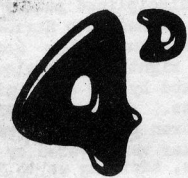




FELIX PACKS PUNCH

FRIDAY 11th. NOVEMBER.

Nº 152



THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

THE PRESIDENTS

PEDESTAL SHOULD IT GO - OR NOT ?

Many members of the Union have expressed disapproval of the system by which the President of the Union is elected, that is by the joint meeting of new and retiring Councils at the end of the session, and instead would prefer to see him elected from the floor at a Union General Meeting. At the forthcoming Union meeting Mr. Richard Lewis is to propose a motion in favour of this latter course and will probably meet with some bitter opposition. In order to give the ordinary members of the Union food for thought before this meeting we publish the two articles below, one by a supporter and one by an opposer.

AGAINST

The majority of students at college are idealistic, socialist in their behaviour. This is a good feature because it induces a very questioning attitude to the society in which the student lives. However, sometimes students are swept downriver in their boats of democracy; by the time they have manned the oars of practicality, their little craft is lost on the sea of disorganisation. This is the danger of the idea of the President of the Union being elected by a poll of Union members and not by Council.

The proposers of this motion have the best of motives; the furtherance of Democracy. However, let us consider the practicalities. What does the President have to do? He represents the Union at outside functions; he is chairman of Council and must be able to work amicably with them; he is the major contact between staff and students and must be acceptable to both bodies; last, but by no means least he is intimately concerned with the administration of the Union and must therefore be familiar with the processes involved.

Thus obviously, the candidate must possess certain qualifications. It seems fitting that Council, who have a knowledge of such matters should select the President, who may, by the way, be nominated by any member of the Union. The Council is elected by the Union, and if they make a poor choice, as is unlikely, they could be instructed by the Union to ask the President for his resignation.

The election of the President by a poll of Union members is a system fraught with dangers. Firstly, there is the danger of the President being a "popular hero" but totally incapable of doing the job; in this case, as happened at Battersea two years ago, the outcome is disastrous. The Union folds up and the Governing body step in, thus reducing the power of the students to run their own Union. Secondly, the elected candidate may be unacceptable to Council in the sense that their views may be radically opposed. The administration will suffer since continual argument will slow down the processes of decision and legislation. Finally, in a college of 2,800 it is impossible for any one person to know more than a small percentage of the members of

the Union. In the election of the President, where personal qualities are much more important than policy, it is essential that the voters know the candidates. The only way this can be achieved, short of having whistle-stop tours of the departments, is by having the President elected by Council.

Who would bother voting and who would be eligible to vote? The apathy at college is such that a large number of students would not record their votes and hence the President could not be said to be truly representative. As to who is going to vote, the definition of which life members of the Union are to vote, is extremely difficult, if at all possible.

My personal test when people say that this change would be a good thing, is to look at the three constituent college Presidents, who are elected by a democratic process. Have the constituent college Presidents been better at their jobs than the President of I.C.? The answer, to my mind, is emphatically no.

Therefore, I see no point in changing the present system, and I trust that the Union will not be swept off its feet by a watery wave of sham democracy at the next Union meeting.

Findlay D. MacFerson.

FOR

'The ideal output of the Imperial College remains a swarm of mechanical, electrical and chemical business smarties, guaranteed to have no capacity for social leadership, constructive criticisms or original thought!' - H.G. Wells.

It is impossible to be a member of this college without feeling some sentimental attachment to it, so that it hurts a little to realise that there is an element of truth in Wells' words. If you ask yourself how many great men have come from this place since it was

founded the answer is: few in comparison with Oxford and Cambridge in the same period.

You may be tempted to enquire the cause of this sad state of affairs and I am inclined to think that the answer to the inquiry lies in the absence of an education in certain social graces at this college. Who can be a great man if he spurns every challenge of dialectical exercise or mental effort and has a mind made up, not wishing to be confused with facts? Who has not learned in his student days even the rudiments of the democratic game?

Cont. on page five.

400 EXTRAS WANTED

for spectacular new C.B.deM-1 re production entitled

UNION MEETING

starring LD Hill, J Carter
and full supporting cast

To be shot in the Concert Hall at 11.15 p.m.
on

TUESDAY 15 TH. NOV.



EMPTY ECHOES IN THE STREET

By R. G. Harland.

The sound of the drums drew us from the house. We followed five drummers leading a Union Jack and about eight other assorted flags carried by darkly dressed anonymous characters. Down Westbourne Park Road and into Great Western Road they marched at a slow steady pace while the drums beat quietly but insistently luring the occupants out of houses along the way. Little boys appeared in ever increasing numbers and fell in behind, a shuffling ill-disciplined parody of their elders. They turned into Harrow Road shepherded by an outnumbering force of policemen then right, into a gloomy street flanked by low drab imitation Georgian houses. By a sign warning us "Beware children play here." was a loud-speaker van covered by posters. These, advising us, to "Win with Mosley" and "Eat the oycott", explained the origins of the nameless band. Union Movement was on the move.

About forty people clustered round waiting for the speaker. Beyond them the police waited, constables directing the traffic and watching while their officers moved about issuing instructions. The gathering swirled slightly and an outer ring of trench coated men suddenly appeared spaced about one every three yards. A man also wearing a trench coat appeared on top of the van looking over the crowd and away to the end of the street. It was Mosley, in his trench coat, looking shorter and plumper than his poster picture.

He spoke into a microphone with a voice swift and persuasive.... We should not achieve anything by rioting. Our experience of race riots has shown this. If we wanted to be rid of the blacks and send them back to Jamaica then why not join Union Movement in our tens of thousands. Then as a powerful political party we could achieve our aims and provide money from the National Exchequer to pay for comfortable passages for negroes returned to Jamaica and for the provision of well paid jobs there. The better type would be glad of this opportunity and the others would be shipped out anyway. He reminded his audience of England's great past and now the pitch of his voice was rising. It had lost its warmth and become harsh. England had been betrayed

but we could still regain what we had lost. The trench coats cheered and Mosley continued his harangue. We were reminded of the hysteria of a Hitler or a Mussolini heard on old news recordings, but there were no massed regiments to retort with terrible rhythmic cries of adulation, and Mosley's words disappeared down the miserable street to be lost unrecorded among the traffic rumbling along the main road. "Only join in and march behind the magnificent band", he implored. "Pay a small subscription" and all would be attained. Come to his headquarters. March back with him that night. Only do something for England's sake. Again the faithful applauded and the meeting was over.

About six of the trench coats gathered nearby. The drum band was reforming. On its right flank stood too blond youths, tall, slender and proud. My companion remarked "What perfect physical specimens of Hitler youth." Immediately a short fat trench coat turned on him, "What do you mean poor physical specimens? That poor physical specimen could knock you out in no time." Obscenity dribbled from the corner of his mouth and he invited us to name a time and a place when the poor specimen would make mincemeat out of us. Cowardly by nature and overawed by their superior numbers we did not reply and swearing and laughing quietly they faded into the gloom further up the street.

The "magnificent band" led the trench coats and a few women, freshly recruited perhaps, on the march home. Now proud of their increased number they disposed of the small boys who were chased onto the pavement. There the police were restraining a rather violent young cyclist, "but I hate Mosley", I have a right to hate Mosley, haven't I," he shouted.

"Not here," was the reply and he was led off by a sergeant while a constable brought his bicycle along behind.

EARLS COURT ROAD BLUES

by A.A.

Man, like I'm mad, mean I'm up the groove without a stylus. After reading Rimshot's sleeve notes in the last squares' song sheet, I got sent and played a riff in the local sax supermarket, like I wanted a Rimshot do-it-yourself hard bop outfit, (man, the doll on that cash-register, she was pounding the keys like Thelonius Monk, but couldn't blow nothing but A major. Pow, was she cubic!), I was rolling the life-size model of Uranus up Earl's Court Road, when this cop rides up in his motorised vibes, like he was playing Land of Hope and Glory on the siren.

This bum gets out his manuscript book and says "Man, that way you'll be doing your next solo on a steel-bar harp with a cement soundbox." This didn't figure to me, like nobody's played me any legal discs about not rolling planets up Earls Court Road. So I played this guy two or three bars about not reading the road traffic act, and he took off like he'd just heard Farnsworth practising his extending trumpet. "Man", he said, "You're rolling that planet up a one-

way street, that is, while the Motor Show is still playing." So he slung me in his jug-box, and made for the clink like he was five bars behind the rest of the combo.

Next morning, I made a one day stand in the witness box, and blew my solo at the leader of the long-haired guys on the bench, making out like I played some blue notes at the cop by mistake, but that magistrate! He was square in n-dimensions, like he thought Mantovani had the swingiest outfit ever. This hunk, he says "don't play these chords in here, my man", and slings the book at me. He thinned out my lettuce some, the payola was £20, for riding a planet without lights and insurance, going the wrong way up a one way street, and confusing the Jodrell Bank telescope.

So that's why I don't dig Rimshot's outfit now. I traded it for a 1/400a Menitoys jazz set. Why, man, their cardboard guitar is supplied complete with Bert Weedon, and I traded him for an E.P. of Liles Davis. Still, I'm £20 in the double bass - that's what comes of reading Rimshot.

THEATRE

by I.L.Gibson.

At the Old Vic the most controversial new production this season has been Visconti's "Romeo and Juliet". The Italian producer has succeeded where many of his predecessors failed, in bringing to the London stage a real Veronese atmosphere. The decor and actors both contribute to this illusion; the sets, the street scene in particular, have a really authentic ring, while the young men of Verona strut around and fight with hot-headed enthusiasm, just as one imagines they did in the far off days of the "Romantics".

However; while his eyes were beguiled, your correspondent felt that the rather elaborate production somehow tended to submerge Shakespeare's words and hence the production lost a good deal of its impact. The play as a whole became unconvincing and one never really believed Juliet was in love with Romeo; one only saw her going through the motions. But don't take my word for it - go and see this much discussed production for yourself.

Tommy Steele fans have a chance of seeing their idol when Goldsmiths "She Stoops to Conquer" is produced at the Old Vic on November 8th. Mr. Steele plays the part of Tony Lumpkin, while Peggy Mount, of "Sailer Beware" fame, will be appearing as Mrs. Hardcastle.

In a less serious vein, one of the best Musicals to come on the London scene during the long vac is "Oliver". This rather cheered up version of "Oliver Twist" can now be seen at the New Theatre. Of course the freshman cannot go far wrong in taking his lady friends to "My Fair Lady" at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, or "West Side Story" at Her Majesty's Theatre - that is of course if his predecessor hasn't already done so! If you know your girl friend really well a visit to "Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'be" at the Garrick Theatre is sure to produce some laughs (In the right places of course)

R.C.S. UNION

R.C.S. held its first Union Meeting this term on Thursday, Nov. 3rd. The meeting was primarily a business one, but was enlivened by a good attendance, some impromptu speeches from the floor and occasional cloud-bursts.

The highlight was the election of the Queen of Jezebel, and the house, which had great difficulty in choosing between the three young ladies, eventually gave the loudest applause to the dazzling redhead, Judy Lewis, a first year chemist from South Wales. Our retiring Queen, Beverly Bradford, handed over the crown and Judy was duly enthroned.

On the election of another Trophy Officer Peter Young gave a description of the duties of this post which should be in every Union Handbook. Peter Redfirm suffered himself to be elected to the post.

Other elections were that of Martin Smith (Chem. E.G.) as Exploration Board Rep., and those of the first year Representatives

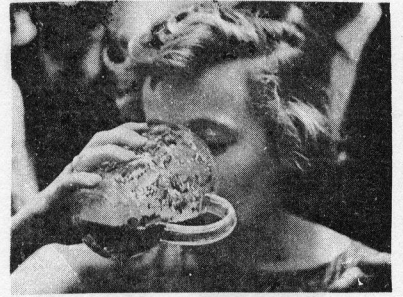
THE ICWA SUFFRAGETTES

Having obtained equality in the 10 to 5 world of I.C., the fair sex is now launching its campaign for equality in its social life. The major anomaly of men-only-in-the-bar has been successfully attacked.

After the final freshers' dinner (mixed), several slightly inebriated aquariums attempted to rush the main entrance to the bar. Tradition prevailed. This however was just a blind for the daring young ladies who stressed the ultimate aims of equality by entering through the door by the mens' lavatory - "We just want to touch it!" They swiftly found themselves outside.

Drinks were served in the hall, and one young finishing school product downed a pint without stopping. She then lost interest in the proceedings. I don't know which sex takes its liquor the better, but the men of I.C. allowed them to walk over to the sacred altar of happiness and place their glasses on it. Far from being resisted in this symbolic gesture I saw one I.C. man hiding a girl under his jacket

But for Howard, who knows what would have been the result. Perhaps men would have been forbidden from the bar and have to wait patiently in the lounge trying to avoid the lecherous gaze of passing girls. Or



maybe curtains would be put over the cold, black bar windows and worst of all aquarium bar maids on a rota.

However, with true decorum they were escorted out but the first blow has been struck and the question again arises "Do the men of I.C. really want to exclude women from the bar?"

MAGAZINE PAGE

L--- C---- L----

In deference to those whose views do not coincide with the j---'s in the famous trial recently concluded, I h--- b--- persuaded to write t--- article. Let me say, right a---, t--- I do not consider f--- letter words a g--- thing. Indeed, I w--- e--- go further, and state, quite categorically, t--- t--- are a bad thing. Therefore, t--- article w--- not h--- any f--- letter words in it. Now, to my m--- point. Why is it t--- everyone wants to see these words in print? I think I h--- found the answer. No one knows how to spell t---. Therefore, t--- cover up their ignorance by using dashes. Now t--- all these words can (and no doubt w---) appear in the dictionaries, everyone w--- s--- k--- how to spell t---, and t--- w--- be t---. I would suggest t--- all, school-teachers be forced to use at least one of these words per sentence, t--- w--- children realise early on in l--- the sanctity of sex. No one w--- h--- a any nasty inhibitions about anything. We can then l--- forward to a future f--- of w--- adjusted people, frank conversation about sex, and f--- letter words. A quick chorus of "For he's a jolly g--- f--- letter w---er" and we can depart i--- the night, rejoicing.

WELL I NEVER

It is reported that the cemetery at Wainfleet, near Skegness is running at a loss -- only two burials in the last year. In order to alleviate this difficulty the rates have been increased by one halfpenny. Thus by raising the cost of living the council is subsidising the cost of dying.

SKELETON IN THE CUPBOARD

Recently German Youth has started to ask searching questions about the events of the war. There has been awakened interest in the searching out and trial of Nazi war criminals. The swastika daubing of Cologne synagogue sparked off a nation wide protest in which the youth of Germany played a commendably conspicuous part. Now of course we have the Eichmann trial.

It was a paradoxical feature of the Germany of the Fifties that there were no Nazis, or even ex-Nazis to be found. The war was over, it must be forgotten. From this head in the sand attitude, the German public has swung round and recently Curzio Malaparte's books have been published in Germany in paper backs. The Germans' interest is very personal, but to people in this country who, compared to the holocaust of central Europe lead an almost sheltered existence during the war, the interest is in looking at the rise, motives and effects of a false sick truth.

Curzio Malaparte was in a unique position to observe this sick truth, as war correspondent of one of the leading Rome dailies he had 'carte blanche' to all theatres of the war. His book "Kaput", published by Redman's in 1948, which he wrote at great personal risk from the Gestapo, starts with a conversation with Prince Eugen, cousin of Gustav V of Sweden, and subsequently moves to Finland, Poland, the Ukraine, Rumania, Germany and finally Italy. Strangely the picture painted is comic, a bizarre macabre landscape of

grotesque humour. He tells of the snow-madness of the Alpenjaegen in Finland, the terrifying resignation of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, the hideous sick refinement and culture of the Nazi ruling elite, the massive defiance of Russian resistance. This set out in parables of animals, which for Malaparte are symbols of the tragedy and irony of a kaputte Europe in its death dance, the horses, flies dogs, the rats of Jussy.

This monumentally grim farce is an oblique attempt at analysis of the sick truth as well as being a documentary of the wake of "that slow monster dragging itself towards Jerusalem to be reborn". Although it suffers greatly as a novel from being episodic and repetitive, its strength lies in the authenticity of incident, the acid anecdotes and the portrait of the effect of such crass inhumanity and brutality has on the men caught up with it. Sensitive men like Malaparte himself, or like the cultured Frank, the Nazi King of Poland. Men of strong compassion and feeling exposed to a blinding light of experience to which their compassion is feebly inadequate.

Yet Malaparte charges the scene with glimpses of strange hope; how great people can be, how people could fight the sick truth with shrugs, smiles, sneers, just magnificent human stubbornness. It is morbidly fascinating to see the human soul stretched out on the dissecting table of war-time Europe, at first sight sick and repulsive, but after fighting a feeling of nausea it is a thing of terrible beauty.

FELIX



EDITORIAL COMMENT

It was with mixed feelings that I volunteered to accept the editorial chair from Jim Carter at the beginning of term and even now, as I set about editing my first issue, a certain uneasiness remains. Being, by nature, a somewhat retiring person one of my first thoughts was "Am I really suited for the job?" Maybe not! But then what does one gain from university life if one is not prepared to accept the challenge—it would have been far easier to have shunned the responsibility but in taking up this post I believe that I am making a valuable contribution to my own education.

Like all new editors I visualise certain changes in FELIX. I think, and I am sure that most readers will agree with me, that much can be done to improve the appearance of the paper. Compared with other college newspapers in the University, FELIX is a very shabby affair. In the method of production which we use at present most of our efforts go into actual printing and far too little into the editing and writing which form the substance of the paper. The only advantage that this method commands is that it is cheap so that we can manage without external revenue (e.g. grant from the Union, fees for advertising etc.) If we are to radically change the appearance of FELIX then we must adopt a printing process which is, of necessity, much more expensive. Since we barely make a profit on our sales as we stand there is all too little latitude for improvement if we continue without financial help. Two main sources exist, revenue from commercial advertising, and direct grant from the Union, both of which are being explored at the moment.

The other main difficulty which FELIX faces is the lack of variety of and depth of material which appears in its columns. This is inevitable owing to the small circle of people actively involved. But I am sure that this is not a true reflection of the talent at Imperial College. Remember that to many people outside the College FELIX is the only organ of communication and as such should record practically every activity and opinion within the Students Union as well as provide features of general interest. So if you have half an hour to spare, a keen interest, and a sense of responsibility towards your fellow students settle down now and become a FELIX correspondent.

Robert F. Cheeney.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor
"Felix"
S.W.7

Dear Sir,

We were most pleased to hear that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher, intends in the near future to visit Pope John at the Vatican.

We hope and pray that the visit will lead to better relations between the Church of England and the Catholic Church, nothing but good can come from the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

John Gingham (Pres. Cath. Soc)
Brian D. Bond (Chairman
Church Soc.)

Dear Sir,

In the light of Parliamentary developments, is it not time that a centre was set up for the benefit of people who like to take "sporting chances"? Noting that in preparation for the Carnival, illegal betting took place on the outcome of a tortoise race, I feel sure that this type of thing could have been bettered by the use of a bookmaker, totalisator, or even better, by the setting up of a betting shop (this is to start next year). Hence, any functions (such as tortoise races) could be handled by a society which I propose to form.

I know of twenty willing people who will join me in forming a Sporting Chance Society (for want of a better name), and with our pooled knowledge of race-courses, etc., I am sure we could bring financial gain to all Union functions. Any person willing to throw in his lot, please notify me through the Union rack,

D. Brown.
(2nd. Chem. Eng.)

Dear Sir,

I enclose the following letter which may be of interest to any of your readers who anticipate using 1cwt. of sugar this coming college year. It is in reply to a letter of mine to the firm concerned, enquiring as to the advantages of buying 1cwt. sacks of this most important commodity.

Yours Faithfully,
O.W. Davies.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter of the 25th. October enquiring for details of the differential between 1cwt. sacks of our T.L. Granulated Sugar and the equivalent quantity of 2-lb. packets.

For your information, 1-cwt. sacks of T.L. Granulated Sugar are available at a differential of $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt. under the cost of an equivalent quantity of 2-lb. packets. A single sack taken from a retail grocer who is not in the habit of selling sugar in bulk, would however, be subject to an additional delivery charge of 2/- per cwt. approximately, which would narrow the saving to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt.

In view of the fact that it will take you one college year (thirty weeks of term time) to exhaust a supply of sugar purchased in this way, we feel that the saving will be problematical.

One further point should be borne in mind, the grocery trade frequently treats packet granulated as a "loss-leader" and sugar is, available at out prices from many retail outlets. It may well be possible for you to purchase 2-lb. packets of granulated sugar for as little as $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. in your vicinity, and at this price, they would in fact, be cheaper to purchase than the equivalent quantity in a 1cwt. sack. The difficulties of transportation, the possibility of a stock of sugar spoiling if retained on your premises for this length of time must also be borne in mind and we personally cannot advise this method of purchase in your instance.

We hope that the above-mentioned facts will enable you to compare the relative merits of purchasing sugar either in packet as required or in bulk.

Yours Faithfully,
Tate and Lyle Ltd.

WATCH YOUR WALLETS

The Security Officer has drawn our attention to the fact that since the beginning of term there have been two cases of theft of wallets from jacket pockets. For your own good he has issued the following warning which we reproduce here:-

WALLETS MUST BE REMOVED FROM JACKETS WHEN THESE ARE TAKEN OFF FOR ANY PURPOSE.

STUDENTS CAN PROTECT THEIR OWN PROPERTY BY TAKING THIS SIMPLE PRECAUTION.

THANKS

The Editor would like to express his gratitude to the following people who undertook the mammoth task of typing this issue:-

Shelagh Hookings, Jim Carter, Ian Guy, Ian Gibson, John Jennings, Finlay McPherson, and Dave Owen.

BLOOD IS MY BUSINESS

The Vamp. is pleased to report that the blood continues to flow slowly but steadily. If the present rate of enrolment continues the National Blood Bank should be richer by over one hundred pints on Monday 12th. December.

The Vamp. is puzzled however by the peculiar distribution of donors between the departments. While the civil and mechanical engineers have blood to bath in, the electrical engineers are all but dry. Blood-letting physicists outnumber lethargic chemists by five to one and apparently botanists have never seen blood at all. Anyway to all of you the Vamp. expresses his good wishes and says:-

GIVA FIN-A BLOODA QUARTA

APOLOGIES

We must tender our apologies to Mr. Bob Lucas whose book review in the last edition of FELIX entitled "The World of Art" was in advertently signed with the wrong name.

COMMENT

BY JOHN COX.

Over the last year it has become noticeable that the number of anonymous articles and letters published in FELIX has increased. Furthermore, the proportion of personal attacks in such contributions has been comparable with the proportion of personal attacks in the weekend speeches of Labour Party leaders. Unless we wish all discussion of Union affairs to resolve itself into personal invective, then it might be useful to impose a ban on the publication of all unsigned--or wrongly signed--contributions. It is small comfort for those attacked to know that the writers have not the courage of their convictions and are unprepared to substantiate their allegations. The very fact that the articles are published--especially when signed with seemingly authentic names--can give the impression that there is some substance in the articles.

Several people have commented on the improvement to the Union Lounge now that the carpets have been laid. However the fact that old lags are seeing improvement doesn't cut much ice with aesthetically minded freshers or Saturday night hoppers from outside. Although the difficulties of making a large room look

cosy are considerable, the same excuse can hardly explain the cold and bare look of the smaller lounges in the Union Building. Apart from anything else, our Union Building must be amongst the poorest where it comes to paintings. We have, it is true, two loyal photographs in the Union Lounge and odd daubs elsewhere, but nowhere is there anything hanging which one would care to look at twice. It is difficult to see the reason for this, because pictures, unlike other items of expenditure, can even increase in value with age and the purchase of pictures of artistic merit cannot therefore be said to constitute a threat to the Union assets.

It seems a pity that it has been decided to hold only one Union meeting this term. This breaks a tradition of many years standing that two meetings are held in the autumn term, one for the Presentation of Accounts and one for any other important business. The next meeting on November 15th. will be the first at which the quorum of 400 becomes legal and unfortunately, due to this break in tradition, some societies had already arranged meetings for this date before this change was announced. In addition the crowded agenda makes that either there will be a very short discussion on important topics, or the meeting will go on after 2.30p.m. and be in danger of becoming inquorate. Next term I suggest the Union meetings be announced well in advance and if the agenda appears likely to be crowded, an extra meeting could be arranged.

FOR CONTINUED

You cannot change the traditions of an institution by an over-night revolution, but you can do all in your power to improve it little by little. That is why I regard with favour the trebling in the number of the social clubs in the last few years; although each one has been established in the teeth of the opposition of the stupidest form of conservatism.....Softly, softly, catchee monkey.....One day this college will be important because we will have learned how to have a social conscience.

I think it is important that the Union should do all in its power to educate itself. This is why I feel that members of the Union should learn to choose their own President and cease to allow the choice to be made for them. Some people say that the members of the Union are too irresponsible to elect their own President. This is not true of the vast majority of college unions and I do not believe it to be true of this Union. If it were true then surely it is the making of decisions that causes people to be responsible and the vicious circle of irresponsibility must be broken sooner or later. Some people say: look at the King's fracas or the Battersea fracas, by way of evidence against a popularly elected President.

COUNTER

By R.T.L. Fotheringham.

In the column Comment one union member presents his views and criticisms on the various controversies which periodically assail us. Obviously his column presents one view only. This column is intended to reply to these criticisms, and to offer opposing arguments, although the views of this writer are not necessarily opposed to those of our commentator.

Some people have been vociferously complaining that the last editor of FELIX printed anonymous letters containing personal attacks. This is not true. In none of the letters printed was any individual mentioned or referred to, and all the authors were known to the editor. Unfortunately there are in the College certain groups who will never accept that the other side has a case. If a letter bearing the name of a protagonist of one side appears the other side dismisses it as propoganda.

Thus in order to present a case which will be debated on its merits it is sometimes necessary to adopt a pseudonym. The Felix Board stipulates that the editor must know the true name of the author, but, providing the case presented is a good one, there seems no necessity for appending the true name of the author. Perhaps some people can not understand that there are Union members who don't write for FELIX just to become well known.

COMMENT

On the question of Union lounges I find myself in agreement with Mr. Cox. The introduction of carpets to the lower lounge has raised the standard to that of a first class station waiting room. Who knows but what we may not achieve the standard of a second class hotel foyer in two or three years time. Of course a few good pictures would help to make the lounges attractive and would prove a sound investment; if Mr. Cox would loan us say £100,000 I am sure Council would buy the odd Van Gogh, and in years to come would sell at a vast profit.

May I offer my condolences to our commentator as he bemoans the passing of the age-old tradition of two Union meetings in the Michelmass term. However, it is not really possible to justify a Union meeting solely for passing the accounts as there is usually very little discussion on this subject. It is unfortunate that this Union meeting clashes with some society functions but it is not possible to decide the dates of Union meetings before the beginning of term as these are arranged in conjunction with the General Studies Board. As many societies arrange their meeting during the previous term this clash seems inevitable. We are all somewhat apprehensive as to whether the meeting will achieve the necessary 400 quorum. However providing our Publicity Officer justifies his position there should be little difficulty in raising 400 heads from a 2,800 population.

But there have been some fairly good Imperial fracasas in the past two years and we do not elect our President. I think the truth of the matter is that probably the same man would be elected either by the Union or by the Council.

Now some people will pick on the last statement to prove that there is no reason to make the change, and they will have completely missed the point. The effect the change will have will be to cause a far larger number of people to think and argue about the qualities needed in a good President. To the extent that to improve the output of Imperial College its members should learn to argue and discuss, an election for President would be a good thing.

Bob Finch.

COMING SOON

COMING EVENTS

CATHOLIC SOCIETY

Mon. Nov. 14th. --- A talk on "Africa Today" by Anthony Allot of the School of Oriental and African Studies at 5.15 p.m. in the Botany Lecture Theatre.

Mon. Nov. 21st. --- A theatre party to the Globe Theatre to see "A Man for All Seasons"

THE BALL

For the first time ever the I.C. Commemoration Ball was held at Quaglino's. The choice promised to be a popular one, for all the tickets were sold well in advance of the event. Looking back the change of venue proved to be a most successful one,

The evening opened at 9.00pm., when the early arrivals were announced by the Toastmaster, and welcomed by the President.

The number of couples dancing throughout the evening paid tribute to the excellent music of the Tommy Kinsman's Orchestra, and the quality of the ballroom.

This year a light dinner was served in four sittings. The superb menu provided a choice of dishes for each course, after which coffee was served in the foyer.

A photographer was in attendance to record the notable events of the evening, including the Links Club meeting, which took place in the Long Bar at 11.00pm.



SIR WILLIAM FUCH AND VISCOUNT FAIRMOUTH.

The decor and general facilities were of an extremely high standard. Perhaps the only fault in an otherwise memorable evening was the occasional in-efficiency of the service.

Unfortunately the evening closed at 3.00am, when a reluctant, but contented company dispersed.

In all the event proved to be so highly successful that similar arrangements are being considered for next year. The success of the Ball must be credited to last year's committee for their organisation of this memorable occasion.

A. Miller.

CEREMONY IN THE ALBERT HALL

The main point of interest at this year's Commem. Day, was the address by the special visitor Professor Sir Cyril Hinchlewood, President of the Royal Society, President of the Classical Ass. and something of a linguist. His speech was concerned with what he called 'the two cultures' of arts (or the humanities) and science.

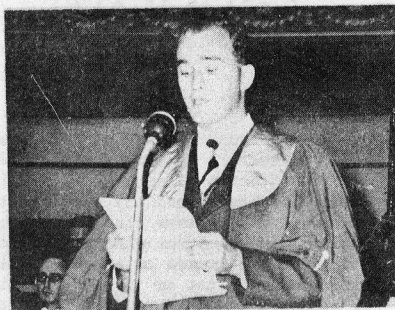
I think this was one of the best addresses I can remember, and its relevance cannot be questioned. That there is a split in the country's intellectuals is obvious and we should do nothing to widen this split, even if, as is by no means certain, we can do nothing to close it.

Sir Cyril certainly made one or two very perceptive observations which provided food for thought.

COMMEMORATION DAY



THE CHOIR.



STUDENT ORATOR - JOHN LOOME.



SIR CYRIL HINSHELWOOD.

NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING

Since 1884 successive generations of engineering students have been entering the red brick building designed by Waterhouse on Exhibition road, and which became the City and Guilds College. On the evening of Friday 4th November a reception held at Imperial College - the same ball which was used to call students to lectures in 1884 was rung again to mark the transition from the old building to the new - now fully commissioned as the first part of the larger building for Mechanical Engineering.

Under the guidance of men like Unwin and his successors, the growth of engineering education has been phenomenal during the last 75 years. There were some 200 engineering students when the City and Guilds College was federated to form part of the Imperial College in 1907. By 1952 there were

nearly 800; today there are more than 1,250 and the planned number is 1,750. The major increase during the past eight years is the result of the Government's decision to expand the Imperial College; and the number of engineering students both undergraduate and postgraduate, could only be increased by the provision of more space and up-to-date facilities.

The new building, of which the first instalment has now gone into service, will be completed some three to four years hence. It will take the place of the old buildings on Exhibition Road, which will be progressively demolished to make room for it. It will be 440 feet long, and on nine floor levels, and will provide teaching and research facilities for more than 350 students of Mechanical Engineering and for some 300 of the engineering students from the other Departments of the College.

As well as major groups working on Applied Thermodynamics (all subjects concerned with combustion and with heat and mass transfer) and Applied Mechanics (metal fatigue, plasticity, stress analysis and the like), the Department also includes sections studying nuclear power and production engineering.

The new building will form the eastern boundary of a new East Quadrangle, bounded on the south and west by other new buildings now under construction for Civil and for Electrical Engineering. Designed by Messrs. Norman and Dawbarn, the building is of composite construction with structural steel and reinforced concrete frames. External treatment is similar to that adopted for the new building for the Physics Department (opened last month by Sir John Cockcroft) - white mosaic columns and spandrel walls faced with green Swedish tiles.



SPORT



HOCKEY

The hockey first XI got off to a good start with a convincing 8-2 win against St. Barts. At half time the score was 2-0 in favour of I.C., but in the second half we really got on top scoring six goals in the last twenty minutes.

The case of polio in the college meant that matches for the following two weeks had to be cancelled. After this rest the teams were eager to start playing again, but last Wednesday's and Saturday's matches had to be cancelled owing to the weather. One of the matches cancelled because of this was the first round of the U.L. Cup against Kings, and it is hoped to play this match off in the near future.

On Saturday, 5th. of November the first, second and third elevens had matches against Guy's Hospital. The first eleven match was a hard fast game considering the muddy conditions, and the hospital side won 5-2. The second eleven played well and managed to hold Guy's to a two-two draw. The third eleven provided our only win of the day, and played exceptionally well to record a 5-2 win.

Finally I should like to remind everyone to TICK OFF early in the week.

BADMINTON

Its badminton in the Concert Hall at last! The long awaited launching of our new acquisition, a portable badminton court took place on the afternoon of Wednesday 2nd. November. The court (all 21 1/2 x 17 1/2 3d. worth of it) was an undoubted success. All we need now is permission to use it regularly on one evening per week. It is to be hoped that officialdom does not allow the court to become a very expensive white elephant gathering dust in the gym.

The teams creaked somewhat after the polio interlude and the second team had a close but eventually successful open to the season against a rather depleted Chelsea team. In the first match in which all ladies have represented the college at badminton the girls lost narrowly 5-4 to a strong King's team. This was an excellent start for a new venture.

D.F.

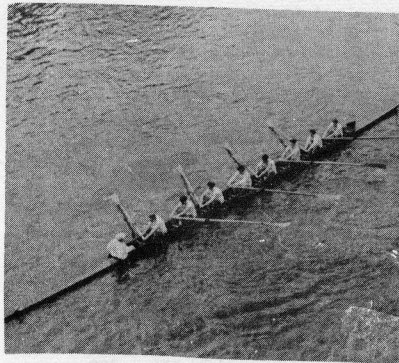
On reading through this page the editor finds that there is a space here.

CROSS COUNTRY



JOHN COLLINS

MORPHY DAY



Owing to the case of polio in the college the Morphy and Lowry boat races had to be postponed. The illness led to the interruption of training, but all crews are now fit after a fortnights hard work. The races will now be held on Wednesday 16th. of November and it is hoped that as many people as possible will be on the tow path to cheer on the crews.

ICWSC

Ann King was recently elected President of the Imperial College Womens' Sporting Clubs.



ANN KING.

In spite of having to miss the second University trial, because of the Polio outbreak, many of the college were chosen to represent the University in the 1st., 2nd., and 3rd. teams against Cambridge on Sat. 29th. October. I.C. fresher Ted Wilkins ran in the third team match, though not selected, and won quite handsomely to prove his fitness. Others did not fair so well.

On the following Wednesday we had three away matches. The first team paid a visit to Borough Road T.C. and for this small college of 300 we had to turn out our strongest team since last years University Championships. Having been beaten by them once already this season we came very near to being beaten again, and only a splendid finish by a not very fit Tony Larkum pipped a Borough Road man into last place to give us a one point victory. Borough road had the first two men home but I.C. packed well J.Cleator (3), T.Wilkins (5) J.Collins (6), D.Hammonds (7) and J.Bernard (8) to give us the hard earned victory 26-27. A second team were at Parliament Hill Fields running against Royal vets and R.A.F. Chessington. G.Wenk pulled off an excellent individual victory for I.C., on one of his few appearances for the cross country club. D.Colin (6), and D.Pearn also put in good performances to give I.C. second place to the R.A.F.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|-----|
| Result. | 1. R.A.F. | 29. |
| | 2. I.C. | 44. |
| | 3. R.V.C. | 56. |

At the time of writing we have no results of the third match - a University League II match.

Saturday 5th. November was the date of the annual visit of the London Colleges to the Midlands. This time our hosts were the University of North Staffs. Liverpool University provided the rest of the Midland opposition to teams from L.C., U.C., and Q.M.C. I.C. with 4 men in the first including the individual winner J.Collins were very unlucky not to win. D.Hammonds came to grief on the first barbed wire fence and was badly scratched and lost his shorts. Fresher John Young twisted his ankle only a little later but very pluckily carried on to close the scoring five. Liverpool won the day however from I.C. by five points, the result being :-

| | | |
|----|----------------------|------|
| 1. | Liverpool university | 50. |
| 2. | I.C. | 44. |
| 3. | Q.M.C. | 76. |
| 4. | U.C.L. | 84. |
| 5. | KEELE college U.N.S. | 135. |

Individual placings were:-

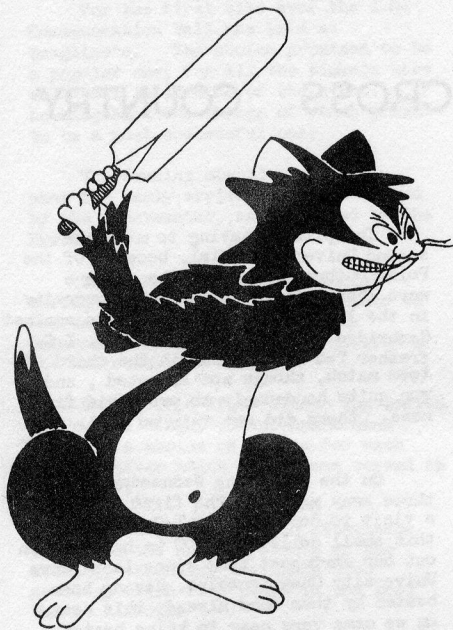
| | | | |
|-----|-----------|----|----|
| 1. | J.Collins | 24 | 25 |
| 5. | T.Wilkins | 24 | 40 |
| 6. | P.Warren | 25 | 05 |
| 7. | J.Bernard | 25 | 05 |
| 22. | J.Young | - | - |

J.BERNARD. (capt.)

SPORT

MATCHES VERSUS

MANNHEIM UNIVERSITY



SOCCER

On Saturday 2nd October the 1st, 2nd, and third elevens travelled to Southampton for friendly matches against the University. The 1st XI played well, and showed a distinct improvement on their performance in the first match. The result of the match was 2-1 to Southampton, but a draw would have been a fairer reflection of the play. It was pleasing to see fresher Dave Loftus, at right-back and Dave Hunt, at left-half, playing so strongly and well.

The 2nd XI also lost, by 3-0, to a strong Southampton side. Southampton were held to a 1-0 lead in the first half, but after half-time, their greater stamina told and they ran out worthy winners.

Of the three teams playing at Southampton the 3rd XI put up the best performance, and with Rod Wilshaw scoring twice, I.C. won 5-3.

On Wednesday 2nd November, all I.C. teams playing were engaged in league matches. The 1st XI, not taking advantage of a strong wind in the first half, lost 1-3 to Kings I. This was a great disappointment after our fine display of the previous Saturday. The 2nd XI, playing away, lost 0-3 to King's II, while the 3rd XI, playing at Harlington, went down by the same score to Q.M.C. II. The fifth XI, however, won convincingly by 5-0 against Northern Poly.

November 5th saw the 1st XI resting for their match against Mannheim University to be played on the following day, and the 2nd XI took the opportunity of showing 1st XI how to win. Playing in an away league match at London School of Economics, they soundly thrashed the opposition and won by 6-2. The 3rd XI, not to be outdone, also won, by 3-0 against Northern Poly, their second clear win in succession. The fourth XI, playing against Old Templonians at Harlington, in a friendly were well beaten by 5-0, and the seventh team also lost by 5-2 against Borough Poly.

ATHLETICS

Cold weather and rain unfortunately marred the first meeting of the season at Hurlingham Park on Sat. Nov. 5th against L.S.E. and Mannheim University. In spite of this, the match resulted in a very close finish between I.C. and Mannheim, with the German team winning by three points.

Most of the I.C. successes came in the three field events - with some good performances from Connolly who well supported by Allcock. These two came

first and second in shot and discus and second and sixth in the javelin. In the two relays, I.C. finished second in each case to Mannheim. In the long relay, 440 - 220 - 220 - 880, Clifton running the 440 handed over in 2nd place to Harrison who ran a fine 220 under appalling conditions to consolidate this before handing over to Meade. Cleator running the final stage, did well to maintain his position and hold off a strong challenge from Heck of L.S.E. In the other relay, 440 - 330 - 220 - 110, Spier began well for I.C., narrowly failing to hold off a late challenge from Leger of Mannheim. Blake Meade and Sonbry drew well away from L.S.E. but were unable to close the gap with Mannheim.

The next meeting of the season will be the University Winter Relays at Motspur Park, for which we will need as strong a team as possible.

RUGGER AND SOCCER

On Sunday sixth November the I.C. Soccer and Rugby Clubs played the Mannheim University clubs at Harlington.

The Soccer Club, including the college's University players, had a fine 5-2 win.

The game started off at a fast pace, and the German side scored two early goals. Mannheim kept this deserved lead until the interval, but in the second half I.C. gradually got on top. The Mannheim goal was under almost constant pressure, and it was not surprising to see the German goalkeeper beaten five times. Two of these goals were scored with long shots by I.C. defenders.

The Rugger Club, also including U.L. players, had a closer game, but their greater strength told in the end. The final score was 16 pts. - 3 pts. in favour of I.C.

After the matches Mannheim were entertained at dinner. The teams then retired to the bar, where a general sing-song and the drinking of much beer completed an enjoyable evening.

TABLE TENNIS

The first week of league matches was quite a successful one, with each winning its respective match. In the first round of the cup the first team scored a 7-2 victory against Goldsmiths I and will go on to play the winner of Chelsea and Charing X. The second team were unlucky to draw L.S.E. I. as opponents and were beaten by a superior side 9-0.

I.G. Cameron (Capt.)

DO NOT FILL IN THIS SPACE UNTIL TOLD
WHAT TO DO:-

A.....
B.....

IC MAN CAPTAINS WALES

Basil James brought great honour to himself and the college by being selected to captain Wales against England in an Amateur International Match.

The match played on Brighton and Hove Albions ground on Saturday 5th November ended in disaster for Basil, as in the 36th minute he was carried off with a broken leg. The game ended in a 6-4 win for England, but Wales fought gallantly with ten men.

I feel everyone in college would like to wish Basil a speedy recovery, and that we will see him in action again later in the season.