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DIT Bolton Street Students' Union

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THE STUDENT/APPRENTICE

Newspaper of Bolton St. Student's Union

Vol.1, Nos. 2&3 Nov. '79



Student News

APPRENTICES' FEES

INCREASE 100%

Just last Wednesday (a week ago today) apprentices of the motor mechanics department were told that their fees for Department of Education Trade examinations had gone up from £1.50 to £3 per exam. This means for some apprentices that they have to pay up to £27 within the week when their wages are nothing like this.

They decided to organise a petition among the students in protest and in two hours last week collected some 600 signatures.

The apprentices propose refusing to pay more than £1.50 and need the active involvement of block-release and full-time students to organise the protest as most of them are only in one day a week.

NORWEGIAN STUDENTS SUPPORT IRISH PEOPLE

We have just received a copy of the following resolution from the Norwegian Student Society (the main forum of students in Norway). It was passed by 800 votes with 10 abstaining and no votes against.

"This year it is 10 years since British troops were called into northern Ireland to prop up the pro-imperialistic and completely rotten Unionist regime that threatened to break down under the pressure of the working masses in northern Ireland. The working masses had gained a clear consciousness of their position and resisted the foreign domination, discrimination and the economic exploitation that has held down northern Ireland after the British-made forced partition in 1921. The British say they sent troops to the northern Ireland in 1969 to 'defend the Catholic minority' (created by the British) against 'massacre by the Protestant minority' (that had been armed and trained ideologically and militarily by the British). The true nature of this promise was experienced by the people in the working class ghettos when the Unionist regime in northern Ireland interned several thousand people illegally with good help from the British army in collaboration with the police.

"On 30th. January 1972, a British paratroop regiment fired at a peaceful civil rights demonstration in Derry and killed 14 people and injured 130. The regiment later received a War Medal from the Queen. This is the biggest single massacre by the British army in northern Ireland. But brutal house searches, arbitrary arrests, torture and murder outdoor from the side of the British army take place daily. Amnesty International reported recently on the use of torture committed by the British army and northern Ireland police to extract false confessions from prisoners. The trade union activist Brian Maguire is just



one of many who have lost their lives in the interrogation centre at Castle-reagh. The so-called Diplock courts sentence people to life imprisonment in the infamous H-Block in the concentration camp, Long Kesh, on the basis of these false confessions. The Diplock courts are clearly political courts with no jury. During the 10 years that northern Ireland has been militarily occupied by the British, the number of prisoners has increased from 700 to 2000. Despite the political implications of this increase, the British authorities claim it as an increase in criminal activity and that the 2000 prisoners in concentration camps are criminals. 400 prisoners in the H-Block in Long Kesh are now in solitary confinement because they refuse to wear prison uniforms. They have nothing to wear but a blanket. The cells have no table, chairs or bed and are not heated in the winter. The food is bad and the prisoners are not allowed visitors or letters. They have nothing to read except the Bible. Half of them have been in solitary confinement for about 2½ years. They are cruelly mistreated by the warders. Their state of health is deteriorating.

"The Norwegian Students' Society gathered at a meeting on 27th April 1979 is expressing its solidarity with the heroic political prisoners now suffering in the concentration camps of northern Ireland and support their demand for political status. At the same time we claim that 2000 political prisoners in northern Ireland are the consequence of the British military occupation of the province and the enslavement of the Irish people. We therefore demand that all British troops must immediately be withdrawn from northern Ireland and we fully support the armed struggle led by the Irish liberation movement to force out the occupiers and we also fully support their

demand for a free and united Irish republic."

V.E.C. SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of students have been making enquiries about the V.E.C. Scholarship scheme for this year. The position is that the V.E.C. are considering the adoption of a new scheme. They have asked the five Students Unions in Dublin to give their views on whether we should continue with the existing one or go for the new.

Unfortunately, the choice is one between two hopelessly inadequate methods of assisting the students to finance their education. The existing scheme allocates 60 Awards of £159 a year to students who have the highest academic qualifications and have, of course, applied for the scholarship. It is available only to certain technician courses and only to students resident in the Dublin V.E.C. area. Thus, it is a competitive system based on academic excellence. While we don't accept the reasoning that if our parents are rich we should not be entitled to a grant or scholarship, nevertheless, in the present system in this country students from a comparatively better off background have a better chance of gaining access to further education. Also, where economic pressure is not present studying conditions tend to be better in the home and higher levels are achieved in examinations. As we have said, we do not accept the feudal idea that we should be dependant on our parents. It is not our rich parents that are going to college - if indeed any of our parents are rich. We should be independant to take our own stand in life and this includes having independant means of pursuing a course of education.

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*Those articles thus marked were written for the October edition of the paper. The references to time etc. should be seen in this context. However, even if the articles are a bit dated the point of them is not.

Credits:

Thanks to Rose for the typing.

Apart from the articles on S.C.A.R. and T.A.G. and the resolution from the Norwegian Student Society the paper was written by the President.

Photos by Martin and Brendan.

Layout Kieran Burke.

Deadline for next paper is
Wednesday 28th November.

Assist In The Work To Build A Fighting Organisation Of Students In The College

Editorial

Last Wednesday's white leaflet entitled 'Students Lets Get Organised', which was distributed by seven activists of the S.U. Action Committee received enthusiastic support from the general body of students. This, despite the fact that it is only the beginning, demonstrates the correctness of involving the students themselves in solving the problems in the S.U. and the college. We must now build on this good start and take up the task of building a useful fighting organisation of all students, part-time and full-time, apprentice or professional in the college.

Nobody is suggesting that we should have a Union for its own sake. A Union is useful only if it helps us to solve the myriad problems facing us. Neither can the basis of unity in the Union be anything other than the concern of the general body of students for a proper education and good prospects for our future if we are to succeed.

In the next couple of months much work needs to be done. We need to involve as many students as possible in organising meetings, holding debates, taking appropriate action, advertising Union activity and so on. As has been already said, this in no way means that anybody should have to neglect their studies. Each student should make an assessment of how much time they can contribute to their fellow students and then we can involve them that much in the work.

We need to find out as much as possible about the difficulties facing all the courses or even individual students. Students and classes should write articles for the paper so that everyone can get to know the extent of the problems in the college. This goes for such problems as assessment, timetabling, staffing, recognition etc., as well as safety measures in the workshops and adequacy of the equipment and the like. This will help to unite everybody in our common struggle. Likewise, the students actively organising societies and clubs should keep the general body informed and advertise their activities. For a really successful paper we need film reviews, short stories and other cultural contributions.

Building the Union is not an abstract problem. We are building it to fight for the students on all the issues that concern them. Both fighting the issues and building the Union are two aspects of the one movement. So, come and join in the work!

Students Union Affairs

The Canteen Committee is Proposing 20% Price Increases And 30% if We Want a Chef

At a General Meeting last month the students decided to continue the struggle on how to improve the conditions in the canteens. The plan we adopted was to occupy the V.E.C. headquarters in Ballsbridge at lunchtimes over a period of weeks. The demands that we put forward were, in the first place, for a consistently good standard of wholesome food. This was the reason that we pressed for a chef in the canteen in Bolton St. since we came to the conclusion that somebody competent in the science of arranging and carrying out the cooking of food was needed. From this arose the necessity for the V.E.C. authorities to provide the necessary funds to employ new staff. Also, because of the effects of inflation and the passing onto the students of price increases together with the cost of wages the price of a meal is rapidly going beyond the reach of most students. Therefore we put forward the demand for a subsidy to reduce the price of the food by a third. The latest development is that the canteen committee is now proposing to INCREASE THE COST OF THE FOOD BY 20% AND AN EXTRA 10% IF WE INSIST ON A CHEF!

It is obvious that, more than ever before we need to organise to press our demands home!

The response of the various sections of students to the action on the canteen was very good. About one-third of the students in the Longford House students partook in the first days occupation of the V.E.C. headquarters. We successfully occupied the front entrance area for the lunchtime and put our demands to the V.E.C. However on the second day the bus company let us down and we couldn't continue the action. The third day with another bus we again went down but this time the V.E.C. were ready for us and had the place locked and barred. So it was necessary for us to change our tactics on the subsequent day and go earlier when they would least expect it. But due to the present situation in the union with only one executive member able to do any work and the arising of a serious struggle for the surveying students and their decision to go on strike it wasn't possible to rearrange the struggles' tactics. Then the next week was very broken by half-term and the bank-holiday. So students should be clear that the action wasn't dropped just like that but the needs of the situation meant that we have to now rethink our tactics.

Any ideas students or classes have of appropriate action will be welcomed so that the struggle can be resumed anew.

IMPORTANT HEL

At their General Meeting on the 8th. November the students of Bolton St. discussed many important issues, some of which have to be finally decided upon in the coming weeks. Among the matters we discussed were:-

1. The capitation fee.
2. The Student Surveying strike.
3. The Motions to U.S.I. Congress.
4. The Accomodation Protest.
5. The Canteen Dispute.

CAPITATION

The President of the Union reported on the history of the method of financing the union and the current problem arising out of new restrictions on us that the V.E.C. are trying to impose. Among the facts that the meeting heard on this were that the V.E.C. in agreement with the then leaders of the student unions put up fees by £3 in 1972 in order that the union would have this amount towards their finances. Then three years ago the union leaders agreed that the V.E.C. could put up the fees by £12 so that we could have £6 per student more for the union finances. In both processes the leadership of the unions compromised the autonomy of the unions which tied us closer and closer to the V.E.C. authorities. Since that time we have had all sorts of restrictions imposed upon us: we cannot deficit budget; we cannot spend less than 35% of our budget on societies and clubs, even if the students decide otherwise in a democratic fashion; we cannot subsidize our shop; 22½% of our money is deducted at source to pay for a V.E.C. watchdog over our finances; and most recently our past leaders have surrendered our autonomy over our other sources of finance i.e. our shop and activities (such as pool tables).

As President of the union Brendan Doris took the view, this year, that he had no mandate from the membership to cooperate with this latest attack on the students' organisation. So in refusing to give the V.E.C. the overall figures for shop and activities funds the situation has been created that the V.E.C. refuses to sanction any money from the capitation account. This is blatantly an attempt by the V.E.C. to show who is really running the Students' Union.

In doing this, while disagreeing with any of the arrangements on the capitation, the President was attempting to turn the tide of capitulation to the authorities. A motion was proposed to the meeting as follows:-

'This General Meeting mandates the Executive Officers to submit to J.S.U.C. a summary of the Trading and



4. Longford House students at V.E.C. occupation.

GENERAL MEETING D LAST WEEK

Activities accounts as per the Accounting Manual. At the same time this Students' Union strongly objects to this to this further interference in the internal affairs of the Students' Union of Bolton St. college of Technology and submits its accounts and budget only under protest. This is a restatement of the policy adopted by our Union at the outset of the Capitation Fee system which was recorded in the minutes of the Second Meeting of J.S.U.C. held on the 8th. November 1972. We regard the method of operation of the Capitation Fee scheme as an infringement on the autonomy of the students' autonomy.'

The meeting voted against the motion. The students felt that the matter had been going on for long enough and that now was the time to take an uncompromising stand. The feeling of the meeting was that for the first time in a long number of years we have the type of leadership that is prepared to take up the issue and to organise the fight to reestablish our independence. However, as the margin of the vote against the motion was very narrow and the attendance not very large it was decided to put the matter to next S.U.C. on Thursday 15th. The S.U.C. is to debate the following motion:-

'That this Union refuses to submit Trading and Activities accounts for this year. Next S.U.C. is to decide on how this S.U. will continue to fight to get our money returned.'

SINCE THIS MATTER AFFECTS EVERY STUDENT AND IS CRUCIAL TO THE FINANCIAL WELLBEING OF THE UNION EVERY CLASS AND SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE MUST ATTEND AND BE REGISTERED FOR THE NEXT S.U.C. MEETING.

STUDENT SURVEYORS

The General Meeting heard a report also on the issue in the Department of Surveying and Building Technology which led to a two day strike of all the surveying students. The issue was over the arbitrary way in which the rules and regulations with regard to examinations and curriculum assessment are implemented in that department. The students were fed-up with many of their colleagues over the years being dismissed for reasons which they had not been properly warned of before they sat their exams. Many other students from other departments had similar complaints about the way in which one day they would be told that project work did not count in the marking system only to find that after the results were out it did.

The surveying students went on strike after a student had been blatantly victimised after his lecturer had given him wrong information which led to him failing his exams. In the fight with the department it transpired that apart from the fact that they were refusing to admit their mistake they were also making a value judgement on the student concerned - saying that he was no good and shouldn't be in the course etc. - and not trying to sort out the matter on the basis of the facts.

The General Meeting passed a motion in support of the students of this department and promised to take action if necessary in support of their demands. The meeting also decided to write a letter to this effect from each course to the surveying department and, in addition, each course should be provided with the examination regulations relating to particular students of that course. This will be organised at the next S.U.C. meeting as well.

MOTIONS TO U.S.I. CONGRESS

The General Meeting agreed to forward to U.S.I. a number of motions on seven topics, on the basis that time will be allocated to discuss and amend them. The President undertook to hold a number of consultative or information meetings before these motions are put to a general meeting for decision as Union policy.

ACCOMODATION PROTEST

This is dealt with under another article.

THE CANTEEN DISPUTE

This is dealt with under another article also.

We Must Remain Vigilant on ANY Attempt to Increase Fees!

The City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee at an extraordinary meeting late last month opposed the Government's attempt to increase fees this year in the Dublin Colleges. We wrote about these proposed increases in the last Student-Apprentice 25% for incoming students and 10% for last years students. However, this is by no means the end of the issue. The Government has a stated policy of making students pay more and more for the education system. In the universities the same scale of fees increases are being implemented, causing real hardship to the students there. It was on the advice of an American consultant, Tussing, that the Government took this course of action. Combined with massive cutbacks in all areas of education spending and less than a third of the places required in further education for a state the size of the Free State the prospects facing students are increasingly grim.

In the first place education should be free to all students. The reason for this is that we are the future workers in the country and, as such, will be the producers of all the wealth in the country. But, as everyone knows, it is not the working people who benefit the most from their own labour but the rich. Just 5% of the population own 85% of the wealth and they don't do any productive work at all! So far from paying for our education we should make the rich pay for it; it is they who get the biggest benefit. For the rest of our lives, unless we ourselves become employers - which is not very likely for the vast majority of us - we will be paying in taxes and low wages or salaries for this state of the rich. We cannot accept any increase in fees, cutbacks in spending or inadequate facilities. We must fight back to get fees done away with! This is the only sensible answer to this latest attack on the students. Another point that is worthy of bringing to the students attention is the extremely low amount that fees contribute to the VEC's budget each year. In a total budget of some £19m or so fees contribute less than £200,000. So the Government's intention must be to massively increase fees to the order of £500 or £600 a year over say 10 years. Nothing else would make sense. So it is important to resist any fees increases, otherwise students who

NEXT
GENERAL
MEETING
NOV. 28

Students Protest Against Government Policy on Housing & Accommodation

out to the avaricious moneybags of the house-building industry in the form of the £1,000 grant to first-time buyers of homes. This simply had the effect of increasing the deposit price on houses and boosting the already huge profits of the Gallaghers of this world.

Brendan Doris, President of Bolton St. Students' Union, pointed out that the Irish people have had the raw materials and technology, for well over 150 years to provide adequately for all the needs of our people. The truth of the matter was that as long as the country was dominated by imperialism - directly in the north and indirectly in the south - we can not completely solve this problem. It is only in a workers state when production is geared to the needs of the people and not profit for the parasitical rich that this and all our other problems will be sorted out. Nevertheless, this did not mean that we should not press the government to implement reforms in this area. If the students and working people took up the problem together then it is possible to wring concessions from the government.

Other speakers also mentioned the blight on the inner city communities which were being wiped out so that office blocks and shopping centres could take their place. In its policy to force the people out of the city centre the government and corporation were refusing to carry out any repairs or improvements. The result was that many families throughout the city were spending the night literally on the streets under canvas. In this regard the problem of the disabled being marooned for eight years or more on a third or fourth floor blocks of flats was mentioned.

The initiative for the protest was taken by Trinity College Students' Union and at a sector conference of the university unions won unanimous approval. The leaders of U.S.I. promised to coordinate the protest but failed to do so. In fact reports are coming in that the so-called leaders of U.S.I. actually discouraged other students' union from participating. They certainly didn't contact Bolton St. to get our support for the march and rally. This is not good enough and such leadership in our national organisation will do the student movement in this country much harm!



Bolton st. contingent on Thursdays demonstration.

Cont'd from previous page.

'will come after us will be faced with an impossible situation.

In our fight against the 'high fees' policy of the government we can usefully utilize the contradictions between the government and the VEC, e.g., the VEC opposed the fees increases because they resented the interference of the Government. They disliked the threat of the Government to cut their budget if they did not raise the fees. They argued also that it was not possible to increase fees legally etc. There is nothing principled in all of this. The VEC never came out with a statement opposing the increases on the grounds that education should be free and accessible to all the young people of Ireland. Furthermore the VEC is trying to maintain its autonomy from the new authorities set up by the Government, the National Institute of Higher Education (Dublin) and the National Council of Education Awards. In our tactics to resist increases such differences can be useful to the students.

It is also important to see this fight as part of the overall fight for more money for the college, better grants and the like. In other words it is part and parcel of the struggle for the proper financing of education in the state. The economic crisis, that is intensifying every day, is the root cause of all our difficulties and our attitude should be that we, the students did not cause it so we are not going to pay for it!

Last Thursday afternoon hundreds of students, including a contingent from Bolton St, held a protest march and rally at the G.P.O. in Dublin. The students demanded 'Housing for the people, Flats for students'. This reflected the growing awareness of the mass of students that their own problem with regard to finding suitable accommodation was simply part and parcel of the problems being experienced by the working people as a whole in Ireland, north and south.

Many speakers at the rally denounced successive governments for deliberately supporting the speculators control of the house-building industry. None of the governments, since the foundation of the 'Free' State, has attempted to solve the serious situation for tens of thousands of people in regard to the basic need for decent living conditions. The present Fianna Fail government, on taking up office, gave a massive hand-



Brendan Doris, Bolton st. President, speaking at Thursdays Protest.

A New Chapter in V.E.C. Interference in the Union

The reason that the S.U. this year did not publish a student handbook, of the type published in the last few years, was that the five VEC Students Unions had planned to publish a joint one for all the VEC colleges in Dublin. They decided to do this through the Joint Student Union Council - this is the VEC sub-committee that handles the capitation money we get each year and that students pay as part of their fees. However, at the last scheduled meeting of JSUC, the VEC accountant turned up and let it be known that the VEC functionaries would be opposed to the publication of anything by JSUC, even a comic! We have been told that VEC can't allow such a manual to be published in their name!

This again raises the issue of the capitation system and how it deprives the Student Unions of their autonomy from the VEC authorities. It is necessary to explain the history of the financing of the S.U. again in some more detail in order to understand exactly what has happened.

Around the late sixties and early seventies the practise of student Unions getting a capitation fee - or a fixed amount of money from every student in the college - was instituted. Though the system varied, generally each authority collected as part of the fees, say £4 per student and then paid it over to the Union. Gradually the authorities have gained more and more control over this money in all the colleges. In some colleges the college authorities allocate the money to societies and clubs. In this way the subscription of a student to his or her Union was transformed into a grant as against dues as exists in a trade union.

In the beginning the Union in this college got its money from the students and the college collected it as part of the fees. An Architectural Student paid £50 fees and £3 to the Union. The college collected £53 from each student in that course. Then the VEC wanted control over the Unions and declared that the money was public money and that it was a grant and not a voluntary contribution from the students. But aside from withholding the money there was no other control over the Union. We fought this at the time and the V.E.C. did withhold the money. The students decided a couple of years ago to increase the subscription to the Union from £3 to £9 per full-time student and from £1 to £3 for part-time students. But the VEC refused to co-operate and demanded the Unions agreement to an increase

in the fees and the appointment of a watchdog - or Administrative Officer of the VEC - to oversee the Unions financial affairs. The S.U. agreed to the increase in fees thus bartering away the principle of free access to education for the students. But the Union proposed - that the Administrative officer would be employed by the Joint Students Unions and paid by the VEC. In the end what happened was that the Administrative officer was employed by a new sub-committee of the VEC called JSUC but the money was to come from the Union capitation allocation! Thus, we ended up paying for a VEC employee!

Due to the fact that the Administrative officer was not appointed the first year (two years ago) even though £9,000 was deducted from the capitation money due to the Unions, the Unions demanded that the money be repaid to them. What happened was that only half of the money was repaid - £4,500 - and the rest put into a so-called development fund. Thus once again the VEC interfered. The idea was supposed to be that this development fund would grow each year by the same amount and the money could be used by the five Unions for joint ventures. Now we are paying, not only for an Administrative officer, but also a Secretary/Typist for the Administrative officer.

So, most of our £9,000 is gobbled up. Nobody can deny that these people are employees of the VEC. Both work for JSUC on which the students have a minority position.

Now we have the situation that most of the money deducted is wasted on two employees of the VEC. We have money in a development fund that we cannot use as we choose. All this is entirely wrong. The VEC has no business interfering in any way in the Unions. It has no right to use our money to finance the wages of its staff. It has no right to stop us using the money it has kept. We have no welfare manual. The past student leaders have sold the students down the river on this issue of the financing of their own organisation. Firstly, they bartered for a fee increase which they had no right to do. They told the students lies at the time they never told the students that the capitation increase was linked to a fee increase. Secondly, they have discussed all sorts of issues at JSUC which are none of the VEC business. Thirdly, they have launched a system of developing the activity of the S.U.s as part of the VECs activities by allowing this development fund to get en-

snarled in JSUC.

We must urgently look closer at this matter and devise a system of financing the Union so that it becomes independent totally of the VEC in this matter.

Special Branch Raid on Trinity Student's Flat

On Saturday week last, at 11 o'clock in the morning, the Special Branch raided the flat of a student of Trinity college and his brother who is a worker in the college. The State forces entered the flat waving a warrant in the face of the student without letting him read it properly. Both Joe Larragy and his brother Jim are political activists in the college and outside in the Labour and national movements. This type of search and confiscation of private documents, under the all embracing Offences Against The State Act is increasingly being used to intimidate student and labour movement activists. The gardai don't in fact need any excuse or search warrant to do this sort of thing under this repressive Act.

In fact, last year, precisely the same intimidatory exercise was carried out against Brendan Doris, this year's President of the S.U. That time he was arrested and held in custody for 13 hours. No charges were preferred and all the questioning was a crude attempt to persuade him to give up his political activity. The only prospect in life that the particular gardai, who interviewed Brendan could offer as an alternative to his present stand was one of mindless selfishness.

All students who value freedom and justice should support any student or worker who is attacked and intimidated in this fashion. Such attacks further exposes the demagogy of the Government and the ruling class in this country about the source of violence. It is the 'Free State' that is the real source of violence and suppression in this part of the country. To take any other stand on this issue is to turn the truth on its head.

BOLTON ST. STUDENTS ON TAX DEMONSTRATION, MAY 1st. AND CANTEEN PROTEST LAST MONTH.

COVER.

Features

STUDENTS ORGANISE AGAINST REPRESSION

The Student Campaign Against Repression was set up in 1977 to give students a chance to voice their opposition to a whole range of repressive measures taken by the British and Irish Governments against the Irish people. At the time no leadership was forthcoming from USI on the question of State terrorism and their reformist Peace, Jobs, Progress Campaign didn't allow for democratic debate of the issues involved - much less for a programme of action around which students could organise their opposition to repression.

At the first National Conference of SCAR held at Magee College, Derry, delegates attended from Queens Uni., Ulster Polytechnic, Jordanstown, N.I. College of Business Studies, Magee College, Derry, Trinity College, Dublin, UCD., Bolton St., National College of Art & Design. The Agenda included discussion on a wide range of issues from the Restoration of political status to sexual repression of gays and women. The main conclusion drawn by the delegates after several hours of interesting debate was that no campaign against repression could be effectively mounted without also challenging the political and economic system that needed to use it, i.e., British Imperialism. Consequently it was decided that the three main demands would be for (1) Political status for all prisoners convicted under special legislation and an end to the torture in H-Block. (2) An end to the emergency legislation both North and South which severely restrict freedom and allow "Heavy Gang" interrogations and torture in Castlereagh (3) Complete withdrawal of British influence from Ireland i.e., economic, political and military as a first step to self determination for the people of Ireland as a whole.

Many people may not agree with all of the demands of SCAR (they range from a call for the abolition of the death penalty to an end to sexual repression) but those who agree with any of the demands are entitled to join and debate their point of view and hopefully through united action by students around particular demands i.e., H-Block, student, will achieve an understanding of the extent of State repression in society.

Hopefully, enough students will be interested in the question of repression to form a branch of SCAR in Bolton St. The next national conference of SCAR will be in early December to discuss motions on repression for USI Congress and all

students whether members or not can come and participate.

A more comprehensive account of the aims and activities of SCAR can be got from "PROTEST" the bulletin of the campaign which is available from the S.U. Shop price 5p.

SCAR can be contacted during Open Week or by leaving a message in the S.U. office.

MAIRTIN MAC AN GHOILL

TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

At a time when the sane world is falling over itself trying to reduce its dependence on imported oil, 'Our Corpo' Dublin Corporation is actually updating its plans for a major Motorway, the Eastern Bypass. If this white elephant is built, it will confirm our complete dependence on imported oil and will, by necessity mean reduced spending on Public Transport, rendering our already dilapidated buses and trains worse still.

Not only will this road be a total waste of our money but it will involve the demolition of many houses, making hundreds more uninhabitable through air and noise pollution, destroy acres of parkland on the northside and, on the southside will destroy the Sandymount Strand. It is unknown why it is called a 'Bypass', because it doesn't do any by passing but ploughs straight through houses parks, the Royal Canal etc., etc. Because the Corporation wants to build the Motorway ahead of schedule, it must be exhibited to the public and objections invited. This exhibition is now going on at City Hall, and will be open up to Friday, 26th October (although this may be extended to Friday 16th November) on Mon - Thurs 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and on Fri 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Objections can be made up to Wednesday October 31st, although this date may also be extended. The last Development Plan for London was exhibited in 69 locations and backed up by a massive publicity campaign. Dublin Corporation is exhibiting only in City Hall, and has spent little or no money on advertising while the

Papal visit has greatly reduced any publicity the exhibition would normally get. The central point is that people who are directly effected by having their houses or environment destroyed are not being informed. You could be one of them. Go down and see it and, if you wish, make an objection!

P.S. The details of the road plans have been placed in an adjoining room so make sure and ask for them.

Gary O'Callaghan

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The second scheme is the one operated nationally by all the other V.E.C.'s in the rest of the country. It is a scholarship scheme for residents of the area and is the same as that of the HEA grants scheme. There is one difference. While the means test still applies the four honours doesn't. Again it is not available to every course. The five presidents of the Students Unions in Dublin VEC area decided to opt for the second scheme. The reasons they did so are that there would be more money available - up to £75,000 - as against £50,000 - that the poorer ones background the more likely one was to get a scholarship and there was no way that the Dept. of Education would sanction any improvement in the first scheme. Again the Government is trying to dictate to the VEC on this one also.

The VEC never gave out more than £27,000 under the first scheme. They have said that under the new scheme they will hardly find students poor enough to use up all the money since the Government's means test are so out of line with real living expenses today. Despite this, the presidents thought that it was better to opt for the latter and that we should fight the means test in this as we are on the local authority scheme. Of course, this won't affect any student on an existing scholarship. Any student who wishes, should make application for a scholarship, as soon as the VEC give notice that the new arrangements are in force. The S.U. will advertise this as soon as it is known

