



FOUNDED IN 1949

# Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION



No.405

Friday 12th December, 1975

FREE!

## Hall rents to go up

THE RECTOR, after lengthy consultations with various people including Mr Mooney and Mr Teague, ICU President, has recommended to the Board of Governors that there be no increase in refectory prices next term.

On rents the Rector has recommended that they be increased to £7.25 for Linstead, Weeks, new Beit and Southside halls; £6.20 for single rooms in old Beit Garden hall and student houses; and £5.00 for shared rooms in student houses and Garden hall.

A letter has been sent round to all residents in halls and houses by the Domestic Secretary, informing them of the Rector's decision. The Governors will meet on the 19th December to decide on the recommendations.

# NUS Travel lose £250,000

**INSIDE:  
SUPER  
FREE  
GIFT**

AUDITED ACCOUNTS presented at the NUS Annual conference in Scarborough last weekend revealed that the travel section of the NUS services made a loss of about £250,000 in the financial year to end in May 1976. The accounts cover the seventeen months of trading to May 1976.

Several reasons are given for the loss incurred; including the fact that the accounts cover two Winter periods, - September to May, - which are slack seasons. Other factors contributing to the loss are the general depression in the travel business, increase in

fuel costs and the closure of Greek airspace during their peak week last August.

In a move to eradicate this loss, NUS Travel is making drastic cuts in its services next term. Although they will be promoting their fairs, rail cards and ISIC cards heavily with the help of constituent organizations, the publicity department's budget is being slashed by £50,000. The next 'NUS Traveller' to be printed will have fewer pages and is to be distributed by local NUS areas thus saving NUS Travel a considerable expense.

Mike Naylor, Managing Director of NUS Travel says that a profit of between £50,000 and £100,000 to keep the company as an on-going viability. Their main problem was one of cash flow, CO's could help by publicising NUS Travel and many have already agreed to do so through their local student papers.

It would also be possible next year for many more students to take their friends on holiday with them because 80-85% of the tours to be provided contain no eligibility clauses.

Although there is great concern being expressed about the situation, the position should improve given that NUS Travel receives the cooperation it needs.

If NUS Travel were to collapse then Endsleigh Insurance would also fold. The consequences for the National Union would be disastrous and in all probability NUS's campaign department would have to cease activities.

In this case of such an eventuality, students on holiday would not find themselves stranded abroad due to the bonding system that NUS Travel has.



Merry Xmas and happy new year from FELIX staff!!

Back row (left to right): David Knights, Ulysses Ma, Mike Williams, Ian Morse, David Hopkins, Nigel Williams, Duncan Susse.

Front row (left to right): Terry Westoby, Philip Dean, Paul Ekpenyong and John McCloskey.

Not in the picture: Andrew Hall, Andrew Walker, Anne Stevenson, Tom, Chris, MW, Tony Jones and last but not least Gill McConway (hope you get well soon Gill)



# Christmas Crossword Competition

**Across**

1. Those who tear up college publications?
9. Wooden walking boots queered.
12. Barry seen eating W. Indian plums
13. One who serves one in water.
14. Undertone to team.
15. Resistance to jokes to the effect '...' on the range.
18. In heraldry, two wings joined in love.
19. A berry perhaps seen very badly.
23. A narrow branch for elasmobranch fish.
24. What you just did.
27. If you're this you're right.
29. A pound in 44 is even more inactive.
30. A Biblical character not famous for blindness.
31. Goat to be in nine.
34. How to stop a bloke, or a girl.
37. Rubbish.
38. There is no 38 across.
39. Sounds as if you quote a building plot.
40. Rocking-stone in log and coşifne.
41. Born before what is nominally

- maiden.
42. And so on backwards.
43. Roman Empire capital. Yeats sailed to.
48. Heraldic lily, (try ending in French).
50. Age old clue.
52. Exhausted it back to red.
53. Well known person who died early.
54. Girl, or one of her bad bugs.
55. To be liable to be in dog (ignore house)
56. A light ring in generic chlorine
57. Entice back
59. A hundred about a hero for babies
61. The end of a horse painter.
63. Mathematics' order on a hot day is pleasant.
64. C part German.
66. See 46 down.
68. DrunkIMG or Monday club?
70. A fish (NOT a haddock or mackerel).
72. A very indefinite girl.
73. Part is tall, but just stopped.
- 74.
75. Aaaacurir (puzzle that out, you big ape).
76. A note, more or less.
77. The best national bank. (Advert well they pay me).

**Re: Events Book (SCAB Diary)**

At the end of last session Dave Rumsey, SCAB Chairman 74-75 recommended the implementation of an "Events Book (SCAB Diary)". The reasons for this were two-fold:

1. On more than one occasion last year events of a like or similar nature clashed and those concerned were often poorly attended, or at best they did not live up to expectations. We hope that this book will keep these clashes to a minimum.
2. The book will also be a source of information and advertising. Paul Ekpenyong, Editor of FELIX, has agreed to consult the book when

compiling his "What's On" service.

So, if you are organising an event that will attract a large crowd or audience, please help yourselves, help SCAB and help entertainment at IC in general by using the "Events Book" and tell everyone the "Who, what, where, when, how much" of your event. Just ask Jen in the Union Office for the book.

Further, if you just want to know what's on, consult the book... There's no charge for looking.

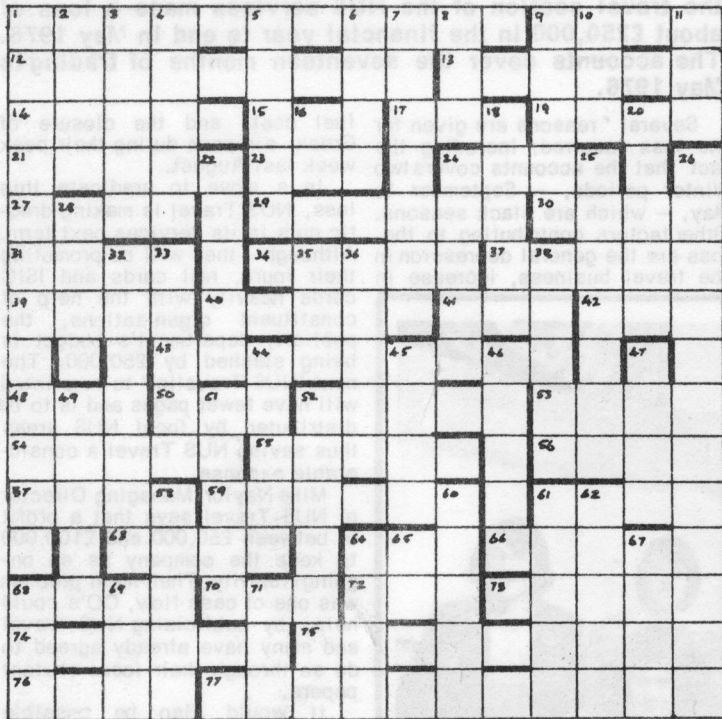
Thanks,  
ALAN R JONES  
(SCAB Chairman)

**HEALTH WARNING BY H.M. GOVERNMENT:**

*This crossword could damage your brain; some of the clues are a bit misleading!*

*P.S. Smoking it could be harmful, too! Merry Christmas*

All solutions to reach the FELIX Office by noon on Wednesday 7th January 1976. The first three correct solutions will receive prizes of £5, £3, £1 in order of draw.



**Up and Down**

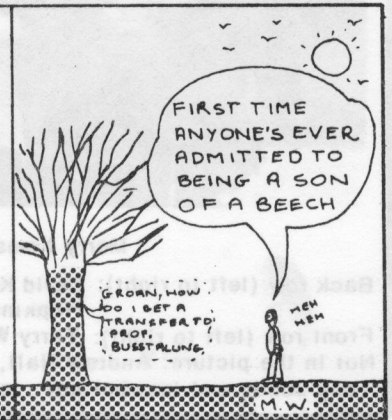
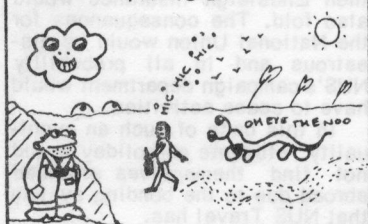
1. In article one mixed up with you in French but not fluently.
2. Brief contained in briefcase (Oh, what a give-away!).
3. O sire, willow make baskets.
4. See Goon?!? .....
5. Free before William, has played role about a hundred times.
6. A fighting force.
7. Referring to Jaques Dubois (1478-1555) or Franz de la Boe (1614-72) (not woods at all)
8. Wot! One & one?
9. Fiveletters go up to a water hole.
10. Did eat.
11. An obsolete point of order.
16. Short laugh.
18. Green frogs' backbone part.
20. Vex by opening fibres up.
22. Aunt of battered head (head fitters?).
24. Five up to miss the bull.
25. Cut of five hundred cabins.
26. Between lobes.
28. Date of death, time of demise, the day he passed away, when he snuffed it, when he went up in orbit (hint), when he kicked the bucket.
- Like to try a Norwegian Blue Sir?
32. Periodical saint missed in Elec. Eng. short.

33. Small three master bee in ninety?
35. A go up in time passed (OH, what a give away).
36. Part of a severe depression.
38. Both of the curved draw bars of a horse's collar.
44. A country.
45. Pain in one's nose.
46. See 66 up.
47. The gorse genus goes up in a mule followed by ten more.
49. A bone of Troy.
51. King here in French goes ahead to see shortly.
52. Salty drink sound messed up to stick out.
58. Two messed limbs to give a cash bulge.
60. Boredom that is in a peculiar nun.
61. With verbonum enough of words.
62. To hawk if you go up, but lots in tart.
64. Vital deer?
65. A lack of world organisation?
66. See 66 across.
67. Not Yielding milk in Scotland (take port).
68. Smaller than an elephant.
69. This would be too difficult to give a clue to since you'll never get it, so I won't bother. (its a lovely word though).
71. An ex-giant.

**And Now?**

**Stop Trocks**

CHIEF ENGINEER, MR. SCHLOP OF STARSHIP TOP PRIZE, HAS UNLIMITED BOOZE; HE SEES MANY STRANGE THINGS.....



## Who's around in the vac?

Not everyone is vanishing on Friday! The Union office will be open for the first week of the vacation. The Welfare Centre will be open at lunchtimes for that week too. It will then be closed (as will the Union office) during Christmas and both will reopen the following week (Dec 29th - Jan 2nd) and I shall be there most lunchtimes. The centre will be open as normal (12.30-1.30 pm) from Jan 5th.

PS. To clear up any possible confusion from my last article: if you are staying up in London and sign on, you can claim your personal allowance *plus* your rent from the social security office.

### JOKE

*I thought HOME was an ex-prime minister until I discovered squatting.*

# Alastair Stewart lies over Electoral Reform Society's letter

'DEMOCRATISE NUS TODAY', that was the message scrawled on Scarborough beach outside the Spa, where the NUS was holding its annual conference last Sunday. The message referred to the democratisation motion which was the subject of much heated debate. (There were in all eight amendments to the main motion, of which the first four were 'delete all and insert' amendments).

It was during the debate on the first amendment to the main motion, supported by the IC delegation, that Alastair Stewart, NUS Deputy President revealed that they (NUS Exec) had written to the Electoral Reform Society and received a reply on the question of direct elections.

In a passionate and bitter attack on the FCS/SRP alliance supporting the amendment, he said, 'We (the Exec) believe that the issue of democracy is something that has to be raised on the floor of this conference; and that is why we wrote to the Electoral Reform Society and asked them the very questions you yourselves are asking - and their response was the proposi-

tions being put forward in this amendment and embodied in the substantive were unworkable, undemocratic, and quite unprincipled'. 'What that gentleman up there has just said is a pack of lies', was the immediate reply of Derrick Everett, ICU EAU, when he stood-up to speak in favour of the amendment. Despite this however, Charles Clarke, NUS President, supported the position taken by Mr Stewart when he showed conference the offending letter.

Mr Everett has since been shown to be right in his allegation. The letter, circulated by the Federation of Conservative Students (FCS), Students for Representative Policies (SRP) and Union of Liberal Students (ULS) to their members and the press makes no specific recommendations one way or the other on the matter.

On the question of direct elections it says, '...national voting by individuals based on accurate local or national registration must of necessity - even if desired - be sometime away from us - its introduction

would involve re-thinking the role of Conference and the relationships between NUS and constituent organizations'.

The letter goes on to say 'That there is a strong case for not leaving things exactly as they are where all power is exercised by delegates who have 'emerged, by processes which have not taken sufficient methodical account of the individual opinions of members'.

The FCS, SRP and ULS in a joint statement expressed 'whole-hearted disgust at the political bankruptcy of a union leadership that finds it necessary to grossly misrepresent to conference the evidence of the Electoral Reform Society on the electoral structure of NUS'.

At the Union Council meeting held last Monday, a motion requesting the President to write to Charles Clarke regarding the entire debate on the democratisation motion, was unanimously carried. The letter, has already been sent to Mr Clarke but a reply is not expected until sometime next week.

## Red Sue booted out!

SUE SLIPMAN, NUS National Secretary, suffered a severe political defeat over the International section of the Executive Report

Delegates, annoyed at her passive acceptance of the presence of CSVU, the Czech Students Union, at November's Chile Seminar at ULU, censured her acceptance and removed her as convener of the Union's important International Policy Group.

The move comes in the wake of Ms. Slipman's recent appointment to the (UK) National Executive of the Communist Party. Her removal, brought about an *unholy* alliance of right wing, moderate and extreme left wing groups, is

seen as a serious setback to her chances of succeeding Charles Clarke as NUS President in 1977.

Chairing, Alistair Stewart, tried in vain to transfer the removal and censure solely to the India section of the report. Bitter criticism accompanied the successful challenge to his ruling.

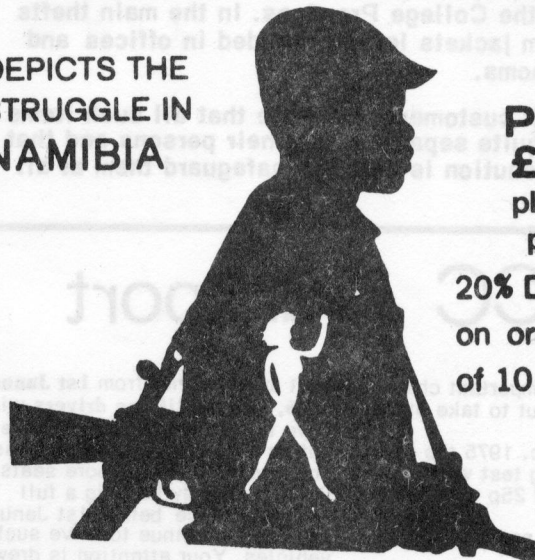
Ms. Slipman was not the only member of the communist based Broad Left to be censured by conference. On Monday Charles Clarke suffered the same fate over police investigations into the finances of North London Polytechnic Students Union. Its president Geoff Rosenberg, moving the censure, attacked Mr Clarke's failure to condemn the police action.

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# Felix

It has been a long arduous term for many people and many events of significance and insignificance have taken place. The most recent of these was the NUS annual conference held in Scarborough.

The conference which tended to be dominated by petty political squabbling and bitching produced a mixture of policies which on the whole are good common sense policies.

On the other hand it also produced no policy whatsoever as regards the issue of democracy within NUS. Yet this was the issue that should have been the highlight of the conference and that many people at conference wished to see something being done about. That is, people wanted to see NUS have a policy, the nature of the policy differing from each political grouping to the next.

This was not to be. A combination of political manoeuvring, lies and bad charring contrived to ensure a fruitless result to a debate sadly lacking in common sense and finesse.

It does National Union's image no good when one of its leadership stands up at a national conference and tells lies and is then backed-up by the President. It is not only gross irresponsibility, it is a betrayal of the membership they claim to represent and shows utter contempt for conference, a body which these same self people proclaim is the sovereign body of the National Union.

\*\*\*\*\*

I should like to apologise to SCAB for the cock-up that occurred in last weeks issue and thus ruined the presentation of what was a good feature. My apologies also to the countless others whose articles have not always been put in in the correct order - we'll try harder next term.

I should also like to thank the staff for their hard work this term, and also Robin Gray who did a lot of our typing for this week.

Lastly, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! (PS. - Support NUS Travel).

*pingpong*

## WARNING

The National Westminster Bank, local Police and Security Officers at Imperial College are becoming increasingly concerned at the number of thefts of cheque books, cheque cards and credit cards taking place on the College Premises. In the main thefts occur from jackets left unattended in offices and lecture rooms.

We ask all customers to ensure that all such items are kept quite separately on their persons and that every precaution is taken to safeguard them at all times.

## RCC Transport

The following important changes have or are about to take place:-

- From 1st Dec. 1975 the fee for the RCC driving test will be 75p. The increase of 25p will go to the tester.  
The driver's security remains at £5.
- The non-priority minibus will become the priority vehicle for ACC for an experimental period throughout the Spring Term - starting Jan 5th 1976.  
This means that all five RCC vehicles are priority vehicles for certain clubs during this period.
- It appears that from 1st January 1976, new qualifying drivers will have to be over 21 years of age before they can drive large passenger vehicles (9 or more seats). Drivers already holding a full driving licence before 1st January 1976 may continue to drive such vehicles. Your attention is drawn to leaflet D.100 issued by the Department of the Environment.  
Anyone still wishing to book RCC vehicles during the Xmas vacation should contact Mike Wright (int. 4125) immediately.

# Mutters Arising

Yuletide Greetings, one and all  
My Xmas offering must have the highest nause rating ever. I do not apologise for it - I just claim diminished responsibility.  
And now....

## An Executive Christmas Carol

Once upon a time, there was a merry old soul called Burt Teague. He was a cheery little chap and every year he went on holiday to his favourite holiday camp, situated on the South Downs. He always enjoyed himself - he played golf, football, snooker and ping pong.

One summer whilst he was on just such a holiday, he decided to go fishing, so off he set. He went to the little village of Timbray, which is an old and unspoilt little place, in Kent. Burt had fun. He had a go at wrinkle picking, but he was not very good at it. As a local put it, 'Ee dont pick'ard enough'.

Burt also entered the local fishing competition, in which he came second, netting a 12lb white Roe. In fact, he was so good, the winner had to cheat'ham (ugh!). Having worked-up a good

thirst Burt toddled off to the bar and ordered a martini, 'Shake' it but don't stir'. he ordered as he cogitated over the competition.

Burt was not a bright man, but he knew he'd been fiddled, He was adamant that he should get his own back; 'Once botten, twice shy may alright for some', mused Burt 'but can I let him get away with it? God, freyed not - his head needs slimming down to fit his hat!'

But Burt had to leave the camp the next day, so he took the guy on one side and whispered, 'Hoy lets have a rematch, huh, next year, heare at Tray?' 'Sure' came the reply.

The it would be different.....  
The End.

Having got that rubbish out of my system, may I only say - Happy New Year and a Merry Crimple.

John



# RIZ LA READ

The end of the first term approaches all too quickly for some while the term has crawled for others, so much so, that the remaining few hours seems a lifetime.

The mummies and daddies have come to collect their hard drinking (I mean) working Johnny from College. Mummy holds him tight, proud of the high academic level that her 'child' has reached. After all what academic level could be higher than to get drunk every night for eleven consecutive weeks (helping to boost the bar profits!); or sitting nude in the Lower Lounge, and think of the hours spent gazing at those knickers in the Bar, not to mention the highest honour achieved by the few of streaking round the Albert Hall (I wonder if, 'We would have been amused by that?') However, I have it from a prominent member of the College that, it all helps to develop the abilities of the 'future' leaders of the country.

Oh! Sorry I almost forgot the ladies of IC some of whom have probably tried in vain to create an impression on the traditions of IC.

Having learnt of the self preserving instinct of the IC male, most of them in all probability have had to make-a speedy withdrawal to their rooms and restrict themselves to talking to a few friends who do not always regard them as possessed by voyeurism.

Yes my friends, the end is nigh! You have to leave this superlative world of fantasy which the Tolkien, Peak or Sartre for that matter, begin to imagine, let alone contemplate surpassing.

Do not give up hope my fellow collegians; all is not lost! Just imagine yourselves on the 5th January with the grant check in your pocket and with renewed desire to perpetuate this unique kingdom of a thousand and one weird and wonderful events. A kingdom in which Alice will not only be truly lost, but that her wonder will be so great that she would not be 'allowed' to say 'But I don't understand Queen of Hearts'.

Happy Christmas to you all and have a 'cosmic' New Year.  
See you all next term.

RIZ





# CROSS COUNTRY



A PINNACLE to which we had long aspired was convincingly conquered last Saturday when the IC 1st team won the University of London Championships for the first time since 1968. This success was centred on the performances of the tireless trio: Rob Allinson, who won the race in 28.04 – 'a fair run' – and with it the Charles Moor Memorial Trophy; Steve Webb, in 3rd place, reaching fitness with the aid of his advanced technology racing spikes; and Ian Ellis, that well-known slacker, in 5th place. Sterling support came from the remaining first teamers, Paul Clarke (13th), Alf Garnett (15th), and Dave Jones (21st). For their very creditable efforts, the aforementioned deserve much praise in rounding off the term's running most satisfactorily.

Let us not forget the IC 2nd team. The focal point of pre-race attention and nerves, Tony Weir, having finally decided upon the optimal mode of footwear, led us in, in 24th, followed by the Spray Kid in 29th. A long gap was then filled in by a big rush off Pete Mike, Colin and Martin. Last, and least, one should forget Andy Davey, at present undergoing a bad attack of that recurring annual disease, 'handicaposis', where the victim suffers from a period of exceptionally slow running

prior to the handicap, in order to gain an advantageous time. Surprisingly, he managed to find his way home, in 47th place, still managing to beat the entire LSE 2nd team, who filled 5 of the final 6 positions. After the race, a timekeeper's inquiry decided that all times were subject to a rather mysterious experimental error of – 1 minute.

Last Wednesday, 3/12, we ran in the Osterley Park Relay. Results:

IC 'A' – 17th	
<i>Ian Ellis</i>	15.48
<i>Dave Rosen</i>	16.34
<i>Steve Webb</i>	16.17
<i>Rob Allinson</i>	15.17
	63.56

IC 'C' – 39th	
<i>Andy Davey</i>	17.40
<i>Pete Johnson</i>	18.06
<i>Mike Welford</i>	18.20
<i>Vic Mooney</i>	16.53
	70.59

IC 'B' – 41st	
<i>Rich Harrington</i>	16.54
<i>Paul Clarke</i>	16.42
<i>Nigel Miller</i>	20.15
<i>Alan Leakey</i>	18.07
	71.58

For the first team, particular mention goes to Dave Rosen: having recorded a meritorious time of 2hrs 52mins in the Barnsley marathon the previous Sunday, run

in freezing fog, he still had sufficient stamina to run 4 days later whereas other mere mortals, would require crutches to advance themselves in any given direction.

On the 3rd lap, audacious Steve Webb passed no less an athlete than potential Olympic champion, Alan Pascoe who was running for a team of Borough Road lecturers. At the time, the latter was finding trouble arranging a stride pattern which would avoid mud – Steve disregarded finesse, and used about as much delicacy as a Sherman tank in passing the said

Mr Pascoe. Rob Allinson, kindly lent to us for all the afternoon by the Maths Dept., gained 5 places in pushing the 1st team up to 17th place.

Thanks to another of those selectorial c.u.'s by Ian Ellis, the third team beat the second by a whole minute. Nigel Miller, taking a break from the hustle and bustle of rucks and scrums, found the going unsuitable, and a fine run by the Catering Manager (alias Paul Clarke) enabled the third team to register one of its few victories over the 2nd team.

Published by the FELIX Editorial Board on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board.

FELIX Office, Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Tel. 01-589 5111 ext. 1048/1042/3 (Int.\*2881)  
Printed offset-litho on the Union premises  
FELIX © 1975

## ICWA Ball

Friday 5th March  
1976

## FELIX

### and IC UNION

wish everyone a

Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year



☆ 1975 ☆





## Reviews

## Theatre

## The Royal Shakespeare Company in "The Return of AJ Raffles"

by Graham Greene.

at the Aldwych Theatre.

Having sat through two and a half hours of this play, I can only wish that I had seen the RSC's production of "Sherlock Holmes" last year. For it is said that Graham Greene's inspiration to bring AJ Raffles back to life came from that production. Raffles is the antithesis of Holmes, being an amateur cracksmen and gentleman cricketer, however their creators were brothers-in-law. I suspect that EW Hornung, the author of the Raffles stories, would be turning in his Edwardian grave at this resurrection of his gentleman thief.

Hornung left Raffles dead on the field of battle at Spion Kop, in the Boer War, but just as Holmes returned from the incident at the Reichenbach Falls, so Raffles comes back thinly disguised as Inspector Mackenzie of Scotland Yard, his greatest adversary; a disguise which all save Bunny, the faithful counterpart of Doctor Watson, can see through, for Raffles forgets that Mackenzie has a permanently running nose.

The rather weak plot involves the theft, at the instigation of Lord Alfred Douglas, of gold sovereigns from the Marquess of Queensberry's safe. The

Marguess is of course the celebrated patron of boxing and his son, Lord Alfred, the intimate friend of Oscar Wilde, with whom Bunny has recently spent several years in Reading gaol.

There are only two characters who save this play from disaster. The first is the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, who has arranged to spend the night in the Marquess' bedroom, under the pseudonym of 'Mr Portland', with a Lady. His Royal Highness is admirably played by Paul Rogers with a deep guttural German accent. He insists on his name as 'Mr Portland' and accepts Raffles' explanation that he is Jones the butler, backed up by the fact that Jones has brought the best Champagne. They exchange reminiscences as two gentlemen would. Unfortunately Jones has failed to reverse his waistcoat from White of a guest to the black worn by a butler. HRH praises Raffles as a survivor of Spion Kop and accepts the gift of a small silver box engraved with the name of general Bofors, which has been quietly severed from its silver chain during Raffles' imprisonment by the Boers.

Michael Bryant is Captain von Blixen,

a German spy engaged by the Prince's nephew, Kaiser Wilhelm, to steal HRH's most secret love letters. He has been trained as a waiter in one of the best hotels in Berlin and remains stiff and correct, even when persuaded to remove his waiter's jacket and trousers (Moss Bros. wouldn't like to find blood stains on one of their hired suits, would they?), preparatory to being shot.

Parents looking for a good Christmas outing for the children would be ill-advised to take them to this play. What on the surface seems to be a harmless thriller in the Sherlock Homes mould, is interspersed with scarcely veiled references to homosexuality and lesbianism. Cricket also comes in for a beating; this is Raffles' alternative hobby — he saved the ashes for England in '96. It becomes quite obvious, by the end of the play that, in his return, he will be better cut out for cricket than for cracksmanship. It is only by the intervention of the Prince of Wales that Inspector Mackenzie is prevented from slipping his bracelets onto the hero.

Thomas Stevenson

## Good but foolhardy

These Dramsoc productions just seem to get worse. "The Captain of Kopenick" which ran from Tuesday to Saturday last week in Beit Theatre appeared too often to be an example of amateurism run amok. There is more than one contributory factor involved.

First the play itself is a bum choice. Set in Prussia around the turn of the century, Wilhelm Voigt, a derelect (though not really his own fault) with not much brain power, finds that without a work-permit he can't get a job; additionally, without a job there is no way that he can have a work-permit. Neither can he get a passport, nor a birth certificate such is the stratified, self-contradictory bureaucracy of the time. The authorities will not even send him back to prison because, in their own words, "there is not a form for it."

We soon learn that there are basically two classes of people in existence during this period: the military, and those trying to get into the military. Everyone appears to have an exaggerated felish for pretty uniforms (and, occasionally, anti-semitism).

Eventually returning to prison, a submissive Voigt becomes familiar with military procedures and jargon through the mock battles staged by the inmates under the generalship of the foppish prison governor. On his release he is persecuted again by the authorities, but in an embarrassingly contrived scene he is mistaken as being ex-military and so hits on a plan to impersonate an officer, imprison the mayor of Kopenick, disappear, then offer to solve the case for Berlin police in return for a passport — to be collected after his ten years inside. The play is supposed to be based on fact; the author must have allowed himself considerable licence in the licence in the transliteration.

As Voigt, JOHN WOODFIN became more and more credible as the play progressed. In a difficult part he put in an out-

**Dramatic Society: The Captain of Kopenick by Carl Zuckmayer (adapted by John Mortimer), directed by Eric Stovell.**

standing effort and deserves high praise. TOM STEVENSON too, as Obermuller the mayor of Kopenick, shone. He certainly brought some badly needed vivacity onto the stage. He was totally compelling to watch, despite his occasional hamming. JOHN DOWNES produced fleeting glimpses of brilliance on occasion, but one felt all too often that we were watching J.D. playing the parts of Kalle and the police inspector rather than those parts being played by J.D. All credit to him nevertheless for attempting to brighten things up with mannerisms, facial expressions and a varied delivery of dialogue.

The first few scenes are mercilessly slow; indeed the whole of the first act (ten scenes in all) seems to be there in a groanish attempt to give substance to the meat of the action which takes place in the last four scenes of the second (and final) act.

The period of Voigt's recognition of his fate when the Rixdorf authorities order him to leave town has its genuine poignancy smeared in the following scene by the ill-conceived (from the playwright's point of view) transition that he undergoes in the park from being a trite nobody to existing as someone capable of latching on to an ambitious idea and taking steps to execute a plan. That scene is an all-time low in the play per se.

So much for the choice of the play. The production must also take a lot of stick. The play looked under-rehearsed and stale through lack of direction. With over seventy parts being acted by thirty players, it is hardly surprising that many of the cast had but a superficial understanding of their characters which often came across as pale pastiches. But let us deal with the good guys first.

Of the minor parts, mention should be made of STEVE RANDALL (an excellent porter, but he could have strutted more as the grenadier and sergeant), ROGER PHILLIPS (good sense of occasion and timing), MATTHEW CLEMENTS (facial reactions excellent), SIMON LEA (confident with good mannerisms), ANDREW MAXWELL (understood his characters) and JULIA ROSS (compelling as the mayor's slattern wife). Zero out of ten must go to MIKE ELKIN whose permanently smiling features were a distraction and appeared to reflect a lack of interest in what he was doing. Many of the other minor parts were characterised by bad picking-up of cues, and little thought being given to the timing of pauses.

That brings me to the director, ERIC STOVELL. To attempt an ambitious production with a cast of thirty is in my view foolhardiness in the extreme. The direction in the first act needed a much tighter grip on the cast. It rather appeared that the director had taken minimal interest in the way the players were acting their parts. Act two was a large improvement overall the scenes were finally beginning to have cohesion, but with a few exceptions they still tended to fall short of the mark. One line was something like, 'Its OK. The excitement's over' I grimaced for, there had been no 'excitement' in that scene at all.

The costumes were, on the whole, excellent; the convict's attire was stunning. The sets were extremely well constructed and the music throughout was very skilfully chosen. Make-up too was above par.

Whilst one can recognise the huge amount of time and effort which goes into such a production, one is nevertheless forced to wonder if Dramsoc were simply using this play as a vehicle to initiate their new (and as yet inexperienced) members. The ethic is questionable.

MIKE WILLIAMS



# FELIX SPORT

## RUGBY

Imperial College A's 6  
Sidcup V 13

THE DAY STARTED with a few last minute panics. As usual, the major one being the late arrival of the coach — and finally, with fifteen men and a referee, we departed. Sidcup arrived more or less on time, but with fourteen men only. A hasty conference in the A's changing room ensued and then it was decided to grant the plea of the Firsts for a player to make up their team so that they could face fifteen men while we matched the Sidcup fourteen. The game was scheduled to start at 2.30pm and to everyone's amazement it did.

Both sides settled down quickly and soon the collective heart of the A's missed a beat when a sidcup man tried to drop a goal from the half-way line, and almost succeeded. The A's soon put a stop to this unsporting activity but not before that same Sidcup player had scored from a penalty, putting the A's undeservably behind. We were quickly back in the attack and unlucky not to score. John Fishburn broke through on the left and gave a well-timed pass to Mike Siomiak who was brought down about ten yards out. The A's did not have to wait long for some reward. Rod Porter, playing his heart out, got the ball on their twenty-five and beat three players to

score an excellent try. Dick Pullen made the conversion look easy. That left the A's 6-3 up at half time.

The second half was much more hectic. Unfortunately, lax marking at a line-out let Sidcup in for a soft try. The A's went straight back at them but no moves reached fruition, and in fact there was another mistake which resulted in another try by Sidcup. The A's did not give up. The forwards came into their own, led by John Fishburn and Rod Porter. In the last ten minutes the A's, playing some good rugby, came very close to scoring but not close enough. Chris Becque and Rich Jenner were both stopped right on the line. John Day, a last-minute addition to the team, played well, although out of position. But Sidcup held on, and won 13-6.

That completes the pre-Christmas matches and leaves us with a reasonable record, having won five and lost three. Our first game next term is on 10th January, assuming that everyone has recovered from the festivities.

A Happy Christmas to all our FELIX supporters.

Team: *R Pullen, L Daves, C Becque, R Leeson, J Thomas, R Jenner, B Bubb, J Day, S Downing, C Cuthbertson, R Porter, M Siomiak, J Fishburn.*

by Christopher Cuthbertson

## FOOTBALL

Imperial College 1st XI  
LSE 1st XI

ON WEDNESDAY, the 3rd of December IC 1st XI travelled to the picturesque LSE ground. Although hampered by injuries to four key players, IC started well, and the brisk open football made a mockery of the poor pitch. However, LSE managed to score first, following a fine move down the left. The game degenerated into a scrappy affair, with both teams finding it difficult to keep their feet on a pitch that was now cutting up considerably, and the score remained the same till half time.

In the second half IC attacked well, and achieved a penalty after an LSE defender had handled the ball. The job was given to Terry Lindon, who calmly slotted the ball home, the 'keeper making every effort to dive out of the way. This lifted IC, and soon after this, Phil Singleton sent a fine ball to the far post for Dave Rudd to send a blistering header past a stranded 'Keeper — 2-1, and more to come. A flowing move down the left ended with Phil Singleton, surely the man of the match, sending a scorching shot towards the LSE goal. The shot was good, the save was better. However, IC were sure to score again, and little Steve Gee, opportunist extraordinaire, snapped up a half-chance to make the score 3-1. You just can't

## HOCKEY

Imperial College II 1  
Wallingford 5

WE ARRIVED at Harlington having lost our half-back line, who had been relegated to the 1st XI. We were thus forced to change our famous 'system' that has brought us such unqualified success recently.

Straight from the bully-off it was obvious that the defence was finding it hard to adjust and the opposition quickly took a one goal lead. A second goal followed some good play from the opposition's fast and skilful wings. The IC defence now began to find its feet (and the opposition forwards!) and this gave confidence to the other players and we came back strongly to force a goal.

The second half was remarkable for the umpires sudden loss of interest in upholding the off-side rule. This led to the opposition scoring 3 goals with no reply from IC.

All in all, a disappointing afternoons hockey.

Team: *R Hutson, J Huckle, M Callun, D Balderson (capt), T Sethi, Pete, Effendi Rahman, B Middleton, A Brewster, S Golding.*

let men like Steve Gee have that much room in the box. This crowned a glorious second-half display from IC, surely their best of the season.

## Reviews continued

Composed during the Christmas period of 1734, Bachs *Christmas Oratorio* shone brilliantly in a blaze of gusto and enthusiasm witnessed by a packed audience in the Great Hall last Friday night. The Choir, despite a twinge of understrength in the soprano section, produced an uncharacteristic warmth in their singing which was a fitting match to the beauty and complexity of one of Bach's legendary works. The Oratorio was necessarily abridged, one part was omitted completely and the libretto was in English — a wise move.

The soloists in my view were slightly disappointing. The soprano, GILLIAN JASON was the best of the bunch. Her singing was clear, controlled and unexaggerated; there was little shrillness. RICHARD FREWER, singing the tenor part, seemed a little too animated in his posture at times. His singing was on the whole excellent except that he was flat on some of the more tricky passing notes. CHRISTINE ASHER, the contralto, suffered from a lisp 's', and as a result was distracting. Her performance was not without polish however. If you'll

### Imperial College Choir: Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach, conducted by Eric Brown.

forgive the pun, DAVID WILSON-JOHNSON, the bass, was basically not a bass at all but a baritone. He lacked the necessary vocal power required in the F clef to invoke drama into the work.

The special orchestra was lead by JOHN BACON who played confidently throughout. The strings were generally adequate but were sketchy towards the end I felt. The oboes created a startling warmth and clarity during the symphony at the beginning of part two. There the usual 'acidity' associated with oboes was gone as they appeared almost to resonate in phase. (Pity about the first oboe's bum note at the end of part two). The continuo of PRU ASHBEE ('cello) and CHRISTOPHER SHAW (harpsichord) was faultless, especially during the recitatives.

A word of praise must be directed to the

anonymous first trumpet player. In Bach's time there were no valves on bass instruments (they only began to be fitted in the 19th century). This means that a complete scale was only possible above F on the bottom space of the treble staff: below that the horns were limited (reading downwards) to middle C, A, F, C, and the F below the bass staff. With the invention of valves the complete scale became available throughout the horn's range; as a result composers have tended to write horn parts much lower than Bach did so it is usually with some trepidation that modern trumpet players, who are not used to going so high, approach a work by Bach. Not so our anonymous trumpet player last Friday. He cruised through the difficult trills in the second aria in part one and generally managed extremely well. Congratulations to him.

The conductor, ERIC BROWN, has produced excellence. He and indeed everyone involved got the ovation which they richly deserved.

MIKE WILLIAMS



# FELIX SPORT 2



IC Ladies Boat Club Rules OK!

..... Well most of the time anyway. Saturday 6th December saw ICLBC out in force at the University of London Boat Club. The reason behind this show of masochism, was the UL ladies Winter Regatta, and with a total of 3 crews and a sculler entering, we hoped to walk away with a least one trophy.

It was soon evident that UL organization was non-existent as races ran later and later. This bad organization was partly to blame for the novice crew's defeat in their first heat due to only a short (2 mins) warm up period. After a well fought race, they lost to UL, the final winners.

Our 'College' crews both won their 1st heats easily, to go through to the semi-finals. In the first of these the 'College B' crew still shattered after their first race met Royal Vets (i.e. UL). Despite a good start, it was soon evident that stamina was not on our side, with Royal Vets winning convincingly. (Well, they did have the stream).

After lunch, Helen 'wheres the nearest Youngs Pub?' Natrass, easily won her first heat (against Royal Vets) despite the crooked course she was steering. Our 'College A' crew, after much hassling, in order to use our own boat, were landed with an incomplete UL boat. Against all odds they easilt beat St. Mary's II. After a very short interval, during which Helen narrowly lost the sculls final (she drowned her sorrows later). The 'A' crew were out on the water again, in their own boat. After groping

their way through the darkness to the start (they were now running very late). The finals started, IC 'A' v's Royal Vets.

The College crew had a bad start and Royal Vets gained a length and a half, (they had the best stream again), but the college crew fought back a lost narrowly, by about half a length. This event completed our first term's serious rowing when we also entered the Head of the River Race for Fours. We are sure that this is an indication of increasing standards, to be bettered next term.

Our thanks go to Nigel and Rob for Coxing. Dr Levy our coach and Charlie, for his continuing help and encouragement.

Any ladies interested in Rowing at IC should contact Isobel Pollock. Meck. Eng III.

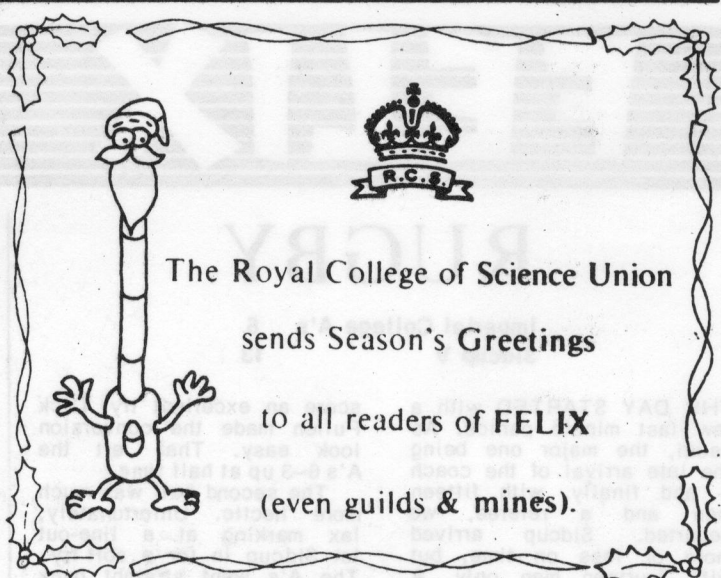
The Mens boat club still exists and is functioning well, having won the vesta Winter Eight earlier this term.

**The Crews.**  
College 'A'  
Bow-Sue James; 2-Sue Smith;  
3-Claire Hodgson; Stroke-Gerry Taplin.

College 'B'  
Bow-Alison Heap; 2-Kathy Oldfield; 3-Janet Downs; Stroke Isobel Pollock.

Novice  
Bow-Linda Lam; 2-Catherine;  
3-Jean Maskell; Stroke- Brenda Ness

Sculler-Helen Natrass.



The Royal College of Science Union  
sends Season's Greetings  
to all readers of FELIX  
(even guilds & mines).

## NETBALL

Imperial College 30  
University College 20

WE FEARED the score would be much different when at 10.15am, barely 45 mins before the match started, we were still one player short. Quite a substantial loss when a team consists of a mere seven players. Luckily we found a "willing" player.

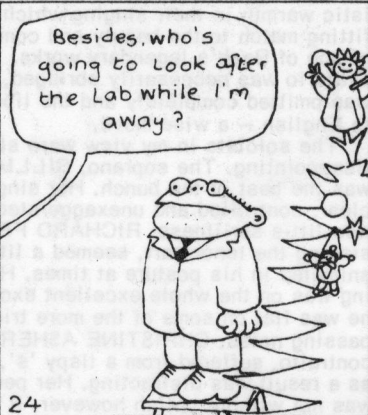
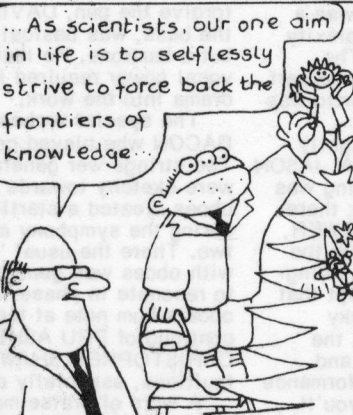
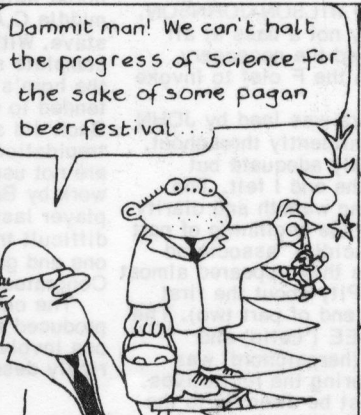
After an uneasy start with UC taking a substantial lead IC settled down, drew even and eventually took the lead, which once gained was never lost. Although UC drew even many times IC managed to concentrate and

thanks to some superb shooting and an excellent defence to take a clear lead. Such was the case in each quarter until the final one when IC didn't give UC much of a chance. Their spurt of concentration seemed to last for the whole quarter and IC netted more goals than in any other quarter.

A special word of thanks to our two last minute recruits - Alison and Lynne who both played like professionals. Team: Clare, Chris, Alison, Lynne, Isobel, Barbara, Mary.



### PROF. BREMSSTRAHLUNG









*Merry Christmas*  
*and a*  
*Happy New Year*