



Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

No. 330

27th FEBRUARY, 1973

HUSTINGS
Thursday
1300
Great Hall

ENTS TO MERGE

...with Dramsoc, Filmsoc, Opsoc, Folk Club and Jazz Club

Ents is to be merged with Dramsoc, Filmsoc., Folk Song Club, Jazz Club and the Operatic Society in a new "Social, Cultural and Amusements Board" (or SCAB for short) if a proposal to the effect was accepted by Union Council last night.

Included in the proposals is the new post of Social Secretary to co-ordinate the various committees. Imperial College is one of the few colleges or universities in the country not to have one of these already; in many polytechnics and at least one university he is sabbatical.

The Objects of the Board, given in its draft constitution, are "the provision of Entertainment for members of the

Union (and) fullest co-ordination and co-operation of all the organisations represented on the Board for the benefit of the members of the Imperial College Union and other members of the Imperial College of Science and Technology."

Essentially the board will provide an opportunity for joint operation of the entertainments activities of the Union, and it

will also be responsible for the financing of its constituent committees and societies. A block application for funds will be made to the Union Finance Committee.

Union Council will retain the final veto over the activities of the Board however. Except for the will carry out the same joint financing, the Board functions for entertainments as the Publications Board does for Felix, Phoenix, USK Handbook

and STOIC.

Criticisms

One of the major reasons for the setting up of SCAB has been the dissatisfaction of many union members over Ent's policy this year. It has been frequently argued that Ent's caters for the general public and students outside IC, and tends to neglect the ICU membership. SCAB is the result of negotiations between Paul Wadsworth, Ent's Chairman, and the Union Exec.



GRANTS DEMO

... report page three

MARTIN'S BIT on Elections

The following candidates were proposed and fully seconded:

President: S. R. G. Allnutt proposed by M. T. Phillips. J. Herrick, proposed by W. J. S. Collett.

Honorary Secretary: R. A. Armitage, proposed by M. F. Doherty, F. R. Matthews proposed by K. Lipscombe.

Editor of "Felix": A. R. D. Campbell, proposed by P. W. Jowitt.

Please note: The Candidates names have been printed in alphabetical order.

Any errors in initials or spelling should be notified to me by 10 a.m. on Thursday, 1st March, 1973.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING TOTALLY BORING

ON THURSDAY THERE IS A UNION MEETING

Union meetings are held in the Great Hall, they start at 1 p.m. (1300 MCB). You are a member of IC union so you can come along too. On Thursday you will hear the proposed candidates telling you why they deserve your vote, you can ask them questions, take the piss or cheer them.

The following week there is voting. You can vote as well! The votes are counted and if more than 25 per cent of the members have recorded a preference or an abstention, the person with the most votes wins, (ab-

stentions are counted as one person). So you see you can have a real influence in Union affairs. What Felix is saying is, come to the hustings, listen to the arguments, and record a vote—take part!!

Two of the four candidates sent in a joint manifesto and it is printed on page 3 so that you can think of questions before Thursday, (The Union Meeting you'll remember is on Thursday).

It is very important to vote in the elections and a student who takes no part in them really has no right to criticise the decisions and policies of the successful candidate.

Victory for the People's Republic!

Alasdair Campbell is to be next year's editor of "FELIX." He was unopposed when nomination papers were taken down on Friday afternoon.

A second year Physicist, Alasdair joined the staff of "FELIX" earlier this term and has been a regular contributor to our political columns and has understudied E. J. Thribb (17) on more than one occasion.

He first sprang to fame last year as co-editor of "Something," a satirical broadsheet which originally appeared in King's College, with David Beeson, now President-elect of King's. Only one issue has appeared this year; it concentrated on Felix, which it renamed "Feelsick," and perhaps did more than anything to make the Editor of Felix actually read the articles he printed before they went to press, and, indeed, to commission some readable ones.

Originally coming from the West Country, Alasdair now hails from the People's Free Republic of Leytonstone High Road. Major points in his manifesto (which we don't now have to print) were the continuance of politics in "Felix" and live action pictures of IC sportsmen thrashing their opponents together with live action interviews with sports heroes. Wonder Boy, here we come

In the meantime, there are another eight issues to appear under the current regime.

Letters

GET WELL SOON

Dear Sir,

It has been drawn to my attention that one of the messengers of this college has been in hospital now for nearly three weeks, after being the victim of a vicious attack at his home. He is Mr. George Butler, the messenger from Aero. I am writing this letter not only to let more people know why he has not been at work recently, but more importantly to express the wishes of so many students that he will make a full and quick recovery.

It is as a result of a despicable act of violence that Mr. Butler is in hospital. Someone threw a brick into his face damaging his sight.

Many of the messengers with whom he works have been to see him and so have some of the students who have got to know him. I think it is important now to let as many people as possible know that students do care about the people who help the departments so much.

Yours,
ADRIAN E. SMITH.

P.S.: This college runs a large personnel department to deal with their employees. Since they did not even know about this incident, I am forced to wonder whether they spend their time dealing with all the individuals they employ or simply trying to force through productivity deals.

FREE PLUG

Sir,

Last week David Humphreys, Chairman of the Methodist Society, strongly disputed Mr. Campbell's sug-

gestion that "God is a crutch for people who can't come to terms with objective reality".

But it is true that many people cannot come to terms with objective reality. God is a crutch for these people, just as surely if it is religion as it is sex, money or alcohol. And an escape from reality comes as surely to the religious type who expects all to be well in the end as to the drug taker who finds a reality only when he is high or the Communist who expects a golden age to follow revolution.

Let us make no mistake, however, by failing to recognise that these gods are not the God of the bible, who revealed himself in objective reality in the person of Jesus Christ who went about doing good. And we find that this God did something about the reality of our universal tendency to do what we know is wrong.

When one looks at some of these realities one has to agree with Mr. Humphreys. In Jesus Christ is the only true answer to living a life of reality.

For those interested relevant literature (some free) is available from the Christian Union bookstall, Thursday lunchtimes in the JCR.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT J. HIGGINSON.
Elec. Eng. 3.

POVERTY STRICKEN

Sir,

I would be very interested in learning for whom Mr. Fenner was working at a £4,750 rate, and whether this was a monthly or annual salary, as I need a bit of cash myself?

Surely it couldn't have been for reviewing plays?

Yours faithfully
and poverty-stricken,
DAVID GURNEY.

NO WAGE INCREASES

Sir,

When I first came to work in IC, I was informed that the College had an excellent reputation in the world of Science and Technology. Since the entrance requirements were also rather high, I assumed that all the students were of a reasonable level of intelligence.

Last week's "Felix" had one glowing example to the contrary, J. H. Fenner's letter. Never have I seen such ridiculous words in print! His advocacy of the typical Tory laissez-faire ideology was not even cleverly put forward in the way of most bright-eyed Tories.

It would be quite easy to present notional figures on the frequency of wage increases (salaries to you, Mr. Fenner), including figures for that small minority of degree holders. But as Felix concerns itself with IC it is to this area that I will restrict myself.

Imperial College messengers, male cleaners, refectory staff, female cleaners and laboratory staff have not received any wage increase since December 1st 1971. IC barmen and security guards have waited a similar length of time, and if one were to look at the clerical staff situation it might be even worse. Of course, as Mr. Fenner has such faith in the idea of meritocracy, he might as well claim that the above group of workers do not merit any increase. Well, besides simple things such as the thousands of pounds saved as a result of staff reductions and increased productivity there is another slight matter to be considered, i.e., the rise in the cost of living since 1971. Or doesn't that count, Mr. Fenner?

May I suggest, Mr. Fenner, that you report immediately to your parents and primary school so as to undergo the complete socialisation and education process again, as something obviously went wrong last time.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. O'BRIEN,
Messenger and
NUPE shop steward.

Editor's note: Correspondence on the subject of IC employees' salaries and conditions and that of workers in general is now closed.

INTERESTING LETTER

Sir,

I found David Humphreys letter in FELIX last week interesting, as it exhibits many of the elements of confused bourgeois religious ideology prevalent in students today.

Unfortunately he has negated the first half of his letter by ignoring the adjective "objective" in the phrase "objective reality" in my poem of the week before. I am not in the habit of adding superfluous modifiers to my lines for the sake of scansion alone. In that one word lay the crux of my philosophical argument: in order not to fall into the sophist and solipsist contradictions inherent in all idealist philosophies, which include the theistic religions, one must assume the existence of objective reality. In other words, that there exists matter outside of mind, this implies that mind is but the highest stage of matter and has no spiritual existence. (For further substantiation I refer Mr. Humphreys to "Materialism and Empirio-Criticism" by V. I. Lenin).

Those who turn to alcohol and drugs are living proof of how consciousness is very much secondary to reality. These people, finding the reality of life in present-day society unbearable, have no recourse but to resort to escapism—they are not searching for reality, Mr. Humphreys, but retreating from its contradictions.

To try and differentiate between changing social structure and changing people is impossible, for any change in one is a change in the other—it is clear that a social structure cannot be imposed by anyone outside society. Jesus Christ was a revolutionary of his time, though in his time he had almost no effect —

his death is recorded in the annals of the era as that of just another troublemaker. It was not until the 4th century A.D. that Constantine, Emperor of Rome, needing a unifying structure to hold together his crumbling empire, adopted Christianity. Its elements of rigid hierarchy and autocratic rule from above made it the perfect philosophy of life, tailor-made as it indeed was, to keep the ruling class and him in particular in power, and that oppressed class of the time in its place.

This also accounts for religions of a similar structure being associated with all class-based societies and the continuing popularity of Christianity in Britain today. This is further borne out by the fact that whenever a state has arisen out of class conflict by the fact that whenever a state has arisen out of class conflict, as it must to ensure the continuing power of the ruling class, one sees the decay of pantheistic and other polytheistic religions and the adoption of a monotheistic religion promoted by the ruling class of the time.

ALASDHAIR RD
CAMPBELL.

FELIX No. 330: Tuesday, 27th February 1973.

Edited by Oliver Dowson, with the words, inspiration and time of (in alphabetical order) Martin C. Black, Alasdhair Campbell, Bob Carter, Dave Gribble, Dave Hobman, John Horsfall, Graham King, John Lane, Alf Perry, Gordon Reece, Michael Silverleaf, Michael Southon, Steven Swailes and Jock Veall.

FELIX is printed by F. Bailey and Son Ltd., Dursley, Glos. GL11 4BL.

Advertising is by University Press Representation, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.

FELIX inhabits a room on the top floor of the Union Building, address: Imperial College Union, London SW7 2BB, telephone 01-589 5111 ext. 2229 (PO), 2881 (Int.). The Editor's boudoir is Room 14, Weeks Hall, telephone: 01-589-9808 (PO), 4236 (Int.). Contributions and help for FELIX are always welcome. Published by the Editor for and on behalf of the Imperial College Union Publications Board.

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ISRAEL



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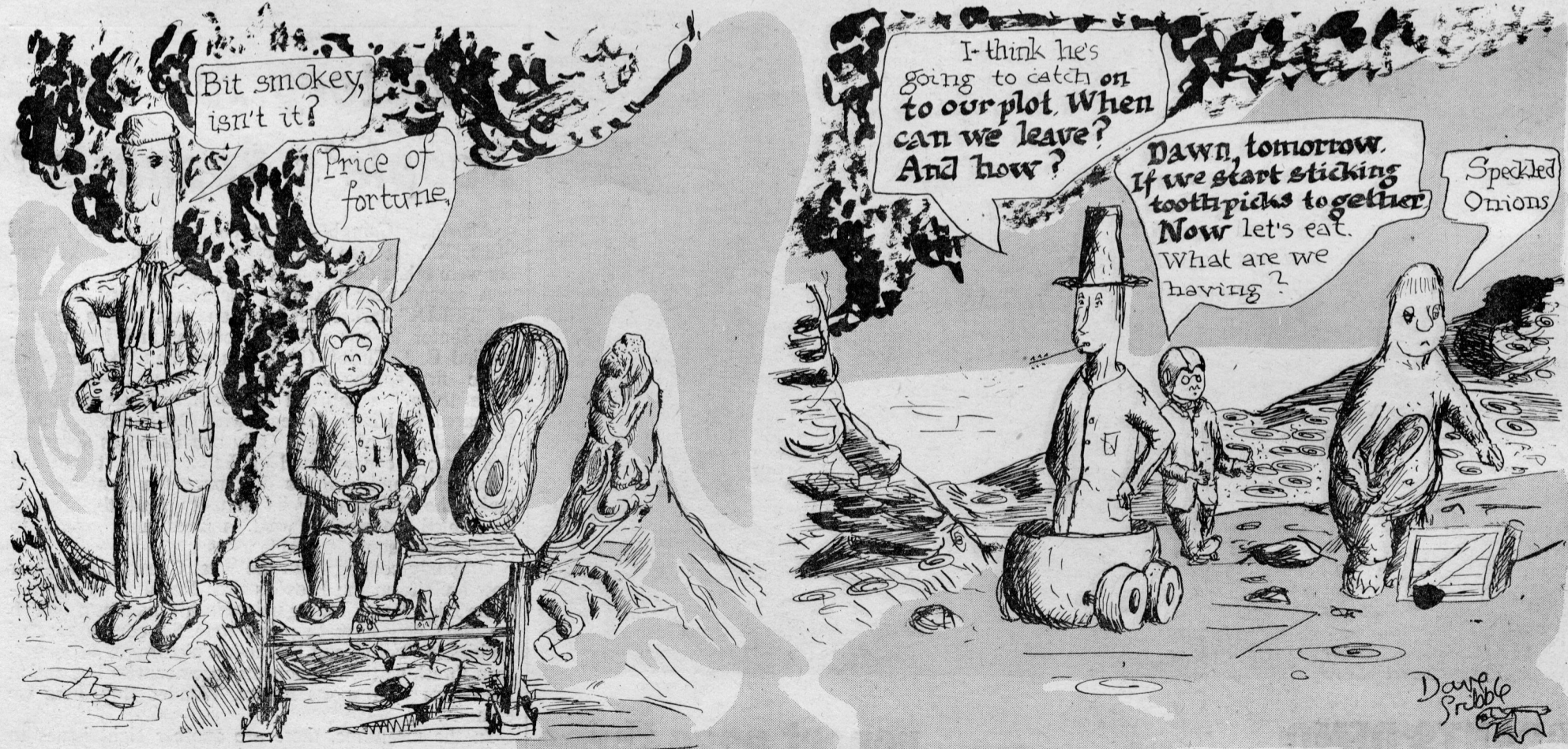
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65,000 STUDENTS ON THE STREETS

by a Staff Reporter

Last Wednesday according to the NUS 65,000 students marched, in 7 regional centres around the country, in protest demanding a living grant. In London 15,000 students from the southern region led by the IC contingent marched from Malet St. to the DES across Waterloo bridge. The wet and miserable weather which continued for most of the afternoon dampened them but not their enthusiasm in the fight for higher grants.

In Malet St. the police split the demo into two sections and the first half led by IC set off for the DES with the second half 200 yards behind. By the Aldwych the two halves had joined up and continued to the DES, chanting slogans and handing out leaflets to passers-by. At the DES the demo went to an area on the south bank to listen to speakers from the NUS and various trade unions.

ARREST

The first half of the demo had hardly gone 200 yards from Malet St. when a police inspector threatened to arrest the whole demo unless they walked five abreast. Not having a megaphone he went unnoticed and the students continued to fill their lane as before.

Round the corner out of sight of Malet St. I saw six policemen disguised as short-haired pseudo trendy students step out of a police van and join the march, they were easily recognisable however as they were the only people on the march holding large black regulation police umbrellas.

NON-ARRIVAL

Among the speakers who were going to address the students was Roy Hattersley (Labour MP). He was being driven to the south bank to make his speech when he saw some students leaving the area, informed sources told me, assuming the rally to be over he turned round and left for St. Pancras to catch a train out of London. No representative from the Labour Party turned up.

INAUDIBLE

Unfortunately the Public Address system obtained by the NUS had had its speakers spread round the perimeter, which was fine for the people spread round the perimeter, but those near-

est the speaker's platform could not hear any of the speeches. The students nearest the platform frustrated at not hearing anything started to heckle, demanding a march on Parliament and death to fascist NUS bureaucrats. Judy Cotter (President ULIESA) said that they couldn't do that as it was not on the agenda.

SCUFFLES

A cameraman from ABC news got up on the speakers' platform and filmed a cameraman from the Beeb who was standing near the platform filming the ABC news cameraman filming him. This accounts for the scarcity of film of the demo on the television news that night — 10 seconds was devoted to it by the BBC. Some demonstrators near the platform tried to pull out a wire powering the camera but were restrained by others. Soon, owing to lack of inspiration from the inaudible speeches, students started to drift away and the demo dispersed remarkably quickly.

SUMS WRONG

Although the NUS claimed a turn-out of 15,000, the police estimate was 7,000 and this was echoed by the television news, and all national dailies the morning after, except the Guardian which printed both figures. Felix abacus operators counted 12,000, of which 500 were from IC.

It is the police that choose the route the demo will follow and the final place of the rally. They assured us that the area on the south bank where the rally took place could hold 20,000 and it was packed, all bar a small area behind the speaker's platform.

The turn-out from Sussex university was disappointing — only 20 people, but the contingents from polys and non-university colleges represented a far bigger percentage than from IC. Last year (in fine weather) 800 people from IC took part in that anti-Thatcher/Gilbert Longden registration of student unions demo and that bill was postponed. Don't forget the NUS National Day of Action for the Grants Campaign on March 14th — be sure to give it your support or students may not escape this time.

COMMENTS

Editorial

10 per cent of students showed their solidarity at Wednesday's demonstration. As a show of solidarity it was pathetic and unconvincing. As a vehicle for canvassing public support it failed miserably, at least partly through the lack of people along the chosen route. It would be pure pipe-dreaming to imagine that it had any effect on the Government's attitude.

Yet the aims of the Grants Campaign are good and justifiable. No student can deny that, any more than a properly-informed public could.

The main need now is for public sympathy. The public have been led to believe that students are (and you've heard it all before) a bunch of long-haired, shoddily-dressed layabouts, who spend their time drinking, smoking pot and engaging in orgies. However much you may believe that picture to be true, the public needs to be told of the other side of a student's life — studying (yes, studying) and surviving. No demonstration will do that. For not only are the public bored with demonstrations, but so are students (witness the 10 per cent turnout).

Yet demonstrations are just about the only public relations exercise (other than strikes) that the NUS and the rest of the student leadership can conceive of. High IQ's don't seem to breed originality. All students fall in the top 5 per cent of the population, intelligence-wise.

We need to show our intelligence by having an intelligent and original campaign — not by resorting to the pointless methods of the trades unions.

So let's raise a cheer for the Scottish region of the NUS — Britain's only functioning NUS area — who decided that demos were no good weeks ago. Instead of having a march and rally last Wednesday, like all the other areas, they embarked on a mass public education campaign.

They called for 400 articulate students from all over Scotland to come to Edinburgh on Wednesday to be fully briefed on the Grants Campaign, then to be turned loose on Prince's Street (Edinburgh's equivalent of Oxford Street) to go up and talk to passers-by about it. In the event, 1,200 students turned up, vast numbers of the public eventually expressed their support, and they got the best Press of any of the 11 regional "centres of activity".

Surely this is the sort of action that students should be taking. Responsible and intelligent action. And it's the sort of thing we should be doing on the Day of Action which take's place a fortnight tomorrow.

Now that Oxford Street is nearly a pedestrian precinct, it's ideally suited to the purpose. It's one hell of a sight better idea than going on strike, which is the NUS line . . . all that'll get us is a bad Press and a worse public reaction.

We're students because we've got brains — let's use them!

John Lane

Last week's grant demonstrations were a very substantial success. Over 10 per cent of the NUS membership were involved in them. This represents by far the biggest national action ever taken by students — in some regional centres the turnout was three times that of last year over the "autonomy" issue. In organising the London demo, we had hoped for 10,000. With the rain and cold weather, prospects did not look too good on the day. In fact, well over 15,000 marched — the colleges of education and FE colleges being particularly strong. The mass media made themselves rather ridiculous by saying 7,000 (BBC & ITN News) right up to the late night news on BBC 2 which (after a recount?) suddenly decided on 15,000! But we can thank the media for the excellent coverage of the IC contingent!

GOVERNMENT REACTION

The question remains. What will the Tories do about all those tens of thousands of unruly students shouting nasty things at their windows, withholding their rents or having catering boycotts? After the meeting between NUS and the Government on March 1st we should be a bit clearer. Their most likely reaction will be to concede something but do it in such a way as to divide the student movement.

For instance, they could introduce subsidies for halls and refectories. The idea would be that students in hall would stop the rent strike campaign, leaving the rest in the lurch facing increasing rents in private accommodation on the present grant. Or they could give everybody a small increase but do nothing about the basic injustices involved in the discretionary award system with the hope of buying off the majority of students with small carrots. If students are in a frame of mind which allows them to be divided from each other there are an unlimited variety of tactics which the Government could use.

THE MARCH 14th DAY OF ACTION

If the Tories reject our claim out of hand, or attempt to divide the NUS, there must be solid united reaction from every college in the country.

The Grants Campaign co-ordinating committee are therefore calling for a National Strike on March 14th with the aim of closing down totally the higher education system for one day.

This is the first EVER national strike called by NUS and if we are serious about defending the living standards of both ourselves and future generations of students it must be a success. It should not be seen as similar to an industrial strike — the effect on the economy is insignificant. It is, however, probably the most effective form of demonstrating our unity and determination.

Organising the strike will require a large number of activists and widespread support from the ordinary union members. If it is a success, the government will know that, given an issue on which students feel strongly enough, we're capable of organising the same again. In other words, by striking on March 14th we are saying to the Government that unless they maintain our living standards and give all students the full grant they cannot expect anything but continual trouble in higher education.

HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU EARN?

Last week I bought nothing out of the ordinary, I went on no enormous spending spree and I didn't travel anywhere a great distance from here. Nevertheless, I managed to overspend on my grant by nearly 20 per cent. I'll agree that I wasn't being particularly careful, but I wasn't doing in the least extravagant and it was quite a shock to discover just how much I had spent.

At least this year I'm relatively lucky; I'm living in hall. When I go out into the big wide world of privately owned accommodation I'll have to pay at least £6 a week merely to have a roof over my head. I'll also have to pay this for 39 weeks a year so that the room will be held over the Easter and Christmas vacations. If you add in the cost of feeding myself during term it's quite obvious that the notional element of £275 for board and lodgings in the grant is hopelessly inadequate.

Well, why don't I get a job? Yes, I suppose that's quite feasible and probably a good idea for the first year. But what about the second and third years? Only the geniuses will find that they don't need to study for a considerable period of the vacation. Anyway, I'm already doing a job. I'm studying to become a more useful member of society so why should I have to take a second job in order to survive? I think I deserve a better deal than I'm getting at the moment.

I don't suppose, however, that James Fenner would agree with me. He thinks that when you deserve a pay rise you get it without having to ask. On that basis, I don't deserve a higher grant because it hasn't been offered undemanded. Maybe if he had to live on what I do at the moment he might admit he could be wrong.

Mr. Fenner stated in his letter last week that he "would like to debunk the attitude of the lunatic left that students are workers". I would very much like to know what he considers students to be if they are not workers. It seems to me that, like all other workers, they are selling their ability to execute particular tasks. That they are being trained does not alter this in the least. Apprentices are considered by their employers to be employed. They do not receive the full rate for the job because they are not fully trained, but then it could not be said that students receive anything like the full rate for the sort of jobs they will do when they finish their studies. Undoubtedly, it will be argued that the courses run here are not necessarily vocational and thus this argument cannot be applied to us. Why then is it that employers in many fields trample all over each other to persuade IC graduates to work for them. (?—Ed.). They, at least, must believe that the studies undertaken here offer something that cannot be obtained elsewhere.

Mr. Fenner seems to be even further out of touch with the sort of average salary young graduates receive. I don't think that it can possibly be considered normal to triple one's salary in a period of five years. On that basis Mr. Fenner's annual salary when he retires should be in the region of £1,000,000, and there aren't very many people who earn that much. I think also that Mr. Fenner may have been less than honest about the origin of the money he earned. He does not state in his letter that he is in fact American, and that he was not working in this country when he was earning these enormous salaries. I have been told that, in the country where he was working, the average pay for the job he was doing is much greater than it is here.

By the way, I guess you all think I'm a member of the so-called "lunatic left". Well, I'm not; and, if you don't believe me, you can ask anybody whom Mr. Fenner considers belongs to that faction.

MICHAEL SILVERLEAF

ACTION OR INACTION

Probably the most important thing about March 14th is that we should not all stay in our beds. There will be a national lobby of Parliament by delegates from all colleges on that day. A teach-in, alternative classes, discussion on wider education issues, on the White Paper on Education, public leafletting, publicity stunts — given numbers and imagination we can make a big public impact, stimulate students to think more deeply about education and in general make it a real day of action and not just a "Sleep-In".



The Intelligent IC Students' Guide to Extra mural Entertainment and Edification

THE BIG WALLS OF BAFFIN ISLAND—

Mountaineering in the Canadian Arctic

In the early months of 1971, a nucleus of climbers from the Nottingham Climbers' Club decided to launch an expedition to a small isolated island off the Cumberland Peninsula in the Canadian Arctic. Amongst these few was Doug Scott, a Nottingham schoolteacher, who, with climbing experience, in the Alps and the Hindu Kush, was to assume the role of leader.

Baffin Island is remote and consequently there was a great deal of opportunity to conquer the unclimbed

peaks—sheer rock pinnacles rising 6,000 feet from the sea. The rock climbing there is of high technical difficulty and it was a serious undertaking to attempt an original route up a rock face, from which retreat was sometimes impossible. The weather in this part of the world is savage and not in the least conclusive toward outdoor activity in any form. Fierce snow storms may arise within hours of a spell of fine weather. Unlike the Alps, one does not have the comforting thought that one may be ex-

cluded from an unpleasant situation by helicopter rescue. Here the mountaineer is on his own with only his wits and skill as his tools for survival.

Because of its isolation, the expedition required a fair amount of organisation and capital. It was originally decided that the size of the expedition would be limited to a group of close friends, amongst whom, competitive climbing and ego-tripping would cut no ice. The intentions were noble but they soon ran into practical difficulties — mainly lack of funds. This problem could only be resolved by increasing the size of the expedition to include big names of the mountaineering world such as photographer, Mick Burke. A film would be made for the John Players'

cigarette firm, in return for financial aid.

Scott returned from Baffin Island and almost immediately set off for the Himalayas on the abortive International Everest Expedition. He returned to Baffin Island in the summer of 1972 and many more peaks were ascended.

Imperial College Mountaineering Club presents Doug Scott on Tuesday, the 27th February. Extracts from the Players' film and slides will be shown illustrating some of the exhilarating climbs achieved by the party on both trips.

Doug Scott, Lecture Theatre A, College Block, Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, Tuesday, February 27, 7.45 p.m. 25p at door.

C. Brown, I.C.M.C.

PAPEBACKS

GOD THE MAN PAN SCIENCE FICTION

Joseph Green, 30p

For science fiction fans this novel is a real gem.

Mankind is threatened with extermination by a race of 300-foot high aliens from another star system, but no one can understand why these creatures have developed such an overwhelming desire to destroy us. Fortunately, one of these super giants is captured alive but his brain is severely damaged by oxygen starvation.

Earth at this stage in her development has created two super humans, humans with enlarged and improved brains, one of them is Russian, the other American. Petrovna, the older and more experienced of the pair decides to remove the tiring giant's now useless brain and install himself inside the head and from there with the help of control mechanisms return the giant to his home planet and discover the meaning behind the fanatical attacks on earth. Gold becomes involved in the plot when Petrovna discovers that he is not phy-

sically well developed to be able to operate the keyboard of the computer in the brain fast enough the simulate the realistic giant movement.

The story becomes even more incredible when eventually the giant returns home and through his eyes views their gigantic planet.

TOWARDS INFINITY PAN SCIENCE FICTION

Edited by Damon Knight, 35p

The usual collection of S.F. stories some very good like "March Hare Mission", some bad like "The Man Who Lost the Sea". This really is not the sort of book that I enjoy, the stories only just seem to be beginning when suddenly they stop — abruptly and leave you gasping, waiting for more. This is all very well once — but nine times . . .!

This collection contains some well known names in the field of S.F.: Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, A. E. Van Vogt, but why does it need Damon Knight to bring these people together to publish, why can't they manage themselves?

CHEAP POSTERS

From this week, PACE Posters will be on sale, cheap, in the Room At The Top, on the Cheap Records Stall. The catalogue, in the form of miniatures of the originals, is displayed in the R.A.T.T. Orders, giving title and catalogue number, to Colin McCall, R.A.T.T., with cash preferably.

PRICES: Large size 70p reduced to 55p.
Giant size 95p reduced to 70p.

P.S.—Record Covers also available, besides records, at 19% off.

Felix Diary

Tuesday, 27th February

12.35 I.C. Catholic Society: Mass. Mech. Eng. 703.

13.00 STOIC Television service: Music alive with Roy Harper. J.C.R. and Southside.

13.15 City and Guilds Union Meeting: Hustings. Mech Eng 220.

13.30 Monsieur Henri Orteu (Tutor in French at Imperial College and formerly Senior Tutor, Institut Français) Français, anglais, français (M. Orteu will speak slowly in French). Elec Eng 408.

Miss Sarah Thomas: listening to contemporary music 7. Music now. Mech Eng 342.

14.30 Admission Policy Committee. College. Block 328.

18.00 I.C. Transcendental Meditation Society: Introductory talk. Elec Eng 606.

Holland Club Art Society. 15 Prince's Gardens.

Holland Club Bridge Club. 15 Prince's Gardens.

18.30 Mr. Adrian Neville—a lecture demonstration on the classical guitar. Haldane library.

I.C. Photographic Society: Slide criticism (please bring slides for comment). RSM 2.28.

19.30 Hall Dinner. Union.

RCS Mathematical and Physical Society Film: "The Ipress File" (members 10p; non-members 15p). Mech Eng 220.

19.45 I.C. Mountaineering Club: Mr. Doug Scott. The big walls of Baffin Island (an illustrated account of the Anglo-American Expedition, led by Doug Scott in 1971, and of his return to the island in 1972). Admission 25p at the door. College Block Theatre A.

20.00 I.C. Catholic Society: Shared prayer. 53 Cromwell Road.

Wednesday, 28th February

13.30 Advanced class in Hebrew. Elec Eng 1009.

14.30 I.C. Africa Society Film show: "End of dialogue" (depicting the stark brutality of the political system of southern Africa). Elec Eng 407.

Beginners class in Hebrew. Elec Eng 1009.

18.00 Holland Club Photographic: Mr. Bill Cutler. Lenses and their uses. Elec Eng 209.

18.30 I.C. Islamic Society: Meeting and discussion. College Block 002.

19.00 I.C. Art Club (behind Huxley Building). 21.00 Royal College of Art.

Thursday, 1st March

09.30 Paintings by Stephen Chaplin (until 23rd March). Consort Gallery.

13.00 I.C. Union General Meeting: Hustings. Great Hall.

I.C. Catholic Society: Bible study group. Falmouth 118.

13.15 I.C. Stamp Club (students and staff welcome). Civ Eng 412.

13.30 Mr. Dominic de Grunne: Mediaeval aesthetics—the arts in a feudal and mercantile society. Physics Theatre 1.

Rev. Ivor Smith-Cameron (Canon of Southwark Cathedral) Christianity and other faiths. Mech Eng 542.

Lunch-hour Concert: Elizabeth Wilson, cello; Kathron Sturrock, piano. Kodaly, Sonata op. 4; Mendelssohn, Sonata in D major. Library, 53 Prince's Gate.

16.00 Refectory Committee. College Block 328.

19.00 I.C. Art Club (behind Huxley Buildings) 21.00 Royal College of Art.

19.00 I.C.S.S.R.S. Slide show: "The Electronic Battlefield". College Block Lecture Theatre B.

19.30 I.C. Wives Club Fork Supper Party. (Academic visitors and new members of the college are particularly invited to attend); charge £1.50 per head; further information is available from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. R. C. Schroter, 47 Lillian Road, S.W.13. Tel. 748 8754. College Block SCR.

H. G. Wells Society Film show: "Hell in the Pacific." Mech Eng 220.

Friday, 2nd March

12.45 I.C. Islamic Society Congregational Prayers—Juma. College Block 002.

13.00 STOIC Television Service: "Topic" magazine programme. JCR and Southside.

18.00 STOIC Television Service. Repeat of 13.00 transmission. Southside only.

18.30 I.C. Christian Union: Mr. Bill Caldwell. Radio Worldwide Missionary—Evening. Library, 53 Prince's Gate.

19.30 Public Meeting on "India Today." Speaker just returned from India. Organised by Communist Party of Britain (M.L.). 155 Fortess Road, NW5 (Tufnell Park Tube).

Saturday, 3rd March

Antique Fair and Auction by ICCAG. Proceeds to Task Force and Westminster Play Association. View from 10 a.m. Auction from 2 p.m. Christie's Auctioneer. Union Concert Hall.

Touchstone Weekend: Human rights. Dr. David Raphael (Academic Director of Associated Studies) and Professor Sergio Cotta (University of Rome). Silwood Park.

Sunday, 4th March

10.00 Holy Communion. Ante Room, College Block.

11.00 I.C. Catholic Society: Mass. 53 Cromwell Road.

18.00 I.C. Catholic Society: Folk Mass. 53 Cromwell Road.

19.30 I.C. Catholic Society: Miss Geraldine Hall. The relevance of religious life. 53 Cromwell Road.



'LAST OF THE RED-HOT LOVERS'

(X) Paramount, Piccadilly Circus

When you go to the People's disco on a Friday night in the Union, do you have trouble making out with the chicks? Yes? Do you want to know what you'll be like in 20 years? If you do, go and see 'Last of the Red-Hot Lovers'. Alan Arkin is Barney, a nice 45-year-old person, who has a nice fish restaurant in a nice district, nice friends, a nice wife and a nice house. He has also nice morals and nice habits—in fact the whole of his life is nauseatingly nice. So Barney decides to explore an extramarital affair just for the experience. He reckons that just one liaison will give his life that missing ingredient, so that on his deathbed he can look back on that brief engagement and think—'well, I did it, once.' Unfortunately Barney is not fortunate at all in his relationships. Apart from being handicapped by having to use his mother's sterile apartment, and by being restricted to only a couple of hours in which to make out, his choice in women-friends is unfortunate, to say the least. The first is a married woman who comes to his fish restaurant four times in one week, and is only interested in the animal lust bit. That upsets Barney. Strike one. The second one is an attractive young failed singer, who besides having a persecution complex, is thoroughly degenerate and paranoid. That also upsets Barney. Strike two. The third is one of his married friends who makes a pass at him at a party, because she is upset at the gossip that her husband is having an affair. She is frigid, neurotic and has a habit of discussing their affair at the top of her voice in restaurants. Poor old Barney—strike three and out.

Alan Arkin (of 'Cath-22') is here recreating the type of role Jack Lemmon made famous a few years ago—the slightly neurotic, but very ordinary American, who finds himself way out of his depth in circumstances he cannot cope with. It is a scaled-down character role, if you like. I am not sure if he is as adaptable as Jack Lemmon, but he is just as convincing. Sally Kellerman (of 'Mash') and Paula Prentiss (of various bad movies) as two of his girlfriends are given a wide scope of moods and do very well indeed. The dialogue is typical scaled-up T.V. Situation Comedy stuff, predictable at times, but occasionally priceless. The film as a whole starts off very well, but tails off by the third liaison, mainly because everything's been said, and the ending is rather predictable as well. I reckon it's the kind of film you either like or hate, depending on whether you like Americans in general or their humour in particular. However, don't expect any wild action to match the X-Certificate, because there isn't any—it seems to me to be standard AA material. Perhaps the morals are dubious, but how it can be classified in the same category as 'Last Tango in Paris' (no I haven't seen it yet), I don't know. Still, for 100 mins of mental titillation, it does quite well.

'Sergei'

Footnote—

For those people who didn't see Kenneth Williams on 'Parkinson' a couple of weeks ago, I must repeat his definition of critics (no love lost between them and Ken)—He reckons they are like eunuchs in a harem. They are there every night, see it done every night, but can't do it themselves.

"JEREMIAH JOHNSON"

Superficially "Jeremiah Johnson" bears a strong resemblance to one of those Walt Disney 'Nature' films. There is the same central 'mountain-trapper' type figure, and there are the same superb, sweeping shots of the massively beautiful Rocky Mountains scenery. The film fits in strongly with a certain eternal American mood — the desire to be somewhere else and to 'up and away' from the city.

But this Disney 'image' disappears, for Johnson (heavily-bearded Robert Redford) is a very real character. At the beginning of the film he is utterly inexperienced, and often seems near perishing in the winter snows. But he learns, and in this is the fascinating part of the film, for all the time we feel that the Crow Indians are watching, and that his existence continues

only by their consent.

The last part of the film, however, is very different, for Johnson's revenge against the Indians (wholly justified), and their subsequent hunting of him is violently primeval, leaving Jacobean Revenge Tragedies far behind. This is Johnson's testing ground, and, at the end of the film he emerges triumphant as the Crow Chief accepts him in a final gesture of peace, caught in a poignant frozen frame.

Try as I can, I can find no fault in this film. Redford's performance is superb, especially in the early 'Jack London' style of sequences, the music, which consists of Western ballads, fits exactly, and I can remember no film that I have enjoyed so much for a long time.

David Gurney.

Felix Financier

The Taxman's Nemesis

We've been talking a good deal lately about money—where to get it, what to spend it on, what not to spend it on, and—well, it's been mainly about acquiring the stuff.

But just supposing you've been wise enough to follow all the advice handed out in these columns, and have got some cash and spent it wisely.

The next problem is to prevent the Income Tax man from taking a large part of it back.

You want to know how best to avoid this painful process. The answer—as it so often is—is to find good professional advice. And that means an accountant.

So what is an accountant? Do you think immediately of Bob Cratchitt, high-legged stools and quill pens?

Well, this week, our expert Derek E. Cummings, takes a look at an important section of the financial community.

There are two certainties about being born into this world these days. One is that, sometime, you are going to die. The other is that, sometime, you are going to have to pay taxes.

Both are fairly morbid thoughts and at first glance there is not a great deal you can do about them. Certainly not the first, anyway. But the second, well, perhaps there is something to be done about that.

In the first place, you have to consider how to pay as little tax as possible, while remaining—of course—strictly within the law. There is a fine difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion. The major difference is that you can go to jail for evading tax, but avoiding the pain of paying more than you have to is perfectly legitimate.

And this, unfortunately, is where the average taxpayer gets into a kind of Alice in Wonderland situation. Unless you know the way around, it's a pretty impossible puzzle to try to untangle.

There are so many laws, so many rules, so many exceptions, so many legal loopholes that even the brightest taxpayer will easily become confused, depressed—and probably over-taxed.

Most tax experts will cheerfully admit that a large percentage of British taxpayers are paying more tax than they should.

This usually arises because the individual is unaware of certain items for which he might claim tax exemption. And it's not surprising, when you consider the way the taxation laws are arranged in this country, under which the onus is always—always—on the taxpayer to prove his status to the Inland Revenue.

YOU fill in your tax returns. YOU state whatever claims for tax relief you think you are entitled to. YOU must prove the claim to the tax man. YOU have to find out what it is you are entitled to.

The Inland Revenue will never advise you, unless you are prepared to make an issue of it and go to

your local Inspector of Taxes and pore through the law with him line by line. And most people have neither the time nor the inclination to do that.

What many people do is to pay an accountant to make their tax returns. Their rationale is that although it costs a little money to put their finances and tax affairs into the hands of an accountant, the likelihood is that he will save them money in the long run, by reducing their tax bill.

The logic of it is that if the accountant saves you just one pound more than the bill he charges, you are ahead of the game.

For anyone who objects to paying more tax than is necessary—and that surely includes everyone—it's an idea worth thinking about.

What, then, is an accountant?

In the first place the title is something of a misnomer. These days, an accountant does a great deal more than make up accounts. He has to have a good knowledge of the theory and practice of business: he has to be familiar with the workings of the stock exchange: he must know company law and the legal involvements of such things: and he has to know all there is to know about taxation.

In short, a good accountant is a kind of mathematical lawyer. A guide and interpreter for the layman.

Clearly, such a man can be of immense value whenever you are involved in any kind of financial situation—as, indeed, we all are from the moment we start earning money and paying taxes on it.

Of course, if and when the time comes, you will need to choose a good accountant. The most reliable guide to this is to look for a chartered accountant, and the post-nominal initials 'A.C.A.'. This indicates that the name on the plate belongs to a man who has passed the searching examinations set by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Naturally, these qualifications will not necessarily exclude fools and knaves, but it is a worthwhile indicator. After all, anyone at all can call himself an accountant and set up in business with no qualifications whatever.

And how does an accountant himself define his work? I talked to a chartered accountant about it. Like doctors, accountants are forbidden by their code of conduct to advertise, so his remarks must remain anonymous.

"I suppose the best definition of an accountant's work," said he who shall be nameless, "is to say that we offer a translation service. So much of the law relating to business and taxation is quite incomprehensible to the layman that without expert interpretation he has no chance of understanding it.

"I would agree that vast numbers of people do pay more income tax, for example, than they really need to. In most cases, it amounts to shillings and it would therefore not be worth paying pounds to come to one of us to correct the assessment.

"But the thing is that unless you are familiar with the law relating to taxation, you can never be sure what it is you are entitled to claim for. There

CONGRATULATIONS

I'd like to offer my congratulations to those wonderful crusaders who removed all those unsightly publicity notices around college advertising the national grants demonstration. It was an utter disgrace that students should display notices advertising a demonstration on such an unworthy cause as student grants. It was good to survey the thoroughness with which every single poster was disposed of from their places of erection, including student noticeboards.

The most clever part of it was the way in which the authorities disclaimed all knowledge of having removed them and their method of confusing students as to where they were allowed to put up notices and who was pulling them down.

At least some people have got the strength of mind to stand up to student propaganda; who knows, one day students might even get organised and begin to think . . . or even start discussing POLITICS (ghastly word). Obviously we can't tolerate such things: after all, think of the effect that silly student pranks like demonstrations could have on the cutback in education expenditure. We musn't have them disturbing the peace just because they don't think their grant is high enough, let alone rationalisations or refectory price increases (such topics are, after all, way above their heads).

Prof. Ford (whoops, let it slip), Mr. Seaford and
(signed) An admirer of the mighty crusaders.

Company.

Reactionary Jacks (MRA)

P.S. I hope Mr. Seaford will give the male cleaners a bonus for the extra work involved (including danger money for going up ladders to a height of 20 feet or more) for taking down the posters rather than getting in contact with the individuals involved who (horrible blokes) actually gave an undertaking to remove the posters on Wednesday after the demonstration. A few more students might have read those bills; that would have been a bit silly.

P.P.S. Why not censor the student notice boards all of the time, not just some of it?

(Name and address of contributor supplied)

is no provision for the Inland Revenue to point out things like that to the taxpayer. It is the taxpayer's own responsibility to find out. And that takes a good deal more dedication than most people are prepared for. On the other hand, accountants are trained to look for such items.

"And there is one other thing which is well worth pointing out to anyone contemplating the idea of consulting an accountant, and that is not to leave it too late. If, for example, you think you are being over-taxed, take professional advice as soon as you can, otherwise it can be a long and complicated business. Remember, the tax man does not have to prove he is right, you have to prove he is wrong.

"Of course, personal taxes are far from being the most important element in our professional lives. Like legal men, we have to know a good deal about most things in life. After all, when a man comes to you to lay his financial affairs before your eyes, he's showing you a lot of himself, which means that an accountant is deeply and personally involved in a wide range of men's doings.

"Oddly enough, a lot of the story-book image of accountancy still clings. Many people still see us sitting on high stools, adding columns of figures and entering them in ledgers with quill pens. But, like many such images, it is a grotesquely inaccurate one.

"We have to be au fait with the most modern business methods such as computers, cost-effectiveness programmes, company organisation and the whole mass of law relating to monetary matters. But it all boils down to one thing, really. Making money work to the best possible advantage of the client while staying within the law."

Joint Election Manifesto

FELIX announced its intention of printing candidates' manifestos several weeks ago. At the deadline time, 1700 hrs on Friday, we had received a joint manifesto from Messrs. Rob Armitage and Simon Allnutt, and this is reproduced below. The other candidates did not send in manifestos.

My name is Simon Allnutt. I am a third year physicist. Having entered the college as an engineer and changed to physics means that I have been here an extra year. Rob Armitage and myself are standing with same manifesto, given below.

It is our belief that both sabbatical officers wishing to attain the same forward looking objectives, results in a more active union.

One person, in general, will have less chance of seeing the problems the union will face in the first place, will not produce as many ideas on how to tackle them, and finally, of carrying them through to a successful conclusion.

THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

As many people as possible should be involved in the union's activities at all levels, producing the ideas to improve the union for its members. Contact between sabbatical officers and the students for exchange of ideas would be most direct at departmental level. As well as this departments should have more contact between all students, both post-graduate and under-graduate, and staff of all denominations for a better education and satisfactory community.

The college community consists of more than just the academic staff and students. In these times when the students are suffering economically we are under a moral obligation to protect the jobs of workers in the college who have dependants to support.

COURSE STRUCTURE

In the present situation of graduate unemployment the flexibility of our education is of paramount importance.

One of the great benefits of the course unit system said to operate in this College should be the choice of courses offered to students, enabling them to qualify in a broader field, whilst allowing specialisation should the student wish it.

With the present job situation, it is a great advantage to have a broader field of interest, even if this is used temporarily until the "right job" arises.

Does this apply at present? Not satisfactorily.

The recent appointment of the Academic Director by the college indicates that now is the time for we students to suggest new course contents where necessary, to make courses more flexible, more useful. Make no mistake, more flexibility is an improvement in your chances when you graduate and start looking for a good job.

EDUCATION

Education should benefit everyone — particularly those being educated. One of the major points of the "Limits to Growth" report of the group from MIT was that to achieve a stable economy is to use a much larger percentage of the gross national product for education. In this context it is our responsibility to press for more expansion in all areas of education, to press for equality of opportunity and transfer methods between courses to cater for changes of interest as the course progresses. The cut-backs in the White Paper entitled "Education: a Framework for Expansion" (the exact opposite of its contents), are thoroughly deplorable.

N.U.S.

We should be able to further our aims through NUS. As a national union, its negotiating power, and

Why Life Assurance?

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The days when an Insurance Manager wept as a student entered his office are fast disappearing. True, the odd one or two still want to insure themselves to drive a hearse backwards to Basutoland, but the rapid growth of student interest in life assurance is the main reason for the new benign attitude now pervading insurance circles.

And the student interest in life assurance really has grown. At a conservative estimate TWENTY MILLION POUNDS of life assurance is bought by undergraduates each year.

I believe it is not nearly enough.

I know that nearly 90 per cent of male undergraduates will take out a life assurance policy before they are 27 or so.

I am sure that if they all really knew the good hard economic reasons why they should do it now — most of them would.

Let me spell these out.

The younger you start a policy the cheaper it is

and the cheaper it stays. Once your rate for the policy has been agreed it cannot be increased, irrespective of inflation or any deterioration in your health. A student of 19 would pay with one leading company £30.00 per annum for a £4,000 life policy (the student average). A graduate of 27 would pay £40.50 per annum for the same thing (if the rate remained the same in these inflationary times). Over 20/30 years, the saving runs into hundreds of pounds.

The next reason why could involve a saving of thousands of pounds.

The brokers operating in the student field tend to recommend very good contracts, if only on the grounds that a student client today is a (rich) graduate client tomorrow and by then he will be more aware and show his appreciation or otherwise by placing his business with the broker he knows and trusts. My own company write many millions of pounds worth of business each year from our thousands of graduate clients.

The choice of policy is most important. In 1972 the pay out difference on two policies—for identical outlays—was £2,949. That is 2,949 reasons for taking the advice of a good broker. Once removed from university you will be up against many hard selling insurance concerns which might mean less good advice.

A good broker will also be able to help you to buy that house you will want soon after graduation. Taking a life policy now is only the first step. It carries no guarantee, but my own company is daily arranging mortgages for our graduate clients. I have every reason to believe that several other insurance brokers in the student field are also providing this service.

Worthwhile policies for students can begin from 20p per week and if you could forego the odd pint or packet of cigarettes it is in your own interest to seriously consider embarking upon your future financial planning now. Consultation with a broker, preferably one who is either a member of the Association or Corporation of Brokers would be a useful starting point, as professional standing carries with it professional responsibility.

A. J. Broad,
Managing Director,
E. Harrison (Insurance Brokers) Ltd.

the provision of services like Travel and Insurance, are far greater than any college union can muster of its own accord. It is an advantage to be associated with NUS; if we disagree with its policies, then we can campaign to change and improve them. The NUS has very cumbersome machinery, but I.C. has in the past been among the leading exponents of improved procedures, a trend we would like to continue. To bury our heads in the sand leads nowhere.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Community action is an area in which this union is taking the lead in improving the community as a whole. As such, and together with Eco-action it should have the greater financial support from the union.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Twenty per cent of our students are from overseas and at present have no representative on council. This must be rectified if we are to help them effectively to fight any further increases in their fees, at present too high anyway.

UNION FEE

At present the Union receives £8.50 for each full-time student. With rising costs (don't say you haven't noticed!) the Union might soon be as

impoverished as its individual members. The per-capita fee should be increased to a level so that expanded programmes can take place. It is not sufficient merely to increase the Union income to cover rising costs.

VOTE

If you support our aims outlined here we ask you to reflect it by voting. Allnutt for President and Armitage for secretary. Please feel free to approach us on any point you wish to discuss.

Vote for the other candidate if you prefer his views, but vote. This makes a democratic union.

ROB ARMITAGE
SIMON ALLNUTT

HELP!

- 1 — Help yourself to a good Life Assurance investment plan
- 2 — Help yourself to our House Purchase plan
- 3 — Help yourself to our advice (it's free)
- 4 — Help yourself to our coupon

Then we'll help you, just as we've helped thousands of students since 1951.

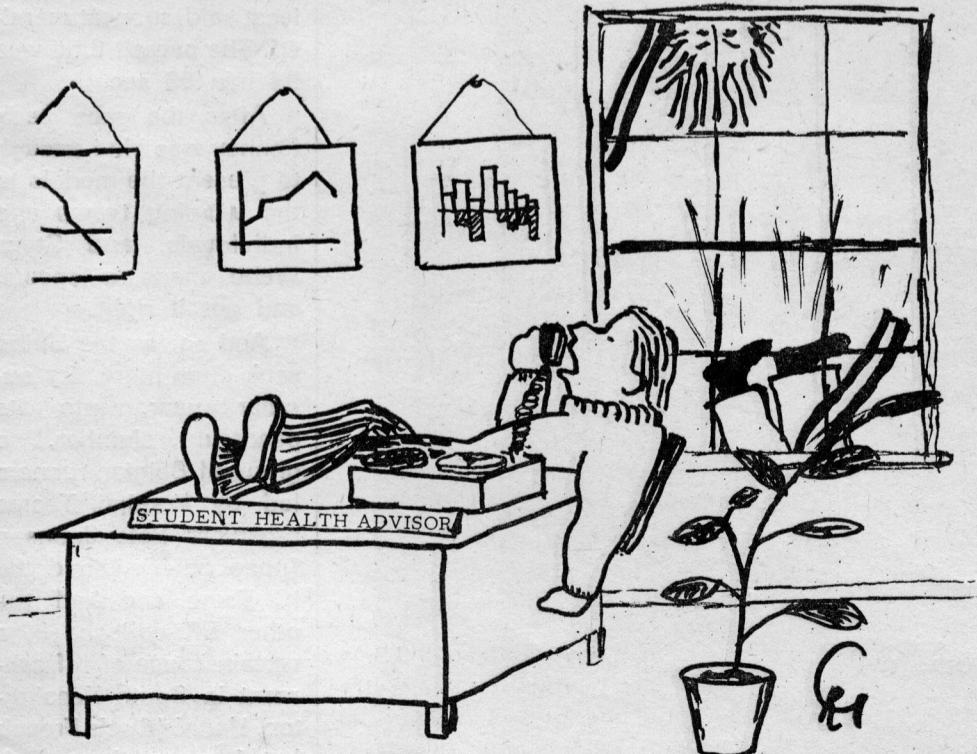
E. Harrison: Associated Insurance Brokers

To: Harrison's, Round Church Street, Cambridge.

NAME

TERM ADDRESS

Please send me your comprehensive leaflet on Life Assurance.



"Heading quote successful elimination of factors tending to exacerbate abnormal behaviour among undergraduate students unquote."

hockey

Last Sunday out at Harlington and in the surrounding pubs, the annual piss-up with the Poachers took place. The game that preceded this was won by the Poachers 2-1 after they were a goal down at half-time.

The game was extremely scrappy and after a hard night I missed most of what happened — especially their two goals — so I'll end this report by thanking W.B., Ron (he is the pissed one), Rich and Dave for keeping the I.C. flag flying in the surrounding pubs.

On the previous day the 1st XI played their penultimate league match against Smiths and lost 3-0. The only comment about this match that reached me was that it wasn't worth reporting. On the same day, the never-reported 2nd XI entertained G.W.R. IIs and won 1-0.

Saturday's brilliant sunshine brought out the best in the 3rd XI players, who proceeded to record their third win of the season. In order to give G.W.R. IIs a chance, I.C. turned up with only nine men.

The first half was fairly even with both sides creating chances, but neither getting on top. G.W.R. took the lead mid-way through this half with a simple goal following a bad defensive mistake. The second half was completely different. Despite G.W.R.'s two man advantage, I.C. completely dominated the game. Using their superior fitness (thanks to J.J.?) I.C. forced the pace and eventually scored a very scrambled goal from a goalmouth melee. Russ Eason was the scorer. The same player scored the winner a few minutes later when he beat three players before putting the ball into the empty net. At this stage G.W.R. were unable to raise their game and I.C. eventually emerged the comfortable winners.

Team:- R. Bateman; D. Murch, C. Scott; J. Heffer, Julie, R. Critchley; W. Biggin, J. Preston, R. Eason.

As mentioned earlier Mr. Eason scored twice during the match, his hat-trick being completed later that same evening.

Will all members please note that the annual dinner will take place on Monday, March 19th. The price for this nosh-up which will be followed by a grand drinking session in 414, is at the moment, set at £2.40. For all of those who are bringing guests of the opposite sex, and who isn't, a double ticket is settling down at £4.50.

rowing

Saturday the 10th February saw the I.C. 1st VIII in action for the first time this year. The occasion was the London Rowing Club Colleges Regatta. Although, as its name suggests, this is essentially a colleges event, London Rowing Club decided to enter two crews. One of which was their domestic 1st VIII, only lacking the heavyweights of their continental regatta Grand VIII.

The first heat saw I.C. caught in a hailstorm while waiting on the start, as a result of which their new blue boat club sweat shirts spent the rest of the day in the drying room and I.C. had to revert to their practice tops for the rest of the regatta. Q.M.C., the cause of the delay, only had 7 men and had had to pick up a spare man from London Rowing Club. In fact, they needn't have bothered, as they, along with London R.C. II were left standing by I.C.'s very powerful start. I.C. were in fact clear of both crews in the first twenty strokes. Although I.C. did not row particularly well for the rest of the race they beat London by about 4 lengths and Q.M.C. by 7 lengths.

In the Semi-Final I.C. met Churchill College, Cambridge. In rough water I.C. went clear in the first minute and finally won by 4 lengths.

Although I.C. had won all their heats easily they never rowed particularly well together and it was with some doubts that they went into the final against London R.C.

I.C.'s powerful start gave them $\frac{3}{4}$ length in the first minute but they did not settle together in the middle of the race and could not go clear. Their lack of cohesion in the rough water coupled with the fact that they had had one more race than London, began to tell even on this very fit crew. In the closing stages London rowed through I.C. to win by 1 length.

The result is very promising indeed for the boat club. All the other college crews were well beaten, and the very next day the same London crew were easily held over 7 mins. Even more promising have been some of the other practice outings, in which I.C. have beaten most of the other tideway clubs. The highlights of the practice rows were I.C.'s defeat of Isis (the Oxford university 2nd VIII, thought by many to be very good this year) by $\frac{1}{3}$ length over 2 mins., and the defeat of Tyrian, the U.L. 2nd VIII by 2 lengths over a 3 min. row.

The indications are that this could be one of the boat clubs best seasons for many years.

Centrepoint

CENTREPOINT began as an experiment on December 16th, 1969, in the disused basement of St. Anne's House, Soho, whose front door is in Dean Street, next to the bomb site which was once St. Anne's Church. The entrance to Centrepoint is in Shaftesbury Avenue, through some romantic iron gates, and the decaying churchyard, passed unnoticed by thousands of people every day. It began here, right in the heart of the West End (the centre point) because this was where a number of groups were working, especially with drug abusers. Among them was Father Kenneth Leach at St. Annes', trying to help people who are very severely disturbed, many irreparably so. He watched young people drawn to the West End like moths to a candle, almost inevitably to be burnt, and he longed to find some way of saving some of them from the familiar syndrome: no money, nowhere to sleep, "vagrancy", petty crime, drugs and the prostitution of both boys and girls.

The experiment—initially for three months—aimed to provide newcomers with first aid: a place to sleep, something to eat, someone to talk to, and advice especially about how to find work and accommodation. It hoped to give a few of them a chance to settle in London without being damaged by it, or to go home again, or to do whatever it was that—by the time they

reached Centrepoint—they really wanted to do.

Centrepoint is unique in London in providing emergency accommodation completely free, every night of the year. Fifteen to twenty young people have come in every night and there have been some fifteen thousand admissions since the centre opened. It now has a full time professional social worker as a director—David Nairn—but, other than that, it is entirely staffed by volunteers. Imperial College Catholic Society send two volunteers every night—they work on a fortnightly rota—to work there, and organised a long sponsored walk through the Sussex Weald on Saturday. The aim was to raise money for Centrepoint House, a short term hostel the organisation is to set up at Baron's Court. It will house fourteen residents and offer those who use it a supportive address whilst they work and find other accommodation during their non-working hours. The average expected length of stay will be a fortnight. Unfortunately no space was available for this article in our last issue, so we could not urge you to sponsor a walker. Nevertheless, Centrepoint still needs donations—in all, they need £10,000. If you can, send a few pence. More details can be obtained from Joseph Cullen, Mech Eng PG, who is organising the Cathsoc contingent to Centrepoint.

rapid rambles

Hyde Park Road Relay

If you were by the Albert Memorial on Saturday afternoon, you may have wondered at the emergence of some 500 betracksuited people from the Union. The occasion for all this activity was the 25th Hyde Park Road Relay organised in time-honoured (and sometimes cursed) tradition by Imperial College in its manifestation as the Cross Country Club in general, and Steve Webb, Pete Johnson, Neil Boag and Rob Parker in particular.

Many thanks to all those who braved the weather (the odd snowflake or two) to help on the day: the timekeepers and judges, the markers (in particular, we've been asked to mention the "lovely little lady from Loughborough" . . . say no more Marshal Pad?), the results runner, Ian, who was on a bike. Dave Jones' results team (at one stage only three) who sought to prove that arithmetic is not yet, in some sense, a lost art, some Dramsoc people for their time and amplifier, and the ladies of Mooney who dished out the teas and without whom . . .

At 3 o'clock by the traditional lamp-post, whose number I've forgotten, Lord Penney, armed with the ACC Webley (which worked), unleashed a straining pack of some 80 runners down Rotten Row and around the 3 mile (almost) course. First back was J. Reade of Portsmouth Poly, but that glory didn't last long, slipping to second on the next lap and later to 26th.

Borough Road College managed to win both the cups this year, instead of just their usual one (we only hope we'll see the Lady Roderick Hill cup again!), in a time of 85 min 30 sec. Birmingham University, winners for the past two years, were third, moving up slowly from 24th after the first lap. The fastest lap was run by Andy Mc-Kean of Edinburgh University in 13 min, 30 sec, 3 seconds short of the lap record (his left leg was not much slower).

Of course the result you're all waiting for is that of I.C. We were 39th. Rob Allinson started us off well at 53rd in 15 min 29 sec, and this position was consolidated by Stuart Littlewood (15:56) and Dave Payne (16:32). The effect, however was somewhat spoiled by Joe Keating, who picked up 14 places in a time of 14 min 37 sec, returning so quickly that he was the cause of a hurried disrobement by our next runner Paul Clarke, who did 15 min 49 sec. Our last runner was Rob Parker, and least said, soonest mended. The overall time was 94 min 59 sec.

After the race Lady Penney was kind enough to present the medals to the winning teams and individuals, and Steve Webb made a speech and got it right.

And so, as the Union sank once more, for another year, into its peaceful slumber, a group of Belgian runners led by Foreign Teams organiser Pete Johnson (none other) joined the IC Team and half the other UK colleges in a certain house of refreshment in South Kensington. Hnnn! (that's French but I guess those Belgians understand French).

