



December 4th, 1973

Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

ISSUE No. 349

Union meeting

1.00 p.m.

Thursday, 6th Dec.,

Union Concert Hall

NUS CALLS FOR NATIONAL RENT STRIKE

Why the hell should we go on a rent strike?

BY NORM SAYLES

I am writing this article in an attempt to clear up some points of confusion in many people's minds about the aims and the realities of a Rent Strike in Imperial College. For those 300 or so of you who were at the Union Meeting last Thursday, I don't wish to bore you with this article as I shall be re-iterating many of the points which I made in my speech at the meeting. For the other 3,900 people in College, though, I hope my thoughts will be of some importance.

To begin with, I must dispel the misapprehension in many people's minds that the aim of the Rent Strike is an attempt to "force" the College to reduce the rents in Halls and Houses. This would be a ridiculous move since our rents are as low as they could possibly be and they obviously do not need to be made any lower.

In a nutshell, the Rent Strike has been called as a "reasonable way of expressing our views about the Grants' system as it stands at the moment" (to use a phrase of Sir Brian's speech on Commem. Day!). You may say to yourself: "But what is wrong with the Grants' system?" I get £520 each year and I can make that last me the whole 30 week session." I can assure you, however, that if you are truly able to say this, then you are one of the very few members of this College on a full grant. The MAJORITY of our U.G. Students are MEANS TESTED i.e. their grant is assessed on their parents' income and if the parents earn more than £1500 per year, the student's grant is drastically cut. This has several consequences, some of which are as follows:—

(1) Students, who are above the age or majority (18), are still dependent to a very great extent on their parents and as such are very restricted in the way they spend their grant.

(2) Many parents are assessed on a previous year's salary and have, since the time of assessment suffered a serious depreciation — owing to one cause or another — in their wage, and therefore, cannot afford to pay the student the correct amount of money which is required to provide a full (£520) grant.

(3) Many parents refuse to pay their contribution to the grant as they do not agree with the way their child is running his/her life.

(4) Many parents decide to use their contribution to pay for their child to stay at home during the vacations or to pay for some clothes when the student is at home, or other sundries such as these. I speak from personal experience as someone who received a full grant during my three years in College but whose parents were only too happy to pay for these additional items. I reckon that I ended up with about £670 per year instead of £520 and this is where the Means Tested student is losing out again.

From my comments on the Means Test, I think that most people would regard it as totally unjust to both students and parents. What we are calling for is a FULL grant for ALL and that the money obtained by the Government by Means Testing be recouped by a minor adjustment in the taxation system so that the money may be got from the parents in this way.

If we now go on to look at the other anomalies in the Grants' system which only as far as I.C. is concerned, relate to "minority groups" in comparison to the widespread effect of the Means Test, we can recognise the following:—

(1) DISCRETIONARY AWARDS. This is a way in which the LEA's can decide to give a student a grant or not depending upon their own whims. It seems to make no difference whether the educational establishment is recognised by the Government or not. It also applies to those students who find it necessary to do a re-sit year. Even if the particular college recognised that the student had some peculiar difficulty the previous year and has a right to repeat the year, he is not entitled to a grant but, in general, is expected to support himself for the year. This problem is particularly acute in Further Education and Art colleges and, therefore, has a drastic effect upon a large proportion of the students of this country.

(2) MARRIED WOMEN'S GRANTS. Here we have the situation where a female student who gets married to a non-student, automatically has her grant cut by something in the region of £150 to £200. In this way, a married student can find herself having to survive on a grant of around

At the NUS conference in Margate, two weekends ago, a motion calling for a national rent strike, as opposed to local or partial ones, was easily passed.

Hot opposition was expected and received from the NUS executive over this motion, as they had been attempting to decentralise the campaign.

A censure motion was carried on the Exec. over negating their role as the leadership of the NUS. This question referring primarily to their absence of leadership in the Nov. 7th march and abortive Nov. 14th work-in.

Exec. attempted to postpone discussion on the grants campaign and Chile, two politically very contentious topics, by introducing hordes of international and emergency speakers and stretching out discussion of Steve Parry's Berlin poster-ripping antics to a phenomenal 4½ hours.

Full conference report on page 5.

£295. In the case of a male student who marries, this discrimination does not occur. It is quite conceivable that a student whose wife is earning £2,000 is receiving £520 whereas a female student whose husband is earning £1600 gets only £295. It must be agreed that this is an unjust and intolerable situation.

(3) Postgraduate awards — These awards do affect a great number of the students of this college, and as such will probably be of great interest. In brief, as an undergraduate, a person is getting about £15 per week to live on during term time, but once he becomes qualified, more mature, and also gains more responsibility as a postgraduate, his grant is slashed from £15 per week to a paltry £13.40 per week. In anyone's books this is no less than an insult to the amount of study which the person has already done during his time in college.

Another very real problem with the postgraduate grant for London scholars is that there is absolutely no weighting to account for the fact that the person will have to pay an increase of about 50 per cent on food prices overall, 100 per cent increase in travelling, and also about 100 per cent increase in the cost of accommodation. Although the Undergraduate sum of £40 does not go very far in this present day and age, at least it shows that the D.E.S. have put some thought into the way in which they assess the Undergraduate grant, whereas this thought seems to be lacking from the Postgraduates.

The final, or at least another of the major anomalies of the Grants awarding system which I would like to draw your attention to is the same one as the Rector mentioned in his speech on Commemoration day, i.e. the fact that the basic undergraduate grant is at present at least £100 less than it should be. I realise that many of us have survived on this basic grant for the past few years, but I am sure that we would all admit that an increase of £100 in the Grant which we receive would improve our standard of living to put us more towards that frame of mind which is conducive to work. It is interesting to note that even Sir Brian suggested that this increase would put us back to the level at which the grant was in 1962.

All the above are reasons why I think that YOU should support OUR Rent Strike. You may ask "Why a Rent Strike in support of a Grants campaign?" Well, I will tell you. This Rent Strike which will be controlled by the students in residence themselves, is one of the only ways in which a large majority of our students can show what they feel about the Grants campaign. This expression of our feelings will both be meaningful, and also will be a means of campaigning without directly affecting the college. I have been told that provided the residents give over the money to the college as soon as the Rent Strike is over then the college will feel very little adverse effect.

From a close examination of the Constitutions which have been drawn up of the Tenants Association and also the Rent strike fund, it is obvious that the people who will be controlling the money are the people who actually live in the residence, and no minority groups be their right wing or left wing will in any way be able to influence the decisions of the Rent strike Tenants Association. The reason that the control MUST stay in the hands of the Strikers is so that NO-ONE can tell them what to do, and when they decide that they want to call off the strike then they will

be at perfect liberty to do so.

It has been said that the D.E.S. already knows what the students of this country really do think about the Grants system, and that nothing which we can do will change what they think one bit. But the point is that Imperial College has NEVER taken any kind of successful action on the problem of Grants, and thus successful action of this type would have an even greater effect than if we had been doing this type of thing every week for the past two years. Sir Brian has asked us to make our actions reasonable and also sensible, and this is I think exactly what we are doing in this case, and I would hope that Sir Brian sees it as such.

What I hope to do once the Rent Strike has begun is to write to Sir Brian asking him to send a letter to Mrs. Thatcher in the D.E.S. asking her to explain the inadequacies as we see them, and asking her what action she is proposing to take during the coming session. Hopefully with the backing of the Union behind him, then the action which Sir Brian may take could possibly have a greater effect upon the decisions made by the D.E.S.

There are obviously many more questions which need to be answered about the rent strike, either to clarify what is happening or to merely try to pull the whole thing to pieces. May I suggest that if you have any specific questions, could you please address them to either Trev Phillips or to me, and if there is sufficient interest in any of the Halls or houses, either one way or the other, then you could perhaps try to get your Warden or one of the sub-wardens to arrange a meeting of the Hall/House residents either towards the end of this term or at the beginning of next term, or even both if you like, to which we could come along and try to clarify any points which you want to raise.

PLEASE support the rent strike, as the only way in which it can be made to be anything of a success is to get everyone in on it. If only a few people come out on strike, then it is not worth having, but if the majority support the strike, then we have a good chance of airing our views, and doing our bit to try and put the Grants system back on the road which I am sure it was originally designed to follow.

SUPPORT THE RENT STRIKE/SUPPORT THE GRANTS CAMPAIGN.

IT'S EASY? IT HARMS NO-ONE? IT MERELY MAKES A POINT VERY CLEARLY.

Please help us to help you.

SOC SOC calls for mass UGMS.

Sir,—I would like to correct certain factions of students who are suggesting that Soc. Soc. wants inordinate unrepresentative UGM's to manoeuvre the meeting to their own advantage. These people are creating a general feeling that the union is simply a platform for the left wing in IC. Please note that two members of Soc. Soc. were responsible for distributing leaflets, advertising the last UGM through the physics departments and refectories, in an effort to get people to come along and express their opinion.

What any union wants to achieve is to get students to turn up to UGM's to provide a basis for constructive criticism of any motion

put forward and to aim for a better understanding of the issues involved, to get a broader foundation for initiating an improvement in student life in its widest context. Those ideas are in totality parallel to the aim of Soc. Soc. and isn't this what every student wants the union to be?

Any member of the union can put forward a motion, this motion being accepted at the discretion of the chairman. I hope that many more people attend the UGM's in future to vote on the issues which are of very important relevance to their life in this college.

J. D. THOMAS

Physics

(Soc. Soc. member)

LETTERS

Misconceptions

Sir,
 May I attempt to correct some of the misconceptions which Jock Veall seems to have about the Christians (members of 'God Soc') in college. Mr. Veall seems to be under the impression that we are mounting an anti-Soc. Soc. campaign; judging by the way he extolled the beauties of socialism in his letter (Felix, 20 November).

The aims of christians are not to promote any political philosophy, capitalist, communist or otherwise, but to proclaim Jesus Christ in all areas of college life. In the same way Jesus himself was more concerned about telling people of God than leading them in war against the Romans, much to the disappointment of the Jews.

In telling this message the christian needs to be involved in what is going on around him, one does not want to be "so heavenly minded as to be no earthly use". This entails playing a part, to a greater or lesser extent in the Union, and here one expresses one's own ideas about what is best, whatever they may be. I am sure Mr. Veall would not discourage such involvement.

Finally, I would like to comment on Mr. Veall's rather longwinded and philosophical arguments on man's basic rights. If he wishes to look at man in this pessimistic way, with no economic or social rights all right that is up to him. There is one basic right however, which man has denied himself, this is the right to eternal life with his creator.

That man was created with this right, that he lost it through offending God, and that Jesus died

so that men might regain life is what the christian (who has rediscovered this life) wishes to proclaim. A very positive message.

Phil Winn.

Ed's note: Correspondence on this kind of unscientific level is closed.

Turbigo Soc.

Sir,
 We feel we must protest that hereuntofor no mention has appeared in your erudite columns of the newly formed Kidney Turbigo Society. This is a sad misdemeanour on your part, and must be remedied immediately.

For the information of your illustrious readers the first seeds of this unprecedented amalgamation of kidney connoisseurs were soon in Basil Street SW3 on Tuesday last. After but two hours it was a thriving organisation of quadrophonic dimensions.

To exemplify our aspirations, here is a brief synopsis of the Turbigoist manifesto: "... we shall not cease our bitter struggle against anti-Turbigoism, until the delicious aroma of the aforesaid savoury delicacy pervades every nook and cranny in the civilised world (and Neaden)."

As for forthcoming events, we are currently planning several wine and Turbigo evenings, a series of lectures, films and discussions entitled "Turbigoism Leads the Way", and, of course, our Annual Dinner (menu to be published later).

Now you have got the facts straight, we anticipate your full support.

Yours faithfully,
 Yendik Ogibrut
 (Chairman).

Kidney Turbigo Society Headquarters, Prince Consort Road.

Student Counsellor

After a fairly gentle run-in on a two days a week basis I shall be taking up the post of Student Counsellor full-time from December 3rd. This seems as good a time as any therefore to take advantage of the Editor's invitation to introduce myself through these columns.

I have just finished five years on the staff of the Watford College of Technology where besides doing a certain amount of teaching I developed and ran a student counselling and welfare service. I have worked in the Hospital Service as a Social Worker and, for a period, as an administrator, and I graduated at the L.S.E. where I was a "mature" student from 1961-66. I am married with two small children. So much for the biographical details.

What is a Student Counsellor? Those of you who knew my predecessor, Bonney Hartnett, will of course have a fair idea already, but for those who didn't, and for first year students I should perhaps attempt some sort of definition because it is far from self-evident. In the U.S.A. Student Counselling has been big business for many years and some large universities have enormous Counselling centres staffed by upwards of twenty or thirty counsellors, most of whom would be trained psychologists or psychotherapists. In Britain the development of designated counselling services in tertiary education has been much more cautious and remains very patchy. There is no real consensus as to what "Counselling" is (even in the text books), but two broad truths are evident:—

(a) There is a growing feeling in the educational world that "Counselling" services are a good thing to have, and (b) that Counsellors in this country tend to take a much more pragmatic approach than their colleagues in the U.S.A., for example, would consider appropriate.

My own stand is roughly this. Everyone including students, have problems, difficulties and stresses of one degree or another in his or her personal

life. Nearly always we either resolve them or learn to tolerate them as part of the normal fabric of our lives, and the idea of consulting a salaried "helper" simply does not occur to us. We rightly keep things to ourselves, we mind our own business. Generally speaking, in other words, we both prefer and are able to cope with the contingencies of life. It seems equally obvious however that there are occasions when our emotional self-sufficiency, at least for a time, breaks down, and we become to some extent dependent on the support of other people. Bereavement is the most obvious and universal example of such contingencies. The causes of such debilitating emotional stress may of course be much less dramatic than that and may indeed not be very obvious at all, but it is precisely in these circumstances that a counsellor may be useful. I do not suggest for a moment that even in these circumstances the Counsellor is necessarily the best or most appropriate person to turn to, but he is one of the people who may be able to help.

In a nutshell counselling is centrally concerned with helping students to recognise and examine problems which are giving rise to distress, and possibly affecting their work, in such a way that they can deal with it for themselves with greater confidence. It may involve meetings over a fairly long period, or the contact may be quite ephemeral. There is nothing mysterious, sinister or magical about the process.

In practise of course I frequently see students just once—maybe to give some information or to suggest some more appropriate person. In any case the service is strictly confidential.

If you would like to talk to me my office is at the Student Health Centre, 14 Princes Gardens. I am available during normal office hours and can be contacted direct on Internal Number 4205; through the College main switchboard Extension 1893; or through the Health Centre Receptionist. I operate an appointment system but will see any student without an appointment on any given day if there is some urgency, though this may entail a short wait.

Don Adlington

International Students' House 229 Great Portland Street, London W1 Tel. 636-9471

Thursday, 20th December:

7.00 p.m. Coffee Party in the bar lounge.
 7.30 p.m. "Sherlock Holmes" Aldwych Theatre Royal Shakespeare Company—tickets 35p

Friday, 21st December:

8.00 p.m. Xmas party and disco. Assembly Hall.

Saturday, 22nd December:

8.00 p.m. 'How to steal a diamond in four uneasy lessons' (Film) Assembly Hall

Sunday, 23rd December:

4.00 p.m. Candlelight tea party, carol singing and Christmas readings. Library

Monday, 24th December:

10.30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Party with music in the bar

Tuesday, 25th December:

12.00 for 1 p.m. Christmas lunch. Assembly Hall
 Cost 85p—must be booked before 21st December

Wednesday, 26th December:

8.00 'Gigi' (Film) Assembly Hall

Thursday, 27th December

8.00 'Cinderella on Ice'. Empire Pool, Wembley
 Tickets 80p (reduced from 90p)

Saturday, 29th December

8.00 'The Burglars' (Film) Assembly Hall

Monday, 31st December:

10.00 p.m.—6.00 a.m. 'New Year's Eve Ball'.
 Tickets £1 in advance. £1.25 at the door
 Disco, Films, Bar, Erasmus choral group, cartoons. All are welcome

For further information contact I.S.H. or Ida Glaser, Physics Room 1012e

Lost and Found

PROPERTY LOST AND FOUND

A large number of articles found on College premises are handed in during the course of a year to the Security Officer. Most of these items could be promptly restored to the losers if only they would take the trouble to report their losses. Please contact the Security Officer as above.

PROPERTY FOUND

(1) A ladies gold dress ring. Found in Bio-Chemistry Department.
 (2) A gold wedding ring with a name engraved on the inner circumference.
 Losers should contact the Security Officer in person or ring Internal 2741.

CYCLE THEFTS

Students and Staff are reminded of the need to take special care to protect their cycles against the risk of theft when leaving them on the College campus. The

minimum recommended precautions are to secure the cycle to some part of the cycle rack with a strong chain and a stout padlock. Plastic covered metal cables secured by miniature padlock of the type supplied by cycle dealers are quite inadequate and can easily be cut with a pair of strong pliers. Cycle owners are strongly advised to insure their cycles and to record the serial numbers.

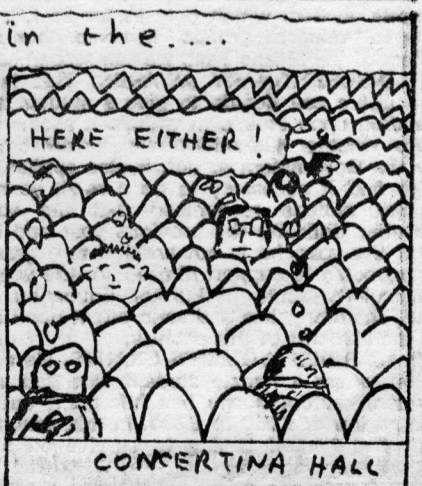
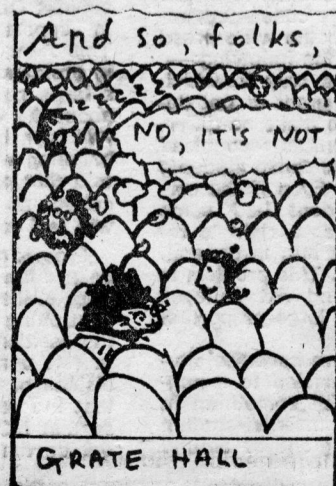
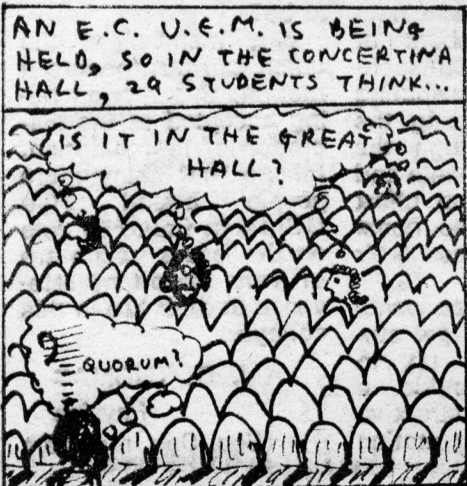
THEFTS GENERALLY

Occasional thefts of wallets and cash from jackets and handbags left in unattended rooms, laboratories etc., continue to occur. Both Students and staff can do much to prevent this by (a) Keeping their valuables on their persons or locked away, and (b) by challenging any strange persons in buildings, rooms, laboratories, etc., whose appearance or behaviour gives rise to suspicion. In such cases the Security Officer should be contacted at once.

Continued on page 5

RAILWAY SOCIETY
 Talk by Mr. F. Briggs on The South Eastern and Chatham Scene (with slides)
 Tues. 4th Dec. 5.40 p.m.
 M.E. 664 All welcome

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF EMPIRICAL COLLEGE BY RON APPLEBY



HEAVENLY POLEMICS

... continued

This week Jock Veall looks at the historical roots of religion:-

The key question which unfortunately Alan Syrop and Maurice Maloney fail to grasp is what religion is and how it arose.

Religion has evolved because man could not explain his actual relationship to nature so he finds himself with this fantastic force outside of his control—that is the fundamental contradiction between man and nature, man wanting to control nature but nature not wanting to be controlled by man. Hence out of the actual social experience of his existing level of consciousness man projects this fantastic relationship with supernatural beings because he cannot understand his existing relationship with society and nature, i.e. RELIGION IS FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS.

Religion gives consolation to individuals but gives a false purpose to man when the actual material relations of society are not understood. Hence religion does not have an independent existence from the rest of the social and economic relations—that is when social relations change, religious beliefs change. The rise of Christianity with the fall of the Roman Empire, Catholicism

arose with feudalism (the marachical structure of the catholic church along with its ideology reflect the feudal social relations), protestantism arose with the evolution of capitalism, Islam with the Asiatic mode of production, primitive religions in India reflect the local tribal form of production— THAT IS RELIGION CORRESPONDS TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE.

The key to understanding the Arab-Israeli conflict flows not from the religious differences (Jews have lived in harmony with the Arab Palestinian for hundreds of year), the religious differences only reflect the conflicting economic interests in the Middle East particularly America and West Europe's interest in "safeguarding" their oil resources. In Northern Ireland likewise the two religions reflect material interests the Protestants having certain advantages over the Catholics see the demand for civil rights as posing a threat to their meagre privileges. Both American imperialism in the Middle East and British imperialism in Ireland play on the religious differences to encourage the deepening of the divisions among the masses so that no real threat is posed to their domination.

Religious practise is not 'a public expression of a persons beliefs' (A. Syrop's interpretation of religion) but an institution of the state in imposing the beliefs of the ruling class on the masses. Under feudalism the aristocracy used the Catholic Church to impose the beliefs of the aristocrats on the peasants and serfs. Under capitalism the capitalist class likewise use the church (Protestant) to impose its beliefs on the working class, e.g. Calvinism preaches that workers should work harder (so that the employers can make more profit). Hitler recognised the role of the church very well, one of his first acts on coming to power was to strengthen the hand of the church, so as to strengthen the

state in imposing the beliefs of the capitalist class on the working class. Religion is used as the opium of the masses—it covers the chains that harness the oppressed with flowers. It is in this sense that only private expression of religious beliefs should be allowed, religious institutions should be smashed alongside all the other institutions of the bourgeois state.

As man gains an understanding of his relationships to nature the need for religion is eroded away. After a socialist revolution he should be able to practise his religion if he still feels the need but religion should not be used as a repressive institution against the masses.

It is a pity that Syrop has to resort to mumbo jumbo rather than answer the question that if Maurice Maloney, A. Syrop, D. James and other God Soc. people serious about the concern and freedom then they would support the campaign for the release of Ivan Dzyuba and Vyacheslov Chornouil, two Russian socialists from prison. Amongst other campaigns they should support would be fight the fight against racism and particularly against the National Front. The conclusion which must be drawn is their superficiality of their so called 'concern' for their fellow men. Even the church commission (an institution of the state which invests the church's money in the property market) showed whose side it is on last week when it sent 25 bailiffs and 50 police round to their properties in Formosa Street, North Kensington and threw the occupants into the street. The net result an extra 20 homeless.

JOCK VEALL

Ed's note: Ivan Dzyuba has been released from prison, claimed the Ukrainian Writers Union on the 9th November.

INTER-ACTION launch new community bus scheme: "no set hire charge"

Inter-Action Trust, the Kentish Town community arts group, has announced their latest project. Another double-decker bus will join the Trust's fleet of buses which bring resources to where they are most needed in the community. Inter-Action's other buses include the Fun Art Bus and a pre-school play-group bus.

The Community Bus Co. is the smallest fleet in the country being just one bus. Originally, the name of the "company" was to be the Camden Community Bus Co. After lengthy discussion members of Inter-Action decided that whilst it would mainly be used for Camden Groups, it should be available to neighbouring boroughs as well. The word "Camden" in the title might have prevented others from using it.

The bus is fitted with a sink unit, a toilet, a 30 gallon water tank, a heater for stationary use and shortly will be fitted with a 240V mains unit.

At present it has seating for 74 adults, 44 upstairs and 30 downstairs. Under certain

conditions, such as a week's booking, the seats on the upper deck may be taken out and carpet fitted on the floor so that it may be used as a room for sleeping, etc. The mains unit would be able to supply projectors, TV, and various electronic equipment that people may wish to use on or near the bus.

The bus will be available to bona fide community groups, tenants and residents associations and voluntary organisations. The project is under the direction of Tony James and Ted Leyh who will be handling requests at Inter-Action. Groups will be able to use the bus for trips, outings, and camping ventures. There is no set hire charge, although the Trust reckons that donations will be required to keep the bus running.

Ed Berman, director of Inter-Action, commented on the problem of community transport: "We have had literally hundreds of requests from groups over the years for transport facilities. Previously we could fulfil these re-

quests only occasionally, because of our lack of resources. Since this new bus was donated, we hope it will answer a lot more of the need. Commercial buses are too expensive for community groups. Donations of about half the commercial costs would enable us to run the bus properly.

"We hope that someday an action group or federation of groups in Camden will form to take over the ownership and responsibility of this bus and others like it. Then the community would truly be providing a lot of its own resources and managing them directly as well. It is one of our basic purposes to have the bus and other resources controlled by a separate local management committee which brings together a lot of groups."

Inter-Action live at
14 Talacre Road,
London NW5 3 PE.
Telephone 267-1422

SCAB

Thurs., 6th Dec. "The Music Lovers"
10p M.E. 220

Sat., 8th Dec. LINDISFARNE
and CLAIRE HAMELL

70p in advance IC student, Great Hall

Thurs. 10th or Sat. 12th Jan. for only 15p.
GIMME SHELTER (Rolling Stones) &
MONTEREY POP

XMAS TOPIC

Did you miss the Rag Procession?
Did you miss the I.F. Disco?
Did you miss Tariq's naughty bits almost on display with the stripper at the RCS Smoking Concert — If you did or didn't now's the chance to capture those golden moments of Rag week in Xmas Topic this Friday. Just sit in front of one of the tellies in the J.C.R. Southside or Beit lounge at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. turn to STOIC, sit back and revel.

DEATH OF AN INNOVATION

Prof. Laithwaite's tracked hovercraft "consigned to the industrial waste bin"

With recent world events bringing the term "energy crisis" from the realm of the statistician to impinge directly upon public communication and transport, the inevitable future potential of electrical power and traction has been heavily underlined. The day when to travel by air one may have to cross the Atlantic, all internal flights having been replaced by high speed surface transport, is not so distant as politicians and economists would like to believe.

This is the view of Professor Eric Laithwaite, Head of the Imperial College Heavy Electrical Department and champion of linear motor research and development as the only contending solution to this problem in Britain today.

In 1948, Professor Laithwaite resurrected the concept of a motor that essentially is an unrolled and extended version of the rotary electrical motor commonly known to us today. Producing straight line motion with no moving parts, cranks or gears, records show that the Mayor of Pittsburg constructed a linear motor as far back as 1890! Thirty years after preliminary models were built at Manchester University, Professor Laithwaite and his fellow researchers, have produced an entirely revolutionary concept in surface travel based on their "single sided transverse flux linear motor." The system copes with every facet of a future high speed transport network; propulsion is produced with no mechanical or electrical connections and therefore very little friction, levitation is produced by magnetic suspension, braking is an integral part of the propulsion unit and the system is self guiding. When compared with alternative schemes under development employing wheels on rails, and hover cushions for suspension with even air-screws and rockets for propulsion, it came as a major surprise when plans to close the project test site at Earith, Cambridgeshire were announced early this year.

Export

The reason behind this decision seems ill-defined but rests on one explanation by the Minister for Aerospace and Shipping, Mr. Heseltine, that the conceived linear motor train service, giving speeds of 300 m.p.h. on main line routes, offered "... no commercial use for 'that vehicle' in the United Kingdom within the next fifteen years." The Minister not only seemed unwilling to forecast what Britain's transport needs would be after that period but did not refer to the one field that most suited the linear motored system service characteristic: export.

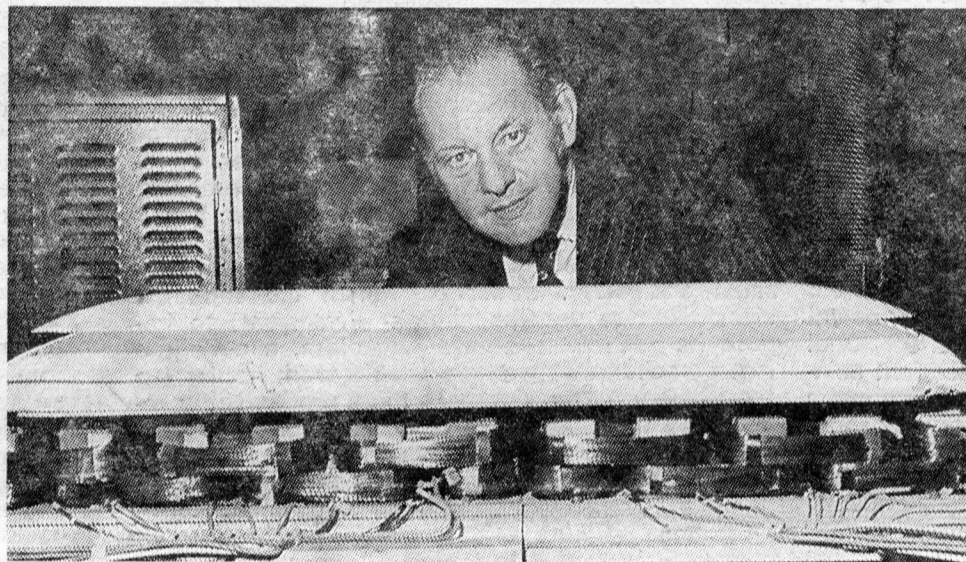
What this system offered in export potential was the opportunity of selling a British system to link up Western Europe before rival projects under study in other European countries reach the stage of perfection to offer viable alternatives.

When Mr. Marsh, Head of British Rail said in 1972 "We know an awful lot about wheels and a lot about track and track maintenance ... a rather better proposition than banking on something about which we know virtually nothing," he avoided the more likely stumbling block to the scheme. Recently the Head of British Rail's research and development division, Dr. Sydney Jones, put his finger nearer to the truth when he stated that restrictions on high speed trains do not lie in the technological difficulties alone. The main problem was to build faster trains that could cope with the excessive curving of

existing rail tracks. Whilst British Rail development seeks to work within the confines of present facilities, by definition, a linear-motored train would involve colossal expenditure in track replacement, essentially along identical routes. Although "wheels on rails" trains would benefit from a track straightening programme, they are content to live within the present restrictions, so offering a far cheaper short term investment.

Waste bin

And so five and a quarter million pounds and thirty years of research and development were consigned to the industrial waste bin in February



Professor Eric Laithwaite behind a tracked hovercraft display model (picture by courtesy of Malcolm McNeill, Daily Mirror).

this year. The project had always been fighting for money, formerly from the restricted pockets of the National Research and Development Corporation. This body, whose total resources are limited to a borrowing ceiling of fifty million pounds, is totally inadequate to spawn the four hundred or so projects it has to investigate every year. Whilst the British site at Earith was closing its gates, its German counterpart, Krauss-Maffei, already having spent twelve million pounds, was eagerly waiting to snap up the know-how and personnel so suddenly flooding the market. Krauss-Maffei hired ten of the Earith technical staff, all of whom turned out to be mechanical engineers not directly concerned with the electrical theory involved.

High-speed

It was here that almost everyone made a colossal oversight. Today in the basement of Imperial College Electrical Engineering block, lie all the accumulated refinements and guts of a perfected system, only waiting for a customer to promote its application. At present, Germany, France, Japan and the U.S.A. run similar projects in high speed transport. None of them have achieved the lead gained at Imperial College despite nine months having elapsed since Earith's closure. Concern must be gripping the Germans as their experiments prove to be more and more expensive at higher speeds, proving true predictions Professor Laithwaite made in the past. Their clients, the Ontario Government, have accordingly become worried as exemplified by Atlantic telephone call to verify the rumours with Professor Laithwaite. The French, led by M. Bertin, until recently employed an air-screw for propulsion instead of a linear motor, whilst the Japan-

ese have started constructing a system they must soon find to be far too costly to be practicable. Nevertheless, in the light of the new, closer Europe, high-speed surface transport must come to fruition before the turn of the century. Despite their temporary setback, the British team come out in a far stronger position than could be predicted, simply due to a series of patent and licensing shields that will effectively give their competitors no option but to seek to buy manufacturing rights. Again this has been achieved not by the grand researches at the Earith test track but by radical thought, a little luck, hard graft and years of experience by the researchers working at

Imperial College Electrical Engineering Department.

One major problem in track development has been the construction of a suitable electro-magnetic joint to connect aluminium sections of the base-plate. The Americans attempted aluminium welding to form a continuous track as used in conventional steel tracks. On the first cold night the rail was ruined by severe cracking. Professor Laithwaite's team have perfected an electro-magnetic connection which allows for an expansion gap between rails of up to one inch without a resulting power loss. The theory behind this is so basic that it is held no alternative answer will be found, again leaving Britain with the upper-hand through patenting procedures. But why is it that foreign companies can afford to sponsor investment whilst Britain, with solutions at hand, cannot effectively utilise them?

Politics

All indications show that remounting interest in the research programme may cause a modified Earith site to reopen. Under the previous scheme, a three mile long test track was envisaged, mounting a high flood bank at the latter stage of the third mile. It was the sinking of costly piles to support this incline that sapped so much of the finance. Now, building only as far as the base of the embankment, a two and a half track is planned for construction on a greatly reduced budget. The scale of the test vehicle is not always appreciated, being sixty feet long, the height of three men and crammed full of electronic telemetry equipment transferred directly from the Harrier jump-jet enabling surveillance of the vehicle's performance. During a visit prior to closure, the

Minister of Transport, Mr. Peyton, made an odd comment, saying that obviously the Advanced Passenger Train was further than Tracked Hovercraft, for it (the APT) contained seats. This was either an off-the-cuff comment of an ill-informed administrator or that of a shrewd man; Professor Laithwaite's philosophy for years has been that to sell a scheme you must take the part of a fairman and give rides.

Inevitably, to sell the merits of the system, Professor Laithwaite has been forced to enter the borderlands of politics, becoming as he prefers the term, a technical "diplomat". In this role he hopes to achieve one of three possible stages for future investment.

Firstly and at present the only operable choice, is to sell patenting rights to competing investors and live on the profits of the know-how alone. Preferably and most likely, Britain will manage to reach the production stage of all rolling stock but track construction will be undertaken by a consortium large enough and with sufficient nerve to venture raising the enormous capital investment necessary. Almost inevitably it seems this consortium will be based in Germany. Finally, British commercial concerns could be responsible for construction of all stages of the project though this is almost certainly a non-starter for the reasons cited in stage two.

Precipice

As a man born in Lancashire, Professor Laithwaite remembers the days of depression when a declining textile industry threw people of all classes into despair and poverty. Whilst the new machinery of the nineteenth century produced the hey-day of the cotton industry, complacency had set in concerning any need to allow for further development.

And so, while contentment reigned, the raw-material producing countries simply built on borrowed experience and carried away the golden egg. In Professor Laithwaite's view, Britain's technical efforts stand on this precipice again. It would be tragic to see another industry die in so similar a manner by the end of this century or sooner.

With this in mind, Professor Laithwaite has increasingly combined his academic role with that of town crier. In his own words, to tell the world that you have something worth looking at is guaranteed no attention. To get on the biggest orange box around and shout we've the greatest, the fastest, the cheapest, the best possible conceivable in the whole of creation, stands you a chance of someone taking a cautious glimpse at what you are peddling. To lend his point more appeal he often summarizes with a quote from W. S. Gilbert.

If you wish in this world to advance
your powers you're bound to enhance.
You must shout it and stomp it,
And blow your own trumpet.
Or trust me, you haven't a chance.

A.Z.

STOP PRESS

In keeping with its policy of faith in the existing rail network, the Government yesterday committed itself to a £891m. investment plan over the next five years to be spent on improving rather than expanding present services and guaranteeing the continuation of the APT project.

Nov. 29th, '73

A.Z.

STUDENTS DECIDE!

NUS Conference, Margate, November 1973

"Students were 'absolutely mad'" to think rent strikes would force the Government to pay higher grants, Lord Annan, a senior member of the university Chancellor's Committee said yesterday.

The Telegraph

'The IC delegation had not really got together before leaving for Margate and had no decided policy. The small contribution made by our delegation was not worth the £250 spent'.

Norman Sayles

'We won a £20 grant increase
We won a £20 grant increase
We won a £20 grant increase!'

NUS

Have a look at our list of delegates, who are John East, Sonia Hochfelder, Alasdhair Campbell, Alf Perry or Trevor Phillips representative of Imperial College opinion? Perhaps Dave Sinclair can be considered to be the true representative of IC; I never heard him come out strongly on any point! The Delegation was picked mainly from the minority of people who take an interest in Union affairs and make sure people hear their left wing policies. However our modest contribution itself helped make up the silent majority at Margate. The atmosphere at the conference and the views put forward can now be arrived at with a little stretch of the imagination. Attending the conference and listening to the over emotional speeches and debates, one gets the impression that students are ready to leave all and join in a massive uprising to destroy the unjust capitalist system and all its evils this moment. One returns to College, impatiently awaiting the Union General meeting when the results of four days of hard work will be put to the college, only to find that the few who do turn up are not particularly impressed by what they are supposed to have voted for! Was it worth going through all the discussions and making all the resolutions? As the NUS never tire of saying, there was a £20 increase in grants last year!

Even accepting the fact that students are not going to be wildly enthusiastic about what conference decides, there is still something to be said for it. It gives people a chance to express their views freely and see how democracy does not work on a large scale! After the real work has been done by the compositing meetings in deciding upon the form the motion and its amendments are to take nothing remains to be done but for the crude demagogues to polarize the arguments completely and whip up people's fears and emotions. Napoleon's sheep then start bleating and a decision is made depending on how far the delegates' emotions have been touched. The conference tries to be democratic in its procedure, but is tangled up in its own mesh of laws and standing orders. Countless challenges are made to the chair and hours are spent sorting out the procedure. The longest wrangle at the last conference took a whole hour to sort out. It will give a short description of what happened.

- 1 Vote on a certain amendment — result close.
 - 2 Count—341 for, 313 against.
 - 3 Call for card vote (delegation vote written on card).
 - 4 Chairman's refusal.
 - 5 Challenge to chairman's ruling.
 - 6 Vote on challenge close.
 - 7 Count: 229 for, 266 against, 7 abstentions.
 - 8 Card vote on amendment.
- The other challenges took anything from 10 to 45 minutes to resolve and

I have lost track of the number of points of order raised. When conference did get down to debating, the time allowed for speeches was 1½ to 2 minutes. There was no time to argue points logically, so the speakers had to rely on the immediate emotional appeal of their speeches and usually run through the well repeated policy of their particular party. Is it democratic to get bogged down in bureaucracy and vote on motions without having the time to discuss them in any detail, and what good are our ideal, democratic resolutions if we cannot enforce them? Perhaps these conferences are the ideal training grounds for our future politicians who want to learn how decisions should be made!

Our Journey

If the IC delegation was not representative of IC, it certainly was very representative of our left wing groups! In our little van we had the most militant members of the International Marxist Group, the workers revolutionary party, and the communist party. It was inevitable that everyone should try to make his own opinion heard, as the only opinion worthy of the IC delegation and within a very short time battles had been waged over all the burning topics. Needless to say, no one changed his mind, learned anything or even listened very carefully. Attention soon wandered to two O-Level students, the delegates from Paddington College of Further Education, who were getting a lift from us. They seemed to show great respect and awe for these important sounding students and tried their best to learn everything! Other more sensible members of the delegation turned to the two French institute girls in the van. Piers Corbyn's neighbour was soon observed to be snoring away, while the other carried on with her book. Fortunately for us Norm didn't pay much attention to all the uproar, and steadily drove on to Margate.

Once at Margate everyone rushed off to the compositing meetings on the subject they were most interested in. A compositing meeting is where the real work is done. Out of the numerous motions and amendments, the most effective are selected and the line of attack decided upon. The exact wording of amendments, the best psychological time of day to forward them and the proposers have to be decided upon. Not being a political animal I chose the gaysoc compositing meeting. The great grievance with gaysoc seemed to be Steve Parry's behaviour at the summer Festival of Youth in Berlin. He had not thought the cause of gaysoc relevant to the delegation policy, was alleged to have struck Peter Tatchell, the gaysoc member, and torn his placard saying 'Gaysoc supports socialism'. The great point to decide upon was whether to censure Steve, ask for a removal of his international responsibilities, or his resignation. No one seemed to be concerned with the future of Gaysoc and its developments. Well, as 'Ali' said 'People will be bitchy!'

Conference began at 7.30 with John Randall, the President's address. The following excerpt will give an idea of John Randall's speech and his conference.

"As our campaign gathers strength we hear again the old cry that students are a privileged elite and should be grateful for their pittance. This is an argument that we have encountered many times in the past, but it has a sinister undertone to it that is worthy of careful examination. If education is seen as a privilege and not

as a right then what is the position of those who do not form the elite group. In a complex modern society a major constraint upon democracy is the inability of the ordinary person to challenge decisions of Government, supposedly taken on highly technical grounds, as well as those decisions that are raised in a more straightforward manner on basic political principles. To deny access to education to substantial sections of the community is to negate the spirit of democracy. But it is not surprising that this Government is not greatly interested in having an educated and informed electorate. We have seen it raise council house rents, and claim to have done so in the interests of tenants. We have seen it champion the cause of industrial democracy by seeking to smash the trade unions. We have seen it claim that rising prices are part of a programme to curb inflation. We have heard it promoting peace, whilst selling arms to Portugal. We have seen it uphold democracy by heading the rush to recognise the fascist junta in Chile. We have heard it describe the biggest trade deficit in history as a problem of success and we have watched it expand education by slowing the rate of growth. Such a Government would hardly wish its electorate to see its catalogue of hypocrisy for what it is. To deny that education is a right of all is to foster the myth of the infallible and omnipotent government and is to devalue and debase democracy".

Reports and Frolics

After the address came a lot of boring events like Minutes, Ratification of Policy, Reports, Announcements, Business and more Reports. I took the opportunity to go round to the back of the hall where all imaginable groups like liberal students, Gaysoc, Palestinians, Greeks, Health students, NUS and of course all factions of the left had stalls and were selling books and publications. One could have arguments along any lines with the attendants who seemed to have nothing better to do than defend their beliefs. The bar was always full and the coffee bar was kept busy selling cups of coffee for 8p whenever it was open. Given a choice I would have spent all my time in the compositing meetings and with the people who really got things done, but Norman seemed to think that a Felix reporter who did not attend the conference full time (9.00 a.m.—12 noon) was not worth his bread, so from then on I spent my time dutifully sitting with Norm (often with all other dele-

gates elsewhere attending to their own interests) ticking the motions and amendments as they were carried, defeated or deleted.

As conference did not end until midnight, all social activities had to be postponed to the early hours of the morning. The bar in our hotel was packed until about 5 a.m. and the board left meeting arranged on Friday went on until 3. There was great uproar over this meeting as the IMG were not allowed, so Piers of course tried to break in without much success. A door was torn down in the process I believe! Discos and parties were also arranged on all the nights.

On Sunday the hotel bar was taken over completely by our overstrained, drunk revolutionary friends. The beauty of the expression on their faces as they cried Revolution! Revolution! could only be appreciated by an outside observer as he fought his way through them! The next morning I was confronted by the havoc they had caused. All the lace curtains had been pulled down, and there were broken bottles and cigarette ends everywhere.

Piers Corbyn I am told slept on a borrowed bed stuck halfway into a cupboard. He invited six other of his friends to share the hospitality of the two original inhabitants of the room!

Grants

The National Union of Students has called for a national rent strike from January 1st in support of all demands in the grants campaign. Negotiations were called futile and the NUS will withdraw from talks with the D.E.S. after the first stage of the Triennial Review procedure.

Unity of policy and action was the main point decided upon at the conference. A national rent strike encourages all colleges to participate, has greater impact, and makes victimisation difficult. The equal priority given to all demands ensures the involvement of a large body of students.

The disinterestedness of university students in the discretionary awards, the first demand in the grants campaign, was blamed for last year's failures. A motion of censure was passed on the executive for their handling of the campaign and for their lack of leadership over the November 14 work in.

Although Imperial College was one of the proposers of the grants motion, it abstained over the vote because of the call for a national rent strike. The union policy of local action is apparent from the way in which the decision over the rent strike has been left to individual Halls and student houses.

Cont. on page 8

Continued from page 2

DERELICT CARS

From time to time, cars are abandoned on the College campus, where they rapidly become derelict and attract the attentions of persons who cannibalise them for spare parts. Eventually they are disposed of at considerable cost to the College. Students and staff are asked to co-operate by not leaving their cars on the car park unless authorised to do so. Should they require any advice on how they can dispose of their unroadworthy vehicle to the Borough Council Car Dump they should seek the advice of the Security Officer.

Felix No. 349; Tuesday, 4th December 1973.

Editor: Alasdhair Campbell.

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Advertising representatives are University Press Representation, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.

Felix is published by the Editor for and on behalf of the Imperial College Union Publications Board, and is printed by F. Bailey and Son Ltd., Dursley, Glos GL11 4BL.

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Felix is a founder member of the London Student Press Association (R.I.P.).



Nick Paynes, Phisiks One on R.C.S. Float.



City and Guilds — Photos by Clive Dewey

ICU Overseas' Students Committee

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday December 6th

Physics Level 8

Traditional Christmas Fare, mince pies,
talk etc.

P.A.W.N.O.

I would like to thank all those people that found time amongst the lack of General Studies lectures to attend what should have been the most important Union Meeting this term. Instead, because of the lack of people, I have now got to start again advertising ANOTHER union meeting to be held this THURSDAY in the UNION CONCERT HALL, starting at 1.00 p.m. The agenda is as before with the most important item being the formation of a TENANTS ASSOCIATION (hopefully). During this week, due to the fact that someone has kindly volunteered to act as Union Publicity Officer, there is a strong possibility that there will be even more publicity than there was last week. If a large number of people turn up there is an even stronger possibility that this will escalate and attract more people. The reason the same motions turn up every time is that they are carried over from meeting to meeting because of quorum challenges. If you don't want them to come up every time, then come to the Union Meeting and either pass or reject them. The sooner we take a decision on them the sooner we can move on to fresh business. Don't forget UNION MEETING THIS THURSDAY IN THE CONCERT HALL.

BEIT HALL BASEMENT

The college fire officer is very worried about the rubbish being stored in the Beit basement. On inspection with him last week I agreed with him. There is a large accumulation of rubbish, clothes and other odds and ends that ought to be removed. Therefore (and this is mainly directed to those that are actually storing items down there) I have proposed the following: 1. If there is anything that you don't want thrown away will you please let me know by Friday, 21st December. 2. Will the owners of the old clothes please arrange for them to be delivered to their ultimate destination. 3. All volunteers willing to help clear the area will be most welcome.

POSTER STEALERS

I have noticed, as have a number of people, that there seems to be a rash of Poster Removing occurring at the present time. The removal of a notice is not a democratic way of expressing your disagreement with the views ex-

pressed by the people who put the poster up in the first place. If you wish to disagree then go along to the meeting advertised or write a letter to the people concerned or other such similar actions. This is especially true when posters advertising Union Meetings are removed. By doing this you are depriving someone of his right to the knowledge that such a meeting exists.

MECH. ENG. REP.

Mr. Richard L.I. Lolley resigned on the 7th November from the above post. A nomination paper was posted for the required 8 college days. When this was removed there was only one nomination, that of Mr. Martin Philo of Mechanical Engineering 3. I therefore deem Mr. Philo to be elected.

COPULATION IN THE UNION CHAIR STORE

At the last Council meeting held on Monday, 12th November it was brought to the attention of the members present that people had been seen copulating in the Union Chair Store (beneath the stage). Although the discussion at this point was a bit unclear there seemed to be a general consensus that this was not really the right place for it. One of the reasons for this is that it could constitute a fire hazard (sort that one out if you can). Could all those people who regularly use the chair store for copulation therefore cease to do so immediately.

UNION LIFT

Those of you who regularly use the Union building and especially its facilities on the upper floors may have noticed by now that the lift is out of order. The reason for this is simple. Someone (or maybe something) has kindly removed the control plate from inside. The lift is an old one and parts are hard to come by. Because of this it may be Easter before the lift is back in operation. I hope that all you people that have to walk up the stairs several times a week think about this. Maybe one of you somewhere knows who has the missing item. Just think, three months without a lift in the Union adds up to an awful lot of stair climbing. I'm glad I very rarely have to go above the first level.

P. A. WADSWORTH,
Hon. Secretary.

COME TO THE FAIR

8th Annual International
Fair, 1973

Wednesday 5th and Thursday
6th December 7.00 p.m.
onwards

to be visited by H.M. Queen
Elizabeth the Queen Mother

34 International Pavilions,
Eurobars, Raffles, Tombola,
Hourly entertainments
Bistrotheque, 3 Restaurants
and Discotheque

International Students House,
229 Great Portland St., London W1
Tel. 636-8471
(opp Gt. Portland St. tube station)
contact Ida Glaser, Physics P.G.
for further details. Physics Room
1012e

The Sporting Life

I. C. Golfing Society

Match Report for 28th November

With the wind howling and the first snowflakes falling over South Kensington the I.C. Golf Team headed for the country hoping to gain some respite. As we drove towards New Malden we had hoped that the wind would slacken and the sun appear as Tony Blackburn had indicated on the radio only that morning. It did not; in fact it became worse. Rich, driving his Land-Rover as only he can tried to check this deterioration by cutting down dead-end lanes and even heading back to London. Alas! it was all in vain and by the time the Kingston Poly captain greeted us at Malden G.C. our appetite for competition had become somewhat frozen.

While the opposition stood shivering on the 1st tee the I.C. team helped themselves to some excellent ham sandwiches (with and without mustard!) as well as a few shots of whisky. Clive Pemberton was upset to discover that the club possessed no raw onions, knowing full well that his golfing performance without onions would be similar to Popeye's strength behaviour without spinach. However the thought of the cold afternoon awaiting him soon cooled him

down.

For tactical reasons the captain insisted on the team staying indoors for at least half an hour reasoning that the opposition's feet would by then be part of the local pack ice. He was not far wrong.

Walking out to the first tee the captain decided he could not play more than twelve holes in such conditions. He would therefore have to slaughter his opponent quickly. This he duly did, ably aided and abetted by his opponent who, on finding himself five down after seven holes, decided against a comeback and slid to an eight and six defeat. This whole match took little over an hour and it was not until almost an hour later, whilst the captain was warming his socks by the open fire in the lounge, that the next of the 'Nordic Braves' skated in. This warrior was none other than new cap Mike Strickland showing a broad four and three victory smile, a smile that he was unable to alter until he had poured a couple of steaming hot cups of tea down his glacier-ridden throat.

Darkness fell and the resting competitors grew anxious. Where was superstar Bill Calderwood, Richdrover Brown,

Clive Pemberton and Richard Waddilove? Could they be lost? Our fears faded as dinner was served and soon we did not care. It was whilst in this pleasant spirit that Bill (alias God) came in, an obvious victor by three and two. 'Drover' Brown followed him, having halved his match. Old 'Land Rich' had really cut things fine, being three down with four to play. Soon after this Richard Waddilove came in, an easy victor by three and two (repaying the faith the committee had had in selecting him. This lad shows great promise!)

When dinner was over we all sat back and relaxed by discussing the 'Energy Crisis' in front of a large electric heater. Whilst in the process of totting up the score Bill noticed we were one point short. It was then that we recalled that Clive had not arrived in yet. Immediately the two sides decided to send out a search party. When all was organised Mike Strickland broke in (looking out the window at the time) saying, 'Jeeze, it's still snowing and looks damned cold!'

The search party sat down again and waited. On the stroke of five Clive staggered in a complete wreck. His golf

bag was frozen to his back, his hair covered in snow. Before he collapsed, knocking over my whisky as he did so (a bad move) he muttered through his sleet-infested jaw 'Lost!' Pouncing onto the frozen onion eater we nursed him back to life with injections of brandy. When he came to we asked him 'Why the hell did you stay out in the darkness and cold if you were going to lose?' It was then that he expounded on how he was one down after seventeen holes and since his opponent was clearly losing his way in the darkness he felt he could tie the match at the last hole. Thus he whopped his final drive straight down the middle whilst his opponent putted his way up the fairway, keeping the ball clearly in sight. Clive walked up to where his ball should have been and did not see it. Hence he had to concede the hole and match to his no-good-son-of-a-polygun opponent.

That Clive's match was an epic history will undoubtedly show. Indeed, although the season is yet young I have little doubt that when the historians come to review the season, Clive's match will be regarded as his finest hour, Rich's his nearest hour, and for the skipper his coldest hour. The match as a whole will stand as a tribute to the quality of guts mankind in all its forms can demonstrate; even as students.

Final Result: I.C. won 4½—1½.

Team: Nigel Foster (Capt.), Bill Calderwood, Rich Brown, Mike Strickland, Clive Pemberton, and Richard Waddilove

(this is his real name. In previous editions of 'Felix' his various aliases have been used for security reasons — now

he is an established star this is no longer necessary).

Nigel Foster

Stratford Competition 28th November

Those members of the I.C.G.A. who didn't quite make the grade of the first team also braved the cold east wind and the howling blizzards of Wednesday, November 28th. The scene was suitably set, the course covered by ice-sheets, and greens lacking flagsticks. Nine brave members turned out including such personalities as Bev (B.M.W.) Smith, Jules (the hustler) Dan, Adrian (the money) Evans, and Ron (can you lend me a golf ball?) Weatherall. Others included Tim Round, Mike (Mini) Marx and Howard Rosser.

The winner by 6 points was, surprise, surprise—Jules Dan, who returned an 88—playing 6 strokes below his 'official' handicap. Joint second were Tim Round and Adrian Evans, both

with 32 points — the latter also scoring an 88.

All available members of the golf club are encouraged to turn up at R.M.S. at about 13.00 hrs. on Wednesdays for these Stratford competitions. For a 10p entrance 'stake' which goes into a 'pot' you have the chance to return from the golf club actually having made a profit! (winner takes all). So far the record 'pot' has been 80p! — surely worth turning up for.

If you golfers turn up at Civ. Eng. at 12.30 hrs. on Wednesdays, there is generally a good chance of transport being available (though no guarantee of this can be given). And now that JULES has had his handicap cut to 18 by a majority decision of the Committee, everyone has a chance of winning.

Canoe Club

Several days ago, members of I.C. Canoe Club took part in the 'Descent of the River Exe' from above Tiverton to Exeter, a gruelling 19 mile race with fearsome rapids and 10 large weirs to be shot. The entry this year was a record breaking 425 in all classes. The 6 I.C. paddlers and support crew joined the ULU party.

We travelled to Exeter on the Friday night in a transit and assorted cars (6 of them). Saturday was spent looking over the course (pubs) and

The starts were chaotic. Between 30 and 80 boats lined up across the river facing upstream, the gun went and all raced 200 yards upstream, round a buoy and back down towards the first weir. Then another bunch started, also going upstream, to do the same manoeuvre. This was repeated about 8 times.

Despite several swims and eskimo rolls all I.C. paddlers reached the finish some with rather smashed borrowed boats (one lost most of the

WHICH WAY NOW?

CROSS COUNTRY CLUB REPORT

Last Wednesday, a consortium of twelve intrepid cross-country runners set off for the polar wastes of Potters Bar in what can only be termed 'a conglomeration of odds and ends'—otherwise known as an R.C.C. minibus. With Steve Webb once again proving that this contraption could in fact move, despite the fact that he was flying around alarmingly on a sliding seat, we found ourselves at the Vets College at the ridiculously early hour of 2 o'clock.

Cross-country club efficiency was once again displayed when the Vets captain — and also a U.L. official, which explains everything—asked us when we had been invited, as though we weren't supposed to be running. Despite the absence of G. Imp, the misunderstanding was cleared up and along with L.S.E., Vets and Brunel, I.C. lined up to

face battle with the near-Arctic conditions—Pad says he is working on a centrally heated jock strap as certain extremities tend to freeze up when it gets so cold.

The course was 5 miles of ploughed field, numerous stiles and barbed wire fences, woods and railway embankments, and anything else you care to think of. Unfortunately, the snow obliterated many of the flour markings, and any number of conferences were held to decide which way to go, and matters were not helped when workmen showed us the wrong way. Rob Allinson, once again, led I.C. home in 6th place, and would have done even better in Pad's wellies. Then followed Ian Ellis in 12th place and Paul Clarke in 14th. Rich 'Hair Artist' Harrington came in with Keith 'my knickers are wet' Ahlers in joint 18th position

and then came the famous packing at the back, for which IC CCC has become renowned in athletic circles. Steve Webb, after turning an ankle in one of the many ploughed fields, ran in with Rich 'Alf' Garnett, who seems to be suffering more than most of us, from a lack of training. Ashley Cooper was 23rd, narrowly ahead of Mike Welford in 25th, despite having numerous stops to decide whether we were lost.

The match officials were just about to give up hope of seeing the rest of IC, presuming them lost without trace, when we saw the unmistakable sign of Pad's golden locks fluttering in the wind. Along with him were the Honorary Football Officer, Rob Maddison, and Andy Fairhead. Afterwards, as if it weren't already cold enough, we were given a drink of ice-cold shandy. Then back to

the changing rooms, and a free five-minute demonstration by Rob Maddison on how to dismantle a shower unit.

After a good tea, we returned to the Queen's in rapid fashion, and then the Union, where Rob Allinson emptied his pockets of our money, Keith Ahlers insisted on going to the Boltons, and is now a changed man. The meeting was adjourned at an unknown hour.

Injuries include Pete Johnson (bruised foot), J. S. (Jockstrap?) Kaliray (weak excuse), Geoff Spurr (bruised foot), G. Imp (irreparable brain damage), Dave Howlbrooke and Dave Jones with too much work. Neil Boag has been listed a missing person. Dave Payne didn't ask for a mention in Felix this week, so he's not getting one.

MJW



inspecting the damage cause to 2 of the cars when they both argued with the same tree. Saturday evening was spent drinking tactics and discussing beer in a superb little pub.

Sunday morning eventually came and everyone was suddenly struck by illness. The team doctors, physio and nurses (from various London Hospitals) claimed it was nerves and so despite some brilliant detours we all reached the start. The weather was rather cold and the water even colder.

John Hubbard finished 1st in Senior K2 bringing back a big pot and a shield. Diana Dalglish came 3rd, much to her surprise, in the Ladies. Bob Joce, Tim Perry and Bob Evans came 9th, 10th and 30th respectively out of 130 starters in the Slalom Class. Dave Rosenthal doesn't think he came last. He did cross the finish line with most of his boat and several people left way behind him. Dave was paddling Senior K1.

John H. and Tim P.

Continued from page 5

The demands given equal priority are:

1) the abolition of discretionary awards. 15-20% of postgraduates, many students at technical colleges and those who change course or repeat a year at present receive no grant at all.

2) The raising of the main rates of the grant to a realistic level calculated according to alteration in the student cost index.

3) Parity for married women's grants with the full grant rate.

4) An annual grants review.

5) An end to all anomalies in the grants system.

6) the abolition of the means test.

7) Full grants for unmarried mothers plus a full dependents allowance.

8) Parity for postgraduates and health service students with the full grant rate.

To meet these demands will cost an extra £323m. according to the T.H.E.S.

White Paper on Education

Campaign against White Paper just as important and linked with Grants Campaign.

The Government's provisions on every aspect of education, nursery education, teacher supply, teacher education, secondary education, further education, adult education, part time education and higher education were found to be totally inadequate. The government proposes to cut back student places from 835,000 to 750,000 in 1981. The introduction of the Diploma in Higher Education which is a two year course is felt to be a cheap form of education inferior in results to an equal time spent at a university degree course and unwanted by employers. The entrance requirement of two A-Levels for entry into B.Ed. degrees are felt unfair and discriminatory against working class children who have not had great emphasis placed on their academic achievements.

An amendment to blacklist all colleges offering the Dip.HE was defeated, as the decision lies with sixth formers and not students, and there did not seem to be a satisfactory way

of mobilising the schools as well as colleges. A pupil desperate for a place in higher education might not be very co-operative in refusing a chance to get a Dip.HE.

The main decision taken was to recognise that the White Paper campaign was just as important, if not more so, than the Grants Campaign and that they should both be given equal priority.

Miners and Phase III

Our only speaker booed!

Conference condemned Phase III for lowering the living standards of the majority of the population and curtailment of working class rights of free collective bargaining, and for serving the interests of the monopolies, and their allies, the tiny majority of the population who own and control the country's wealth. The only way of defeating Phase III was seen to be through united action of those whose interests it damages, the working class and its allies including the student movement.

Conference therefore decided to pledge full support to the miners' strike and help it in any way possible.

An amendment proposed by Norwood Tech. pointed out that the miners' struggle raised the question of power and was not merely a test of strength between the miners and the Government.

Speakers, on behalf of the amendment, from the Workers Revolutionary Party warned continually of the fact that the Tories will not hesitate to bring in troops and tanks due to the economic crisis.

IC's only speaker Alasdair Campbell, supporting the amendment claimed that the Littlejohn affair was only the tip of the iceberg of the Government's undemocratic proceedings and was booed for recommending a united campaign with the miners for the removal of the Tory government.

Delegates

Norman Sayles, Trevor Phillips, David Sinclair, John Porter, John East, Alasdair Campbell, Alf Perry, Sonia Hochfelder.

Editor's note: this is the personal viewpoint of the Felix reporter at the Conference.

IC SQUAT IN 28 JAY MEWS

On the afternoon of last Thursday a group of students from Imperial College, in conjunction with Maida Hill Squatters, took over 28 Jay Mews — which has been empty for 6 months while students and families throughout London suffer chronic homelessness and high rents.

28 Jay Mews—like a number of other dwellings in the same block—is empty because, it is believed, the owner is speculating; hoping that by getting vacant possession of the whole block it could be profitably sold to Imperial College or used for other redevelopment.

Students today in London cannot afford to live. Typically, rents are £9 p.w.—this is impossible on a grant of £520 p.a.

Students cannot hope to reverse the State's Tory educational policies unless we can prevent the implementation of these policies.

A big factor in the chronic shortage of student accommodation in London is the cut-back in Higher Education expenditure, which means accommodation is not built, subsidies are cut so college refectory prices go up, and the real value of grants is reduced.

In Essex University students are continuing their occupation of the University administration block. Today there is a national demonstration there in response to the call put out at Margate NUS Conference to defend that occupation. The squat of 28 Jay Mews is part of that solidarity action. The Essex occupation is directly against the cut-backs and their effects in Essex—for instance they are demanding firm guarantees that

catering and accommodation facilities are expanded.

In Westminster at the moment 1 in 8 houses is empty. We believe that if the College Authorities are at all serious in their support for the grants campaign they should support this squat and in conjunction with Westminster Council make use of some of these empty buildings for the housing of students and families. There are more empty dwellings in Westminster than homeless people.

From this squat we ask the college authorities to:

1. Negotiate with the owners and Westminster Council to arrange permanent use of 28 Jay Mews and other empty dwellings in the block. This to be done by a compulsory purchase order if necessary.

2. Pay for repairs to and legal defence of the building.

We are approaching other squatting groups, housing groups, tenants' organisations, and Trade Unions to take part in the wider fight for decent housing for all; and insist that the homeless — students or families — are not to blame for homelessness therefore the authorities must be made to provide; and where they fail to do so we support its taking — its real nationalisation—as we are doing.

STUDENTS DEMAND A LIVING GRANT AND A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE IN!

SOLIDARITY WITH ESSEX OCCUPATION — ROLL BACK THE CUTS IN EDUCATION!

NO EVICTIONS!

HOUSING FOR ALL!

**DROP EVERYTHING
AND COME
TO THE GREAT
HALL ON THURS.
6 DECEMBER
AT 12.45-13.45
In Charge: COLLEGE
MEDICAL STAFF**

An accident occurs, Someone is hurt,
You are nearby:

At once you telephone the Health
Centre: Priority!—but it may be 5
or 10 minutes before expert help
arrives.

What to do in that vital 10
minutes? What not to do? It is
important that you should know.

“You” is everyone reading this
paper.

**ATTEND A
BRIEFING SESSION
ON
FIRST FIRST AID**