M. on the L.W. had an enjoyable time watching the first team game and in the bar afterwards, missed an open goal in the first half and, to everyone's amusement, missed a penalty flick in the second.

Team: P. Brooks; I. Boyd, P. Foxton; D. Agnes, A. Brown, S. Bottom; D. West, I. Read, D. Neal ('Scrooge'), T. Feline.

On Wednesday the first eleven visited a much-changed Silver Wing and gained revenge by coming away with a 4-2 win. The goals came from Mick Downs, and three from Mark Tatchell, one helped in by a defender.

After last week's report, it seems that some people do not know the special relationship that Mick Downs has with his favourite drink, Heineken. Well, towards the end of last season a few of the P.A.'s gather for a celebration piss-up. After the bars had closed, this adjourned with a couple of crates of Newky and Heineken, to 326 Falmouth. As there were a few party games going on, the Newky quickly disappeared; so the participants were then required to drink Heineken. Now Mick Downs, whose timing was slightly out on this evening, took one sip of Heineken and immediately left to have a liquid laugh on the landing outside. For those who are interested that famous bottle is still on show in 326 Falmouth.

### MIXED HOCKEY

Last Sunday the I.C. mixed XI continued on their victorious path when they defeated Q.E.C. 2-1. Unfortunately both teams had difficulty in raising full sides. The I.C. centre-half failed to turn up (pissed again, Alan), so they unleashed their secret weapon—Godfrey Everett (who's he?). Q.E.C. were two girls short ("They haven't recovered from last night!"), so Ann Purvis was volunteered (a sick joke) to play for Q.E.C., and turned out to be their star player, until clobbered by the I.C. captain — their only playing O.A.P.

After an initial burst of Q.E.C. pressure, I.C. began to play their normal devastating brand of hockey, i.e. Wonder Boy brilliantly creating open goals but then making a right cock-up of it. I.C. scored in each half — the first from a W.B. short corner, the second from Poacher Everett. Q.E.C.'s goal came later in the match following an individual run by their right-half.

The memorable points were: Poacher Everett's mystifying display of hockey skills, once he had stopped playing with the female full back; W.B.'s shooting; and

John Astley's outstanding performance at centre-half. Team: R. Cameron; Julie Andrews (O.A.P.); G. Popple; Jacqui Buzzard, J. Astley, Chris Brown; Blossom, W.B., Janet Manfield, Poacher Everett.

## motor cyclists unite!

The motor cycle section is alive and well and living in a hole under Exhibition Road pavement. Our H.Q. (hindquarters?) is under the aforesaid pavement in front of Mech. Eng. building, access via the steps to the lawn. We had a very interesting and enjoyable motor-cycle film show earlier this term as all of you who were there (12!) will know. Our next meeting is in the hole this Wednesday, i.e. the 14th (which is St. Valentine's Day). So come along and show how much you love your bike any time after 2 p.m.

Future activities include a "Burn to Brighton" on Saturday, March 10th (leave Mech. Eng. concourse 10 a.m.). If you haven't got a bike and can't arrange a lift, contact me and I'll do my best (Cor!). So, see you all there, and if you have any queries (sweetie) please contact me via Mech. Eng. letter rack or Weeks 36.

BRUCE CROSS

## Motor sport

Sunday, the 28th January, saw a large entry of 29 drivers for C & G Motor Club's first big event, a "Production Car Trial". The thirteen tests which made up the trial consisted of a variety of mud or gravel hills and four speed tests. The speed tests were also fairly varied, containing an "autotest" type test, a hill climb through a wood and a spectacular water splash.

Despite the complete lack of experience of our drivers, some of them put in some very respectable performances, even when compared with the four "experts" from the Cemian Motor Club. Tony Raine (Mech. Eng. 1), put in a sparkling performance in the Range Rover and succeeded in collecting no penalty points whatsoever. Needless to say Tony took the prize for the Specials Class. Mike Mason (Mining), put in an incredible performance in his first competitive event and despite the handicap of driving a strange car (Malcolm Newman's 1100), took first place overall. Mike collected a total of only twelve penalty points and so becomes the first winner of the "Turnball Trophy".

Hot on Mike's heels came the four Cemian entries. Ron Whalley (Ford 100E) taking second place overall, a mere one per cent behind Mike. Taking sixth place overall and the second best club member was Malcolm Newman (1100), whose performance was only spoiled by a poor time through the water. Rob Armitage (Renault) came in seventh overall and class winner (his car was the only one in its class). Mention should also be made of Perry (mind that tree!) Newton in 8th place (dented Escort GT), and a surprising 10th place for Pete Cramb driving a vast ten foot wide Cortina Mk 3 Estate, which somehow avoided trees which the large cars such as Escorts hit.

Despite the lack of time to complete all the tests everyone had a great deal of fun (except the trees). By next year the organisers hope to have developed inflatable plastic trees for the benefit of Escorts and also they hope to discover a hill too steep for a Range Rover. Many thanks to everyone who marshalled.

JIM BRIGGS

## cross country

### WHERE HAVE ALL THE RUNNERS GONE?

First the good news: Rob Parker's legs really are the same length! And now the bad news: The results — Bereft of our beloved captain and many others through various injuries and excuses (such as pins and needles brought on by hard training), our team has been somewhat under-strength throughout the term.

We didn't mind running or rather squelching the Q.M.C. 7½ but crampons would have been appreciated to get out of the odd drainage ditch! Fine performances by P. Clarke, D. Payne and S. Webb helped the team to finish in 11th position (out of 12).

A very injury depleted team performed well in the 3rd league race at Surrey Univ. "Granny" Clarke and Rob Allinson did well in coming 24th and 36th respectively. Perhaps we were spurred on by having to pass no fewer than three injured club officials six times during the race (Rod Parker, captain, Hugh Culverhouse, sec., Jim Bathurst, treas.).

The less said about the U.C. 5 the better, so I won't say anything. The next bit comes courtesy of an anonymous U.C. P.A. and was found on the X-Country

Notice Board: UC vs. I.C. 31/1/73.

U.C. "Superstars" had yet another totally boring race v the I.C. Magical Mystery team.

U.C., fielding a very weakened team in sympathy with I.C.'s total lack of athletic talent, displayed once again (boring!!) the qualities that make them worthy London champions.

However, I.C. put up a very spirited show in the face of inevitable defeat, managing to clock in the last five counters in personal best times. Rob Parker was heard to say, "I knew our lads had it in them".

I conclude this objective, unbiased report of "The Richmond Massacre" (oops! what a give-away), by sending our deepest sympathies to Peg-leg Parker, the Master Marker and his Flower People.

Signed ANON

The bit about the personal bests was not quite correct, P. Clarke took his down to 29:56, D. Payne knocked his down (yet again!) to 31:41, and Pete Johnson is now down to ??????

A team supplemented by guests in the form of B. Dabrowski and R. Palmer (U.C. reject would you believe) came a close second in a three cornered match at Coulsden against a strong South London Harriers and a pathetic, even by our standards, London Postal Region team. The guests did well, Barry Dabrowski was 2nd in 31:02, the U.C. person was 8th, Paul Clarke was 4th in 32:25, followed by Rob Allinson 10th, Dave Payne 11th, Dave Jones 17th, and bringing up the rear in 42:23, the star of the team, Pad Donnelly. Pad says this performance was due not to his getting lost (for a change) but to an excess of Cold Germs and Guinness.

Also seen running this term were: R. Maddison, Kaliray, S. Littlewood, I. Isherwood and Neil Whatsis-name. D.J.P., A.P.A.

## JOHN LANE

### SHOWDOWN AT BRIANT'S!

Last term the Union passed a resolution of support for the work-in at Briant Colour Printing in SE London. Briant's was closed seven months ago. Since then the workers have been keeping the plant running with a view to getting a buyer to take over the whole company as a going concern. They are at present negotiating with a potential buyer.

The liquidator, however, prefers asset stripping. If he has his way the work-force will be broken up, the machinery sold and the site sold in a nice, profitable property deal. To this effect he has issued writs through the High Courts to evict the work-in, to gain possession of documents and for costs and damages. The work-in committee face imprisonment. This they are prepared to do rather than sell out the workers whose jobs they are fighting for.

We must put our resolution into action by responding to their call for support. Firstly, they are organizing a mass picket outside Briant's from 12.00 today . . . when the writ expires. Any I.C. student who can go should meet at 11.00 in the Union Office.

Secondly, a rota of college supporting the work-in has been organised to man the picket line for the rest of the week. IC has been asked by the Briant's committee to turn out for Wednesday from 12.00 onwards.

The Briant's workers are fighting for "The Right to Work", a fundamental right which the law is now threatening to deny them. Their fight has been far from selfish — their printing facilities have constantly been made available for other working class struggles — the five jailed dockers, the UCS work-in, etc. It is now time for their supporters to rally to their defence.

### INFLATION — DEPRESSION

I hope there isn't anyone left who does not know that NUS submitted a claim for a £65 increase last September. This was in fact the decline in purchasing power of the "outside London" grant since the last review in 1971. The claim for London was for £80.

Since the Government is unlikely to pay up until the beginning of next session the claim has had to be revised to allow for inflation this year. The new "outside London" demand will be about £105 and hence IC students will need a staggering £130 just to catch up with the standard of living that some of us old-timers had back in the golden age, 1971. Just in case anyone thinks there is a price price freeze on, the Refectory Manager, Victor J. Mooney, Esq., has told the Refectories Committee that increase in food costs between September and February were enough to justify a 25 per cent increase in prices. We're getting squeezed — it's about time we fought back!

### REFECTORY BOYCOTTS

This week the campaign of refectory boycotts gets off the ground. Firstly it highlights the fact that the grant is too low for many students to afford to eat three meals a day. Secondly, it should lead to much stronger pressure for a grants increase from the College. Thirdly, it shows the Government that unless it concedes our claim it will be faced with constant trouble and disruption. And finally, it involves virtually every student in militant action in support of the grants claim and gives us an opportunity to argue for support for the February 21st London Demo.