

FUNDING PER STUDENT AT MIDDX. HAS FALLEN BY 20% IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

NEXT TERM THERE WILL BE ANOTHER 30% INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS OF FIRST YEARS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS TO PACK IN 4,000 MORE STUDENTS BY 1996.

STUDENT INCOME HAS FALLEN BY ONE THIRD SINCE 1980.

SPENDING ON LIBRARY BOOKS HAS FALLEN BY OVER 70% SINCE 1979.

Last year, on top of previous huge cuts, Melville chose to cut another 100 staff posts to repay a debt so we could become a university and he could become a Vice-Chancellor. He wasted a six figure sum changing Middlesex into a second rate university.

Academic standards are plummeting, there is a huge drop out rate and the recession means that few of us will find decent jobs when we leave. Last November this situation provoked mass site meetings across Middlesex, of which six voted for occupation.

We occupied for 28 days and inspired the largest wave of occupations for over a decade, over 23 colleges nationwide. This created unprecedented publicity about the plight of students and education, from a *Times* editorial to repeated coverage on TV and radio. Several MPs visited the occupation and the Government were in regular contact with Melville.

Since the occupation the college has "mysteriously" received £1.3 million from the Government, it has given the union money it has owed it for a long time, and has now planned a major £18 million rebuilding programme. Other small concessions have also been made on halls, creches and a promise of no charges for course handouts.

Of course many of these promises will prove to be hollow and much of it was going to be done anyway, but it is not unreasonable to assume that some of these changes are directly due to the occupation. Management and Government are very concerned not to provoke a similar explosion again and want to cushion the effects of restructuring at Middlesex so as not to see a repeat of last winter. They will certainly think twice before making the sort of cuts they made last summer.

