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DIT Bolton Street Students' Union

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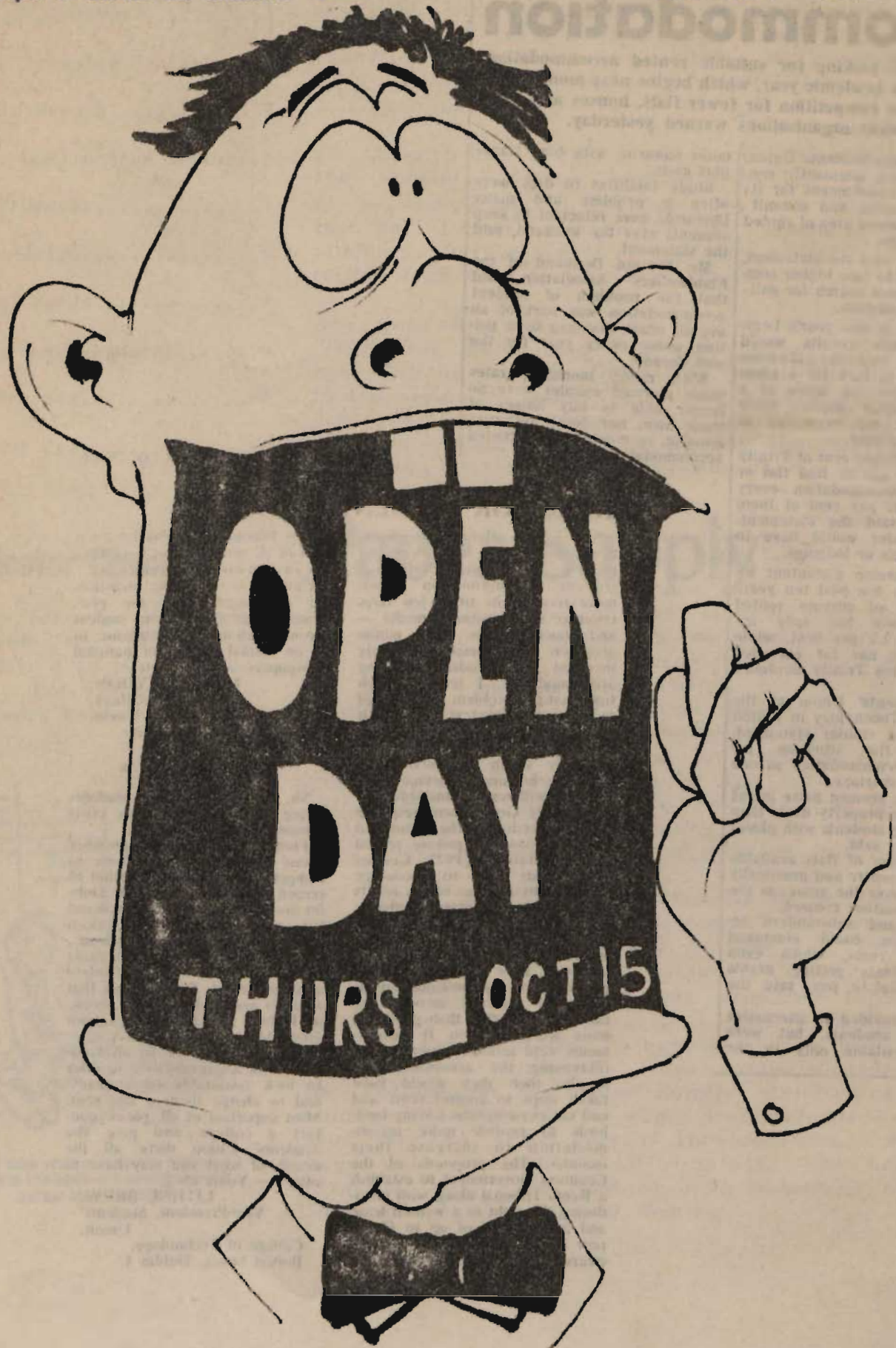
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THE STUDENT/APPRENTICE

Newspaper of Bolton St. Students' Union

Vol.3 No. 1 15 Oct. '81



Students angry over lack of accommodation

STUDENTS looking for suitable rented accommodation for the new academic year, which begins next month, will face intense competition for fewer flats, houses and bed-sitters, student organisations warned yesterday.

Trinity College Students' Union, in a statement, adamantly condemned the Government for its lack of initiative and commitment in the whole area of rented accommodation.

Each year, said the statement, students had to face higher competition in their search for suitable accommodation.

The delay in this year's Leaving Certificate results would mean that first-year students would have to look for a place to live within the space of a few days after getting their results, and the beginning of the academic year.

Although 55 per cent of Trinity students set out to find flat or bed-sitter accommodation every year, only 17 per cent of them succeeded, said the statement. The remainder would have to live in hostels or lodgings.

"With extreme discontent we note that in the past ten years the supply of private rented accommodation has only increased by 1.5 per cent, while the demand has far exceeded this," said the Trinity Students' statement.

The Students' Union of the College of Technology in Bolton Street, in a similar statement, described the situation for students' accommodation as one of chronic shortage.

Landlords seemed more intent on lucrative property deals than on providing students with places to live, they said.

The number of flats available in the city centre had drastically decreased over the years, as the youth population creased.

Meagre and substandard accommodation could command exorbitant rents, which even those students getting grants were unable to pay, said the statement.

"Digs" provided an alternative for most students, but were largely available only in the

outer suburbs, with high transport costs.

Study facilities in digs were often a problem and many landlords were reluctant to keep students over the weekend, said the statement.

Mr. Dermot Desmond of the Flatdwellers' Association said that the problem of student accommodation was part of an overall crisis that had been getting worse every year for the past decade.

With rising mortgage rates many married couples were no longer able to buy homes of their own, nor local authority housing, so competed for rented accommodation.

What the Papers Say.....

IRISH TIMES 15/9/81

ROOM FOR STUDENTS

Sir, — As third-level educational institutions now begin to reopen, the annual "crisis in student accommodation" once more receives its ritual few days coverage in the national media — and quickly fades from public attention. As someone directly involved with students seeking accommodation, I feel it's high time that the problem is presented in its correct context. To put it briefly, the issue is a political issue and until Governments seriously begin to tackle the national housing shortage, the problem will remain unresolved.

The only Government response to the needs of the estimated 400,000 tenants in private rented accommodation (1971 Census figures) has been to encourage landlords by a series of tax reliefs on all mortgage, interest, repairs, depreciation, etc., plus various allowances, to provide more accommodation. Needless to say, landlords have no incentive to provide more accommodation as they can increase incomes by raising rents rather than providing more accommodation. If Governments were seriously interested in increasing the accommodation supply, then they would have taken steps to control rents and end tax evasion, thus forcing landlords to provide more accommodation to increase their incomes. The proposals of the Coalition Government to establish a Rents Tribunal along with introducing the right to a written lease and a tax credit of up to £1,000 rent are to be welcomed as long-overdue measures which will

greatly benefit all flatdwellers, not least of all students who have very low or non-existent incomes.

Until these very basic measures are introduced, then the phenomenon of "the crisis in student accommodation" will continue to be an annual feature of national newspapers. — Yours etc.,

MOIRA LEYDON,
Welfare Officer,
UCD Students' Union,
Temporary Union Centre,
Belfield, Dublin 4.

* * *

Sir, — The plight of students facing the accommodation crisis cannot be stressed enough.

From the end of September about 7,000 students will have to compete for the limited amount of rented accommodation in the Dublin area alone. The great demand for accommodation is taken advantage of by many landlords, who feel no guilt at charging exorbitant rents for sub-standard accommodation. It's no secret that students are not the richest people in Dublin and that they cannot afford to compete for prices.

I appeal therefore to all landlords with accommodation to offer to look favourably on students, and to charge them a fair rent. Most important of all, please contact a college and give the Students' Union there all the details of what you may have to offer. — Yours etc.,

EITHNE BREW,
Vice-President, Students'
Union,

College of Technology,
Bolton Street, Dublin 1.

What the Papers Say.....2
 Editorial.....3
 Duplicator Money.....3
 Union Programme.....4
 U.S.I. Training Conference.6
 Room to Breath!.....7
 U.S.I. Dublin Area Meeting.8
 Lost Property.....8
 Accomodation.....8
 Medical Cards.....8
 That's Entertainment!.....9
 Film Society.....10
 The Real Crux.....10

Duplicator Change

Change for the duplicator out side the library can be obtained in the Students' Shop. The librarians have other work to do!



"I'll take your case to the highest court in the land—meantime, you'd better try to escape"

Open Day

Today (Oct. 15th.) is "Open Day", the day when the various clubs and societies in the College will be trying to enlist new members (and re-enlist a few old ones!) Given the almost total lack of facilities in this College it is important that an effort is made by every student to participate in what social life there is in the College. Because it's good for you!

It is entirely correct, and indeed essential, that the Students' Union involve itself in this effort. It is impossible to envisage real "political" unity in the Students' Union if its members (all the students and apprentices in the College) are not united from time to time socially.

And remember, if you're reading this before the "Day" has ended and you want to set up a brand new club or society, there's still time to rush down to the Students' Union Office and grab a few posters. Any students, and especially apprentices, who are unlucky enough not to be in for the "Day" should keep an eye on the notice-boards or contact the S.U. Office.

Paper Supply

The first issue to confront students on their (or entry) to the College was the decision of the authorities to stop supplying drawing-paper. An Emergency General Meeting was called by the Executive (Tues. Oct. 6th.) and it was decided to mount an orderly picket on that afternoon's College Council and present to it a motion of condemnation. The meeting felt that this move of the College was nothing short of an extra fee-rise and that once this facility was removed it would hardly be restored, even if the College's financial position improved.

The picket and the motion seemed to do the trick, because College Council listened, for a change, to the representations made by the S.U. President. The Principal said that he would like to discuss the matter and that he was prepared to look at alternative arrangements. A short meeting has already taken place. Suggestions at the moment are either a Students'-Shop-supply subsidised by the College or a College supply strictly rationed. Students badly affected e.g. Architectural Technicians may be given special consideration. Apprentices will continue to be supplied. We hope the Principal will have come up with something by next Tuesday's Annual General Meeting.

Union Programme

The following programme is being put forward by the President as the basis of the work of the Students' Union for the coming year. These can be reviewed and modified, if necessary, as the year progresses. The programme will first of all be discussed by the Executive and then presented to the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday October 20th (11 a.m. in the Kinema, C.28) for adoption. While any alternative programmes or amendments will be accepted at the meeting it would be preferable if these could be submitted beforehand to the Students' Union office for prior publication. The aim of this programme is to continue to strengthen our organization in order to resist the attacks on the position of students and apprentices, be they from the College, the V.E.C. or the Government.

A. UNION ORGANIZATION

(a) New Constitution

Last year a nine-member sub-committee, elected by the Students' Union Council drew up a draft of a new constitution. (copies available in the Students' Union office). This will be presented to the Annual General Meeting and a referendum will be subsequently held as soon as possible. The sub-committee represented a broad cross-section of student opinion and with the exception of one member, all agreed on the final draft document. Therefore, the draft constitution will be presented as a single document (apart from some necessary minor changes) and the referendum will simply be a straight YES or NO.

(b) Apprentices and Part-timers.

There has traditionally been difficulties in servicing these sections of our membership. The introduction last year of a second full-time officer has been a step forward, allowing the Union to devote more time to this area.

This, coupled with the granting of Student Travel Cards to day-release apprentices, has led to a larger number of apprentices coming to the Union for help concerning a variety of problems. A working Apprentice Committee has still not been successfully set up. Last year meetings were called but to no avail. This year the President will speak directly to the apprentices in their class rooms (with the co-operation of the teachers and chaplains) and permission for such a move has already been granted by the Head of the School of Trades, Mr. Matt Farrell. Special attention will be paid to AnCO proposals on "new" apprenticeships and the validation of certificates i.e., Department of Education Junior and Senior Trades.

B. INTERNAL

(a) Course Content and Exam Systems.

The Students' Union will continue to oppose unjust exam systems and will insist that the content of all courses is what it should be. Last year this policy was pursued by

publishing articles in the Student/Apprentice to highlight the issues. This will continue but there will be a greater emphasis on action. This could be achieved in two ways.

Firstly, the course-based societies will be encouraged to present to their members reports of the problems (if any) in the various courses. Under the new constitution each course-based society will have a "convenor", preferably the chairperson/auditor, in the Representative Assembly (S.U.C.) The convenors, along with the President and Education Officer will form a committee to deal with the many educational problems in the College.

The second course of action involves an approach to the T.U.I. College Committee about the possibility of setting up a joint teacher/student committee to look into such things as course-content, exams and standards of lecturing. This committee would be outside existing College structures. The College Departmental Board meetings in theory should fulfil this function but in most Departments have lazily ceased to operate and where they do, generally sweep the matter under the carpet.

(b) Ents.

"Ents" were not as successfully organised last year as they could have been, largely because the work was left to a small group of students who were heavily involved in final-year exams and projects. We did at least organise for the first time a Week of Events (Rag Week to some) but our

experience bore out the necessity for thorough and earlier organization. Each course-based society should organize at least one disco/dance in the coming year and the societies should get together to ensure that these don't clash (as happened on one occasion last year) and are spread out over the whole year.

(c) Williams and Woods Site

The College finally has an adjacent site for expansion. The Students' Union is hoping to make a joint submission, along with the teachers, to College Council. This will be a comprehensive plan detailing all the facilities (library, canteen etc.) necessary for a College of our size. We should resist at all costs a "renovation" or "class-rooms" only policy.

C. EXTERNAL

(a) Student Services

The Joint Student Union Council, the V.E.C. body that administered our capitation money, has been dissolved and has been replaced by the Student Services Council (see Student Handbook/ Diary under the Union's Finances). It is an advance on last year because it is financed by the Department of Education but there is nothing to stop the Student Services Council (except the organized students) getting more money from the capitation fees. We are still subject to the same restrictions - submitting accounts to the V.E.C. etc. Also at the time of writing it seems that the Department of Education is renegeing on its agreement to finance three full-time posts. It seems we will not be getting an

Accommodation/Welfare Officer and a Councillor (psychologist). A temporary Head of Student Services (Senan Turnbull) has already been appointed. While a proper welfare service for students is to be welcomed we should guard against any further encroachment on our autonomy. In the meantime we should fight for the retention of the two "axed" positions.

(b) The Other V.E.C. Colleges

We will continue to work with the other four V.E.C. Colleges in the Vocational Inter-Colleges Council (V.I.C.C.). Our views on autonomy are now accepted as policy by the Council. V.I.C.C.'s main concern this year will be to press the Department of Education to live up to its promises of those two Student Services jobs.

(c) U.S.I.

Last year at the 23rd Annual Congress saw the election of a new type of leadership. Students had become fed up with the undemocratic Sinn Fein the Workers' Party clique that had dominated U.S.I. for the last ten years. Bolton St. maintained a principled opposition to this clique and last year's President of Bolton St.'s Students' Union, Brendan Doris, was elected President of U.S.I. This year we should press for real unity in the national organisation and make sure that the high hopes raised by last January's Congress are fulfilled.

D. UNION POLICY

(a) Finance for Education

Last year the Union adopt-

ed a policy of seriously opposing the Government's cutbacks by relying in the first place on the students and would be related to their ability to carry it out. We should again press that this be adopted as U.S.I. policy. In our own College we can give more meaning to the demand for better finance for education by focusing it on two main issues - money for the development of the Williams and Woods site and the proper financing of the Student Services Office.

(b) The National Question

There can be no doubt that the H-Block crisis of the past year has raised discussion on the National Question to a new level and it is entirely correct, indeed the duty, of students to partake fully in this discussion. Attempts at such discussion last year were sabotaged somewhat by the hysterical reaction to the raising of the H-Block issue in the Union. It is entirely correct that this issue be raised in the Union - just as it was entirely correct that the Union vote to have "no position" on it. That was last year's decision - this year's may be different. We did at least vote out U.S.I.'s Peace, Jobs, Progress policy which put the blame for the situation on sectarianism and not at its real cause - British interference. This year we need to adopt a policy to take its place.

This document has already been discussed and approved by the Executive at a meeting on Monday October 5th.

Training Weekend

On the week-end of the 11th Sept. U.S.I. (Union of Students in Ireland) held its annual Training Conference at Trinity College. This conference had a dual purpose, firstly, the officers from all the Colleges got to meet each other and discuss various problems and activities in their Colleges. Secondly, new officers got help and advice from the old hands who delivered papers at the conference.

Three of the Belton St. Executive were in attendance, Tommy Graham (President), Eithne Brew (Deputy President) and Greg. Kiernan (Treasurer).

THE EXPERIENCE OF A STUDENTS' UNION

Brendan Smith ex President of U.C.G. Students' Union, delivered the first paper which was a review of the problems and successes of a typical active Union. Brendan was able to give a lot of practical advice to all of us. He pointed out that one of the problems encountered by most CO's (constituent organisations), is a failure by the leadership to involve the student body in the decision making and the actual political action decided upon.

It is only by confronting the issues that affect the student that the latter will be mobilized on:-

- (a) (S)He must take part in the analysing of the problem.
- (b) (S)He must be actively involved in the decision making process.
- (c) (S)He must be the centre of the activity proposed to

solve the problem.

By this direct involvement the student will realize that success only came because of his crucial part. An informed active membership is essential. Thus the reasons why the problems occurred in the first place will be understood. It is therefore up to the S.U. to substitute itself for our archaic educational structure and build up a critical awareness among it's members. The governing principle behind the S.U. should be the **POLITICIZATION OF IT'S MEMBERS.**

Another point that he raised was that of 'up and and coming' party politicians manipulating the S.U. for their own personal advancement.

THE STUDENTS' UNION IS PRIMARILY A DEFENCE ORGANISATION.

The second paper was delivered by Brendan Doris, President of U.S.I. and ex President of Belton St. S.U. This is a very comprehensive document, well worth reading, (it has been reprinted in the Handbook). Much of it can be summed up in the last few paragraphs:- "If the union is operating properly as a defence organisation of its members then as well as fighting as a single

body to protect the individual member and the general membership it also:-

* Takes a serious interest in the education and welfare of the students, including a correct stand towards opposing the education system and its imposition of anti-people ideas on the students;

* Develops both the representative and leadership characteristics of the organisation in harmony;

* Avoids any precondition being imposed on its members apart from the individuals support for the common interests of students;

* Understands that in defending their interests students ally themselves with the oppressed and exploited and supports progressive developments in society;

* And above all guards its autonomy jealously.

There was a lot of petty opposition to Brendan's paper, mostly on a semantic basis, people splitting hairs over the meaning of the word 'defence'. Some people felt that the word 'defence' was very negative, excluding any positive promotion of students interests. A serious reading of this document proves this argument to be false.

APPROACH TO WORK

Over the course of the week-end a number of topics were discussed. These ranged mainly around the three planks of present U.S.I. policy, Finance for Education, Peace Jobs Progress and International Affairs.

U.S.I. DUBLIN AREA MEETING.

Last Thursday (Oct.8th) U.S.I.held its first Dublin Area Meeting in T.C.D. This consists of all the Dublin Colleges (plus Maynooth). Limerick and Northern Ireland are the only areas where such set-ups are already established, and the idea will be repeated all over the country.

U.S.I. President, Brendan Doris outlined his proposals to the meeting for a public meeting on education around which the Dublin Colleges would organize.

Four similar meetings have been proposed for other parts of the country. The idea was enthusiastically received and a date set for November 5th, possibly in Liberty Hall. U.S.I. intends to hold a press conference on the meetings on October 14th and posters will be ready by the 19th.

Third and second level students, unemployed youth and teachers will be encouraged to attend. Representatives from all the Teachers Unions and the Dublin Trades Council will be invited to speak.

The next Area Meeting is on Monday, October 19th in Trinity at 7.30 pm. Any student interested in attending should contact the Students' Union office.

LOST PROPERTY

A number of students and apprentices left gear in lockers. This can be collected from the S.U.office before we throw it out or donate it to the needy!

ACCOMMODATION MEDICAL CARDS.

As usual the Students' Union advertised in the newspapers for Landlords/Ladies who had accommodation to offer students, and has compiled a list of 'digs' and flats. This list can be consulted in the S.U. office. Although most of the flats have been snapped up at this stage, we still have a large amount of 'digs' to offer.

We ask students to let us know if they have taken a place from the list, so that it can be crossed off the list.

The Students Services Office of the V.E.C. also compiled a list of accommodation which is also available in the Students' Union office.

Words of Advice

- 1) If you are renting a flat, insure all your property against theft!
- 2) If you have a bicycle ask your parents to insure it with the contents of their house.
- 3) Get a rent book and have it signed every time you pay your rent. (See Handbook for further details).
- 4) Get the ESB and the Gas Co. to check if the setting on the meters is correct.

If you have any problems or difficulties, do not hesitate in contacting the Students' Union Office or consult the Student Handbook.

STUDENT HANDBOOK READ IT!!

A medical card entitles you to:-

Free drugs and medicines. Free hospital treatment (in one of the Health Boards ; hospitals). Free Specialist Services.

How to get a medical card:-

If you are a full-time student, or if you are sixteen or over and fulfil a means test you are entitled to a medical card. All you have to do is fill out the application form available in the Students' Union office and send it back to the Eastern Health Board. If you are successful in your application the Board will send you a list of private doctors participating in the scheme as well as a doctor's acceptance form. When the doctor signs the acceptance form, send it back straight away to the Eastern Health Board and your medical card will be issued.

As it can take up to 12 weeks for a medical card to be sent out, you are advised to apply as soon as possible.

If you are waiting for your card to be issued, any doctor on the list will be paid by the Health Board for treating you.

Are your eyes and teeth covered by the scheme?

If you feel that you

Although it was a Training Conference concerned with tactics and procedure the common line running through all the discussion was that a Students' Union have its attitudes and objectives properly thought out, known, discussed and accepted by the members before a union can truly be called active. This came out most strikingly in the argument over the paper delivered by Saths Moodley (U.S.J. International Affairs V.P.) He maintained that U.S.I. should campaign against Western Imperialism, racism etc., and "pressurize the Irish Government into taking a progressive stand at the U.N. so that fascist regimes could be isolated totally". This was all correct as far as it went, the Western Powers do support repressive regimes, but the Eastern block and China also deny many nations true freedom as defined in the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights. The point was made that students were sick of hearing about all the West's wrongdoings while the Eastern block was ignored, that a "balanced approach" was needed to involve people in world issues. The trouble with "balance" is that it ignores the fundamental reasons why anyone should get involved in the first place.

The reason anyone gets involved in action is that once one has a fundamental understanding of what is going on in their own country, and the world as a whole, it is a natural progression to try to effect change.

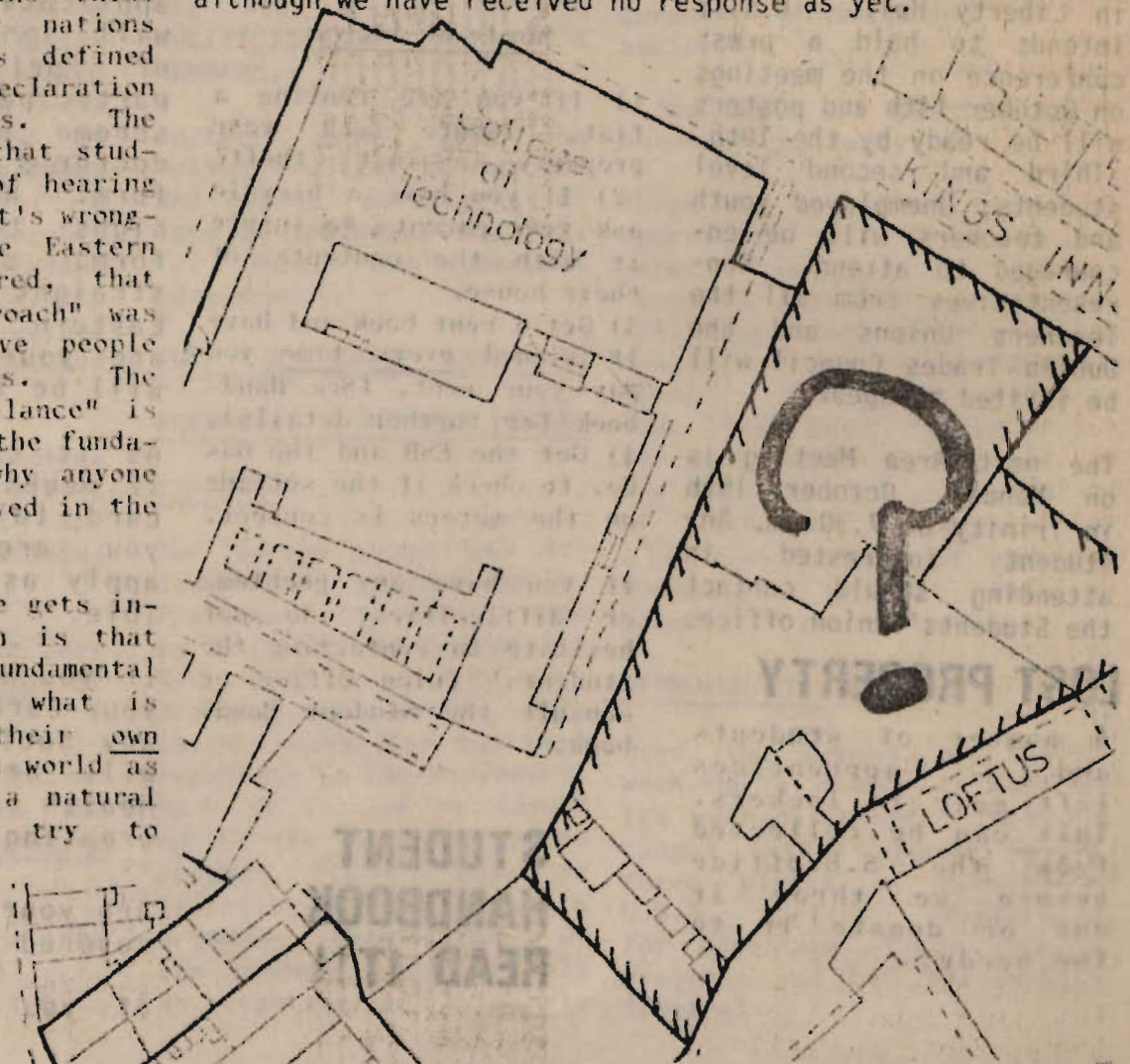
Room to Breathe!

Yes...it has happened at last, the V.E.C. has finally bought the Williams and Woods site behind the College. This site has been vacant for many years waiting for somebody to make a proper submission to the Department for its purchase.

The area of the College has been effectively doubled by this purchase but what is to be done with this extra space? Each department will have plans for this site which they will all push at College Council. Therefore we feel that the Students' Union should also have some say in the matter.

Proper library facilities, an Assembly Hall (to replace the unsuitable Kinema), a new Canteen, a common-room and Students' Union offices should be incorporated in a new purpose designed building. A "classroom only" policy should be resisted as this will stretch the inadequate facilities even further. A submission will be made to College Council on this basis.

However, we feel that a joint submission from students, teachers and college staff would be much more effective. An approach has already been made to the teachers although we have received no response as yet.



need ophthalmic or dental treatment see your doctor first, if he/she thinks that you need the service he will refer you to a Specialist at the Out Patients Department of a hospital. Private dentists do not come under the medical card scheme and there is a very long waiting list for dental treatment, so if you need a filling, act now!

STUDENT CARDS

All students and apprentices who attend College at least one full day a week are entitled to an international student I.D. card. This card is available in the Students' Union Office (U.S.I.T. will issue cards to full-time students only).

The U.S.I.T. card will entitle you to reduced air fares, as well as 10% discounts in many shops. The cost of the card is £3.50.

A C.I.E. Travelstamp can be bought at an additional cost of £4. This entitles you to a discount of 50% on, C.I.E. Mainline Trains and long distance buses, if the normal fare is £2. or more. Also Northern Ireland Railways, B. & I. Car Ferries, B. & I. Jetfoil Galway-Aran Island Ferry and USIT has arranged that holders of a valid I.S.I.C. card automatically receives a free Countdown Discount Card and forty eight page Directory. Countdown is an extensive discount scheme with annual membership normally costing £12. and gives the card holder access to our 20,000 discounts throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom.

That's Entertainment!

Well 'Ents' have started off in full swing already. Our first gig was on Sept. 30th with The Spies (they're back on Nov. 4th.)

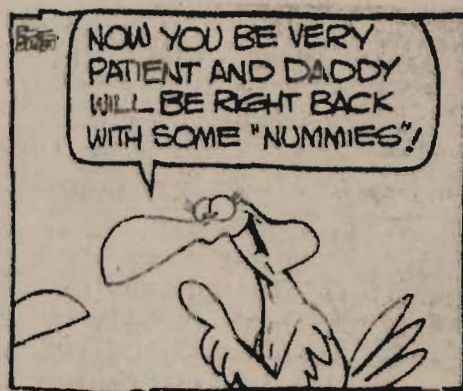
Friday 9th October was a big day for Ents. We started off with "Me and Him", a 'Mime and Magic' act, needless to say the Kinema was packed out for this unusual act. Friday night saw our Welcome Back Dance starring "Some Kind of Terrible - oops!! Wonderful". Reaction to the group was mixed, most people saying that the band was 'O.K.' but unsuitable for a dance. Naturally things did not go exactly as planned - but we can only put it down to inexperience.

Our second lunchtime gig was on the 14th Oct. The Lookalikes were playing. This was one of the most entertaining lunchtime gigs to date and plans are under way to get them back again.

Next Wednesday you will have an opportunity to see the Jimmy McCarthy Band. This is a 4 piece rock band who play all their own music. They had a single out about 5 months ago called 'Miles of Eyes' and have another coming out in about two weeks called 'Like in the Movies'.

'It's a Tightrope' are playing on Oct. 28th. This group was formed in March '81. All the songs are written by Kevin Jennings (lead vocals). The other two members of the group are Franck Jonneau and Jean-Pierre Fradet. So far the band have secured air play on R.T.E. as well as on the pirate stations. They plan to have a single out for Christmas when they will be touring the country with a major act.

**ENTS
PEOPLE
NEEDED !!**
Join up on
'Open Day'



FILM SOCIETY

Greetings from the Movie Moguls. We hope you had a pleasant summer and have enough money left after paying your fees to join this wonderful society (modest aren't they -Ed.) The cost this season is £9 for the 23 films. Nine quid! you shout but its £2.50 in town for just one film while we work out at less than 40p. The list of films is available on the Notice-boards and the S.U. office, a complete programme will be produced shortly (hopefully!)

On OPEN DAY we will take £3 deposits for membership for anyone with cash-flow problems, the balance will be payable within two weeks.

Students' Union Annual General Meeting

ONE FLEW OVER THE

CUCKOO'S NEST

Oct. 20th 6.30

Jack Nicholson gives one of his finest performances as McMurphy the rebel inmate in the mental hospital. It has an aching-ly funny, yet damning insight into the war between the inmates and the staff, many of whom seem crazier than the patients.

FLESH GORDON

This is not Flash Gordon but a rather strange movie that transcends most preconceptions about Flash and space movies in general.

NB The Principle has agreed that no full-time lectures will take place during the meeting. Apprentices will be allowed to send one representative per class.

DOUBLE BILL

RICHARD PRYOR LIVE IN

CONCERT

Oct. 27th 6.30

Better known here as the Sheriff in Blazing Saddles the black thief in Silver Streak and co-star with Gene Wilder in Stir Crazy Richard Pryor is regarded in America as one of the finest standup comics around. His humour is endlessly vulgar and outrageous, with his main topics race, sex and death.

UP THERE, IS UP WHERE?

*I've built too many ladders to the stars, he cried,
I've climbed them all, but never ever made it to
the top.*

*The rungs are weak, rot filled poxy ash,
I want to go up there, to their heaven,
(where money buys all goods that have no soul)
Where bastards fill their pockets, eat their fill,
But will not cut our crop.*

*I would stay and rest upon the world forever,
Love and unity, fight the plague, always give a damn
Yet others who have made it up;*

*Now they sit on top,
They say the dust must break, the sun will shine,
I've walked through fields, where blazen graves rise
rise up*

*We live in hope; we are thankful for our time,
They say, they see so much clearer,
And a man could see for many miles,
They say they see so much clearer,
And 'tis their duty to press the buttons,
Drop the bombs, lock away the files.*

*I've planed some oak, made rungs of tungsten steel,
I want to go up there, where they keep the hands,
and sometimes wind our clock.*

*I want to go up there, up there in case the hands
should stop.*

'Tis up there, from where, the raindrops seem to drop

The Real Cruz

KINEMA (C 28) — OCT 20th — 11am