

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION
PRESENTS

FELIX

No 4
17th FEB 1950



EVERY FORTNIGHT

3⁰

EDITORIAL.

THE NEED FOR A LARGER HOSTEL.

A good deal has already been said in past issues of PHOENIX deploring the "10 till 5" attitude of a large number of our students; odd creatures who attend College during the specified hours to soak up science and technology, and then dash home to soak up more science until they go to bed; people who take no part in any College activity, get to know only those with whom they work, and leave College with minds narrowed to the single track of their own particular subject.

Although the College as a whole loses by the lack of spirit of these people, they themselves are obviously the greatest losers. We have such a wide range of social and athletic clubs that it is inconceivable that each student cannot find at least one in which he would be interested. The facilities are there, and it may be argued that if people are content with a mere technical school education then that is their own affair.

This is a short-sighted view with which few would agree, but what can be done? Dinner in Hall is a new step in the right direction, and club secretaries can do much by vigorous action at the beginning of the year and by extensive advertising. However these are merely palliatives; the only cure is vastly to increase the hostel accommodation. The more nearly we can become a fully residential College, the more nearly will our students obtain a full University education.

Covetous eyes may be cast in vain at the large blocks of flats in our neighbourhood, but presumably the possibility of obtaining some of these has already been fully explored. We know that alterations to the Union buildings are under consideration, but nothing has yet been said about providing greater hostel accommodation. If alternative laboratories could be built for the Botany and Zoology departments and their present two buildings converted to hostels, this would form a much greater contribution to college life than the addition of new refectories and committee rooms.

BRISTOL'S ENGINEERS.

The Daily Telegraph reports that the Bristol students publication, Nonsuch News, has circulated a questionnaire to find out how undergraduates spend their leisure. From the answers it concludes that "after working, eating, sleeping and being culturally active" the undergraduate has seven hours a week left.

"First year students of all categories spend more of their spare time drinking coffee than anything else. In the second year dancing and the opposite sex take first place. But third year students drop all that sort of nonsense and go back to coffee in a really big way - they spend almost as much time on it as on all their other leisure pursuits put together".

So far, so good.

Nonsuch News then concludes that medical students are the heaviest drinkers, and engineers the lightest.

We most vigorously protest against this as being the most blatant nonsense, and a grave libel against an honoured profession. Engineers are renowned the world over for their ability to sink the manly pint with frequency and with relish, and it is at College that this ability is developed.

We can only conclude that the questionnaire was either based on a complete fallacy, or that it was compiled by a medical student.

FUTURE OF I. C. HOSTEL.

TROUBLE IN THE HOME.

Last term the hostel committee, elected from the hostel residents, found themselves confronting a mass meeting of their electorate who demanded to know why they had proposed a new ruling limiting residents to a maximum of two years in the hostel. Actually the ruling was not new; what was new was the decision of the committee to enforce it.

Arguments came from both sides; the more altruistic and highminded (or perhaps they were leaving this year anyway!) spoke for the enforcement on the lines of fair shares for the maximum number. Their opponents - and they were in the majority - took the line that the hostel housed most of those who worked hardest for Union affairs, and these people should be encouraged by being allowed to live in the hostel. In a hostel accommodating 100, they said, where student officers of the College Unions were, ipso facto, offered rooms, the intake of new students under the Two Year rule would be negligible - a "drop in the ocean" as Mr. Coomber styled it.

After many speakers had argued along these lines the committee resigned as a body and were promptly re-elected, but with a warning - no Two Year rule.

THE GENTLE VETO.

This, briefly, was the situation until three weeks ago when the Rector took a hand and administered what was probably the most diplomatic Veto since that word crept into common use.

At an informal meeting with the residents, with John Levy in the Chair, the Rector outlined the history of the hostel administration, and expressed his appreciation of the sensible way students had conducted their affairs since 1945. In that year the hostel was placed on its present democratic basis, the former rigid disciplinary code being replaced by the more adult conception of self restraint.

Inevitably, the Rector pointed out, there arises under this democratic type of control the odd question on which there is a division of opinion - in this case the Two Year rule - and on an issue of such importance he felt that the responsibility for a decision which affected the whole future of the hostel should be shouldered by an unprejudiced observer who had the welfare of the hostel at heart.

The Rector fully appreciated the arguments from both sides, but his own opinion - and decision - was that the Two Year rule, although but a drop in the ocean, was nevertheless a timely drop in the right ocean.

Discussion following this not unexpected announcement showed that most people were impressed by the Rector's careful reasoning and accepted the limit in principle - with one or two minor modifications. After many people had pleaded, and received assurance, that the exceptional case would receive sympathetic consideration for a third year, other points were discussed.

Derek Norris suggested that Freshmen be ineligible for the hostel in their first year. This, he felt, would be fairer as the selectors would then know something about them, and they themselves if admitted would not have to leave the hostel at the beginning of their third year. This met with much approval, and the committee having promised to consider it the meeting turned to less serious matters.

FLATTER PATTERN.

Lights, window cleaning, and the inevitable question of the refectory meals came up for discussion.

Miss June Mahon's complaint that the influx of outsiders to hostel suppers had had a bad effect on the quality of the meals brought Mr. Prigmore leaping to his feet. In an impassioned plea on behalf of the non-resident supper man, Vampire Prigmore's "New Blood for Hostel Suppers" had a sympathetic audience in the aisles. On this sanguinary but happy note, the meeting closed.

J.K.B.

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

We publish here part of a letter received by Nick Sadler from Frank Leighton, who left City and Guilds last year.

After describing his trip out to Seattle by sea and air, and the difficulties of an alien in finding a civil engineering job in N.W. America, Frank continues:-

Then I had a lucky break, and got in touch with a man near here who owns and operates a 44 foot fishing schooner. I went into partnership with him on a percentage basis, and have been fishing for the past two months, until the season ended a week ago.

They were two of the best months I can remember - it was hard work, but I enjoyed being afloat again, and I have seen more country than I had ever hoped. In those two months I have fished salmon off Alaska, and chased tuna-fish down the Pacific to Mexico.

We sailed out of the Strait of Juan de Fuca on 1st September and headed North for salmon. Then we heard that the tuna were coming in off the Californian coast, and set her head South. For four days and nights we sailed South, keeping 3 hour watches between us, out into the warm blue waters of the Japanese Current where the tuna-fish run about 100 miles off shore, until we got onto the fish off the N. Californian coast.

In the first few days haul we put 6 tons of fish on board, all pulled in by hand in 15 to 40 lb dollops! In the really heavy fishing it was nothing to see all 9 lines loaded at once. Oh boy! What excitement! On the best day we were up at 4.30 a.m. and had pulled 1½ tons of fish on board by the time we had breakfast at 11.30 a.m.

That was really the first and last fish of the tuna season. For the next 5 or 6 weeks we spent our time fighting the weather-continual gales and near gales from the North West.

Still trying to fish at every opportunity, we were steadily blown down the line, as we could only run before it when it got really bad. We put in at San Francisco (through the Golden Gate), Monterey and San Pedro as we were driven South with each gale. Then we decided we should have to head back North, or we should be unable to make it before the winter weather set in. So back we came, literally clawing our way up the coast, bucking North Westers all the way. And now, safely back after "bucking" our way up nearly 1000 miles of Pacific Coast, I feel I can at last almost call myself a sailor. At least I know what it is to crawl into harbour with the decks swept clear of every movable item (despite lashing), and an 11" diameter mast snapped off like a matchstick!

Having been back a week, I have spent 2 days in the mountains hunting deer until the season closed today, and I am now going to start job hunting again. Failing a civil engineering job here I am going to buy myself a car (with the proceeds of the fishing trip) and take a long trip up to Canada - either to have a holiday or to get a job there if I can. If I don't get a job there or down here, I shall start heading for home again.

We hope to publish extracts from two further letters from Frank in our next issue.

PROFILE: THE RECTOR.

The world of art, of science and of action are not mutually exclusive but are rarely all found in a single person. We are therefore fortunate to find all three personified in Air Chief Marshal Sir Roderic Hill, Rector of Imperial College since 1948.

Nursed in academic surroundings, the son of a professor of mathematics, his earliest interests were in art. After studying at the Slade School and U.C.L., some success in sketching provided funds to gratify another interest - flying. He and his brother built a glider - "Which actually flew in 1912; my brother and I tossed up

for the privilege of the first flight. He won!" Then came the war. Enlisting as a private and commissioned three months later he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps on its formation in 1916. Distinguished service in France led to the offer of a permanent career in the R.A.F. ("I had intended to return to my sketching and paints"). His energies were guided into engineering channels in 1917 when he directed experimental flying at Farnborough. A bewildering succession of appointments in the next thirty years testify to his abilities as airman and engineer alike. This wide experience proved to be of inestimable value during the late war, in appointments ranging from Director of Technical Development to Chief of Fighter Command. Even then he found time to chase flying bombs on his own account.

As Rector, Sir Roderic regards himself as "a sort of senior student". Coming back to the academic world after nearly forty years he admits that he is still learning, his ideas still forming. But it is evident that he brings to I.C. a freshness of outlook not always found in university life. He believes that the study of the sciences is not only of great practical value but is an intellectual discipline in itself and a contribution to a liberal outlook. The individual he regards as all-important and tries to get to know personally as many students as possible.

He feels that students should try to have the widest interests outside their study and regards it as part of his job to give help and encouragement wherever possible. Only by taking part in college activities can students hope to get the most out of their university days. In this connection he deplures the shortage of college rooms; he would like to see accommodation for at least four hundred more students, so that a greater number might appreciate the value of collegiate life.

College affairs occupy most of his time but he still finds a few spare moments for painting and sketching. Recently ("for fun") he illustrated a book written by his elder daughter. Another occasional recreation is gliding. Motoring through the back streets of Tooting on his way to the airfield last November he found himself facing the wrong way in a one-way-street. "A policeman appeared from nowhere. He was not at all impressed by my soft talk", commented Sir Roderic. "Though only technically in the wrong one must accept the laws as they stand - and pay up!" This philosophical attitude has, perhaps, some wisdom for those of us who remember the 5th of November.

We at I.C. have been increasingly aware during the last eighteen months of a new spirit pervading College affairs. It is fair to say that this is due in no small measure to our Rector, Sir Roderic Hill.

M.M. & C.M.H.

If there is any credit attaching to what he does, he would like half to go to Lady Hill - the better half!

Gruesome toothsome.

Raised eyebrows in the refectory at supper when Killer Hughes made a frantic grab at the plate-removing waitress then pounced on the garbage bins and began digging. A gold tooth, broken loose from its moorings in a recent rugger match had been placed for safety on the edge of his plate- hence the panic when the plate was whipped away while he was fetching his sweet. Don't rush off and start panning - he recovered it from the pig food and replaced it (ugh!)

To avoid repetition of this sordid scene will people with falsies please put them in the small glasses provided and not on the plate.



TELEVISION FROM I.C.

On Wednesday night, 8th February, the B.B.C. televised from our Union gym a demonstration of Judo by the Budokwai, the oldest Judo club in this country. Elaborate preparations had been going on for some days, and Reg Gill was seen to turn green with envy at the sight of the engineers (real ones) fitting up masses of arc lamps and gadgets that made our own arrangements look like Christmas tree candles.

Much to everyone's surprise- and Reg's secret disappointment- everything worked, and the show duly went on the air at 8.30. Those few who were fortunate enough to get in, with or without passes, saw a most impressive display of the so called gentle art, which looked far from gentle- particularly a demonstration by a charming young lady of how to deal with a would-be bag-snatcher (It should be mentioned that she was carrying a handbag).

The programme must have been quite impressive, for one viewer was so fired with enthusiasm that he promptly rang up the Union to ask how he could join the club! Perhaps he, too, has difficulties with the police.

E.M.H.

S.S.CARNIVAL,R.C.S.

On being asked to give my impressions of the carnival, I can say without fear of contradiction, that, were it included in "1066 and all that", it would have undoubtedly come under the category of "good things". Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves, - I was in such a state that I even thought Len Smith's jokes were funny, and between ourselves I think I must have had a touch of I.T's during the cabaret (a first class one, incidentally), because I'm sure I saw a skeleton on the stage. I was sobered up by a visit from Geoff. Millard's wild kippers, and during my brief sober period I remember taking a long look at the undeniably beautiful legs of a popular I.C.W.A. member.

What happened to the raffle, no one seems to know, but don't be surprised if the organisers announce their intention of spending Easter in the South of France.

Finally, a word of thanks to all who helped in the production of the Carnival, and to Reg. Gill for the music after the band had left - not forgetting the tactful person who turned the light off in the lounge.

"Jolly Jack".

DRINKING MAN'S GUIDE.

T H E A N T E L O P E .

Famous, and deservedly so, the Antelope is a mellowed part of London's history. This time-honoured hostelry stands, as it has done for over 300 years, in a quiet side street just off Sloane Square.

In keeping with the pub the entrance is discreet and unostentatious. Inside the keynote is solidity and cosiness with moderately low oak beamed ceilings and warm lighting. Public and Saloon bars are long and narrow joining at the far end to form a 'U'. At its top end the saloon widens into a small lounge where you may, if so minded, sit in comparative seclusion with that rather special 'date'.

Many casuals are unaware of one of the Antelope's best features - the small upstairs Dining Room and Wines Bar (Cocktail bar is too garish a term to apply here!) - where good food is served at oaken tables within arms length of the tiny bar.

As in most really first class pubs, the bar staff is male and quietly efficient. Harry, the downstairs barman will tell you the Antelope is a 'bitter-house' - Benskin's bitter. Price? 1/7 in the Saloon, 4d cheaper in the Public. Your reporter recommends a boilermaker - brown in mild, also 1/7 the pint. Regulars? Mon cled feahfully what! types or drones in the Saloon, Chelsea pensioners and students in the Public.

A favourite haunt of both Bomber and Fighter Commands during the war, the Antelope is still the rendezvous for many war-time habitues of all Services. More recently, as befits its name, it has provided good cheer for small stag parties of Miners who find it a good spot to relax after the terms strenuous study!

For a pleasant evening with good food and drink and the best of company, the Antelope ranks high on any connoisseur's list.

FETTY CASH.

		£	s	d
Sept. 24th	Advert for Typist		7	6
Oct. 2nd	Violets for Typist's Desk		7	0
8	Weeks salary for Typist	5	0	0
9	Roses for Typist	1	5	0
11	Sweets for Wife		9	9
13	Lunch Typist & Self	2	0	0
15	Typist's salary	6	0	0
17	Pictures - Wife & Self		7	0
18	Theatre - Typist & Self	2	0	0
19	Sweets for Wife		9	9
20	Lilian's salary	7	10	0
21	Theatre, Dinner Lilian & Self	8	0	0
Dec. 2nd	Lilian's vacation at Torquay	105	0	0
3	Fur for Wife (Mink)	1000	0	0
4	Advert. for Male Typist		7	6

Contributed by a Pure Scientist

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION DIARY.

Day	Time	Event
February		
Fri. 17	7.30	Links Club Dinner
Sat. 18		
Sun. 19	7.15(?)	Film. Society "Intolerance"
Mon. 20	6.30	C & G Radio Soc. Dinner
	1.20	Union General Meeting
Tue. 21	5.15	Pol. Soc. Disc. on Election Manifesto, "A"
Fri. 24	6.00	Dancing Club Annual Dance

Fri. 24 7.00 Chaps Club Annual Dinner
Mon. 27 Old Centralians Party for 3rd. & 4th Year
C & G students.
March.
Wed. 1 7.30 Rugby F.C. Dinner
Thur. 2 Combined Clubs Dinner
Fri. 3 6.30 Chem. Soc. Annual Dinner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

I.C. Union.
3rd February 1950.

The Editor of Felix.

Dear Sir,

As chief executive of the Union, I must protest at your editorial on the question of the November the fifth fines.

It is laid down in the Union Bye Laws that the executive committee shall concern itself with domestic matters and matters of urgency only. The sum collected by subscription up till January the twenty third was only sufficient to cover legal expenses incurred. The question of whether fines should be paid out of Union funds was therefore one that should be referred to Council, for their decision or for their reference to a Union General Meeting should they consider this necessary.

There is considerable weight in favour of the argument that the fines should be paid in part or in full by those who were foolish enough to be caught, and who should therefore pay more than those who steered clear of the police.

Since further subscriptions have now come in, it seems likely that this amount, together with the profit from increasing the price of our Saturday night 'hop', will be enough to cover the fines as well as the other expenses. Had this not been so, however, your misguided and ill-timed editorial would still have misled the members of the Union. As I have stated above the question was still 'sub judice', and had been referred to the appropriate authority.

Felix can play a big part in building up the spirit of unity in the Union. It will not do this, however, by stirring up dissention between the members of the Union and their elected officers. Your article may well have given the impression that certain members of the Union are being harshly treated by a set of tyrannical Union officers.

In wishing Felix every success in the future, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

PAUL CUMMING.

President, Imperial College Union.

We fail to see how our Editorial could be described as misguided or misleading, since the facts it stated are confirmed by Mr. Cumming's letter.

We certainly had no intention of stirring up dissention, and we cannot believe that our readers construed the article in this way.

Editor.

Obituary.

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. Canon J.O. Hannay, M.A Litt.D., Vicar of Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, since 1934.

Canon Hannay, well known to the reading public as George A. Birmingham, was a good friend and neighbour of Imperial College. He delivered the 1947 Commemoration Day address and in 1948 was elected an Honorary Fellow of Imperial College.

The Editor,
"Felix".

Dear Sir,

We view with concern your decision to take "Felix", wring him out like a barmaid's apron, and deliver him dry and tasteless into our eager grasp every other Friday.

Fie on you, sir. Can it be that you have turned an appreciative ear to the fiendish banshee wailings of those sensitive beings, who turn pale and tremble at the very sight of the word BEER, even though it appears in the pages of the most respected addition to modern journalism?

Take a firm stand our worthy friend. Let those who wish devour glasses of milk and backnumbers of "Phoenix", but please provide us with a pleasantly damp periodical, the thirst-provoking pages of which will emit the delicate perfume of hops, and tend to increase our already astronomical capacity by leaps and bounds.

Bacchus in his bottle-lined grave, and the drinking men of I.C. are right behind you, and are prepared to fight to the last drop of your blood.

Yours faithfully,

Mild & Bitter.

Imperial College Union,
10th February, 1950.

The Editor,
"Felix".

Dear Sir,

Many members of College who use the Refectory seem unaware of the fact that there is a sub-committee of the Refectory Committee - the Catering Sub-Committee - set up for the purpose of receiving comments and suggestions on all matters concerning the Refectory.

As chairman of that sub-committee, the other members of which are Dr. C. A. Pratt and the President of the I.C. Union, I should like to take advantage of your periodical to make known as widely as possible that we are anxious to do all we can to improve the existing facilities. All suggestions to this end will be most welcome.

A Suggestions Box is being procured and will be placed in the Union. It is intended to clear this once a week, on Wednesday evenings. Until this is in operation all suggestions should be addressed to me, c/o Botany Dept.

Yours sincerely,

J.F. Levy.

To the Editor of "Felix".

51, Woodland Drive,
Watford.

Sir,

None of us likes to hear I.C. described as a "Technical College", yet our rigorous limitation of our studies to scientific subjects, worse, our company to scientists, cultivates just the atmosphere and mentality to invite such criticism. This state of affairs, while no doubt unnoticeable mostly by reason of its familiarity, becomes very obvious to those of us who have studied at, or even visited, universities and colleges in which the various faculties have opportunities of getting together and comparing notes.

Obviously, by our Constitution, we must remain a scientific institution, but surely, especially with R.C.A., & R.C.M. so close at hand, it would be possible to arrange some sort of liaison, be it mutual freedom of canteens & common-rooms: extra course lectures (with "time off", i.e. during College hours); or merely a periodical, joint conversazione & exhibition.

The desirability of such liaison cannot be stressed too strongly; how else can the poor, slogging scientist see the "Arts man's" point of view, & perhaps more important still, vice versa. Here, then, is a heart-felt appeal for support. How about it?

Yours sincerely,

Peter. G. Taylor. R.C.S.

RESULTS.

HOCKEY

Wed. Feb.1st;
I.C. I v U.C.H. (U.L.Cup) W 1-0
C & G v R.N.C. W 3-1

Wed. Feb.8th:
C & G v London Dist.Army D 4-4
R.C.S.v R.A.O.C. Feltham W 4-1

Sat. Feb.4th:
I.C. II v Hendon W 3-0
I.C. II v Heinz W 6-2

Sat. Feb.11th:
I.C. II v WoolwichPoly W 3-1
I.C.III v Ashford W 3-2

SOCCER

Wed. Feb.1st.
C & G v Westminster T. Coll. L 0-1

Wed. Feb.8th:
C & G v R.C.S. L 0-1

Sat. Feb.4th:
I.C. II v Acton Tech. W 3-0
I.C.III v Q.M.C. III W 3-2

Sat. Feb.11th:
I.C. II v R.N.C. L 0-8

RUGBY

Sat. Feb.4th:
I.C.I v Univ.Vandals W 6-3
I.C.2ndA v Chelsea Poly W15-0
I.C.1st.Ex'A' v Unilever L0-20
I.C.2ndEx'A' v B.of England L6-8

Sat. Feb.11th:

Wed. Feb.8th:
C&G.Ex'A' v R.Vet.Coll. W14-0
R.S.M.I v St.Mary's Coll. W 6-3
R.S.M.'A'vSt. Mary's Coll. L 3-8
R.S.M.I v Falmouth W13-6

The University Hockey Cup Final is to be played on Wed. March 1st. at Motspur Park; I.C.'s opponents are expected to be U.C. who are always well supported. Can we rely on YOU to encourage the I.C. team vocally?

P	A	U	L	R	C	S	
R	M	I	C	A	T	U	
A	L	B	E	R	T	U	
N	R	V	A	D	E		
K	A	R	T	Y	E		
G	A	C	O	R	N	T	
A	L	L	H	U	N	T	
S	O	L	D	N			
H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N

Solution to last issue's crossword puzzle.