

FELIX

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION No. 277 8th MAY, 1969 6d.

Discipline impasse Crisis looms

The Jurgo sub-committee, set up to hammer out differences between the authorities and the Union over discipline procedures, after making some progress now appears deadlocked. The sub-committee consisting of three Union representatives — Rex Lowin, ICU President, Martin Bland, SCC Chairman, and Rob Collinge, Welfare Officer, and three representatives from the authorities is chaired by Dr. Ware a governor with some legal experience.

'Courts'

A structure of discipline 'courts' has been agreed culminating in an Appeals committee. Four bodies have the right to give summary punishments, Hall committees (who will take over the Warden's responsibility for punishment), Union, Departments (who will be allowed to exclude people from lectures or labs and levy fees for breakages but not expel students) and the Senior Warden. Either the accused of these bodies (who then become the accusers) can take offences to a discipline Committee consisting of three authorities and three students with a Dean as chairman; the President will as a result of negotiations have a say with the Rector in the appointment of this chairman. The Appeal committee, the pinnacle of the tier system will compromise two students, one of whom will usually be the President, and two authorities, usually including the pro-Rector, a governor will be chairman.

The first main concession won by Union negotiators has been the agreement to

drop the nebulous charge of 'bringing the good name of the college into disrepute'. However the central issue of double punishment remains unresolved. The college seem to insist on the right to punish people who have previously been tried by the courts of land. This issue has already caused one storm at an I.C. union meeting when a motion was passed overwhelmingly refusing to accept double punishment under any circumstances and mandating the Governors to this effect by the end of the session. I.C. students were hoping that through JURGO the college would, by negotiation, agree to drop their support for double punishment. This is the stage that has been reached.

A week ago when the subject was raised at the sub-committee no progress was made. The three authorities' reps, according to reports, were not prepared to abandon the principle of double punishment but tried to negotiate procedures to enforce it. They suggested two trials, the first to decide whether to proceed with double discipline. Reports suggest that the chairman of the committee Dr. Ware was a strong opponent of the union representatives, and attempted to move the discussion off the main topics onto legal arguments. President Rex Lowin believes that when the strength of Union opposition to double punishment is known, the Governor's representatives may be more amenable to negotiation.

Next move

Union officials are divided as to what the next move from the Rector's side will be. Some feel that an attempt will be made to split 'moderate' and 'militant' opinion, by

an attempt to push a compromise through. There seems at this stage little likelihood of success for such a move as I.C. students are united on what is basically a non-political issue. Other officials suggest that the Rector might step in to prevent the present impasse developing into the kind of crisis that has led to 'sit-ins' at other colleges. To many council members however, the negotiations involve, besides the issue of justice, the whole future of JURGO. If the talks fail to eliminate the possibility of double discipline they feel JURGO will have proved to have been worse than useless.

● Spike Bantin will be writing an article opposing double punishment in the next issue of FELIX.

Today, assuming there has been no settlement of the ASTMS University technician pay claim, the Imperial College Branch of the union will be in the last day of a three day official strike designed to support their demands for a 10 per cent increase. As the IC Open Day goes ahead, 500 pickets including Clive Jenkins, General Secretary of ASTMS, and Ian Mikardo MP, the President, will be demonstrating around the college. Technical staff from other colleges will also be here to show their support.

Last week's one day

national strike by ASTMS pulled out all but a handful of the 520 members in IC. Mech. Eng., Elec. Eng. and RSM were heavily hit by the walkout.

A.U.T. decision

The day after the strike, the IC branch of the Association of University Teachers met to discuss their attitude towards the present 3 day stoppage and, with an attendance of just under 35 members, a two-thirds majority said they would do all they

could "to ensure the success of Open Day". The long motion, put forward by the AUT committee, reorganized the vital role which technicians play in the successful teaching of Science and Technology and, believing that they were under-valued, wished them success in their pay fight. Nevertheless the remainder of the motion stated that the IC AUT believed the "good name of the college and the best interests of staff are inseparable" and so AUT members should ensure the success of Open Day.

This is not in accord with the official AUT line, but Dr. Newey, secretary of IC AUT, said it was up to individual members to place their own interpretation on the motion. A member interviewed after the meeting was uncertain that a lot of staff would actually follow the AUT line. Arthur Sier, branch chairman of ASTMS, said he couldn't understand how they (the lecturers) could support the AUT line on one day and not on the other 3 days.

Nice footnote from the dispute. When the college computer came to deduct a day's pay from the technicians after the April 29 stoppage, it merely took off a seventh of the weekly rate since it works on a 7 day week. ASTMS wouldn't stand for this as accepting a one seventh deduction would imply accepting a 7 day week with obvious comebacks on overtime and holidays. Accordingly, the college have had to spend money on converting the computer to a 5 day week.



April 29th's Picket

Guilds failure rate shock

The interim report of the Working Party on Student Failures produces figures which show that the failure rate of C and G students is way above that for other constituent Colleges. Taking an average over the past five years, the percentage failures in C and G in the first and second years are 12 per cent and 13 per cent respectively; the equivalent figures for R.C.S. are 9 per cent and 6 per cent. Since the Party feels that although 1st year failures may be due partly to academic reasons, subsequent failures should be due mainly to non-academic factors, and should therefore "be smaller in proportion", it has centred its attention on C and G departments.

The report starts by suggesting that since Engineering courses are wider in scope, the value of School subjects as preparation is necessarily less than for Science subjects. The report goes on to state that "the insistence upon

relevance to industry poses fresh intellectual problems, and the range of knowledge required may be such that the relationship of parts to the whole is hard to grasp."

Tests

The Working Party sees no grounds for suggesting a change in the present standard of examinations in engineering subjects, and it finds no evidence to suggest that a certain proportion of students are doomed to automatic failure (sic). It proposes that the present system could be improved by providing a series of tests throughout the year, to provide preparation for examinations; that examinations should be adjusted in time "so as not to, provide undue strain on candidates", and that some idea of marks obtained in examinations should be given to students.

Great emphasis is placed in the report on the need to balance the quantity of work

between the 1st and 2nd years. Since a number of students have covered at least a small proportion of their first year work at school, they may be encouraged to "place too great an emphasis on extra-curricular activities". In one department 43 per cent of the third year students felt that the 2nd year course was overloaded. The present procedure of providing a Common Course in the 1st year also comes under fire, since it tends to breed lack of interest in the main subject. The diversion of interest in the first year also tends to cause some overloading in the 2nd year.

Pass degree

After discussing the need for improvement in the tutorial arrangements in the second year, the report concludes that what it terms "rescue operations" should be introduced as a solution to a number of problems. It

quotes the 70 per cent pass rate obtained in 1st year results elsewhere as good reason for introducing the same procedure in C and G and recommends the introduction of Pass Degree courses in the 3rd year to cater for marginal failures, who would otherwise be forced to re-sit 2nd year examinations 12 months later to get back onto the third year course. The report quotes figures from R.C.S. departments to support this move: in Physics the outright failure rate of 1.2 per cent in 1968 would have been 16.1 per cent if it had not been for the pass degree course, which 14.9 per cent opted to take.

The Working Party stresses that their report is only interim, and suggests that long term investigations over 2 or 3 years are needed to produce a Final Report on the subject of student failures. Some students have been shocked by the report's complacent attitude to the exam system in the College.

COMMENT

The Parliamentary Select Committee on student relations has attracted a fair amount of national publicity recently. Few people seem to be in any doubt that the committee are enquiring into student protest and what can be done about it. The events at Essex are well known and further comment on them would probably incur the wrath of Mr. Speaker, despite the obvious value to the country of press comment on such a topical event. Undaunted, the sub-committee decided to visit LSE; at first they did not want to meet any of the 'militants', merely Union 'bureaucrats', but, under pressure they met a delegation of a dozen from the Union meeting. Why, it will be asked, this reluctance to meet 'protesters', the people they are supposed to be enquiring about?

To many students today this fracas seems typical of the basic paradox of our society. We can reach for the moon, control complex nuclear reactions and extend our dominion over nature in a thousand and one ways, yet the world is not far from the brink of total disaster. This state of affairs comes not from lack of control over nature, or God's creation, but rather our lack of control over our own creations, the institutions man has set up. Thus parliament, originally thought of as the institution through which popular opinion could control the government, increasingly looks like an institution through which the government tries to influence, and hence control, popular opinion.

Seen in this light, the reluctance of the committee to meet real protesters no longer seems amusing but disquieting. Is the committee really trying to find ways in which the government can control outbreaks of student violence, because the institutions they represent are unable to really do anything to cure the disease of which protest is a symptom. How would the committee suggest that the contradictions of the present system can be solved? How can academic freedom be reconciled with the "demands of the economy" or equality of opportunity be brought about in a society of unequal wealth?

* * *

Now we hear this committee is to visit IC on May 14th, and the Rector was asked to provide a wide spread of opinion from staff, students and authorities. Now this is a distinctly more encouraging idea but how tragic the failure to rise to the occasion has been! Lord Penney and Rex Lowin, who was asked to provide six student representatives, have fallen into the error of "trying to preserve the good name of Imperial College". They have both submitted uninspired lists of respectable staff, and students involved in various reformist activities, but not a hint of an unorthodox 'protestor', staff or student. Unfortunately the committee will probably learn little from these eminent Daily Telegraph readers.

In passing, it might be noted that this same attitude is exercised towards FELIX. The 'good name preservers' would prefer to empty this newspaper of opinion and lower it to the turgid level of a house journal. Whereas we intend to maintain FELIX as a paper where all views can be expounded.

Perhaps some day those in authority at IC will ask a few outsiders what the standing of IC really is. The National Front types can't distinguish one student from another and those progressives who can regard such antics with the derision they deserve. No, come off it, Rex and Rector, let that committee meet a 'wide spread of opinion'; more than the good name of IC is at stake.

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Many I.C. students were present at various conferences over the vacation. Here we publish reports from three of the most interesting, written by members of the I.C. delegation.

Universities and industry

About 250 students from 23 countries attended a conference on 'The Relationships between Universities and Industry', held in Churchill College, Cambridge, during the vac. The whole thing had been conceived and organised by a group of undergraduates there and paid for by various companies they approached.

The conference was split into five sessions, each consisting of two lectures, a break into small groups to discuss the points raised and then back into the lecture hall for questioning of the speakers and further discussion. Some of the subjects dealt with were 'Universities' aims', 'Industry's needs', 'The years before and after business school', 'Organisational careers' and 'An economist's view'. The class of the lectures varied from excellent to pretty poor, with the best session being given by Prof. Casimir, Director of Research and Development, Philips N.V., Eindhoven, and Prof. Leavitt of the Stanford Business School.

The widely varying backgrounds, nationalities and politics of the students produced many interesting heated and entertaining arguments. To say that any conclusions were reached would be a great fallacy, but perhaps some of the points

brought out were a general dislike and fear of industry by the student body and a feeling that industry should change to accommodate universities and their graduates and not vice versa; a general plea for a break from the specialised education to a more general one and the advice that it would be a good idea for all students and especially those doing science and technology to spend a year 'out' before going to university.

On the social side, our stay was most enjoyable, from the opening dinner with its impressive selection of guests topped by Prince Philip through an international folk evening with Lilian entertaining on her recorder, to the final discotheque and late-night film. Perhaps the fact that the bar was open until 11.30 helped.

It was altogether a worthwhile experience giving an insight into what went on in other universities in this country and abroad. Most of this information was gleaned during a few late-night sessions consuming imported duty-free liquor. It also supplied an opportunity to see Cambridge at the expense of industry. Our thanks go to the organisers, Churchill College, and those companies who paid for it.

Dermott Corr

The Red Base theory

At the University of Manchester, on Saturday and Sunday, March 22nd and 23rd, the first delegate conference of the Revolutionary Socialist Student Federation took place, attended by two hundred delegates, including three from the I.C. Group. In a serious and co-operative atmosphere, with a high-level of debate, the wide spectrum of left-wing militancy represented aired its views. Differences were never very far below the surface, but these were frankly discussed, not hidden behind a fragile facade of complete unity. They were in the main differences of means, not ends. The maximum common ground was sought, but principles were not sacrificed to this end.

After the election of a triumvirate to chair the meeting, an agenda and standing orders were adopted. The announcement that the record of the open Round House Conference of last November had disappeared along with the stenographer (whose dedicated note-taking no-one had questioned) was met with some derision and speculation as to their whereabouts. By 96 votes to 92, the press was excluded from the conference on the grounds that press distortion rendered the publicity useless.

Regan Scott, on behalf of the National Co-Ordination Committee, reported that a nation-wide organisation was now functional with its own resources, and that the conference must decide on its future direction. Manchanda called for evaluation, stressing that there can be no revolutionary movement without clear objectives which RSSF lacked at the moment. After a financial report and a defeated proposal

Manchester congress

The Manchester Congress 'Response to Crises' was held over the Easter Vac, to study the problems of poverty in the world. A series of main plenary sessions were held, though two of the most important speakers were unable to attend. Jesse Jackson, the American Civil Rights leader had his passport impounded by the U.S. authorities, and Conor Cruise O'Brien was stuck in Biafra at the time.

Of the other Speakers, Ronald Segal described 'The Historical Causes of the World Crisis'. Much on the lines of his book, 'The Race War', he emphasised the way the developed societies of the non-European world were raped by the slave traders and the colonial exploiters. The failure of the coloured races to fight back effectively gave the white man a general feeling of superiority which still intensively survives, often in the assumptions made of how the poor countries of the world should deal with their internal problems.

The second main speaker, Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Recife Brazil, spoke on similar lines, especially criticising paternalistic attitudes. "The root causes of disagreements between social classes in one country lies in the attitude of the rich, who feel that the problem can be solved by aid, generosity and the proper distribution of the crumbs that fall from their tables".

A large number of secondary meetings took place with speakers such as John Davy, whose articles on the study of human nature have recently appeared in the "Observer", Michael Duane, the ex-headmaster of Risinghill Comprehensive School, and Merlyn Rees, minister with special responsibility for immigration.

The general level of contributions and discussions were high, and there was a great deal of agreement as to the root causes of the problems considered. I found the event particularly enjoyable for the opportunity it provided to meet students from other places, who were concerned with the problems, and to have enlightened discussions with people who did not resort to entrenched standpoints.

However, no detailed answers emerged—perhaps it was foolish to expect magic solutions to arise. 'The Revolution' was urged, but to most this did not mean necessarily a violent revolution. A quite substantial minority did, all the same, decide to occupy the South African Airlines Office, conveniently placed opposite the conference hall. To most the 'Personal Revolution' and 'Not compromising with the system' were the answer. By this was meant not living within the narrow horizons of personal affluence, but being willing to help the poor, and to stand out against the wrongs committed by ones compatriots—indeed being aware of them. To realise that the reformist treating of symptoms will not work, but widespread political awareness of the needs of others, and the willingness of a majority of people to tackle the problems are all that will bring real results.

To members of I.C. this congress could have considerable significance. Not only do we work within two miles of Notting Hill, considered by some as the worst Ghetto in Britain, where all the classic causes of poverty exist—large scale political domination by the surrounding areas, combined with indifference; bad housing; racial problems and efforts at social aid generally underfinanced. We are also at the forefront of the move to create the post-industrial society—a fragmented society, where the successful will increasingly forget the unsuccessful. Perhaps through our work as Scientists and Technologists, the better, more integrated world can arise.

Pete Elphick

that a horse-shoe shaped conference was more conducive to discussion, the base reports were given, particular emphasis being given to the activities of the London RSSF and the LSE. Activity was by no means confined to London however. The recent events at Essex were however unique, and, though reported in an extremely amusing manner, still gave a clear warning of the result of lack of direction and purpose. At Essex, a large but undeveloped 'left' had been demobilised and demoralised by the ease with which its 'aims' had been achieved!! A two-week occupation, a strike and a boycott of lectures had brought the University—and the 'left'—to a standstill. The Aberdeen delegate, on the other hand, stressed the need to separate those who were in earnest from the 'cowboy-socialists'. Self-education in every field was the real crux.

Continued on page 7

LETTERS

Relevance of Essex

Dear Sir,

With reference to the recent demonstrations at the University of Essex during the visit of the Select Committee C on student relations, I feel that the national press has, deliberately or otherwise, completely ignored or misrepresented the point that was being made by the demonstrators.

With the pending visit of the same Select Committee to IC I should like to take the opportunity of stressing the point of the demonstrators, as I feel it is very relevant for us.

The Commons Select Committee on Education has been and will continue to, travel the Universities collecting, primarily, information on student unrest. It does, therefore, seem ludicrous to me that the Select Committee is not meeting the one group of students who are most able to give them the relevant information—that is, the left-wing

student 'protesters'.

The fault for this lies both with the select committee itself and with the authorities of the Universities concerned. In certain cases, e.g. the London School of Economics the Select Committee has asked to see the President of the Union, the Vice-President, the President of the Athletic Union, etc., but under pressure it agreed to meet elected Union delegates. In other cases, e.g. Imperial College, the Select Committee has asked the Principal to allow them to meet half a dozen students representing a fair cross-section of student opinion. Once again the same handful of Union bureaucrats have been selected. This does not allow the student left a chance to explain itself neither is the Committee meeting a fair cross-section of student opinion.

It must be pointed out that written evidence can be submitted by any student; this,

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however, is no substitute for a personal confrontation where one can make relevant and instructive comments as the Select Committee, I am sure, wishes.

The only way that it is possible for the select Committee to meet a broad spectrum of student opinion is by a completely open question and answer session. If it is felt that this would be unmanageable or an inadequate way for the Select Committee to ask its 'prepared' questions and it is felt best to resort to small personal interview sessions, then, in order for the Select Committee to achieve the purpose for which it was constructed, surely it must be allowed to meet members of the student left. Or else, as we saw at the University of Essex, the student left will find it necessary to take their views to the Standing Committee.

Yours faithfully,
C. P. Thunhurst.

Whose opinion?

Dear Sir,

I've just watched Christopher Parker make Imperial College look ridiculous by associating its name with the reactionary and stupid views he put forward on the BBC's 'Man Alive'. This surely brings up the whole question of who is to represent IC in any matter of external communications. Perhaps the President would care to explain his choice (if it was his choice) of Mr. Parker at the next Union meeting. This would seem to me exceptionally relevant at the present time in the light of the coming visit of the Government's Select Committee of Student Affairs, and their meeting a wide spectrum of College opinion. How wide? Who decides? Whose opinion?

Yours sincerely,

Alan Lafferty.

Overseas Students Committee

Dear Sir,

Imperial College has a higher proportion of overseas students than many other similar institutions. In this connection with the new and still evolving Overseas Student Committee should serve a useful purpose and should be welcomed. I also welcome its recent promotion, I gather, to become a sub-committee of the Union Welfare Committee, and its recent effort to ensure, through a new constitution, that its member be elected from the general body of overseas students.

On the other hand I should like to suggest, while the momentum of the Committee and its evolution is still gaining, that it broadens and looks further in its aim than the present one of catering for the welfare of overseas students, and what it sounds like in the constitution, of pulling them, like a separate species, into more active life in the college.

If we follow the apparent wish of the brains behind the new constitution, that the committee be one elected and thus be long to overseas students, surely its aims should be that furthering their interests (welfare being one of these), of bringing out their contributions to the life of the College (it is more often outsiders who 'encourage participation' to quote the original wording), and of promoting an international atmosphere among all students (rather than encourage British-overseas social contact).

These suggested changes are much more than a matter of a difference in wordings. They are necessary in order that the Committee can give a more genuine benefit to the overseas students well as to the whole student life. They are also necessary in order that the committee can attract support. Unless in the general meetings where its members are elected, there are sufficient entertainments of whatever kind, as at the Constituent College Union meetings, it seems unlikely that more than the quorum of 80 overseas students would attend, just to elect a committee that only looks after their welfare and, following again the wordings of the Constitution, to assist them in their problems. The recent general meeting attracted only 20 students.

John Cheung

Collar and tie rule

Dear Sir,

A rule requiring jacket, collar and tie to be worn in Beit Upper Refectory has recently been enforced. No other refectory in College has this rule; not even the South Side staff refectory.

The College seems to want

conformity to an old-fashioned idea of respectability, a policy more appropriate to a finishing school than to a University.

Why have this rule? The only reason can be to keep students out, so that it becomes effectively the Beit

staff refectory. If so, this is another reason why the rule should be strongly opposed.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. B. Achwayshilaf, M. G. Green, G. P. Gopal, A. Mutalib, G. Thompson, D. Pearce, B. Penny, (PGs, Physics).

Student house shock

Dear Sir,

Would you like to be suddenly handed a bill for electricity which was supposed to be free?

Residents in Bernard Sunley House were told last term that due to insufficient heating arrangements they would use their own electric fires plugged into the "free" wall sockets.

Five weeks later they were told that they had no right to use them and from then on they would receive a bill for all electricity used. This term they received a bill for the whole term—charged at the maximum rate of 3d. per unit.

Alright, so they were only paying for what they used, but are they? Inquiries into how the totals were arrived at are met with the sharp comment that "they've got to be paid, no arguments". The bill for one single room came to

over £8! That is 9 units a day, seven days a week, yet the person in question spends more of his time out of the room.

The residents have been told that the house is running into financial difficulties. It is obvious that they are paying for other people's mistakes.

Somebody has also thought out that the more of us there are, the more we pay; so when somebody returned to his room last week he found another bed and a wardrobe crammed into it. Unluckily there was no room at all for a second writing desk—so the new resident has to do without.

It appears that this is the first of many 'enlargements' that will be made, though details are, as usual, hard to come by until everything has happened.

The "House Committee"

set up to safeguard our interests is taken no notice of at all. Everything they want is agreed to at meetings, yet nothing done after.

We keep being told the house is new, difficult to organise, but do we hear any complaints from Linstead Hall?

Yours,

John Giles.

DOUBLE PUNISHMENT

We have received a number of letters on the subject of double punishment but are unable to publish them because of lack of space. However we hope to publish letters on this topic in the next FELIX. All letters for publication should be brief, preferably under 300 words.

You have enough to worry about. So we don't ask for bank charges.

The biggest cloud on the horizon for a student (apart from examinations) is money. A grant is difficult to live on.

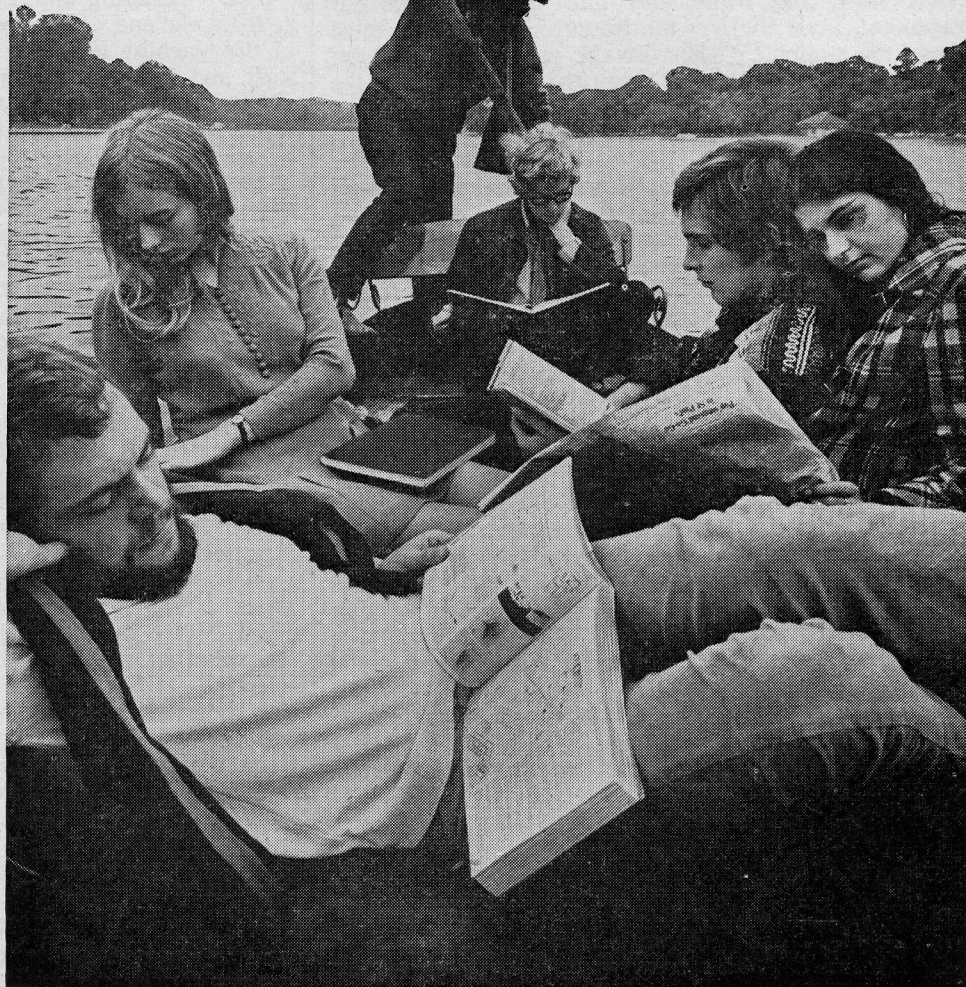
So Lloyds Bank doesn't ask for bank charges on student accounts, provided the account is always in credit.

We can also give free advice on how to manage your financial affairs.

Why not talk to the Manager of your nearest branch of Lloyds Bank? He'd be delighted to see you.



Lloyds Bank
helps you to plan.



Nearest branch to the College: 67/69 Old Brompton Road, S.W.7.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Following the Teaching and Learning Methods Conference, three students give their views on what can and should be done.

Purpose of Education

by Piers Corbyn

Man is moulded by his social environment — this is no less true for the students at IC who, being influenced by two contrasting and conflicting claims on their time, lead dual lives, the conflicting influences being:

- (1) the course of study . . . work
- (2) the rest . . . influence inside and outside IC which are not part of the degree course.

The moulding effect of the degree course is dictated by what is in it and the way it is taught. What is taught, is largely decided by the needs of industry which are in turn controlled by the profit-motive, rather than by human needs. The two are synonymous as was shown by Les Ebdon when discussing research in last FELIX.

Students in IC may be considered to have their existence justified on three accounts:

- (1) training for industry
- (2) Indulging in the 'disinterested pursuit of knowledge'
- (3) Being educated as responsible members of society and the world who have a good grasp of the way the world works.

Teaching is influenced in various directions by each of these justifications. In IC, training for industry is by far the most influential factor and any education to be responsible members of society is negligible. In RCS, the 'disinterested pursuit of knowledge' is taken more seriously than elsewhere.

As far as training for industry is concerned, IC functions mainly to produce experts but we know, as Mr. Carpenter pointed out at the conference, recruiters from industry look for abilities such as those of applying ideas, recognising the significant and exercising judgement, rather than for people who have assimilated a lot of facts. Most of the courses as they are taught now suppress most of these abilities, at least in the first two years. Promotion of these abilities necessitates the complete re-structuring of the degree courses. Obviously the actual re-structuring depends a great deal on the department, but broadly speaking 'task-work' should be the centre of courses — to teach students how to formulate problems. Lectures would then have a new lower status,

being more like demonstrations and question-posing meetings. The work entailed both for the students and staff would be more difficult in initial stages but would pay greater dividends in the long run. The re-structuring of courses will not be easy and necessitates a lot of work in the Board of Studies, Depts., and staff-student committees.

"I don't want to change the world, I want to be an engineer" someone once said. This attitude is symptomatic of IC's failure to demonstrate the relationships between science and society. Engineering — applied science — has changed the world; 'science is social' said the "New Scientist" and the BSSRS. Science is to do with scientists — and vice versa — as was stated by Dr. Topping. The problem before us is how is 'social responsibility' taught? Social responsibility is encouraged by **not** giving students time to study how the world works, as Gerald Leach said in the Observer (April 27). Scientists' education is usually lamentably bad at helping them see the broad significance of their work.

Social responsibility is concerned with attitudes and it is probably fair to say that people's attitudes are moulded by the people they meet or work with. For this reason a specialised institution like IC tends to foster social irresponsibility through its uniformity of mind and corresponding lack of appreciation of 'other minds' and feebleness of criticism. This brings us to 'the rest' — moulding influences which are not part of the degree course. The presence of arts students in IC would improve the situation — as should the coming of the Architectural Association and as will the USK. It might be possible in the future to have a limited number of courses common with the nearby colleges but if this does happen we should not assume that joining the colleges under the same administration would be a good thing, because IC is so industry-orientated that a common source of money would be detrimental to the nature of the work done in those colleges.

In closing let us say that a great deal needs to be done in IC and can be done if we all take the initiative and accept radical changes — perhaps extending to a 4-year course to cope with what should be done.

Methods of assessment by John MacAdam

The "Teaching and Learning Methods" conference held at IC at the end of last term drew attention to certain aspects of the teaching here that have been bothering at least some staff and students for some while. To these people there appears to be something fundamentally wrong with the teaching here — something that cannot be corrected simply by a change in lecturing style or the use of audio-visual gadgets. The trouble lies not so much in the way the courses are taught, but to what end they are taught. The aim of a course naturally determines its content and also the way in which the student is assessed, since the assessment should measure the degree to which the student has fulfilled that aim. As a corollary, the true aim of a course, whether specifically stated as such or not, can be determined by examining the content of the course and, more precisely, the methods of assessment.

The predominant form of assessment throughout IC at the moment is the written exam. The most important of these exams, and so the major part of the assessment, generally comes at the end of the course. This indicates that the aim of the course is to develop in the student some faculty or faculties and the extent to which this has been done for the particular student is estimated at the end of the course. What is the most important faculty looked for in these exams? One point raised by Prof. Elton of Surrey University was that, on average, over 50% of a Finals exam in a scientific subject tests pure memory only. Furthermore, the remainder of the exam tends to test skills that are heavily dependent on memory; for instance, solving problems of the types the student has previously been shown how to approach. The time-limit on these exams also exaggerates this memory dependence — there is just not enough time for a student to complete a question by working from basic principles. In general, it appears that the aim of teaching a course at IC is mainly that of getting the student to commit that course to memory as best he can.

Such issues were raised at the teaching methods conference. Dr. Topping, Vice-Chancellor of Brunel, pointed out that more general than specialist scientists are in fact re-

quired by industry in the ratio 3 : 2. He went on to criticise present courses in which "the facts concealed the principles" and urged that the education of scientists and technologists should "encourage flexibility" and give them "an appreciation of their role in society." Prof. Elton dealt with the assessment side from the same point of view. He recommended that rather than having one type of assessment testing one skill, many different types should be used to test the student's ability over a wider field. One example would be the student's ability to work with others, rather than competing against them as occurs with the traditional exam system. The result of such an 'all-round' assessment, which has already been tried at Surrey, would be a profile of the student's particular skills, rather than a grade of degree.

If such a teaching methods conference is to be of any use, some positive action must come of it. Firstly the views of all staff and students on the issues of (i) the aim of the teaching at IC; (ii) the content of the courses here and (iii) the methods of assessments best employed, must be collected. A committee must be set up, one would hope by JURGO's initiative, to organise, co-ordinate and analyse a wide ranging questionnaire. This committee should be made up of both staff and student representatives, the latter preferably elected by, and responsible to, ICU. It should be interdepartmental, for the issues to be dealt with are basic to the teaching throughout the whole of IC. The committee will also provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between departments (in the past discussions and changes in course content and assessment in one department have often not even been heard of in others). When the views of all concerned have been collected and analysed, there must be machinery made available to begin to put any changes indicated into effect. This machinery could well be based on the staff-student committee mentioned above (it would be simpler if there was student representation on the Board of Studies). Whatever the case, authority must be given so that all changes considered necessary can be put into effect in all departments.

Action to be taken

by Brian Hains

There has been considerable discussion over the past year or so about the purpose and structure of our degrees, and also about their means of assessment. Many proposals have been brought forward for reform, but before trying to press on with reform, however, we must first of all establish the need for reform. Though this need may be self-evident to those working in academic affairs, I have the impression that relatively few of the total number of students are really interested in trying to change the existing system. Many students have accepted the examination as a fact of life and have probably never thought of the purpose of the examination, and even less as to whether the examination achieved this purpose.

This, then, must be the first objective. Students involved in academic affairs must not hide their light under a bushel. Each and every student of this college must be encouraged to think in depth about what he is doing and why he is doing it.

The second objective is the staff themselves. The simplest way to involve large numbers of staff in this discussion is through the tutorials. Instead of being solely concerned with "sheet 2 — problem 3," tutorials could be seen as a ready made means by which four or five students can discuss the purpose of their education with a member of staff. Informal meetings between staff and student are also very valuable and should be held on a regular basis in each department, similar to those held in Electrical Engineering.

It is important to realise that there are quite a number of progressive staff, and while they must be given all our encouragement, none the less the initiative for reform must come from the students. Otherwise the progressives will get nowhere, conservative staff will claim that everything in the garden is lovely and that things should stay as they are — witness the lack of student objection.

The staff-student committees provide a valuable forum for student dissension to be resolved. However, their terms of reference are rather ill-defined, as also is their power. I should like to see these become a vital ancillary to the staff meeting and to have a more precise function to fulfill. At present they are mostly concerned with minor administrative details such as coffee machines, availability of problem sheets and the size of a lecturer's writing. If these committees are not give a more imaginative role to play, I fear that they will degenerate into a mere "grouse and moan" session.

The diversity of student opinion is probably comparable to the number of days in the year. Clearly, then, there should be some way for the student body to present the staff with a coherent policy. To achieve this I would suggest meetings similar to those I have begun in physics, namely a meeting for year reps, student members of the staff-student committee and anyone else who is sufficiently interested to come along. It is often useful in studying one's own department to know what goes on in other departments. I would, therefore, advocate IC year rep meetings whose purpose would be the free exchange of information between departments. They could also, possibly, make recommendations to the Rector's Education and Technology Committee.

Although any fundamental changes must be approved by innumerable committees in the University of London, I feel it is true to say that if a department really believes that a change is necessary, then this change will be granted. It is up to us to convince the staff body of the need for this change.

Vive la France! by John Spence

Whatever you say about the French! However much you cackle at them for Trafalgar and Waterloo, whether or not you argue traditional ineptitude on the basis of the Maginot Line or the Fourth Republic, and even if you attribute at best French kissing to them, and at worst onions — you have to give them at least one thing — their art.

For in visual art, at least, France has probably shaped the course of Western culture more than any other European country. From Van Gogh to Picasso, with Degas, Gauguin, Matisse and Cezanne in between, the French instigated and sustained the Impressionist period and when, in 1902, a rapid succession of images under the collective title of "Les Victimes de L'Alcool" enthralled a Paris audience, most of whom were seeing their first film, the stage was set for the cinema's takeover of public entertainment. Not surprising then, that that film — probably the first ever social documentary — had a certain Monsieur Zecca as director who, as a Frenchman, blazed a trail in 16 millimetres which the archdeacons of the art, Louis Feuillade, Rene Clair, Louis Bunuel and Jean Renoir so magnificently exploited half a century ago.

Millions of words have been written on the effect early French cinema had on French (and western) painting—moving images on a screen having been used to explain why, in turn, Picasso went all "bitty," Toulouse-Lautrec all "sexy," Magritte and Dali all "eerie" and Jackson Pollock all "screwy," and it is a point, that, with the cinema and Cartier-Bresson's camera reflecting realism into the public's eye, the painter simply had to find something else. But much is speculation and many theories are spurious — what is not in doubt is that nowhere is the development and

transformation in visual art seen better than in France and nowhere is French cinema, from the early silents of Feuillade to the noisy riot films of young Phillippe Garrel, better represented than in the Cinematheque Francaise — and that is the subject of this article.

The Cinematheque is a film archive and is to cinema what the Natural History museum is to Paleontology. It is not the oldest one — our own Natural Film archive dates before it but it has easily the largest and most varied selection of films of any such institution. It's oldest piece is an epoch making bit of celluloid from 1896 and, collecting continuously, it is bang up to date with the new, new, new wave, many of which make Godard look like Cecil B. De Mille.

"The cinematheque is a school. From this school have come the best directors of our time," said Jean Renior, and Luc-Godard likened the place to a "permanent film". Both these comments are very apt. Night after night apparently, you find at the place all the great French directors you would expect—projections can last ten hours and more with no breaks except to allow the audience to assimilate the impressions of the previous film. Yet the physical exhaustion could not have surmounted the essence of the training since early patrons like Chaplin, Lang, Losey, Dreyer, Orson Welles, Truffaut, Marlene Dietrich, Simone Signoret and Jeanne Moreau have all, I think you'll agree, turned out pretty well.

So where lies the appeal of the place — its not as smart as our National Film theatre, not as comfortable as the Empire, screen probably a third of the size of Cinerama, but it goes on and on, and in a sense, perpetuates itself by keeping French directors in the forefront of the "nouvelle vague" in addition to contributing some refreshing new terms such as "cinema verite" or "cinema d'hauteur" to film jargon which under Hollywood got no further than "sobbiess," "weepies," "cliff-hangers" and "horse-operas."

My guess is that it is the policy of its director — Henry Langlois — which gives the Cinematheque its unique qualities. For thirty years Langlois has been an omnivorous collector of everything, disregarding contemporary critical opinion since often only age can bring out the rare qualities of a piece of art. Langlois endears himself to successive generations of young Parisian intellectuals by selecting his material fairly with no artistic or intellectual prejudices. He is a perceptive critic of the medium and sees Warhol, Reynaud, Jean Vigo and Claude Lelouche as a great panorama of art, a vision he has sought to impart to his audiences.

His film programmes are renowned and anyone who sees his presentations at the National film theatre in May will see how the careful juxtaposition of one film with another will evoke from each its own very special qualities. He is in effect a showman.

As a proud citizen of this "nation of shopkeepers" it saddens me that in Britain we have nothing to rival the Cinematheque Francaise; the National Film Theatre does well without actually maintaining a stock of films, but it is a sorry reflection on the British industry that almost everything you see at the NFT needs subtitles, earphones or an American accent. The individual efforts of British directors have been remarkable — especially when endowed with American money — but there is as yet no true national achievement in "technique," and even that's a French word. It seems to me that unless someone somewhere begins to collect all that is great about the British directed films, and some not so great, young film-makers in this country will be forced to look French-wards for any stimulation to evolve new colours (Lelouche), new editing (Godard), new structure (Rivette) and new music (Previn). I see a time when the subtitles will disappear and if you can't roll your "r's" you'll be OUT on to the street.

FELIX wishes to apologise for any inconvenience caused to our film reviewer by the appearance of the word "genousiconoclasts" in the article "Romance and Revolt" in the last issue of FELIX.

RECORD REVIEWS

Elektra EKS 74033— Judy Collins: Who knows where the time goes?

Friends in the U.S. tell me that July Collins' songs are sweeping the land. DJs devote three-hour programmes to them; on the strength of this album, it is easy to understand this. Nearly all the nine tracks are memorable; there are two Leonard Cohen songs, Dylan's "Poor Immigrant" and the Incredibles' "First boy I loved" featured, and one penned by Judy herself. "My Father" demonstrates the emergence of a new talent in songwriting. Judy's sensitive treatment of the songs charges the lyrics with a new power; instrumentally the album is characterised by a tendency towards C&W sounds, a trend which is growing at the moment. C&W normally leaves me cold, but I found the combination of contemporary songs and country-influenced instrumentals very attractive.

Incidentally, Steve Stills, late of Buffalo Springfield, plays guitar on all but one track.

It would be pointless to select any particular track for praise—the whole album is superb.

Phemius.

Spooky Two — Spooky Tooth—Island 1LPS 9098.

The latest LP from Spooky Tooth contains eight long heavily stylised but still individualistic tracks. Most of these are heavy and full, commonly termed a "good sound." After three or four hearings the complete record is very likeable indeed and it is difficult to pick out any of the tracks for separate comment but perhaps the best is "That was only Yesterday," a plaintive but fast number with an easily recognisable melody.

Among the other songs there are "I've got enough Heartache" and "Hangman hang my shell on a tree," both sad but not really slower than the other tracks.

There is also "Better by you, Better than me" and nearly ten minutes of "Evil Woman" both with admirable guitar work.

My only criticisms are the lack of variation in the music and the rather poorly designed sleeve. All the same this is an excellent buy for all devotees to current mainstream pop.

Four Faces of Levia- than — Elektra — EKS 45052/57.

This is a double single

package from a new group, Leviathan. The first record is conventional repetitive pop, with better than average instrumentality, and the second consists of "The War Machine" and "Time," both of which could have been better if their themes were not so overworked.

Threshold of a Dream — Moody Blues — Deram.

This much-heralded LP follows the basic format of their previous "Lost Chord," with 10 songs and 2 poems. The music, as one has come to expect from the Moody Blues, is excellent but in several songs the words are weaker than one would expect. I thought the best tracks were "Never comes the day," also released as a single, and "Have you heard?", which contains an interesting instrumental piece, "The Voyage."

The cover contains some ecstatic blurb from David Symonds and Lionel Bart, all of which can be safely ignored; the Moody Blues play good music and shouldn't take themselves too seriously, lest they go the way of most pop groups.



Judy Collins

FIGHTING THE SYSTEM

Dave Christopher gives his own personal views on teaching methods

There is much discussion at the moment about teaching methods. All this is meaningless without a clear concept of the purpose of teaching; a concept both of the purpose that should direct teaching and that which directs it in practice. From a liberal definition of education, present teaching falls far wide of the ideal. In fact education in this country follows clear cut lines and is highly efficient.

A list of the active governors of this college reads like the Board of Directors of some giant industrial complex. As such people are the loudest single voice in the ear of the government, it is clear that they will be moulding the broad lines of policy upon which the college is run. Just as 19th century public schools arose to supply a need for colonial administrators and the like, our present system of further education supplies the people to keep the industry and commerce of monopoly capitalism running.

Imperial College's main role is to provide research workers and technically qualified administrators. The industrial system in which they must work is not a simple one of striving for increased production for the benefit of all. The western industrial nations are in a crisis of overproduction. Their economies are constructed in such a way that existing stores of wealth would quickly lose their value unless surplus production were absorbed in some harmless way.

We have an essential place in this scheme of things. It is scientists that absorb surplus production by the million; rocketing metal into outer space; writing programmes to improve the efficiency of killing Asians; inventing processes for taking the foam out of washing powders; inventing processes for putting a more attractive foam back into washing powders . . . you know the pattern already—the mass media

are full of it. In addition to playing these games with the fruits of labour of the exploited and with the hope of the starving, we help dupe the mass of the population into blindly accepting it all by our complicity; by laying the weight of the popular mystique of science behind it for its justification.

It is hard to imagine anyone leaving school with such an aim in mind. Freshers are more likely to see science as the means of man's development from necessity to control his environment, or to wish to pursue a particular branch of science for its own sake, in a pure search for knowledge.

It is the function of a university to replace such ideals with alienation and cynicism and thus prepare the student for his career.

By the time we have completed three or more years of weekly lectures, problem sheets, practicals, tutorials, etc., we will have been subjected to a formidable conditioning process. If we then enter industry and find that our hard-won knowledge is either largely out of date or else mostly irrelevant to our work, we might feel it had all been a waste of time. That would be to miss the point. Our methods of thought and work and our attitudes to our work are moulded in these years. We are taught to investigate set, isolated topics with scientific rigor, while any grasp of a wider view is discouraged and stunted. Our courses largely consist of little compartments which we must explore along the lines of past examination questions. Teaching is reduced to an uncritical churning out and learning to a passive consumption. The sheer volume of work and our limited energy and interest stops us from really learning about our subject, as opposed to merely learning to perform exercises

in it or write essays about certain related topics. When we are given a task, be it a practical or a problem sheet, or a lecture to learn, no-one justifies its usefulness. We may question this ourselves, especially in our first year, but with time we accept the work automatically.

The staff always know best—we just follow along. By the end of it all, we are capable of performing certain technical functions well, even of directing others to do them, but have no idea, and no wish to have any idea, of what lies behind it all—we accept unquestioningly the authority of others to direct us.

With such a mentality we will be capable of performing practically any allotted task without question, however ridiculous or inhuman it may be. We will be a credit to any employer.

This process does have disadvantages for the system. Science and technology are progressing at such a rate that one's knowledge must be constantly developing. For this, a broad-based knowledge of science is required, as more and more fields are related to one's own and thus used. That the powers-that-be tolerate this deficiency is a measure of their reliance upon the passive subjugation to authority which our education has instilled in us.

Not all I.C. undergraduates will end up in industry or some related bureaucracy. Some may take up teaching or lecturing. Here, encouraged by their own attitudes, the system and the pressures of their teaching load, they will continue the process in the minds of future generations.

This state of affairs is deeply entrenched. You may be sure that any changes in teaching methods at I.C. will not break the pattern.

I.C. Rugby tour of Ireland

The IC tour team again made an Easter pilgrimage to the Guinness country, ostensibly to play three games of Rugby. Following in the wake of an apparently rowdy (surely not?) Oxford University team, the warmth of the welcome was a little in doubt, especially after the odd escapade by two ginger-headed brethren on the ferry.

The boat arrived on Sunday at 7 a.m. in Dun Laoghaire; by 10 a.m. all were breakfasted and asleep in Moran's Hotel and by 3 p.m. all (well, nearly all) were lined up ready for the kick-

off against Monkstown.

Unfortunately IC were a man short as Pine had been injured the day before in another game but our hosts obligingly provided the extra man. Against a much bigger side IC went extraordinarily well for the first half culminating in a gem of a try by Keith Devaney who flashed in untouched from 25 yards out. Unfortunately just before half-time Devaney was laid out along with his Birmingham mate Charlie.

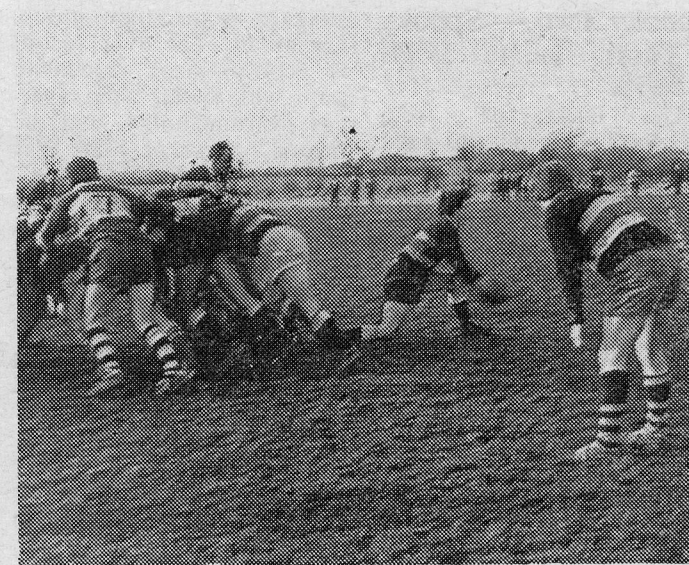
Your correspondent was then obliged to accompany the injured to St. Vincent's

Hospital (where all the rugby players go) where the nurses and nuns performed the customary miracles. Devaney was detained — something wrong with his head — and Charlie emerged sporting a sling. In the meantime, a gallant IC team went down 11-6 despite 'help' from another Irish guest player.

Monday was a day of rest spent mainly in taking waters and passing the water in the next bar. On Tuesday a gallant 14 stood trembling before the might of some very mature-looking 'freshers' from University College. The result was predictably unfavourable. The whole affair is best forgotten especially as our opponents disappeared rapidly after the game leaving us to amuse ourselves — not too difficult with Moffat and Smithies in the party!

After paying an exorbitant hotel bill—the proprietor was 'at the dentist's' when we complained, Wednesday was spent in travelling to Athlone in the rural heart of the Irish peat bogs.

The bus driver flogged his vehicle along at a frightening rate in complete contrast to all else in the Shamrock Isle. The reason became apparent when after an hour



I.C. break away

the bus stopped and all and sundry piled out and into the nearest bar for 20 minutes. This is apparently part of the service! The rest of the journey was uneventful apart from being made to feel like caged monkeys by some curious junior Irishmen at the other end of the bus. The sight of Messrs. Moffat, Mowat, Smithies, Ballard and all fast asleep was apparently fascinating.

Arriving in Athlone, one and all were immediately struck by the preponderance of bars—well over 60 which

lined the streets. It transpired that in the Summer months these hostleries extract £2 million from the American tourists. Apart from this Athlone appeared very poor with little alternative income but with friendly natives and a position straddling the Shannon.

Our hotel, the Shamrock Lodge Hotel, was excellent, cheap and noted for the fact that Queen Salote of Tonga and every other important Monsigneur stayed there.

The game against Athlone RFC on Thursday was

played in the evening on a sloping pitch in brilliant sunshine. The home side were obviously limited in imagination but not in physical effort. In reply to two good tries by IC they could only muster two penalties under the IC posts, awarded by an 'impartial' referee. This gentleman, it transpired, was their coach, refereeing his first game — "Really?"

The only other point of note was that the Vice-Captain was late due to the vet treating his bull for arthritis and that we won 8-6.

The ensuing evening was the climax of the tour with a banquet and a bar evening laid on in the hotel. We replied to their Irish ditties with some English ones, to the great delight of the hotel manager who was heard humming 'My sister Belinda' for days afterwards.

Friday was spent in nursing sore heads and delicate insides and in travelling back to Dublin, on the train this time. The tour party was unbelievably quiet (and broke) on the return ferry and with the dispersal at Holyhead ended another epic in the saga of IC Rugby Tours.

Bob Pine

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PRE APRÉS SKI

The Easter trip and the usual après ski activities (?) of the ski club were added to, this year, by the rather more energetic sport (despite what twisters and shakers may think) of ski-racing. The cash-and-crash merchants had three opportunities to emulate Jean-Claude Killy.

At the beginning of last term, 2 members of the ski club motored up to Glenshee in Scotland to compete in a slalom race organised by the Scottish Universities Ski Club. Despite the fact that these poor individuals had to spend the night on a floor (after being drugged with alcohol by the opposition), George Hamer managed to

come 12th and Roger Lee 14th out of a field of about 50.

On the second occasion George Hamer and Adrian du Vallon went up again to Glenshee with a small party from the London ski club to take part in a giant slalom. A strong wind and the traditional Scottish mist made it very difficult for the late starters but George Hamer came 27th and Adrian du Vallon 30th out of about 55 starters.

Finally, during the Easter vacation, Roger Lee competed in the British Universities Ski Championships in the Cairngorms, as a member of the London University team,

who despite this setback, were placed 4th overall behind Aberdeen, Oxford and Edinburgh.

Next Christmas I.C. Ski Club racers will be joining the London team for training in Davos as well as competing in several races in Scotland during the Spring term. If there are any budding skiers (racers or not) who have escaped us, I would very much like to hear from them via the Union letter rack. If it's any consolation at all, next year's British Universities Championships are again being sponsored by William Younger & Co. . . .

R. C. R. LEE

Rugby Club Irish Tour

See page 6

Even over the water the members of I.C. Rugby club could not escape from the influence of Mooney. Nevertheless it goes without saying that a good time was had by all.



Tennis

I.C. 5 : Lowther 0.

Royal College of Vets 0 : I.C. 6.

The first two fixtures this season augur well for the club's tour of France in June which has had a tremendous effect on team morale.

The Sunday before last saw a friendly fixture against a rather weak Lower tennis Club in which, after a shaky start, I.C. won all 5 matches outright.

Last Saturday's away fixture against the Royal College of Vets was the first round of the U.L.U. cup, and was convincingly won 6-0 with only one set being dropped.

I.C. SQUASH CLUB VICTORIOUS

The evening of Monday, March 17th, brought a great victory to I.C. Squash Club. After storming through the semi-finals at the expense of the College of Estate Management, the I.C. team went on to narrowly defeat U.C. by 11 points in a very close and tense final.

J. Edwards and C. Wall lost in straight games, but earned enough points to keep our hopes alive. I. Blair and M. Ala had to win in straight

games, yielding as few points as possible, and they duly did this. I. Blair gave one of the best performances of his career, conceding only 9 points and winning a game to love. Inspired by this, M. Ala played a very tight match, making few unforced mistakes and allowing his opponent to win a mere 10 points. The entire fate of the cup depended on this last match.

It is extremely satisfying to see the materialisation of

our aim and endeavours, for which all those involved are heartily congratulated.

Results: (I.C. players first) J. EDWARDS v C. WILHELM 8-10, 4-9, 5-9; C. WALL v M. HEPKER 6-9, 2-9, 6-9; I. BLAIR v H. MARTIN 9-6, 9-0, 9-3; M. ALA v B. FAIRBAIRN 9-1, 9-5, 9-4.

I.C. 85 points, U.C. 74 points.

Welsh Soccer Tour

Ten members of the I.C.A.F.C. tour party left London on Saturday March 22nd and on the evening of the same day received a very cordial welcome from the landlady of a very exclusive Llandudno guest house in which we were to be the only guests for a week. The first two days were spent getting acclimatised, but unfortunately, acclimatisation proved to be rather difficult on the Sunday as Llandudno was found to be in a "dry" county. However it was soon

realised that a short bus ride took us across the border into Colwyn Bay, which was "wet".

On Tuesday, joined by the last two members of the party, we travelled to Saint Asaph to play the high school there in what proved to be an easy match I.C. winning 6-3. Quite a few spectators watched the game and the I.C. goalkeeper complained about objects thrown from behind the goal. These were found to be lollipop sticks and not beer bottles, as first thought.

The evening was spent in Rhyl, which, although it is supposed to be the main holiday resort of this coast was rather deserted while we were there.

Wednesday saw us faced with our hardest game of the tour and with two casualties, one player having a bad attack of 'flue and the other needing a visit to the physiotherapist at the local hospital for treatment. Both players turned out in the afternoon, however, and we managed to beat John Bright G.S. 4-3 in a very closely fought game. The opposition were strengthened by the inclusion of 3 or

4 players of local league experience and this was a good win for the I.C. team.

The next day I.C. moved along the coast to Abergele to play their third game in three days. The pitch looked as if it had been freshly ploughed for the game and at half-time with the score 0-0 it seemed that we might lose our 100 per cent record. However in the second half I.C. got on top of the opposition and eventually mastered the pitch to finish the game 4-1 winners. The final evening was spent, as might be expected, visiting some, or even most of the most refreshing places in Llandudno.

The players deserve congratulation on their fine record on tour. Although the opposition was not, in most cases, too strong, it was the first time that the players, taken from the 1st XI to 4th XI had played together and they gave quite a lot of effort and enthusiasm to play as a team.

Tour party: R. Barley, A. Clarke, M. Ramsay, J. Kelly, J. Darley, G. Squire, F. Coldwell, T. McArdle, J. Nicol, N. Hughes, P. Cole, K. Ives.

J. Darley.

The Red Base Theory

Continued from page 2

A long debate on the "red-base theory" followed. This is the building up of politically conscious groups in the Universities, and increasing political awareness and militancy there with the aim of carrying this to the working class by example. This was supported by the New-Left Review Group, the International Marxist Group and many unaligned delegates. The critics (mainly the International Socialists and the Maoists) condemned the stratagem as petit-bourgeois and isolationist, and as an attempt to substitute student for workers' struggle. Much of the debate centred round the events at LSE, and contributions from Nick Bateson (against) and Robin Blackburn (for) were received. All speakers stressed the need to build a revolutionary movement with strong theory, and the obvious problem was fusion with the working class. The termination of this debate, because of the lack of time, gave rise to the only disorder of the conference, since it occurred immediately prior to Manchanda's con-

tribution. The Maoists halted proceedings for about twenty minutes until a compromise was reached (to continue the debate the next day).

The Ulster (People's Democracy) representative took complete advantage of the disorder to follow it by an impassioned demagogic speech, in which, to scattered applause (?) he attacked everyone, urging them to prove the pudding by an Easter weekend in Ireland.

The second day included a talk, discussion and question time with four representatives of Ford workers; the adoption of the 'red-base theory' as official policy; the proposal of a series of policy and solidarity motions; and finally the adoption of an official, RSSF manifesto, a condition of membership being acceptance of the general principles therein. This latter may prove a thorn in the sides of several groups of RSSF members, since it precludes the existence of any party at present capable of revolutionary leadership. The conference closed with a rousing version of the 'Internationale', and, just for once, everybody knew the words, if not the tune.

J. P. POYSER

TEN PIN BOWLING CLUB

Since the last report in FELIX, there has only been one match, which was at the end of last term against Sussex University, down at Hove.

Sussex have a small club and so could only put out 3 three-man teams as opposed to the 5-man games which we normally play. However, what they lack in numbers they make up for in performance. Our 2nds and 3rds were a long-way outclassed but the 1st team game turned out to be a superbly close match

which we were unfortunate to lose by only 7 pins out of a total pin-fall of about 3000. This was such a close match all the way that even the opposition said that the just result should have been a draw. Top series scores of the day were D. Foster 519, and R. Owen 517.

The 720 series scored by Dave Foster at the end of last term which broke East Acton's house record is almost certainly the British Universities' record.

Stevenson Cup to R.C.S.

R.C.S. have won the Stephenson Cup, the constituent college mens' hockey trophy. They secured overall victory by drawing 2-2 with Guilds on the last Sunday of the Easter term, in what proved to be an even, exciting game.

Guilds took the lead through Mudan early in the game, but goals by Thacker and Andrews saw R.C.S. with a lead at half-time. The second half was a fluctuating affair with first R.C.S., then Guilds seeming to get on top, culminating in Bates equalising for Guilds a few minutes from the end.

Earlier in the season R.C.S. has beaten Mines 2-1 with goals scored by Roper and Vincent, and Guilds later lost to Mines by the same score.

R.C.S. team:— Stewart; Smith; Anderson; Stewart, Roper (capt.); Vincent; Hobbs; Thacker; Adams; Andrews; Bowler.

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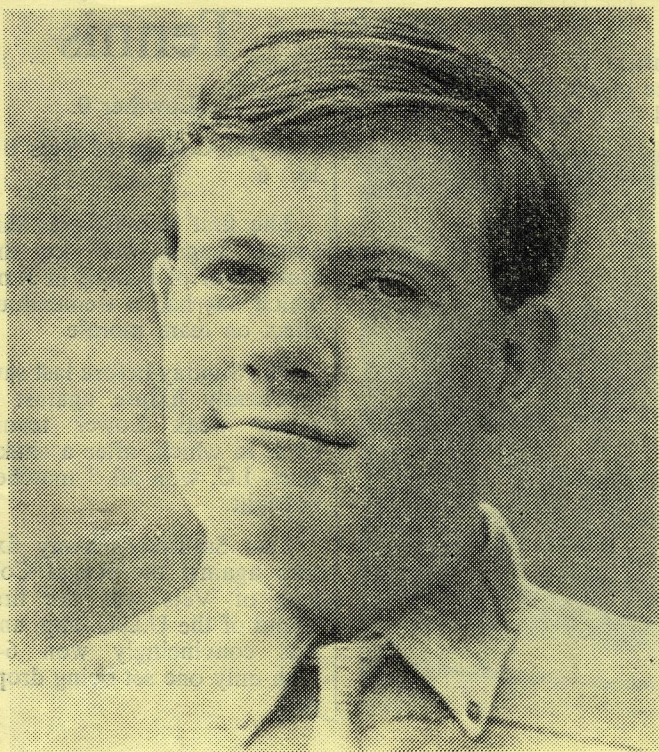
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Pete Ruhemann.

Convocation to hear Ruhemann motion

A motion to be proposed at London University Convocation on May 13th contains a number of highly topical points. Seconded by Pete Ruhemann, chairman of IC SCC last year, it welcomes the NUS-VC statement of October last year which, according to the motion, emphasises the importance of student participation on committees, and in disciplinary procedures, staff-student discussion of courses and exams, and freedom of expression of unpopular opinions.

A second part of the motion notes developments within the University in the spirit of the statement but expresses grave concern at events which suggest the principles of student participation are neither welcomed nor put into practice. The events the motion quotes are "the continuing confrontation at LSE", the pressures on certain students active in the "Save Woburn Square" campaign, and the "racial discrimination" affair in relation to the University Lodgings Bureau.

Applicants shun Student Houses

It appears that there will be little difficulty in applicants to Student Houses being given places, as only about 50 applications have been received for up to 350 places if the new Houses are opened on time. Rejected applications for Hall are passed on to the Student Houses if the applicant wishes, so these will be used to fill up the remaining places.

There is some disagreement over the opening date of the new Houses. Due to this uncertainty, it has been decided that the 69 fresher residents will be given preference.

Thirty five people have applied for the posts of Wardens for the new Houses, and 12 have been selected for further interview with their wives or fiancées.

In Bernard Sunley House, the rule that residence for

more than half a session counts as a full year has been relaxed this year, as many residents have been living in for just over the half session, and because of the considerable hardship already undergone by many of these people.

Application forms for P.Gs. who want a place over the Summer Vacation, mainly in the Student Houses, are now available from the Halls of Residence office.

Confirmed

On Thursday, May 15th (Ascension Day), a number of students from IC will be confirmed at a service at St. Augustine's Church, Queen's Gate, at 6.15 p.m. There will be a buffet supper afterwards.

IC "not happy"

From time to time various students have approached their academic representatives to express a desire for non-technical studies to be included in their degree course. As a result, the academic representatives of the Constituent College Unions circulated a questionnaire to assess the demand for such courses, and therefore to decide whether there is a case for action at College level. Their report had been published this week.

Clearly, students are not happy with the General Studies scheme available at present. General Studies compete with other activities—including lunch. Some departments already offer non-technical courses as part of the degree course but practice varies between departments. RSC notably do not offer these courses whilst Electrical Engineering is particularly progressive in this respect.

In the USA the advanced technical universities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and California Institute of Technology in particular, permit their students to include a considerable number of non-technical subjects as part of their degree. The questionnaire was circulated among just over 2,000 students of which exactly 1,000 replied.

4 per cent Opposition

The most impressive conclusion that can be drawn from the replies is that over one third of those who replied would like non-technical studies to comprise more than 20 per cent of the assessment for their degree. Only 4 per cent were opposed to the introduction of non-technical studies irrespective of whether or not it was included as part of their degree.

The most popular subject requested, out of a number suggested, was Economics. Psychology was second.

Students participating were invited to add any comments and these were principally either endorsing the need for non-technical subjects or expressing the opinion that it was essential to make time available for such studies.

The results indicate quite clearly that students are dissatisfied with over-specialisation. Non-technical courses are not wanted as soft options but as serious studies.

Urgency

It is now a matter of urgency that facilities should be made available to offer alternative subjects: ninety-six per cent of the present students who replied to the questionnaire want them. The report makes various suggestions for short-term solutions,

including making courses in other colleges of the university available as part of the degree courses here.

Perhaps the final word should be had by someone from Physics who commented on his questionnaire:

"I came to IC for the simple reason that there were no auxiliary courses of humanities, social sciences, etc. Had I wanted them I would have gone elsewhere. The fact is that I am a narrow-minded scientist and wish to remain so."

Lodgings Bureau threat

Rumours are rampant that the proposed West London branch of the University of London Lodgings Bureau at Imperial College will adopt the same listing of landlords, according to the skin pigment of tenants they will accept, and that direct action is being planned to prevent the new Bureau opening. However it is likely, in view of official Council policy and pressure from overseas students that the college authorities will be asked to take action before any incidents can occur.

Jarvis hits trouble over Status Quo letter

Legal Action is being threatened against Ian Jarvis, the Carnival Co-ordinator following comments made by him about the pop group Status Quo in a letter to their agency after the ill-fated Albert Hall Concert. In this letter he expressed his disgust at the behaviour of the Status Quo during the concert. Solicitors for the group replied, demanding an unqualified apology and withdrawal

and an offer of a reasonable sum to compensate the Status Quo within seven days or action would be taken. This was not done, and the entire matter is now in the hands of the College Solicitors.

The total loss on the concert has now been added up to £1344 15s., which has been paid from collecting tin money, as reported previously.



Improved decor lightens bar atmosphere

The revamped Union Bar was opened to its regulars at the beginning of term. At a cost of approximately £1300, almost all of which was provided by various breweries, the improved decor now allows Gus, the barman, to move in lounge furniture on a Sunday to create an atmosphere in which women do not, as in the past, feel out of place.

Gus himself feels the new decor is a vast improvement but cannot comment on consumer reaction until the regulars return from their pre-exam hibernation. Initial reaction has, however, been favourable: as one drinker commented: "the old atmosphere has been maintained despite the improvements".

Much of the improvement

is to the woodwork, which has been cleaned and varnished. The bar counter itself has had an extension to its width, which had brought about a marked decrease in the amount of beer spilt over the edge. If, when the hordes return, any beer does creep over the edge it will not meet with the old wooden floor but with a more resistant concrete verge.

The trade-mark of the old bar still remains, however; despite having been cleaned and waxed the floor is rapidly reverting to its old beer-stained form. Gus hopes that the planned reclean, and varnish with a different technique will, however, add the finishing touch to the new creation.

LICENSING LAWS CONTRAVENED.

The bar extension was abused at the May Ball by people improperly dressed who gate-crashed the function merely to drink after normal closing time. This behaviour is in contravention of the license extension granted for special functions, and puts the entire license at risk. These people are the "in" bar crowd, who are not discouraged by the barmen from illicit drinking in the bars both after closing time and when there is an extension for a specific function. Rumours circulating with respect to the May Ball link the names of the following: Dr. G. Munday, John Andrews (and girlfriend), Tony Mason, Steve Moffat, Stan (the Southside batman) and Dave Acock. Others, including certain Council Members are rumoured to take part in such activities on other occasions.

HENRY CONCERT "For IC a very experimental & fairly enjoyable evening"

This marvellous event on Monday started off with poems and song, before getting down to the main event, "Circles", by Malcolm Fox, including I.C. people, Hornsey people, the audience, and much help from Dramsoc. Tape loops of electronic Music were on tape recorders alternately playing and recording, surrounding audience, surrounding gauze, surrounding girl, and gradually removing her immediate surroundings. The audience noise gradually became superimposed on the taped music, and thus the music became the audience's reaction to it - a true case of audience participation. Tape recorders and amplifiers weren't quite matched until the end, when the audience clapping and cheering was taped and replayed indefinitely, leaving the audience to make its own ending. (Nick de Klerk).

FINANCE - SCANDAL AT COUNCIL

A 5 hour council meeting on Monday managed to get through a large amount of business, but many of the pressing and important measures were insufficiently discussed.

Finance caused a few storms. Factions in the sub-committee investigating the President's Dinner and Dance had submitted two conflicting reports. Nevertheless, Council voted away £ 400 without any discussion, and accepted the majority report, which maintains the status quo. It was also revealed that a boat costing £ 3050 has been ordered by the Student Finance Committee - a non democratically elected body - without a Council decision. Of this amount, £ 2100 is a loan from the college, repayable over 7 years or sooner. There was some bitterness over this large expenditure and loan being presented as a fait accompli, while Council is left to haggle over a few pounds for the welfare committee.

Other important issues arising were the discipline impasse in JURGO, and the selection of students to be interviewed by Parliamentary Sub-Committee C. There was also some discussion on the future of the colour T.V. in the Union, which is under-used and has broken down 8 times this year. The possibility of putting in Southside is to be investigated. After the Rugby Club Dinner, the anti theft frame was smashed when members of the club kicked the set out of the frame; the club members are to be asked to make good the damage.

A letter will be sent to various members of Brent Council protesting about their cut off of Mature student grants and dependants allowance for those who get married after the opening of the college. New curtains will be bought for the Concert Hall at a cost of £370 and £ 10 has been given for alarms for Mike. Miss Basden, the Bookstall Manageress, has been made an honorary life member of I.C.U. Jeff Steer is investigating the possibility of hiring a Juke Box for somewhere in Southside.

LATE NEWS: Due to a last minute rush of applicants for student houses, the final number of direct applications is 130. Also Wardens have now been chosen; they are: Bob Mackman (for the mixed house), Boyd Gunnell, and Nick Brown. (A.J.K.)

JEZ GOES TO BRIGHTON (OFFICIALLY)

At 6. am (!) on Sunday last an intrepid band of sleep-walkers arrived at the R.C.S. Motor Club garage in preparation for the annual London to Brighton Run firv Commercial vehicles. Arriving at Battersea at 7.15 and setting off for Brighton at 7.45, the only mishap was when we ran out of petrol in London. This was soon remedied by a trot down the road with two gallon cans.

The run down was pleasant, and the weather at Brighton was all Sunshine. Prizes for concourse were awarded as usual but this year only the winner of our class (E7) was given a prize. The return was a great non-event, with only a pause for liberation of the crew. (Nick Holmes).

About 15 IC Students joined 20,000 workers in the sunshine at Tower Hill at 10.15 on May 1st. The march - holding up traffic - and making the inevitable Zeig Heil problems outside the newspaper offices in Fleet Street - which did not contain any printing workers, as these were all on the march. It wended its way to Lincoln Inn Fields, where there was a meeting before workers left for the House of Commons to join the lobby against the proposed anti-union laws.

PGs CAMPAIGN FOR WAGES

An ad hoc Postgraduate Action Committee was formed before the ASTMS strike. They circulated all PGs calling on them - with success - to stay out until 11 am. on Tuesday 29th April, in solidarity with the technicians. The committee under the auspices of ASTMS called a meeting on 2nd. May to discuss the proposal that PGs should be paid on a salaried basis. This would give PGs better bargaining rights, a London allowance, the benefits of superannuation, sickness pay and compensation for injuries.

The meeting decided in favour of the proposals, and that a campaign should be mounted to get PGs interested. Eleven more members were co-opted onto the committee.

SUCCESSFUL MAY BALL - Letter

Dear Sir,

May I take this opportunity to thank all those concerned in making last Friday's May Ball so enjoyable. Having been to several functions of this sort, I felt that this was the best, and thoroughly good value. This opinion was reflected by others I have spoken to, and the receptions given to Kenny Ball and the Bob Kerr Whoopee Band made them the obvious highlights.

But when, oh when, will the Union see fit to getting some good sound equipment for the films? This, to my mind, was the only thing that could seriously be faulted in an otherwise worthwhile occasion.

Yours faithfully, S.D. Walter.

CRYSTAL BALL DEPT.

The following events are rumoured to be happening soon, despite an acute lack of publicity:

1. Select Committee C - open meeting, probably M.E.220, from 1 pm Wednesday 14 May, when various MPs will be questioning six students at IC.
2. Election of Carnival Co-ordinator for next year; 1.15 pm May 12, in the Union Office.
3. IC Union meeting, M.E. 220, next Thursday 13 May @ 1.00pm. lecture(2 pm) cancelled.
4. Guilds Hustings, Tomorrow week (Friday) in M.E. 200 again.
5. Support needed for a C & G U collection on Saturday; meet outside Mech Eng at 10.00 or at Speakers' Corner at 10.30. Also Fete on Saturday afternoon, Princes Gardens and Dramsoc Revue in aid of NUUMC at 8.00 pm in the Concert Hall tonight and Friday night.

Please note that the FELICITY staff are not clairvoyants and cannot publicise events if they are not informed of them by the relevant publicity officers.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Phil Poyser for floor rep

Phil Poyser, a hard working and active - but not publicity seeking - Chem PG came to IC in 1963. In his time here (apart from 1 year a road) he has taken a responsibility in the organisation of a very wide range of activities: President of Chem Soc 1965/66 (a boom year) he was awarded RCS social colours and was sent as a delegate to a (CECEC) conference in Berlin. Committee posts in SocSoc and CommSoc. High standard poet, author and reporter for PHOENIX and FELIX. 1st XI cricket and captain of badminton. A founding member of the ad hoc PG action committee and a former IC undergrad, Phil Poyser with his perceptive grasp of student problems must be exactly what the Union needs (assuming re-election he wishes to be re-elected) to ensure that the proposed new enlarged council works in the best interests of everyone.

PRESIDENT'S BALL

A council working party investigating the President's Ball has submitted two reports to Council. One from the ex-officio members of the committee recommends basically no change in the style of the function; Union top knobs are invited to a free dance at the end of the Summer Term. The "first and second class" guest system would be kept because of practical difficulties not all guest would have a dinner ticket. The insistence on D.J.s would remain and the idea of a buffet is ruled out.

The two floor reps on the committee, Vinod Garga and Piers Corbyn, have submitted a minority report. This report slams the two-tier guest system, urges the adoption of a buffet, enlarging the function and relaxation of formal dress.

CHANNEL SWIM

A full report of the heroic bid by Physics I will be carried in the next FELIX