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EVERY
FORTNIGHT

FELIX



No. 10.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE

FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER 1950.

EDITORIAL

FRESHMAN'S HONEYMOON.

This issue of FELIX, the first this term, is dedicated to the Freshmen. We hope that they may find something of interest and enlightenment in its pages and we take this opportunity of welcoming them to Imperial College.

We all remember (don't we?) our own first few bewildered days as Freshers: when we first gazed with uncertain eyes at the strangeness of it all. We were confused, we lost our way, we talked to strangers and accepted whatever came next, all rather meekly and naively. We went to free teas, drank much beer, listened to speeches and sales talk from professors and club captains. Come one and all. A few lectures would be starting in a day or two and although the idea of work had not yet penetrated the consciousness we might perhaps go along, if only not to miss anything. Then the Trials - Ah! the Trials! - great days for ambitious sportsmen. So each day, full of new impressions, we would wander back to our new digs and lie on our unbelievably hard bed whilst a kaleidoscope of professors, notice boards, pints, secretaries, corridors, booklets, towers and minarets passed before our eyes. Life, in fact, could not be more pleasant.

By the time you have read this, you will already have had a few days of this life and will be beginning to get used to it all. And so it will continue a week or two. But gradually you find yourself drawn into lectures, the free dinners will trail off, the exhortations will diminish in intensity and, caught in the snares of lecture room and laboratory, you will realise that the honeymoon is over.

But cheer up! The daily round is quite lively. Things do happen here! You will find life pleasant enough if you play your part. Join a club, society - but not too many - and take an active interest in the affairs of your college. Read the article addressed to you by the President of your own college Union. Finally, remember to do some work - even in this your first term - but don't become a brown-bagger: a university is more than a vocational training centre. It is a seat of learning but also of living, where you will spend some of the happiest years of your life.

FELIX.

Readers will see that FELIX appears in new dress this year. Although now only four pages, the reduced size of type enables us to print the same amount of subject matter as before. The method of printing allows us much greater scope in the matter of layout and illustration than was possible in the 'Roneo-ed' FELIX of last year. The new presentation is by no means final and we welcome suggestions for its improvement.

Finality is far off for other reasons - economic ones. With the costs of typing and printing we are working to a very close margin. We have resisted temptation to increase the price and this means that, to remain financially healthy, FELIX must maintain its circulation of a thousand - at least. Therefore, buy your own copy each fortnight or subscribe for the year (15 issues, subscription forms in I.C. Union and in Bar).

One further point. FELIX's smiling countenance depends largely on your contributions. We will accept, and print where possible and prudent, your poems, humorous articles, news snippets and letters. Grind your axe on our pages: FELIX offers an unrivalled forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, 6 OCT.

Student Christian Movement, Freshers' Tea.

SATURDAY, 7 OCT.

Imp. Coll. Trials: Hockey, Soccer and Rugger - Harlington Ground. Buses leave Union Gate, Prince Consort Road, at 1.30 p.m. Buses return from Harlington about 5.30 - 6.30 p.m. (45 min. journey).

Imp. Coll. Union Entertainments Committee: Informal Dance, Union, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, 10 OCT.

Imp. Coll. Dramatic Society, General Meeting, Committee Room A, 5.15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 11 OCT.

Guilds Trials, R.C.S. Trials - Harlington. Buses as above.

THURSDAY, 12 OCT.

Guilds Engineering Society, Freshers' Tea, Queenies (Unwin Hall).

Imp. Coll. Musical Society, Lunch-hour Concert, Council Room, Guilds, 1.15 p.m.

FRIDAY, 13 OCT.

R.C.S. Union, Freshers' Buffet, Upper Dining Hall (Union).

SATURDAY, 14 OCT.

Imp. Coll. Union Entertainments Committee: Informal Dance, Union, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, 15 OCT.

Film Society: Film Show, New Lounge, 7.15 p.m.

TUESDAY, 17 OCT.

Imp. Coll. Women's Association, Freshers' Tea, I.C.W.A. Common Room, 5.15 p.m.

Imp. Coll. Chem. Soc., Prof. Willis Jackson on "The Importance of Chemistry to Electrical Engineering". R.C.S. Chem. Lecture Theatre, 5.15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCT.

Guilds Trials.

THURSDAY, 19 OCT.

Imp. Coll. Union Council Meeting, Committee Room A, 5 p.m.

Literary and Debating Soc. and Political Soc., Joint Freshers' Tea. Upper Dining Hall (Union), 5.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 20 OCT.

City & Guilds Union, Freshers' Buffet. Upper Dining Hall, 6.30 p.m.
Association of Applied Biologists, Tea. Lower Dining Hall, 4.30 p.m.

TO ALL SECRETARIES.

If your club or society meeting has been omitted, and you desire publicity in this diary for future meetings, please send details giving date, time and place. The next 'Coming Events' will cover the period, Friday, Oct. 20, to Friday, Nov. 3, and copy must be received by mid-day, Mon., Oct. 16. Send to The Editor, FELIX, c/o Imperial College Union.

TO ALL MINES FRESHERS

On behalf of the older hands, may we offer you a very sincere welcome to the Royal School of Mines. We are glad that you have chosen the senior mining college at which to study your particular aspect of the profession. In doing so you are entering a college with a great reputation and nearly a century of tradition - a tradition of which all past and present students are extremely proud, for it is they who have built up this stature. Its future lies in your hands and because we are a small community your individual cooperation is needed in some of the many student activities. It is as a result of this pulling together that the "Mines spirit" has been formed. By giving a hand and showing an interest you will not only be fostering this comradeship, but will also enrich your short stay here. Furthermore, many of the social activities afford the possibility of meeting past students now established in the profession.

The organisation of which you are now a member that runs these sporting and social functions is the R.S.M. Union, the constitution and rules of which are explained in a handbook you will shortly receive. The officers of the union will do everything to make your stay as pleasant as possible, but its ultimate success depends on your support.

Academically, the teaching staff are very approachable and extremely willing to offer all the advice gained from wide experience.

Thus ahead of you lie three or four very full years, during which your personal success and to a great extent that of your college rest largely in your hands. We wish you a very happy and successful stay at the Mines.

R.S.M. Union.

GUILDS

In welcoming you to Guilds I would cast before you a few pearls of wisdom, to show you what the college can offer you if you cooperate.

I want to impress on you that there are numerous Social, Athletic and Bacchanalian activities open to you, and if you will only show some enterprise - then you're in! Now "being in" will provide just that opportunity for getting the most out of your life here, and far from interfering with your work will avoid any chance of mental collapse as the year progresses.

To help you pursue these activities there are various Guilds Clubs which are quite separate from their I.C. counterparts, but are complementary to them, so get your name down at once for the Clubs that interest you.

There are various dates that I would like to call to your attention now - Oct. 20th, Guilds Freshers' Buffet; Oct. 27th, I.C. Commemoration Day; Nov. 5th, Guy Fawkes Day; Nov. 22nd, Morphy Day; the Guilds Carnival and Civils Dance in the Easter Term; and the Field Cup in the Summer Term. Mark these days down now and you'll find that more information will filter through to you about them as time goes on.

Guilds was most successful last year in the field of sport, particularly against our brother and sister colleges the Mines and the R.C.S., so we must keep that up this year, but we want the Engineers' Cup for rugby this year as well.

The Guilds Engineering Society holds frequent meetings at which papers are read by present students and other distinguished engineers, and a £5 prize is offered for the best student paper of the year. Its magazine, "The Guilds Engineer" is also intelligible in parts, and appears annually.

Guilds Union Meetings provide more colourful diversion from the common task. Room 17, whose normal capacity is 100 sleepy students, for Union Meetings holds 400 raving maniacs. Come to these meetings and voice your opinions.

In a nutshell, avoid brownbagging; and let me emphasize again that what you gain from college life will depend directly upon what you put into it, and upon your own initiative.

A LETTER TO R.C.S. FRESHMEN

Dear Fresher,

"Welcome to R.C.S.!"

The yearly influx of new students to the College is one of the vital moments in its existence, for at this time we look to the ranks of the Freshers to enable us to fill the gaps in the fabric of the Union. This letter is to show you the sort of support we want.

In the main, the University is non-residential and the fusion of social and academic life is largely organised by the college Unions. You are a member of R.C.S. Union and also I.C. Union. If you are going to get anything out of University life at all, it is your duty to support both these bodies to the utmost. The "Law of Conservation of Energy" applied to Union affairs, means that unless you put something into them you'll get nothing out.

Get to know your Union officers. It must be obvious that Union officers cannot know all the students at College, but it is much easier for you to know them. If you have any queries, suggestions or complaints introduce yourself and fire away - we should be delighted by this evidence of interest by any Fresher. You will have, or will be getting, a copy of the R.C.S. Booklet, which tells you how you can contact Union and Club Officials and which contains many other things which will help to put you in the picture.

The main social life of the College revolves around the Athletic and Social Clubs. Join them, support them; you will find it well worth the effort. In addition, your support for corporate College functions is important. The Commemoration Day Ceremony (see R.C.S. booklet) needs the active support of every student to be an effective and rewarding occasion as it was last year. Morphy Day (Nov. 22nd this year) is a day of battle on the river and sometimes in the river. Whilst two VIIIs from each college race for the Morphy and Lowry cups, a great battle takes place on the towpath for certain sacred symbols - told of elsewhere - and your support on the towpath is imperative.

You must not assume from this letter that your activities at I.C. and R.C.S. will consist solely of Union and social affairs - work is also essential. But I.C. (and to start a controversy, I think it originated in R.C.S.) has coined a word, now preserved for posterity in the Dictionary of University Slang, which castigates those who, hedged in by books and work, emerge only rarely carrying a little brown bag. Such are the 'brown-baggers' - an odious tribe.

Finally, a special word to overseas Freshers: this college is proud to accept you. It has a considerable reputation with regard to overseas students and it hopes that by your efforts, this reputation will be further enhanced.

Let me end with a cliché, none the less sincere: 'Best of luck, Freshers'.

Peter Haskell.
PRESIDENT, R.C.S. UNION.

THE
EVENT OF I.C. YEAR
THE COMMEN. BALL
AT
GROSVENOR HOUSE
DON'T DELAY —
GET YOUR TICKET TODAY!

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue of FELIX must reach the Editor by Friday, 13th October.

PROFILE— IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

Profile: a drawing silhouette or other representation of a side view. How can one draw a silhouette or "other representation" of an institution which has no outline except in the architectural sense, and a personality so complex and intangible that even such die-hard students as Mr. Scott-Fleming (1936 and still going strong) would find it difficult to analyse. In search of inspiration, we consulted the Oxford Dictionary and found amongst other meanings "a shallow vat in which beer is left to clear"; interesting, but seldom applicable to our Union.

The Freshman for his first few weeks has the physical layout and component clubs of the Union quickly drummed into him. He soon discovers that the main building housing the bar is usually called the Union, that the new building opposite is called the Beit building and includes the New Hostel, New Lounge, Bookstall and Administrative offices, and that the Old Hostel is tucked away in a corner and seems impossibly small to house about 50 raving maniacs. On his first day, it is energetically brought to his notice that the Union Athletic clubs include almost every form of student sport (the remaining forms being facilitated by the social clubs) and that the Union sports ground is near the Red Lion at Harrington. They learn that the organisation of the Union as a whole is run by a student Council, that Mr. Coomber (R.C.S.) is President and Mr. Nicholas (R.C.S) the Secretary; that the Union office is next to the Bookstall; and that the affairs of Council are second favourite to the Refectory Committee when the Editor of Felix is feeling vitriolic.

Thus, the outline of the Union is quite quickly and easily distinguished. What of the

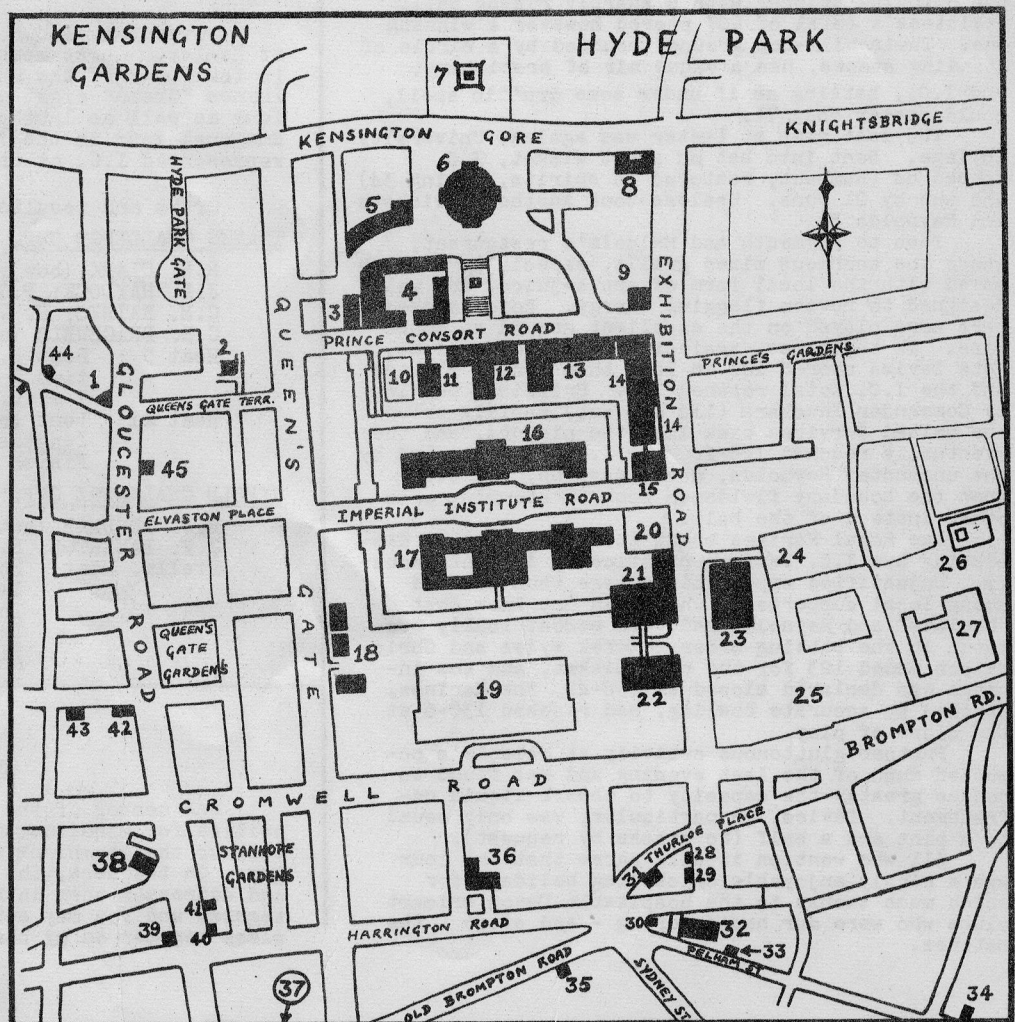
finer lines and shading that give the outline character? These can only be filled in by time. At one moment the Union is quiet, comfortable and almost a normal gentlemen's club - with a few ladies tolerated (except in the bar) for their charm and their civilizing influence on the wilder elements; at the next it will be transformed into a den of howling dervishes intent on dives-tating some unfortunate of his trousers. On Saturday nights it becomes a sort of nightmare palais de danse, with girls from far and wide in their best dresses and the College in its usual old corduroys and blazer, too many people dancing and too many in the bar drinking too much beer* - in fact everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. Throughout the year there is a succession of dinners and dances, ranging from white ties and prepared speeches to the mat-throwing chaos of certain club dinners. Carnival nights have to be seen to be believed - they defy sober description.

Thus the picture is slowly filled in. The Union forms the student life, and the students' lives form the Union. Its history has never been written, but is hidden in ancient archives and peoples' memories. It almost atrophied during the war, and its rapid recovery since then has been due to a succession of energetic Presidents and a Rector who has the welfare of the College very much at heart. Plans are now afoot for extensions and modifications to the buildings, and if the recent increase in interest in Union activities continues it should ensure that, although we are a technical college, we can yet enjoy a full life.

* (A meaningless phrase - Ed.)

A MAP OF SOUTH KENSINGTON

1. The Gloucester.
2. Queen's Arms.
3. Holy Trinity Church.
4. Imperial College: Offices, Union and Hostel.
5. Q.A.- (Women's Hostel)
6. Royal Albert Hall.
7. Albert Memorial.
8. Royal Geographical Society
9. Physical Society.
10. Rector's Lawn.
11. Chemical Technology Dept.
12. Royal College of Music.
13. Royal School of Mines.
14. City & Guilds College.
15. Unwin Hall (Queenie's).
16. Imperial Institute.
17. Royal College of Science and the Science Library.
18. Royal College of Art.
19. Natural History Museum.
20. Post Office.
21. Science Museum.
22. Geological Museum.
23. Huxley Building.
24. Royal College of Art.
25. Victoria & Albert Museum.
26. Holy Trinity Church.
27. Brompton Oratory.
28. Jane Brown's.
29. Lamley's Bookshop.
30. Nic's.
31. Hoop and Toy.
32. South Kensington Station.
33. Pelham Grill.
34. Vi's Cosy Cafe.
35. Post Office.
36. Institute Francais.
37. The Denmark.
38. Gloucester Road Station.
39. Post Office.
40. Restaurant Chanticleer.
41. The Stanhope.
42. St. Stephen's Church.
43. British Restaurant.
44. Post Office.
45. The Harrington.



DUCKS IN DEVON

(or How We Bowled a Maiden Over).

Sixteen members of the cricket club went on the traditional end-of-term tour of South Devon. All the matches were played, - and there was one every day, which will surprise those who assert that the cricket is but the ostensible reason for this annual caravanserai.

The evening of our arrival in Torquay was occupied by keen discussion of the finer points of the game (and etc.) at the "Hole in the Wall" and the "Devon Arms". But in spite of this the opening match, against Paignton, ended in a disappointing defeat by four wickets. The captain and captain-elect (Pete Davies and John Rambaut) conferred over this perturbing result late into the evening. Next day John was still too upset to play against Torquay, while Pete felt compelled to delegate his duties to the vice-captain and field during the afternoon in the shadow of a friendly tree. Torquay declared at 168-8 and I.C., betrayed by their own umpire, were 123-9 at the close. Pete emerged from the shadow to score 57, and the inimitable Rowland Reynolds played out time by scoring 8 off the last over, thus doubling his season's total.

Another more favourable draw followed against Brixham, and the team then moved to Exeter where University College of the South West, after two years of restoration and rebuilding, again provided us with rooms. From these a descent was made upon Whimple and Whiteway's C.C. whose orchard-flanked ground boasts a large tree (two runs if you hit it) close to the wicket. A collapse from 37-1 to 72 all out augured ill, but the consumption at tea of a very great quantity of gooseberry tart restored some long-departed fire to Peter Justesen's bowling. On a helpful pitch, he took 6 wickets for 4 runs in 26 balls and the game was won by 21 runs. The evening passed in an inspection of the products of local industry.

At Tavistock on the next afternoon, "Useless" was again in lively mood, and succeeded in felling the opposing skipper with a sharply rising ball. Tavistock's total of 107 proved however a winning one. Their hill-top ground, bounded by a circle of standing stones, has a vague air of prehistory; and I.C., batting as if under some druidic spell, could muster only 71.

The last game at Exeter was against University College. Sent into bat on a wet wicket, I.C. scored 84 (Rambaut, restored in spirits, making 34) and won by 21 runs. Useless took another 4 wickets and Reynolds 3.

Then to Plymouth and Malcolm's restaurant, where the enormous mixed grills, especially if consumed with the local form of apple-juice, are well designed to revive flagging energy. Both matches here were played on the excellent ground at Mount Wise. In the first, against the United Services, Pete Davies scored 102 in less than ninety minutes and the I.C. total reached 194. Brilliant batting by Commander Thackara (114 not out) rapidly brought the United Services back into the picture, and they eventually reached 198-2. The I.C. bowlers, led by the undaunted Reynolds, never gave up, not even when the boundary fieldsmen took to stopping each other instead of the ball.

The Royal Marines began the final game by dismissing two I.C. batsmen practically instantaneously. Unjustified expectations were thus aroused among local supporters, who could not know that "Useless" and Reynolds had been eccentrically promoted in the batting order. Derek Wyles and Chris Wilson added 123 for the next wicket, and the innings was declared closed at 156-4. The Marines, checked by accurate bowling, had reached 138-6 at the close of play.

Further gluttonous activity at Malcolm's occupied much of the last evening and was found to reduce greatly the capacity to absorb liquid refreshment. Davies, in particular, was only equal to a pint and a half (No cracks by request).

All who went on it will agree that the tour was a highly enjoyable cricketing holiday, for which much thanks to the hospitable Devon cricket clubs who were our hosts during - and after - the matches.

HENLEY - 1950

From Our Rowing Correspondent.

Henley - What a vista the word conjures up to the rowing man. That lovely course with the triangular field below the woods on the hills behind the start. White flannels and blazers; coaches on ramshackle bicycles; the boat tents; "Strawberry-nose"; pretty girls in flowered dresses in the Stewards' Enclosure; flowers and green lawns; the roses on Phyllis Court wall; punts and skiffs lining the booms; the "Barrier Club" on the Saturday before the Regatta. The scarlet of Lady Maggy, the yellow of Clare, the striped trousers of First and Third, the hooped zephyrs of T.C.D. The "Angel", the "Red Lion" and the "Little White Hart". The railway station bedecked with flags and bunting. And, above all, to the I.C.B.C., that wonderful place at Marsh Lock where the crew stays, under the motherly guidance of Mrs. Tebb - the Old House. For those who have never seen it, it is quite another world, where time, that horror of modern life, just does not matter. For those who have ever been there a Mecca of Meccas indeed.

After the ups and downs of the year, I.C. was represented by an eight in the Thames Cup and a four in the Wyfolds. Both crews rowed well - especially the eight which put up a far better performance than had at one time seemed possible. The eight won their first heat against B.O.A.R., without being unduly pressed. Their best row of the year, however, was in the second round against a very good First and Third Trinity crew, in which the latter, rowing extremely well, won by 1½ lengths, the Fawley time being very fast for the prevailing conditions. Although losing, the I.C. crew rowed really well and lifted the prestige of the I.C.B.C. out of the doldrums into which it had fallen in recent years.

The four also rowed well, winning their first heat against Barclays Bank comfortably. In their next round, they had a very close race with London R.C. and were unfortunate enough to hit the booms at the beginning of the enclosures when they were leading and only thirty strokes short of the finish.

Several ex-I.C.B.C. members were also active at Henley. Three members of the Thames R.C. eight in the final of the Thames Cup, one member of the Thames "Grand" eight and two of their "Stewards" four as well as last year's "No. 6", who was in the Emmanuel four in the final of the Visitors, had all represented I.C. at one time or another.

Crews and results:-

THAMES CHALLENGE CUP.

R.H. CLARK (bow); R.D. HUGHES; F. MORIARTY;
J.L. HAYDOCK; P.G. ALLISTON; D. NOWELL;
C.M. BAINES; H. METCALFE (stroke);
C.B. BRACEWELL (cox).

Heat 5 : Beat B.O.A.R. by 1½ lengths, Fawley
time 3 mins. 29 secs, Finish time
7 mins. 24 secs.
Heat 21: Lost to 1st & 3rd Trinity by 1½
lengths, Fawley time 3 mins. 25 secs
Finish time 7 mins. 30 secs.

WYFOLD CHALLENGE CUP.

H.J. PUSHMAN (bow & steers); L.E.A. CLARE;
J.F. LAMERTON; S.J. PEERLESS (stroke).
Prelim. Heat: Beat Barclays Bank R.C. by 4
lengths.

Heat 13: Lost to London R.C., easily,
Fawley time 3 mins. 59 secs.
Finish time 8 mins. 19 secs.

AU PAIR?

One member of the college, embarking at Marseilles for a holiday in Palestine, happened to walk up the gangplank with a girl - a total stranger. On the deck, the French captain greeted them and addressed them in English thus: "You may talk together and you may eat together, but you must not sleep together on my boat".