

SPECIAL ISSUE

UNION NEWS

Special Issue No.6

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Price 1d.

ONE PENNY

"Lack of understanding"—Vice-Chancellor

HONORARY DEGREE—"BOYCOTT STUPID"

By UNION NEWS STAFF

IN view of the fact that the University has seen fit to confer an Honorary Degree on Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, this Union should not be officially represented at the ceremony."

14 for the motion, 3 against it, 7 abstentions—that was the voting on Union Committee when they decided to boycott the Honorary Degree ceremony which took place yesterday.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Roger Stephens, commenting on the decision said, "I am afraid that it shows a complete lack of understanding of the situation in South Africa, and Mr. Oppenheimer's position in relation to it."

Union President Ian Morrison said "Personally I think the boycott is inappropriate and half-baked. This man is no villain."

Earlier, Mervyn Saunders, the Student Treasurer, urged the Committee to agree to the boycott.

"Oppenheimer, by his actions, has demonstrated very clearly that he is pro-apartheid. Therefore we have a duty to oppose him, even though this may be embarrassing."

Others who supported the motion were Penny Walt and Alan Hunt.

Hunt made the point that the mere act of giving £250,000 to the University should not be grounds for giving an Honorary degree.

A snap poll of Union members who were asked the question, "Do you think that the Union should boycott the Honorary Degree ceremony because of Mr. Harry Oppenheimer?" revealed the following answers:

- YES ... 6%
NO ... 76%
DON'T KNOW ... 18%

The Engineer's newspaper LEWD (Leeds Engineers Weekly Dispatch) made the following comment.

Union Committee have decided on behalf of this Union to boycott the Honorary Degree Ceremony on Thursday of this week.

Nobody likes the apartheid system but Harry Oppenheimer (South African diamond millionaire) is not representing the South African government at all. In common with other firms in South Africa (e.g. I.C.I.) it appears that his only crime is to be a law abiding citizen.

rudeness to ALL the honorary graduands.

The Communists and Marxists were very keen to adopt our South African student SAM MHLONGO. When he came to Leeds his political usefulness was at an end and it has been left to the religious societies and other individuals to support him, as ALAN HUNT did not want further Union money spent on him.

If SAM MHLONGO had relied on our political heroes he would not have had a square meal this year.

If we cannot support Mhlongo then surely we should not waste time demonstrating against a man who does not even support the apartheid system. Oppenheimer is the wrong victim. Why are the Communists and Marxists demonstrating? We suggest that his crime in their eyes is simply that he is a capitalist.

Are we satisfied that we should be represented by these people in a direct insult to one of the benefactors (if gifts of £250,000 qualify him as a benefactor) of this University?

We cannot help agree with MORRISON in stating that this demonstration is "half-baked."

Opinion

Do you think he will take one look at ALAN HUNT and go home determined to overthrow the South African government? NO!!! He will voice his opinion in the normal manner of any citizen—through the opposition parties of his country—one of which he finances.

Communists and Marxists by means of their futile demonstration will be representing US in the limelight of national press cameras on Thursday. On this occasion it will be a form of calculated

DIGNITY INTO DUSTBIN

DRESS reaction to the boycott has been severe.

The Yorkshire Evening Post of Tuesday, May 11th, said, "Those taxpayers not fortunate enough to have enjoyed a University education can be forgiven for growing irritation at the absurd attitudes of some of those in relentless search of a fresh cause."

The following morning's Yorkshire Post added, "The Committee of Leeds University Union has thrown its dignity into the dustbin... It takes a lot more courage for Mr. Oppenheimer, a South African, to declare himself against apartheid, than for Mr. Hunt and his friends in the Union Committee to strike a ridiculously histrionic posture."

Defending the boycott in a letter to the Yorkshire Post, Mervyn Saunders, Student Treasurer, said:

"...this decision that the Union should not be officially

represented at Thursday's degree ceremony had my full approval.

"Others, like myself, were not at first prepared to back such a decision...but the facts as they were presented at the meeting were sufficiently strong to convince the majority, who are neither irresponsible teenagers nor political extremists. This we saw as a moral issue.

"Speaking personally... my first objection is that by no stretch of the imagination can a donation be considered a fitting qualification for an academic distinction.

"Furthermore, we were led to understand that the gift in question was ear-

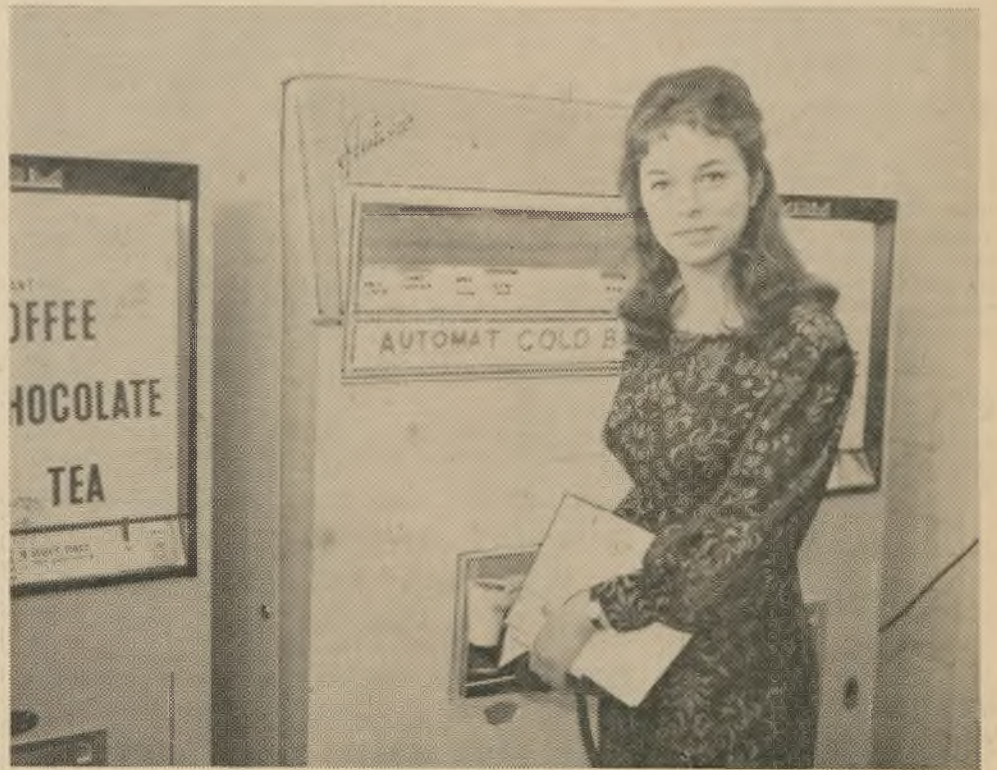
marked for a specific field of scientific research of interest to Mr. Oppenheimer in his business capacity. Large industrial concerns in this country invest similarly in University departments without any fuss or palaver.

"...Those truly concerned with our nation's future should be heartened to see a body of young people who are unwilling to sacrifice moral principle on the altar (sic) of financial expediency."

Mixed-up thinking

Readers' letters in the Post and Evening Post came out strongly against the boycott. Mr. Stephan Godfrey of Boston Spa, Lincs, wrote, "This sort of mixed-up thinking does no good to anyone, least of all those Europeans in South Africa who are truly anti-apartheid. The school-boys at Leeds University should do something constructive themselves before moralizing to others."

Milk, Milk or Plain Milk?



Since Sue Crockford is more interesting than a roomful of vending machines, we've given her pride of place on the front page this week.

However, a lot of Union members found the new machine room a very interesting addition to Union facilities. Since it was opened a fortnight ago it has done a lot of business.

Some of them were perplexed by the "Milk, Milk, Plain Milk" on the milk machine. "What," they asked, "is the difference between Milk and Plain Milk?"

Mr. F. H. Rusdell, whose firm supplied the machines, explained: "The plain milk label is a hangover from when the machine sold raspberry flavoured milk."

He added: "The cigarette machines have done most of the business, although the cold drink machine has been immensely popular on warm days."

He said that some sort of arrangement would be made for people who had lost money in the machines to get it back.

Further additions to the room will be the sandwich machine at present in M.J. and an aspirin machine. The tea-coffee-chocolate machine now in M.I. will be moved to Caff shortly.

Comment

THE vote on Union Committee went its predictable way, and the news of the boycott has brought the predictable moans from the papers about students wasting their time and taxpayers' money, etc., etc.

Most members of this Union appear to oppose the boycott. All the more reason for them to learn the lesson of this rather pathetic business. If you want to be apathetic about Union affairs, this is the price that has to be paid.

STOP PRESS

The degree ceremony yesterday went off without incident, except at the end when some engineers held up a banner saying "Congratulations Mr. Oppenheimer" and "We are no Reds, we are the majority... Ian Morrison, Roger White, Val Bradford and Mervyn Saunders attended the ceremony, although not as Union representatives.

Among those awarded honorary degrees with Mr. Oppenheimer were F. R. Lewis, Michael Tippet, the composer, and the Rt. Hon. Edward Boyle, M.P.

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# ACCOMMODATION & UNION FEES RISE

## In brief... in brief...

### Party incident

**ASSISTANT REGISTRAR** Mr. Orton was called to a party in Bagby Road on Saturday night after neighbours complained about the noise.

Mr. Orton was not available for comment on the incident, since the matter is sub judice.

**HUGH ALDOUS**, Chairman of Conservative Association, has been elected Sanitary Officer of Lyddon Hall. Said a Hall member, "His job will involve dealing with blockages in the waste disposal system. He was elected by a huge majority."

**EXECUTIVE** have decided to recommend an increase in the price of Union Diaries with effect from next term. Union

Treasurer Saunders told a reporter that the diaries would still be sold at a loss. Last year, 4,500 diaries were printed and all but 230 were sold at 3s. 6d. each. Printing had gone up by 2d. to 4s. 6d. and the Union had to recover the loss on last year's sales. There will not be any deterioration in quality, Saunders assured Union News, "I've always found our diary to be lowest priced. As far as I can remember most unions charge 5s. for a flimsier effort!"

**THE** machine room has proved to be very popular with Union members.

(See Front Page)

However, there have been complaints by some users that they have lost money in the machines. On Monday night Exec. discussed various ways of refunding money to people who had been thwarted by the machines.

Various ideas are being put forward to refund lost money.

## Lodgings too?

**RUMOURS** that Hall fees would be raised next term were confirmed by Mr. Williamson, the Bursar, this week. Hall fees will be going up with effect from next term; most expensive will be Devonshire, Lyddon and Ellerslie at £206 p.a. for single rooms, a rise of £15. These halls provide a midday meal every day.

Bodington and Sadler are going up by £15 to £186 p.a. as are Oxley, Tetley and Westwood Halls (they do not provide lunches in the week). Mr. Williamson said that the reason fees were being raised was two-fold; (a) the cost of living had gone up, and (b) Hall fees were always reviewed every three years, to coincide with the triennial University Grants Commission.

## Grant increase

He told Union News that he expected that grants would be increased to cover the rise in fees.

The Bursar added that Henry Price is to cost more next term. A further charge of one pound is to be made on occupants of flats to cover the cost of the telephones recently installed. However, he told Union News that it was "a bit too early to think about raising the rents."

He said that he could not confirm or deny rumours that lodgings fees would be increased, but repeated that the cost of living had gone up tremendously and said that he hoped that grants would be raised to cover the various increases.

Although there has been no official denial that lodgings fees are to be raised, one union member said, "With the proposed increase in University student population next session, the resulting demand for 'digs' is almost certain to mean that landladies will be able to ask more or less what they like."

Student Treasurer Mervyn Saunders admitted that next year's students would be giving more to the Union in dues. The Union subscription will be increased from £7 to 10 guineas. In fact this should not affect many students because the Local Education Authorities pay the subscription for all those who receive a grant. Foreign students and those who have no grant may have to find the extra £3 10s. however.

## Success

Saunders told Union News, "Every union is applying for an increase in its subscription. We are one of the few successful, because we have got a strong case which shows an increase in costs and expenditure over the last ten years."

He compared the prices of membership to other unions and said that Manchester is trying to put up its subscription from £4 to £14, which does not include a £4 subscription to the Athletics union.

## Words and deeds

**LAST** Union News did a front page splash on the anti-Oppenheimer Honorary Degree fracas. We also got a front page photo of the terrible twins—Hawthorne and Hunt looking like angelic supporters not specifically of communism but of HUMANITY.

They gave a long spiel about Oppenheimer not using all his power to help the issues stemming from racial intolerance.

I'm not trying to give the pros and cons of communism, and I'm not going to



push my views for Oppenheimer right now.

I'm concerned with a guy called Mhlongo. Whilst Hawthorne and Hunt are screaming about the problem in South Africa, the most direct and tangible embodiment of the problem which faces us particularly, is a bloke who depends on us and who is starving quietly away on our own doorstep.

Let's extend this beyond the commies—they kicked off the whole row and they're shouting about it,

this **GILBERT DARROW**

but what about Union Committee in general? There's a small item called The Sam Mhlongo Fund. It's now empty. It raised £286 3s. 3d.

Who exactly put the money into it? Well, Morrison donated; so did Saunders, White, Gregson, Arme, Doyle and Sutton. There's one Anon on the receipt sheet. Hunt? Hawthorne? One other Union Committee member? The ordinary union members are there. So are the odd societies. But what happened to all the contributions from those doing all the shouting?

And if all this shouting was about a realistic attempt to have a large-scale whip-round, in and out of the Union, it wouldn't be too bad. Sam Mhlongo might not starve then. But it wasn't. And this is typical of a large body of the committee who once they've shouted enough to get there, do absolutely nothing, make no personal effort, to get just one small matter thrashed out. It happens that Sam Mhlongo isn't just a small matter; or at least he shouldn't be.

So let's get a grip then. And if anybody isn't prepared to do anything about it, they shouldn't be on Union committee. And I'll blast them all round this column every week till they either do something or get out.

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I ENJOYED the party anyway Sid.—Dave.

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E=mc<sup>2</sup>—Albert.

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HELEN—sorry about the joke being cut.—Dave.

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In spite of the load of guff that Dave Williams has put on the front page this week, we are inserting this ad. in our effort to keep Union News solvent. In turn, we hope that you will try to keep US solvent by coming along this Saturday and witnessing the greatest stage act in the country (their impersonations make even the Barron Knights look silly). However, we won't give the game away completely, but make you tight lot forfeit 4/6 to see the fantastic:

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