



January 8th, 1974.

Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

ISSUE No. 351

UGM

THURSDAY 17th

RENT STRIKE

MEETING VOTES TO CONTINUE

A meeting of Hall and House residents, held on Sunday evening, decided that the Rent Strike, called for this term, should go ahead.

The meeting that had about 130 interested people present voted by 65 votes to 44 that in their opinion the rent strike should go on."

The meeting was opened at around 8 p.m. with Mr. Sayles in the chair. This was later passed to Mr. Wadsworth when he arrived.

There was a very varied and, at times, heated discussion on all aspects of the Rent Strike along with other related and semi-related issues.

In a speech against, one member suggested, that, as a show of strength, we choose four major roads into London and cause a traffic jam during the rush hour. This brought the house down in a fit of laughter.

Norman Sayles explained how the Rector now thought it unlikely, in the present crisis, that we would get any increase at all.

Mr. Sinclair, deputy president, gave a detailed and well thought out speech against the Rent Strike.

The debate was quite active, ranging from well

known union figures such as John Lane, John East, Dave Osborne to people who had never been heard from before.

There was a tendency for the discussion to waver from its intended course with brief discussions about Dave Sinclair's preference to 'bum licking', suggestions that all members joined the Conservative Party and numerous other amusing discourses.

It was finally decided that a vote should be held. After a final speech for and against Mr. Sayles summed up. The summing up speech was simple yet forcefully put.

Before the vote the Chairman, Mr. Wadsworth, ruled out any further speeches and also separated the few non residents that were present.

As already shown, the vote was in favour of a Rent Strike continuing.

It doesn't need an expert at mathematics to realise that if the strike is 100 per cent successful then over £40,000 will be collected. Proportionate involvement will,

of course, produce a proportionately sized rent fund.

A meeting of the I.C.T.A. Executive Committee will be held as soon as possible and elections for the various posts held. In the meantime, when you wish to pay your cheques into the fund then make them payable to the I.C.T.A Rent Fund.

They will be accepted by Paul Wadsworth, Hon. Secretary I.C. Union, who will give you a receipt and ask you to fill an entry in a cash book. Because of this, it is necessary for you to pay your cheques in person to Paul. When the system is working it may be possible to make the transaction through the Union Card.

If you wish to withdraw your money before the end of the term, then please contact Paul again. When the committee is elected, withdrawals will only be possible with two or maybe even three signatures. This is to safeguard against illegal withdrawals of funds.

WANTED

AN

EDITOR FOR

FELIX

Please apply to the Union office or see **PAWNO** (page 5) for details

SUPPORT THE RENT STRIKE – PAY YOUR MONEY IN NOW

MIKE IS BACK

SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS

Letters

Please Help Charity

Sir, Stamp Collection for Charity

Mrs. Burgess in the Post Room, 4th floor, Metallurgy Dept., is collecting postage stamps for charity. Any stamps will do—foreign, British, even ordinary 3p and 3½p stamps. They are sold to stamp collectors abroad. Just cut the stamp from the envelope, and when you have a few, put them in the Internal Mail to Mrs. Burgess at the above address.

Silver Foil Collection for Charity

The John Percy Group in the Metallurgy Dept. is saving silver foil—milk tops, yoghurt container tops, take-away food containers, etc. etc. (but clean please!). Keep rolling your silver paper up into a ball, and when you have one 2 or 3 inches big, pop that into an envelope addressed

to the John Percy Group, Metallurgy Dept.

The Legal Aid Centre on Golborne Road (off Ladbroke Grove, near the tube station) appears to be having difficulty in finding new premises. It is having to send a petition to Kensington and Chelsea Council to try and get these badly needed premises. The Centre has helped many thousands of local people with legal problems, about three-quarters of them absolutely free of charge. Most of these people would not have been able to afford any other form of legal aid. So if you are a resident in the borough and are in this area at all, please pop into the centre and sign the petition. It is only a few minutes walk from Ladbroke Grove Tube Station.

C. M. Robinson, P.G.
Metallurgy Dept., John
Percy Group, Int. 2175.

Open letter to all Club/Societies Chairmen

Dear Chairman,

At present I am acting as editor for Felix, though this may change in the near future. In the meantime, however, I intend to go ahead with one or two ideas for the paper.

The first of these is a regular Societies page. In this I hope to present an idea of the activities etc. carried out by a number of clubs each week. Hopefully there will be one club each from ACC, SCC and RCC in every edition. The sort of questions I would like answered are

What does the club do?

Participation outside college

Success in anything

Where to find out more

Where to join

etc., etc., etc.

Some of the questions are not relevant to everyone. I would like between 400 and 600 words if possible. Preferably no more but I will definitely accept less. Typewritten entries would be preferred, but failing that neat handwriting please. I would also be grateful if you could count the number of words and put this number in the top right hand corner of your submission. I will try and submit them in the order I receive them. First copies should reach me by Tuesday, 15th January, to go in the next edition.

This is your chance to advertise your club.

Please use it.

P. A. Wadsworth.

Hon. Sec. I.C. Union.

Righteous Bros.

Sir,

I feel moved to make a point regarding 'GJK's' review of Lindisfarne's concert at IC. Please tell him that even if the Walker Bros. did ever do 'You've lost that lovin' feeling' I for one wouldn't want to hear it. The people that did the definitive version were the Righteous Bros. and as it happens to be in my top 10, 20 whatever singles of all time a mistake like that matters to me.

D. A. Lewis,
Administration.

APOLOGY

Of course you are right, and I apologise for the slip of the pen. Apparently I also made a bit of a boob concerning Alan Hull, who I claimed had left Lindisfarne. Any other comments regarding my reviews welcomed.

G.J.K.

Aunty Lucy column

Starting in the next edition of Felix, there will be, hopefully, an Aunty Lucy column—Felix's challenge to the long-reigning champion Marjorie Proops. If you have any problems at all, and would like some outside advice please address them to Aunty Lucy, care of the Union Office. Letters will be treated in the utmost confidence, and no indication of their source will be printed. This is an attempt at starting a serious column, and obviously frivolous letters will be treated with the disdain they deserve. Don't forget, address your problems to Aunty Lucy, c/o I.C. Union Office.

JAY MEWS

Yes, last term squat is still there—and now has homeless families with kids in it too. Students, after all, are fighting "for a living grant and a decent place to live in" AND decent housing for everyone else too.

An eviction order has been granted to the owners (the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, the college's landlords). They haven't tried to use it properly yet except on New Year's eve, when they broke-in (despite a promise made in Court not to do anything before the New Year)—and left after being caught by three students (see Joy Mews News No. 3).

The owners have so far failed to give clear answers to three questions.

1. Will they undertake not to attempt an

eviction before the Court Appeal which is being lodged against them?

2. Will they allow the premises to be used at least until they need it?

3. What do they intend to do with the empty houses anyway?

Come round to Joy Mews, support the squat. **Be ready to rush there and help defend it as soon as you hear.**

If students show their support enough then maybe the College and Westminster Council can be forced—along with the owners—to enable more long term usage of the empty properties for students and families.

Telegram from Leeds Poly — "STOP EVICTIONS. STOP. DON'T STOP THE SQUAT. STOP." Right on! . . .

Piers Corbyn.

Subject to the acceptance of the minutes, the following are the decisions reached at the last Union Council held on Monday, 10th December, 1973.

Essex Sit-In

Mr. Sayles proposed "that I.C. Union write to Essex Students' Union stating that the Union does not support the sit-in at the Administration Block in Essex University, but would support the Essex Students' Union if they adopted a more reasonable attitude". This was carried—For: 15, Against 10; Abstentions: 5.

ULU Reps

As Mr. O. Dowson has failed to attend ULU SRC meetings he shall be deemed to have resigned if he does not attend the next meeting, and an election shall be held to replace him.

COUNCIL REPORT

Universities Specialist Conference

After numerous elections, six names were elected as delegates to the above to be held on the 5th-7th January, 1974, at University of Surrey. The names were Norman Sayles, John Porter, Paul Wadsworth, Trev Phillips, Geraldine Bowden, John Smith. (Note: Due to pressure of work, P. Wadsworth, N. Sayles and G. Bowden have had to drop out and another P.G. has gone in their place.)

Constitution

A working party to look into changes in the constitution and standing orders was set up.

Finance

Council ratified the expenditure, as suggested by U.F.C. of the following:

Two new Roneo Duplicators—£460 and the partial reconditioning of one of the present machines. The two new machines to be used by trained operators only.

New Decca colour television for the Union—£270.

The appointment of a part-time shorthand-typist—£300-£400?

Trials motor cycle for C. + G. motor club, and also a Go-Kart—£98 and £100.

With regards to a synthesiser for Wellsoc (£485) it was decided to defer the decision till next Council and Well-

soc to obtain costings as to hiring a synthesiser.

After some discussion it was decided to purchase a moped for use by Council members on official business.

Mr. Sedgwick proposed that the question of a £100 donation to Chile funds be referred to the next U.G.M. On a vote this was carried. For 23; Against: 5.

Council agreed (For 22; Against: 8) to donate £10 to each person going on tour with the I.C. Boat Club to America.

Entertainments

Mr. Amor reported a loss of £461.45. Council agreed that the ents. committee should continue as at present (i.e. along the lines decided at a UGM earlier in the term).

Social Secretaries Conference

Following a report from Mr. Simmons it was decided not to send delegates to further such conferences.

Accommodation

Reported that a questionnaire would be circulated in co-operation with the Registry.

Mr. East proposed that the 35p levy should be shown as being a voluntary payment on the forms sent out by the Registry. This was carried. For: 23; Against: 7.

S.C.C.

Council was of the opinion that if a club wishing to apply for finance

in order to send a delegation to a demonstration, this was a matter for the SCC to decide.

R.C.C.

The proposed changes to the RCC Standing Orders were accepted.

The new transport charges and rules governing the van use were also accepted.

Felix

Mr. A. Campbell had sent a letter of resignation. This was accepted with regrets and it was agreed to send a letter of thanks for his work.

Mr. Sayles proposed that:

1. Felix be published once a fortnight.
2. There should be a sports editor.
2. There should be an editorial board with representatives from the C.C.U's.
4. The sabbatical should be suspended for the rest of the session.
5. There should be an overall co-ordinator, initially to be Mr. Wadsworth.

On a vote the proposals were carried nem com.

British Association Student Section

It was reported that the College had donated £30 towards the cost of sending delegates to the above conference on 2nd-5th January, 1974.

MIKE

A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Sinclair for his work in obtaining the return of MIKE.

Felix, Newspaper of Imperial College
Union.

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RECTOR SLAMS ASTMS LEADERS

On Friday, 21st December (last day of the college term) the Rector, Sir Brian Flowers, addressed a letter to the secretary of the college ASTMS branch. This was in reply to their accusations lev-

elled at the college administration in general and the personnel officer in particular. The letter is printed in full as the Rector hopes that it will be as widely publicised as possible. It appears that

the ASTM's attempt to "try out" the new Rector over a strong political point is not going to go the way their leaders would like. Printed here are the two letters and I'll let you judge for yourself.

To all members of the Governing Body:

It is axiomatic that the College administration will stand between the Governing Body and the staff of the College. We do not know how the Administration report on non-academic staff matters or on College based trade unions. We only know what the College

Administration carry out in the name of the Governing Body. We know that secretly, to give favours to non-trade unionists, the College Administration is breaking a national agreement. We know that there was extensive questioning of applicants for a post of Departmental Superintendent regarding membership of ASTMS, centred

round the insulting attitude of loyalty to ASTMS vis-a-vis loyalty to the College.

You will therefore not be surprised if we take the opportunity to report direct to you and elsewhere, in such a way as is constructive. The enclosed copy of an open letter is such a report.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. H. Fairbrother,
Secretary.

An Open Letter— Should the Personnel Secretary Resign?

There is an organisation existing to which most Personnel Officers belong. This organisation aims to foster high standards of integrity in that profession. It proclaims that the function of a Personnel Officer is to honestly attempt to solve industrial relations problems, even if this involves disagreeing with their employer.

Does Mr. Malone measure up to these admirable standards?

It is the view of the Branch Committee that he does not.

The College brought him in to improve staff-College relations, at least that what was the former Rector said at the time. The reverse has happened. Never has there been such a bad and disgraceful situation as now exists.

The National Agreement requires the post of Departmental Superintendent to be part of the Technical Staff structure, if the work done is the same as the Job Description in the Blue Book. Everybody knows that that is the case in this College, nevertheless the College will not comply with this Agreement.

We have a local agreement that a special criteria should be used to decide whether Experimental Officers should be regarded as Academic or Technical Staff. We are sure that this is being broken, and that some "blue eyed boys" are being slipped through as para-Academics, when they do not meet the criteria.

Every request by us to be able to check what has happened has been evaded.

There is a National Agreement covering the way in which Non Union people can appeal against their gradings. This agree-

ment involves our participation in the Appeals Committee. We have now discovered that this is also being secretly broken. Non-Union Experimental Officers who had been placed in the Technical Staff, but believe that they should be 'Academics', are appearing before Special Appeal Committees, without either our knowledge or agreement. Our protests have been ignored.

Months ago we discussed with the College a request by us for direct ASTMS representation on both the Safety and Training Committee. We were promised an early reply. Not only has there been no reply, but we know that IC has since made a statement to the University Safety Officers Committee that there should be no Union representation on any Safety Committee.

In April last we made proposals to regrade a member of the Maintenance staff who holds a responsible position. It is our view that he should be graded as a Maintenance Officer and properly paid. In fact he is underpaid and graded as a Clerk. In the last month we have made three requests for a meeting to clear the matter up, but have failed to get a meeting.

Similarly with the College Telephone Engineers. Hitherto they have been linked with the Technicians for grading and pay. With restructuring what will happen to them?

Repeated requests for a meeting bring promises but no meeting.

All the above are but a selection of the problems that we have been unable to solve. The most serious question, however, is the totally unacceptable situation on Restructuring of the Technical Staff.

There were 149 appeals by Union members, 54

have been heard, leaving 95 yet to be done. Every other London College has finished the entire procedure, local, Regional and National level appeals. The absence of any effort by the College to complete the exercise is due to an attitude of contempt by them for the Technical Staff.

Moreover, despite the fact that in some departments, notably Mechanical Engineering Department, the exercise was carried out in the most inefficient and biased manner, no attempt has been made to rectify the bad initial gradings. This has resulted in members being forced into the Appeals machinery quite unnecessarily, and with no guarantees of obtaining justice.

There has been extraordinary happenings affecting individuals, even including attempts at intimidation. The case of our Branch Chairman, Arthur Sier, being one of the worst. The Personnel Secretary told him quite bluntly that if he put his own case to appeal, then he would be made to regret it!

Needless to say those remarks were made to the wrong address!!

So, where do we go? Can we go on like this?

About a year ago, all of the Unions in the College met the College Secretary to request changes in the attitude of the Personnel Department. Promises were made but things are now worse than ever.

It is now becoming clear that normal negotiating channels are being closed to us. This we will not tolerate.

There are other ways to get things done and we must be prepared to use them.

On behalf of the
Branch Committee,
H. Fairbrother,
Secretary.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

At the last meeting of Council a working party was set up to look into the present constitution, by-laws and standing orders. There are a lot of inconsistencies contained within the present Blue Book and these will be the first to be removed. It is also intended that there should be some radical changes in certain areas of the Union, e.g. Council, External Affairs. Another failing of the present constitution is the lack of definition of what various officers and representatives are actually expected to do. It is hoped that

everyone, from the President down to department and floor reps. will eventually have some definition and guide-lines as to their purpose.

The first changes arising out of this will hopefully be seen at the first UGM this term. Standing Orders only require to be passed at one UGM with notice having been given beforehand. A new set of standing orders, covering most of the present points and also including several new ones will be put before the meeting. It is hoped that these, com-

combined with more efficient chairing, will greatly streamline the running of the Union Meetings with less chance of time-wasting techniques. Copies of these new standing orders should be available soon (if not sooner) and comments on them will be gratefully received. Paul Wadsworth, Hon. Sec., will accept the comments on these and on changes that Union members would like to see to the Union Blue Book. Please address all correspondence on the matter to Paul, c/o the Union Office.

U G M

NEXT

Thursday

IMPERIAL COLLEGE BOOKSHOP LEVEL TWO WALKWAY

Dear Mr. Fairbrother,

In my letter of 8 November I said that I had asked the College Secretary to seek a meeting with you to examine your specific complaints. He has now reported to me.

Some of the issues about which you complain are those where College decisions have been taken which the Personnel Secretary is therefore instructed to implement; some are of a policy nature and require further consideration and discussion; and there are others less significant, perhaps, which, given good will on both sides, it should be possible to resolve without acrimony or delay. No doubt, in all these issues, there may be differences of interpretation of local or national agreements. And perhaps there are, or will be, genuine differences of opinion. That is inevitable, and it is why we need

machinery for settling our differences.

For my part, I intend to do what I can to ensure that all sections contribute to the life of the College in the way best suited to their talents and to the general good. What I am not prepared to do in any circumstances is to conduct business by way of deliberate misrepresentations and crude threats. I reject entirely any statement or suggestion that the College has shown favour to one section of the staff against another. I find particularly unacceptable the sort of intemperate language which, from my reading of the file, seems to characterise almost every communication from IC ASTMS, both public and private. I would be reluctant to believe that your membership, comprising so many of the excellent and loyal technical staff of

the College, subscribes to this method of doing business.

Although, therefore, some policy issues are still outstanding and although our administrative methods will continue to require development to deal with a changing set of problems, I propose to instruct the College officers not to respond in future to communications (whether written or verbal) couched in the terms, for example, of your letter to Mr. Malone on Appeals Machinery.

I trust that you will make known to your members the contents of this letter. I am myself copying it to the Deans and to Heads of all Departments who may wish to circulate it more widely.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Flowers.

RECTORS PLAN FOR COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

Since he arrived Sir Brian Flowers has been giving some thought to the direction in which he would like to see the college develop along. Printed here is the major part of a speech that he gave at an Old Centralians Luncheon on Thursday, 13th December, 1973.

Following on from this Sir Brian brought the subject up again at the Board of Governors meeting, giving them a potted version of the same speech. He also mentioned, in particular, the Mass. Institute of Technology and the way in which they aim for the total technological activity of the subjects they work in. The governors appeared to be wholly in favour of the Rector's suggestions and gave him leave to continue with investigations into its feasibility.

The central problem of my past life has been how to determine scientific priorities. Many people probably think that I concerned myself with the giving of grants to individual university professors to enable them to carry out their research. Indeed, I was very much concerned with the system for doing that, but I hardly ever had to concern myself with a particular case. In particular cases the central issue is always "Is that a good and promising piece of chemistry?" or "Is that a worthwhile piece of mechanical engineering?" Only the chemists and mechanical engineers, as the case may be, can answer those questions, and the peer-group system of the research councils is deficient at this only insofar as it comprises fallible human beings.

The much more difficult questions are "How much should we spend **altogether** on chemistry?" or "What avenues would we particularly like to encourage mechanical engineers to explore?" These are difficult because they pose problems which fall **outside** the competence of the peer-group. How much we spend on chemistry is not only a matter for the chemists: firstly because with finite resources what they spend is not then available for mechanical engineers to spend; but much more importantly because in the end all the sciences, pure and applied, are interconnected and interdependent. Chemists, to continue with the example, are great users of instrumentation, very little of which they devise themselves. The progress of chemistry, even the direction it takes, thus depends almost as much upon the products of other disciplines as upon the activities of chemists.

You notice I've made no mention of physicists: they are **quite** different!

So in trying to determine the priorities of individual academic disciplines we see emerging interdisciplinary questions to be answered. There is in fact a hierarchy of such questions. For in the end government has to provide for most of the research that is done (as distinct from development, although it funds a lot of that as well). Governments are not interested (or should not be if the system is working properly) in how much we spend on chemistry or on any other academic discipline. Their problems are quite different. They should not even have to worry much about research, as such. They are concerned with the great **social** objectives: how much do we want, and are prepared to spend on improved industrial productivity, more relevant education, better health, urban renewal, alternative energy sources, defence; and so on. Each of these demands research; but the priorities to be set at Government level are social priorities, not academic ones; in one way or another, all academic activity is undertaken in support of social objectives.

The problem I was concerned with in my previous existence was that of trying to match a little better the intrinsic needs and capabilities of the various academic disciplines to the extrinsic needs of social, political and economic reality. This, for me, was what science policy was all about, and very interesting it was too. One had to learn to see scientific priorities as a two-dimensional affair: the various scientific activities in one dimension and the ultimate needs for it in another. A structure was required in both dimensions, and somehow one had to try to match the two structures.

Well, what is the relevance of this lengthy diatribe to Imperial College? We are, of course, one of the leading institutions for training scientists and engineers, and for research in these subjects. As far as that aspect is concerned, where we are not so good we must simply strive to become so. But I believe we are peculiarly fitted — and in this we may well be unique in this country — to train students for, and to take part in the totality of technological activity. This means that we must first recognise it for what it is: something **essentially** multi-disciplinary. And this means that although

our teaching must always be founded upon the well-established academic disciplines (for otherwise it lacks intellectual integrity), that teaching must be enriched by a much wider experience drawn from the real life of industry and government and the professions, and from other disciplines. And that in turn means that there is no room at Imperial College for rigid academic boundaries, or for heads of departments who believe they are self-sufficient: the barons, we call them.

I have been greatly encouraged by discussing in our Board of Studies the results of a survey, undertaken by Sir David Huddie, of what our graduates from 1929 to 1963 thought of the education we gave them, and where it has got them. Those who had done best of all turned out to be a very select band indeed who, having achieved no better than a pass degree, then went on to become doctors of science. It just shows, there's hope for us all if we've got a bit of blarney! What interested me most, however, was the response to questions about content of the course: what topics had they found most useful, which least useful, and especially which subjects would they now have wished had been included? If this survey is anything to go by the College has adapted very well to changing need because almost all preferences have already been put into effect: especially, we have included a goodly sprinkling of multi-disciplinary activities. Of course, what we would really like to know is what the students of today will say about us 20 years from now when they are at the height of **their** powers. Have we only adapted to the needs of yesterday, or are we now really catering for tomorrow, our proper job?

I want to see whether we cannot set up some kind of two-dimensional structure at Imperial College, so that we can hope — as a university, not as an industry which we are not — to face up better to the totality of real technological activity. I detest talking in the abstract, so let me give you just one example of what I mean. You must regard it for the moment as completely hypothetical, and it certainly does not represent anyone's decision, least of all those most concerned.

Supposing we wanted to match our educational and research activities to

the total technological needs of the aviation business. What would we have to do? Well, we have an Aeronautics Department, and very good it is too. They are very expert in aerodynamics, as you'd expect, and in air-frame structures, and they do a bit of avionics. Unfortunately, that doesn't get the aircraft off the ground because they do not work on engines. Quite right, too, because that should be done in Mechanical Engineering where they know about such things, together with Chemical Engineering where they know about fuels. Having got it off the ground, however, you need a lot of control engineering to fly it safely, and communications engineering to get to the right place at the right time. You need a lot of maintenance engineering (tera-technology they call it nowadays) to keep it in service, and you need management expertise to stop the airline from going bust, not to mention the manufacturer. Increasingly you need to see aviation as but one economic (as well as technological) component of an integrated transportation system. And you need to attend to the special aviation needs for all the underlying sciences, such as operational research and the development of special materials. If we were really to take our task in aviation seriously in the College we would have to pay attention to all of that at least.

Now it would simply be silly to try to do all that in one academic department. It isn't one academic discipline, to start with, but a continuous stratum of contiguous disciplines and nobody could be expected to know it all. It would also be uncontrollable. But we could have strong horizontal links labelled aviation, running across and connecting the vertical structures labelled aeronautical engineering, materials technology, and management science. And through the horizontal links we could try to feed in the views of the users of aeroplanes, not just the manufacturers: the airlines and — God help them! — the passengers.

Of course, we should have to consider other horizontal links for other major sectors of technological activity: high-speed ground transport, for instance (which might still benefit from this approach), or mineral resource production and conservation.

Well, I told you that it was all going to be hypothetical. It is probably quite impracticable, and I dare say the barons of Imperial College will convince me that it simply cannot be done: it wouldn't fit into their departmental structures. But it's what **needs** doing; and it would be fun trying to do it.

Students' direct action over grants goes on—Randall

Students will not drop their campaign for bigger and better grants, Mr. John Randall, president of the National Union of Students, said on Wednesday.

Even though it had been suggested that students should tighten their belts along with the rest of the country, rent strikes, demonstrations and other forms of direct action by students would continue, he told the union's technical colleges conference in Newcastle.

To those who made an appeal to students in support of a misguided concept of the "national interest", Mr. Randall said: "Our campaign is designed to pave the way to an acceptance in real terms of education as a right for all. Democracy was once described as 'freedom based on knowledge'. If access to that knowledge is curtailed, democracy is devalued.

"It is in the national

interest that the currency of democracy should be maintained at the highest possible value. If the Government shows any reluctance to make provision for access to that knowledge as of right then it must be in the national interest that we, the recipients of what little education is available, should campaign with all the resources at our disposal to consolidate and extend that right."

Students must not allow themselves to be seduced away from the aims they had set themselves, he said. In November the NUS decided to campaign for grants of £655 a year.

"The time and the circumstances in which we have to fight are not of our choosing or of our making. Nevertheless, they are those we are faced with and we will have no option but to seize the time and the circumstances and turn them to our advantage."

ODDS AND SODS

Over 40 female students at Birmingham have been assaulted since 1968 and there were six attacks in a fortnight recently.

Newcastle University Union is boycotting Nestle's chocolate as a means of expressing disapproval at the firm's Third World advertising policy.

Dirty jokes and nudie photos are no longer to be the staple fare of "Purple Patch", the Durham Colleges Rag Mag.

Nottingham University Halls of Residence are, it is reported, experiencing slight difficulties concerning midnight Black Masses. Shadowy individuals are supposed to be creeping in on sleeping students and recanting all manner of devilish ditties over their slumbering bodies. Bloodcurdling shrieks have been heard to emanate from normally passive rooms. Disembowelled and headless chickens found in litter bins. Things came to a head recently when a student was found dragging a gravestone into the hall. Offending students are supposed to be telegraphing hell for a vice.

3 DAY WEEK

The N.U.S. Executive expressed worries this weekend as to the effects that the 3-day week may have on the studies of some students. It is feared that some students may have to give

up their studies as their parents wouldn't be earning enough to keep them at college. The Executive urged the L.E.A.'s to resist all possible cuts due to the 3-day week.

PURPLE PATCH

P.A.W.N.O.

Once again we get to the beginning of another term, and it is part of my job to write another Purple Patch for Felix. I cannot deny that after the vacation it is very difficult to think of interesting news to tell you, however, there are a couple of items which I think that you will be happy to hear about.

The first bit of news is that after the increase in Refectory prices, which was initiated at the beginning of last term, the latest information is that the refectories are making a profit . . . just! This profit is realised on a turnover of some £112,000. So, as far as I, and also the college financial secretary, can see, there is going to be no need for a rise in refectory prices in the near future.

The next piece of news which I should inform you about is that there is a likelihood of the college buying a house in Queensbury Place for use as a student residence. This house, it is thought, will be able to cater for some 30 students, and will provide similar accommodation to the student houses. It is hoped that the accommodation will be available for occupation at the beginning of next session.

Negotiations are at the moment taking place for the purchase of the property, the majority of the money coming from the Voluntary levy which the students in our Halls and houses have been paying for the past three years. This levy has now reached the grand total of £56,000, indicating the initial money collected has been very well in-

vested. What we hope to do with this house is to try to make it as near as possible the ideal type of student residence, and a committee will be set up with student representation to deal with the design of the property before the students actually move in. It is hoped that we will be able to keep the cost of accommodation on a par with that in the halls of residence and in Student houses, and the discipline in the house will be kept by a student warden, who will hopefully be elected either at the end of this term or at the beginning of next term. So those of you who are interested, please begin thinking about the job.

Most of you who were here last year during the election campaigns for President and Hon. Secretary, may have wondered what has happened to the ideas put forward about the take-over of the Union Bar and Union refectory. Well, surprise, surprise, these ideas have come back to life, and you will hopefully be hearing more about them as the term goes on. As you may well realise, there is going to have to be a great deal of thought and effort put into this operation as we will need a very convincing case in order to persuade the board of Governors that we are capable of taking over the areas and not making a great loss.

The reason for the takeover as many of you may imagine is an effort to show that we are capable of managing our affairs, and this includes the catering side of the

Union building. What I envisage as the basic ideals of the takeover are that there will be a Union Manager who will deal with the overall management of the Union and he will be responsible to a Union committee. As far as I am concerned the takeover will not in itself mean that the existing staff will be required to leave. Of course, if they decide to leave and work for Mr. Mooney, then they shall be well within their rights to do so, but of course, I would rather they did not.

As I said earlier, you will be hearing more about this later on in the term, but in the meantime, if anyone is particularly interested in the project then I would be very grateful if they would come to see me, and maybe even offer a little of their time to help me with the necessary survey of other colleges who have undertaken this type of takeover.

Last but by no means least are the elections which are coming up this term. We should, by all rights, be electing a President, Hon. Secretary and also a Deputy President and another post to be decided upon by the Union. These elections are vital to the future of the Union, and I hope that you will take them seriously. As many of you will remember, for the past two years it has been remarkably difficult to elect any Union officers, and worst of all the sabbatical posts. I would implore any one of you who has any aspirations whatsoever towards doing any of the Union jobs

or the incredible Hon. Sec./Editor of Felix/Jack of all trades.

Welcome back, and I hope that you had a nice Xmas and may I wish you all a Happy New Year.

As you may have already noticed, the previous editor Alistair Campbell resigned at the end of the last term. On page 2 you will find in full what Council decided would happen. In the meantime anyone interested in the job of coordinating the production of Felix should contact me in the Union Office. It is hoped that the job will be made considerably easier with the editorial board.

As for this issue, I must firstly apologise for its condition. It was literally thrown together last Thursday and was my first attempt after having been literally "thrown in at the deep end" so to speak. I have also, due to the Xmas vacations, had to write (or copy, as the case may be) most of the articles myself. Don't complain about the standard of reporting, if you can do better, come along and do so. Secondly, my thanks go to Dave Sinclair, who filled

in on the setting of the paper, as I had to go for an interview at the time. Lastly, whilst I am in charge of Felix, I am hoping to introduce some new, college orientated articles. Firstly, if they are submitted, I hope to have a regular page of articles from various Union clubs and societies. This would be somewhat like the sections in the Societies Handbook with the obvious advantage that there would be space for a much longer article. If you think you'd like to write an article about your club captain or society, please contact your club captain or president. Another new idea (though not an original one) is a regular problems column, "Aunty Lucy". Details of this are again on Page Two.

I would like to make an appeal to Scaramanga of Broadsheet fame, to submit an article to me for each edition. Anything will be accepted, so long as it can't be construed as being libellous. For ideas, please refer to "Colcutt" in Felices of a few years ago, available in the Union Office.

Remember! This is your paper, paid for out of your Union funds. It will only be value for

money if it contains what you want to read. Also, the best way to ensure that it contains what you want to read is to submit articles. Therefore, get writing and make this a paper worth reading again. You may think that it never was worth reading. In the Union Office there are copies ranging back over several years that will show you that it was.

ELECTIONS

Yet again these amazing spectacles are nearly upon us. In the calendar in this issue you will find the dates on which the nomination papers will be put up, and also the dates they will be removed followed by the elections and the results. If you wish to stand for any of these posts please watch out for the nomination papers.

COMPLACENCY

Last term the Union suffered from the above (better known as apathy). Thought:— Do you really want a Union to act on your behalf, put your views forward, supply your money? Or is everyone who believes in the Union, who work hard, mostly with little or no encouragement, wasting their time?

for next year to stand for election. After all, the worst thing that can happen to you is that you can be elected. If anyone would like to find out more about the various posts which are being made vacant at the end of this year, then all you have to do is to come along and ask the person who is doing the job now, and at least we will

be able to tell you what he should be doing!

The third sabbatical is at the moment not fixed. We have the money for the post, but as we now have no Felix Editor, then that sabbatical is not being used. If anyone has any suggestions as to the best use of this sabbatical salary then we would be glad to hear it. The idea at the

moment is to elect a sabbatical Publications Officer, whose job would be to deal with the whole realm of publications of the Union, including Felix, Phoenix, and also Stoic.

I hope your term goes well, and that you will come forward with more ideas that will be possible to put into action.

NORM.

SO YOU THINK YOU SPEAK PROPER?

With even eminent playwrights such as E. Wise using phrases like, "With talent like what I've got," one begins to wonder how many people actually speak 'Queen's English' these days. We all know that English is a bastard language and, even though it is the most widely used, is one of the hardest to learn. The main reason for this is its numerous strange quirks, eg. bow and bough although pronounced the same have different spellings and meanings. The Americans have not helped matters much by changing the spelling of many of our words, eg. color, sulfur, and this type of inconsistency makes the task of others learning our tongue more difficult.

Apart from this, however, how well do you think you have done in learning your mother tongue. You have all obtained 'O' level English but exactly how literate are you. This is a short test to help you test your knowledge and remember, you are the most intelligent members of society — think how lesser mortals might get on.

1. Is fasces
 - (a) the sides of the head
 - (b) an emblem of authority
 - (c) an excretion from the bowels
 - (d) a self portrait (Victorian origin)?

2. Does expatiate mean
 - (a) to vomit
 - (b) to speak at length
 - (c) to banish
 - (d) to examine closely?
3. Does nubile (as in nubile young virgin) mean
 - (a) beautiful
 - (b) healthy, fit
 - (c) marriageable
 - (d) slim?
4. Is an orlop
 - (a) a piece of carved wood
 - (b) a speech
 - (c) the lowest deck of a ship
 - (d) the paddle of a paddle steamer?
5. How do you spell the word meaning "to work up into a paste or dough (as in bread-making)"?
 - (a) by the sea shore
 - (b) exactly as spoken
 - (c) to pray in a large group
 - (d) a loud scream?
6. Does littoral mean
 - (a) by the sea shore
 - (b) exactly as spoken
 - (c) to pray in a large group
 - (d) a loud scream?
7. Is a pottle
 - (a) a large iron dish
 - (b) a piece of broken earthenware
 - (c) a four pint measure
 - (d) a type of knot?

8. Does anodyne mean
 - (a) a unit of energy
 - (b) to electrify
 - (c) pain killing
 - (d) a whore
 - (e) to tighten?
9. Does bemire mean
 - (a) to stain with mud
 - (b) to think highly of
 - (c) to raise above sea level
 - (d) to slander?
10. Is cognomen
 - (a) an illicit sexual practice
 - (b) a coming together — a group meeting
 - (c) a type of contraceptive
 - (d) a nickname
 - (e) an ancient religious ceremony?
11. How do you spell the word meaning "composed of various kinds, or odds and ends"?
 - (a) by the sea shore
 - (b) exactly as spoken
 - (c) to pray in a large group
 - (d) a loud scream?
12. Does ossify mean
 - (a) to free, to enable to swing freely
 - (b) to make rigid
 - (c) to make showy or dress up for display
 - (d) to engage?

How to score :
Give yourself :
3 points if you know the correct answer
2 points if you guessed the correct answer
1 point if you cheated.
0 points if you haven't the intelligence to cheat.
If you scored :
28-36 you are a master of the English language and missing your vocation. You should be a lexicographer or crossword compiler.
20-28 you are competent at the use of English and should be writing articles for FELIX as you must be able to do better than this.
12-20 well maybe you're not so intelligent after all. You are probably an engineer so why not try reading something else for a change.
0-12 no further comment (you probably wouldn't understand it anyway).
Less than 0—Sayles and Sinclair I'm ashamed of you both!

ANSWERS

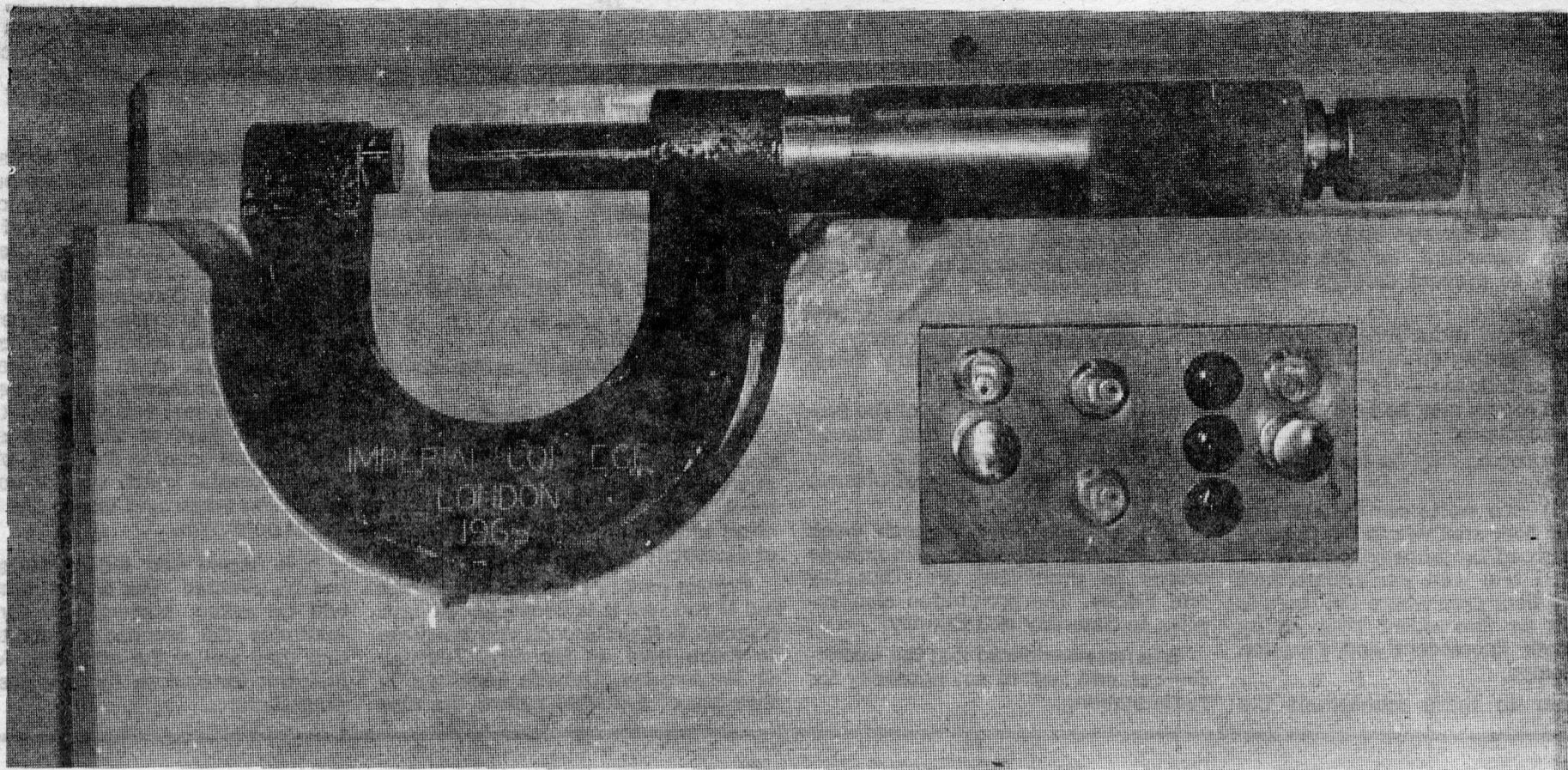
- 1 (b) 2
2 (a) 9
3 (a) 10
4 (c) 11
5 (c) 11
6 (a) 10
7 (c) 8
8 (c) 4
9 (c) 3
10 (b) 2
11 (b) 2
12 (b) 2

ALAN HARRIS

FELIX CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7 January	8	9	10 Exhibition David Whitaker Consort Gallery (till Feb. 8)	11 Straw Dogs—Film Soc. Gt. Hall 2000 Chili Willi and His Red Hot Peppers Union DANCE 1300 Union Finance Exec. Office	12 1930 Gimme Shelter Monterey Pop FILMS ME 220	13
14 1900 Pub. Board Exec. Office 1000 COUNCIL Union Evening Room	15	16	17 1300 UGM	18 Joe Hill — Film Soc. Gt. Hall 2000 ACE Union DANCE	19 What's Up Doc. Percy FILMS ME 220	20
21	22 FELIX	23	24 Klute Get Carter FILMS ME 220	25 Alice's Restaurant— Film Soc. Gt. Hall C & G D & D	26 2000 Horslips Rab Noakes Concert Gt. Hall	27
28	29	30	31	1 February Le Boucher and Spellbound—Film Soc. ME 220 2000 DANCE—Union 1300 Union Finance Exec. Office	2 Bonni & Clyde Devil Rides Out FILMS ME 220	3
4 1000 COUNCIL Union Evening Room	5 FELIX	6	7 1300 UGM NUS Delegation Athletic Grounds Committee AGM	8 Fritz the Cat— Film Soc. ME 220 Consort Gallery Exhibn. Ends	9 Puppet on a Chain Ice Station Zebra FILMS ME 220	10
11	12 Nomination Papers Up (P/DP/HS/F)	13	14	15 Diary of a Shinjuku Thief Last Year at Marienbad —Film Soc. ME 220 Nomination Papers Up (Dep. Reprs.)	16 Twisted Nerve 10 Billington Place FILMS ME 220	17
18	19 FELIX	20	21 PLAY: Misty For Me Dirty Dozen FILMS ME 220	22 1300 Union Finance Exec. Office	23 2000 MAN CONCERT Gt. Hall	24
25 1900 COUNCIL Union Evening Room	26 PANCAKE RACE Union Quad Nomination Papers Down (P/DP/HS/F) (DEP REPS)	27	28 Nomination Papers Up (Union Officers) That'll Be The Day FILMS ME 220 1300 UGM HUSTINGS (P/DP/HS/F)	1 March Figures in a Landscape —Film Soc. ME 220	2 2000 TOM PAXTON CONCERT Gt. Hall	3
4	5 BALLOT (P/DP/HS/F) FELIX	6 BALLOT (P/DP/HS/F)	7 Girl In My Soup FILMS ME 220	8 BALLOT (Dep. Reprs.)	9 2000 QUEEN CONCERT Gt. Hall	10
11 Nomination Papers Down (Union Officers)	12	13	14 I Am Curious Yellow Quiet Days in Clichy FILMS ME 220 1300 UGM (Results) Election of Officers	15 Midnight Cowboy— Film Soc. ME 220 1300 Union Finance Exec. Office	16 2000 JOHN MARTYN CONCERT Gt. Hall	17
18 1800 COUNCIL Union Evening Room	19	20	21	22 END OF TERM	23	24

MIKE IS BACK



At the last Council of last term there was a somewhat noisy and unconstitutional disturbance. After a term of tricky and difficult negotiations David Sinclair (Deputy President) finally secured the return of MIKE, Imperial College's long lost mascot. Its first showing was at the aforesaid meeting where all its

battle scars were on display. The crescent of the micrometer is now painted blue and there is an inscription "Queen Mary College 1971" on the barrel. Mr. Sinclair assured Council, however, that after a QMC minion had been made to unscrew completely and then re-screw MIKE (no mean feat with a 30cm gap), he

was satisfied that the screw thread was in good working order.

It was necessary, due to the fact that QMC "played dirty" and did not have MIKE on display, to buy it back and it is hoped to have some fund raising activities to cover the cost.

Although MIKE is now locked safely away it

should be available for viewing at some public function or meeting and from thence, eventually, to go on "permanent" display again. This time the security will be more secure.

Anyone interested in mascotry should contact Wooden Horse Organisation, c/o David Sinclair.

*WANTED

1 GALLON PAINT STRIPPER

Apply D. SINCLAIR

X-COUNTRY

From the latest edition of *Boy's Own Sporting Life*; Cross Country Capers, featuring Rob Allinson and his committee... That Wednesday, after Christmas Dinner in the refectory, Rob Allinson and his chums at the P Consort Academy gathered together for the occasion of their Annual 'Andicap. Now Rob, who had worked out all the handicaps the day before during Prep, announced that he himself would not be running. Amidst thunderous gasps of shocked surprise it was revealed that he was suffering from the effects of the previous evening's dormitory breakfast. The amazement of the group was further compounded at the arrival of the day's transport. For, there arriving in its full glory and splendour was the most luxurious and shining (nay, gleaming even) minibus they had seen the past three months, (and hired from Roland's Coach Curiosities too!), with actual seats (!) and steering that didn't pull to one side. So stunned were they that the journey to Petersham was completed in silence save for a few sneezes and dazed remarks of "Eee! Grand eh?". Many were

the looks of wonderment on their faces, and Steve, driving, was observed to smile.

Let not those who were so unfortunate as to miss this occasion be forgotten; for suffering under the ministrations of Matron in the Sanatorium were nearly half of Rob's usual followers, though Ian and Alf had escaped through the back window to come to watch the race. Unfortunately there was no room on the minibus, and besides their afflictions were feared contagious, so they were dispatched via Green Line with Rob to quarantine them from the other passengers.

As to the race itself: 5 1/2 miles is a long way, and it was not without great courage that Pete, Pad, and Andy led the field off, followed some two minutes later by Rob Maddison with Mike and Dave just behind and the rest of the crowd several more minutes later. Dave Jones had two great advantages: first, not having had any Christmas dinner, and second, a good handicap; and spurred on by certain remarks made by Mike to the effect that he needed someone to pace him, he soon drew well away and caught and passed Rob

Maddison at the Pimple, and by further untold efforts passed Pete in Blacke Deathe, and Pad and Andy at the Plantation. Thus having attained the lead he slowed down. However his momentum at this point was so great that it carried him through the Pen Ponds and over the Hill to the finish without anybody catching him, though Rich Harrington had worked his way up through the field and, given a quarter mile more would, no doubt, have caught him. Behind Rich was Pad and behind him the rest of the gang, almost everyone finishing within a minute. This brought great acclaim to Rob for his handicapping. Pete was congratulated on finishing last two years in a row and was informed that the object was to really win.

That night there was an official club beanfeast at the Academy. When last seen several of the newer members of the gang were observed to be rather green about the gills. The following day their mysterious disappearance was noted and the question, "Will we ever see them again?" heard.

STOIC

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Week beginning January 7th, 1974

Tuesday, 8th January, 1974

- 12.55 BBC Television News.
- 13.00 The Term Ahead on STOIC.
- 13.05 How to pass exams. Richard Woodhead gives sound advice on how to beat the examiners.
- 13.15 LIGHT. Another chance to see this Montreux Award winning film by popular request.
- 13.35 Closedown.

Friday, 11th January, 1974

- 12.55 BBC Television News.
- 13.00 JAMES BURKE. Tim Griggs talks to James Burke and introduces two film reports, one in which James Burke experiences weightlessness in an aircraft flying a parabolic path, and the other one in which special effects are exposed. (Director: Selwyn Castleden).
- 13.40 Closedown.
- 17.45 BBC Television News.
- 17.58 New Soundscape: Captain Beefheart, etc., with progressive music.
- 18.30 Closedown.

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

As you are all probably aware there is at the moment a National State of Emergency. The college, of course, falls within the regulations and therefore has certain rules that it must abide by.

1. The heating on college premises has been reduced to a temperature not exceeding 60°F, with the exception of residential accommodation, the Health Centre, the Day Nursery, animal houses and accommodation used for food storage and for using sensitive apparatus (to the extent necessary to prevent damage or deterioration).

2. Required reductions in the intensity of lighting throughout the College are as follows:—

- a) No rooms may be lit if they are unoccupied
- b) No rooms may be lit in excess of
 - (i) two watts per square foot of floor area where the room is lighted by tungsten lamps
 - (ii) one watt per square foot of floor area where the room is lit by fluorescent lamp or by both fluorescent and tungsten lamps.

Further to these restrictions the

College is restricted to the use of electricity on three days in each week in those rooms in all college buildings which are described as offices, and in the College Bookshop and the college branch of the NATWEST Bank.

On the two days in each week when the use of electricity is prohibited in offices, it will, however, be permissible for electricity to be used only for

- a) operating communications equipment (including apparatus for broadcast reception and teleprinters)
- b) operating any computer or any other equipment necessary for the proper functioning thereof
- c) operating apparatus for the preparation of a payroll, cheque sorting equipment and other office machinery (e.g. electric typewriters).

The working days in each week when the use of electricity in college offices is prohibited are Thursday and Friday. The prohibition also applies to Saturday and Sunday.

It is not considered that the restrictions should lead to any necessity for re-timetabling.

In the event of the conditions arising in offices whereby it becomes impossible, through lack of light, to carry on working, Heads of Administrative Sections, at their discretion, may allow staff to go home but not normally before 4 p.m. Heads of Departments may wish to give similar instructions.

The following College services and amenities are not under restrictions and are to continue to operate, but with due regard to the need for economy of use of lighting.

- a) college and departmental libraries
- b) Refectories
- c) Sports Centre (less the swimming bath)
- d) Day Nursery and Health Centre.

The Union falls within the regulations but in different ways. As a recreational area it is virtually exempt from most of the regulations but every effort must be made to keep the use of electricity to a minimum.

Private parties are officially exempt but if you feel it is necessary to have a party, first preference will be given to those held on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Outside bookings, if they are of a private nature, are also

exempt but with the same proviso as above.

Union committees and official functions will be given preference over private parties over outside bookings but again they are encouraged to be held in the first three days of each week.

Entertainments of all types are exempt. The college has asked us, however, that once again functions be held in the first three days of each week as far as possible. A meeting will be held during the week at which there will be discussion as to how it is possible to make as many events as possible fall within the three permissible days. It is likely that an effort will be made to move the film shows (both ents and film soc) to the first three days of the week so, if you are interested in the films, please keep a careful watch out for notices indicating when and where the films are to be shown.

It is hoped that the concerts will not be affected. The ents committee will be asked, however, to try and minimise the amount of electricity that they use at the concerts. Again, look out for notices for any possible cancellations.

S. C. A. B.

CONCERTS

Fri Jan 11	Chilli Willi and his Red Hot Peppers
Fri Jan 18	Ace
Sat Jan 26	Horslips & Rab Noakes
Fri Feb 1	To be announced
Fri Feb 8	To be announced
Sat Feb 16	To be announced
Sat Feb 23	MAN
Sat Mar 2	TOM PAXTON
Sat Mar 9	QUEEN
Sat Mar 16	JOHN MARTYN

FILMS

Sat Jan 12	Gimme Shelter
Sat Jan 19	Monteray Pop
Thur Jan 24	What's Up Doc
Sat Feb 2	Percy
Sat Feb 9	Klute
Sat Feb 16	Get Carter
Thur Feb 21	Bonnie and Clyde
Thur Feb 28	Devil Rides Out
Thur Mar 7	Puppet on a Chain
Thur Mar 14	Ice Station Zebra
	Twisted Nerve
	10 Rillington Place
	Play Misty For Me
	Dirty Dozen
	That'll Be The Day
	Girl In My Soup
	I Am Curious Yellow
	Quiet Days In Clichy

All Fridays in the Union
All Saturdays in the Great Hall
Tickets From The Union Office

ALL FILMS IN ME 220