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EVERY
FORTNIGHT

FELIX



No. 41

IMPERIAL COLLEGE

14 November 1952

BONFIRE HOP OVERHELMED

The Guy Fawkes Night arrangements at Harlington were swamped at the last moment when the mass of I.C. abandoned their earlier Rag mood in favour of the official plans. Over 500 people were taken to Harlington by bus, double the number bargained for by the Entertainments Committee.

An emergency Guilds Union meeting the day before decided not to support officially the Procession being organised from U.C. by most of the other colleges. This carnival of floats, on the theme "The Second Age of discovery" headed by a roundabout route for the South Bank Site, where there was a bonfire. Some 100 S.A. members were seen at various stages of this and about half of them returned to Piccadilly Circus afterwards in procession, where they dispersed and sorted out.

Meanwhile the Union Officers and Entertainments Committee had the large crowds to get away from South Kensington to the Sports Ground. The four double-deckers and an extra couple of coaches were soon filled, leaving at least 150 people on the pavement. These had to wait until the first 'buses could come back, and so just at the time where I.C. should have been clear - parties of all types, juvenile and delinquent, were already collecting around the Albert Hall and making merry - and they were persuaded to keep in the Union, away from constabulary criticism.



SIX GIRLS and THEIR GUY

Photo G. W. Lodge

The last 'bus-load arrived at nine, to find the whole Hop and Pavilion impossibly crowded. However, the bonfire and displays soon followed to get them outdoors, and by the time these were over the first 'buses due to leave were filling up. Once again, there were great delays as the whole plan of return had to be worked out to get in the extra journeys. A further two coaches called in, and the last two 'bus-loads arrived at Kensington at one o'clock.

The preparations at Harlington by the Rugby, Soccer and Hockey Clubs, and their posters at I.C. were very good, and the Entertainments Committee managed to fix up their record equipment satisfactorily for the Hop. It was a pity that there was no arrangement made by which the support for this event could have been gauged. As it was the organisers did well in ordering more transport than the Union meeting suggested. If they had not, there might have been a spontaneous riot and rag at I.C. after all.

From America also came characteristic news of that day: "Avalanche", "Tidal Wave" "Landslide"

FELIX BIRTHDAY and CHRISTMAS ISSUES

Contributions are invited for the FELIX third Birthday and Christmas issue which will appear on Friday 12th. December.

A FELIX Birthday Dance will be held on Saturday 6th. December.

UNION MEETING

The first I.C. Union Meeting of the term was to have been held ten days before November 5th. Although Guy Fawkes Day arrangements were on its agenda, the most important business to be taken were the Union Accounts, and it was the postponement of these that caused the Union to meet as late as October 31st. As a result it rushed through its annual opportunity to examine the finances of the Union, the Athletic and Ground Committees, and other College organisations. The Bookstall profit was passed, though the meeting was surprised with the information that the Union does not face the Refectories' losses.

The Meeting earlier elected four members, from six candidates, to fill the depleted Entertainments Committee.

The award of the Links Club Memorial trophy was made to the Rugby Club, holders of the University Championship. This Prize is awarded each year, on the nomination of the A.C.C., to the most improved athletic club of the college.

Then came the Presidents' announcements of the arrangements made for a Bonfire Hop and Display at Harlington.

This was at first received in silence, but then opposition grew, and developed two strong opinions: that going to Harlington was to deliberate and harmless to satisfy the Rag mood; and that an official share should be taken in a meeting more suitable - the other colleges' procession in London.

The tone of these speakers was against any energy being spent at Harlington, and a vote was soon taken to keep the Union open so that Rag parties could assemble. Following this it was very nearly proposed that the Harlington Hop be stopped, a suggestion being made that only one bus be ordered instead of the five planned.

This mood was damped by two good speakers from the Government's apparent minority, and the meeting withdrew its motion already passed, and substituted in its place one giving the Duty officer what he already possessed - power to close the Union at his discretion.

Time then forced the closing of the meeting in sullen humor, with the Vacation Work Scheme and Any Other Business not even discussed.

U.L.U. PRESS CONFERENCE

On November 3rd the President of U.L.U. (Mr. Alan Tate) held a press conference attended by representatives of all the college newspapers and magazines. The purpose of the meeting was to describe the current programme of the Union and its societies so that it would receive greater publicity. In the absence of a University newspaper - which the President said would not be restarted until its financial success was assured - the college papers had to cover University as well as local college affair. No firm proposals were made but as a result of the meeting the University Union on the one hand is beginning to act as central agency for such things as advertising and block making and on the other hand the college newspapers are likely to give rather more publicity to U.L.U. and U.L.A.U. affairs.



THE INCA OF PERUSALEM

and the

JEALOUS WIFE

- with Dramatic Apologies



The title of the I.C. contribution to the L.U.D.S. one-Act Play Festival next week, as announced in our last issue, should have read "The Inca of Perusalem". The understandable alteration of the city name to Jerusalem was made in typing.

Less understandable was the printing of the wrong dates for the Dramatic Society Christmas production at I.C. We say that their original notice misled us: they challenge our sodality. In any case the correct production dates are the four nights, Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th of December.

PROFILE

MRS. ROBINSON



Mrs. Rob. fortunately, did not descend upon I.C. with the same disastrous effects associated with Miss Zuleika Dobson at Oxford, although she has brought with her the air of 'creating chaos cosmic': and much to our good fortune she has stayed considerably longer.

That the Union office is such a popular lunch-time parlour is no small reflection on the popularity of its friendly queen. Those who are still finding their way in I.C. are assured of one good friend and adviser in the guise of Mrs. Rob. That she is a familiar and welcome figure in our midst is not surprising, for she has that rare quality of being interested in people. She likes all people, and she asks for nothing more than to learn what is happening in the world; in your world, the college world, or the world at large.

Gleaned from the University Staff in 1950 her former career included a somewhat incongruous convent education (one recalls immediately Searle's Horrible Schoolgirl at St. Trinian's), and a period in an engineering office (from which she has amazed Derek Crossley with her knowledge of car radiators). At some time during this period she married a nebulous architect who frequents the War Office - hereafter termed 'The Rob'.

It is known that she can type and, when necessary, is familiar with her own brand of shorthand. She appreciates the importance of a task and when required will work with great gusto and accuracy until it is completed. However, she likes to gossip, but will hear no ill, and like her sex finds that time is meaningless.

BRIGHTON RUN-1952

On Sunday last "Bo" had his annual outing to the seaside when, with 163 other pre-1904 cars, he took part in the London to Brighton run. The crew and distinguished passengers, The President and Secretary of Guilds, assembled at the unheard of hour of 7.0 a.m., well provided with mackintoshes, groundsheet and umbrellas - as is the custom for the Brighton Run. Spirits were low since on his outing on the day before, "Bo" had been producing a fantastic assortment of bangs and rattles from somewhere in his innards, but was supported by two tender cars in case of accident. When a few yards from the starting position in Hyde Park the engine stalled and to everybody's consternation it was discovered that the pin on the starting shaft had sheared. Messrs. Allsopp and Aspinall were dispatched back to Guilds in search of another, returning some thirty minutes later, laden with every piece of suitable material that the workshops could produce. They were just in time to clamber aboard, the President doing a spectacular canter down the course to the amusement of the crowd.

Once under way "Bo" went magnificently and reached Brighton non-stop. "Bo" started at number forty-seven but thanks to some "dicey" driving by Mike Day, was the third car to cross the line. The only mishap was when Edmund Harding received a gallon of petrol in his face. As this was in a tin and doing about 20 m.p.h. he came off the worse.

The car was met by the Lady Mayor of Brighton, who presented the pennant, and by a B.B.C. man who proffered a mile for the views of the crew. After lunch "Bo" took a rather ignominious part in the procession of veterans, the rest of the procession getting so far ahead that it was lost altogether.

"Bo" made it all the way back home under his own power despite the rain, having added another Brighton Run medal to a long list of successes.

Late News

GUILDS won the MORPHY and LOWRY races
In both the MINES were second.
There was a clash early in the Lowry.

THE UNION ORACLE

Existing primarily in the orbit of Union Officers her fond love of lesser mortals produces an annual desire to transform these reputed oligarchs into just normal beings. (We all wish her every success). Nevertheless, she admires an honesty of design and purpose both in a metaphorical and literal sense, and is ready to understand and help any realistic effort whether it is to improve or amuse. One associates with Mrs. Rob. a rich quality of warmth of colour and one feels that whilst she is with us the college is certain to retain an atmosphere of humour and friendliness. She has a ready wit and charm which has disarmed the most retiring 'Fresher' and it has been said that she even called Nicholas an 'Old Fool' to his face and yet they still remain firm friends. Enjoying a sense of the absurd and ridiculous she feels equally at home either in an old car - several of which frequent the Union - or at one of her tea parties at Harrods, with the old Ladies of Kensington. A suggestion of a visit to the Vinters is readily accepted and, whilst many a firm hand has gone the way of all flesh, Mrs. Rob. will just sit and talk of cabbages and kings, mimics and dialects, brassbands and quaint stories, odd characters and odd pubs, all of which are dear to her heart. And yet she is just as willing to discuss, in a very knowledgeable manner a wide diversity of subjects, ranging from the latest play, film or book (she detests 'thrillers') to town planning politics and interior furnishings, a miscellany of topics which appear endless and with which she has captured the college. (Already one member of the college has calculated the number of hours of Mrs. Rob's time to which he was entitled and insisted on his rights. A procedure that is understandable but not recommended. We wonder how 'The Rob' views these computations!)

Mrs. Rob is a welcome figure in the Union and may we wish her many more enjoyable years at I.C. She has many a friend who will be 'coming alongside.'

P.S. If anybody has a spare carboy or demijohn would they please contact Mrs. Rob.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION FOR STUDENT SOCIETIES

Our last 'Viewpoint' suggested that the Lunch-time Lectures and the longer hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays are seriously hampering the activities of Student Societies. This matter was discussed by the General Studies Committee last week. The programme has been mapped out too far ahead to allow the Lunchtime Lectures to be transferred to Mondays and Fridays this Session, but the Committee hoped that Student Societies will themselves organise lunchtime functions on Tuesdays and Thursdays as part of the General Studies scheme.

Such functions are to be announced on the printed posters advertising the General Studies and Mr. McDowall has offered to assist the Secretaries of Societies interested to get outside speakers to take part in midday debates and discussions.

Next term's General Studies programme will be devoted principally to International Affairs and Literature. It is hoped to include also two films and a full Union Debate.

DEBATING TRIALS SUCCESS

This was an ambitious experiment, considering the general lack of interest in college debating, but results proved quite encouraging. The trial, held last Thursday was organised with an eye to picking a debating team to compete in the 'varsity championships', and also to discover and encourage any potential talent for speaking in future college Debates. The speeches were judged according to imagination and breadth of outlook, logical development, and eloquence and presentation.

The main impression of the Judges, Messrs. Sobey, Wearne & Ruhemann, was that although the general standard of speaking was quite high, little attempt was shown by speakers in developing the ideas presented.

A full scale debating trial is to be held on Friday, 14th November, at 5.30 p.m. in the Botany Lecture Theatre, conducted on similar lines to the University championships.

The subject for debate is to be announced at 5.10 p.m., giving the teams only 20 minutes to get some ideas before the start. It is to be hoped that plenty of support will be forthcoming for this venture to put I.C. Debating on the map.

Finally, it is hinted that an Annual Debating prize is to be made to the most improved debates of the year.

CHANTICLEER

In Stroud, would-wind instruments are aloud;
Brass, on the other hand, is band.

Felix



THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE

EDITOR: S.H. WEARNE

CIRCULATION: 1250

We have received several letters from people who are concerned about the rag situation. They express the point of view which seemed widely held at the Union meeting last week.

Rags can be divided into two types. There are those which are the result of spontaneous outbursts on the part of a few students: these have no connexion with the Union, and it would seem to be no concern of the college if individuals on these occasions disgrace themselves in the eyes of the public. If the name of I.C. enters it is purely incidental, such as would happen if one of our mountaineers was killed, or if one of us won a Nobel Prize for literature. We feel that in eruptions of this kind, it is hard on the Union Officers that they should feel bound to warn us of hellfire and excommunication.

The second type, organized Union-sponsored Rags, are much more respectable; but we have seen little of them at I.C. They must, from their very size, be law-abiding. It is right, we feel, that in these circumstances our authorities should clamp down on irresponsibilities committed in the name of the college.

It is this second type of rag with which we are concerned; the other has nothing to do, officially, with the Union. In the coronation year we will have plenty of scope for organising charity processions and carnivals. They will need careful planning; they will need to be nurtured in an atmosphere of good will from the top. Above all they will need to be controlled by a responsible and enthusiastic body of students.

Further views are welcomed.

OC 3 1 7 5

A baby Austin that arrives half-way up the Albert Hall steps one morning, is potentially in a very funny state; especially when it is one of the original models, and is named 'Belinda' on the bonnet.

So when this occurred a fortnight ago, we were all amused at lunch-time to see it there; but though the motives of those who put it up there were personal, and their business, we feel that the damaging manhandling they gave it, calls for criticism. Unnecessary hardship was inflicted on the owners by lifting it by the wings and other light parts. The care taken by the ten gentlemen that brought it down was a lesson by contrast.

DIARY

Last Saturday FELIX and PHOENIX went to a Journalists Natter and Hop at Kings College. They were received sympathetically, softened up with alcohol, and then got to business. A little careful diplomacy on our part obtained a promise that regular copies of "Kings News" and "n" would be sent to us.

VARI-TYPER

As an experiment for us and our printers to try out the VARI-TYPER process, some pages of this issue of FELIX have been composed on VARI-TYPER. Until the results of trials have been examined, we daren't say more about the future form of FELIX

This issue is the last under the care of Stephen Wearne, who has been temporarily Editor this term for a second time. The next will be in the hands of A.R. Bray.

FELIX congratulates the following members of Chem. Tech. on their marriages:

D.G. Cowan, to Cynthia Brown,
T.J. Gilbert, to Peggy Petitpierre,
D.V. Parker, to Margot Rea.

and: Gillian Stern and Bryan Lewis (both of the RCS.) on their engagement.



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Viewpoint- DINNER-IN-HALL

Dinner in Hall on Tuesday nights has this term been experimentally moved from the Upper Dining Hall to Ayrton Hall. This transfer, initially for a period of three weeks, has now been extended to three months; but since the first trial is now over the time has come to consider what conclusions may be drawn from it.

In the first place, as might be expected, the change has produced no noticeable effect on the number of people attending Hall Dinner, though in the opinion of some, the quality of food is not now quite so high as formerly. The primary issue is one of convenience and comfort, and consequently in the last resort, a matter of taste, as to whether Ayrton Hall is to be preferred to the Union. Now we have it on the authority of a Latin author that in matters of taste there is no use disputing, and to say that I would rather dine in the dark intimate warmth of the Upper Dining Hall than in the cold pastel spaces of the Ayrton Refectory, is to be purely personal and subjective.

But there are a number of points pretty universally agreed which must be considered in this connexion as well. For instance, if more than about 50 people decide to dine-in on any Tuesday, (and 70 and 80 are numbers not unknown) then the Dinner will have to occupy, not the alcove at the end, but the main Ayrton Refectory. And whereas, say 60 people in the alcove at the end would be an almost insanitary density, a mere 60 in Ayrton Hall itself would constitute an unstable aggregate from which a depressing spiritual evaporation round the margins would occur. A hundred at least is the critical mass needed to make Ayrton Hall psychically comfortable.

The Senior Common Room in the Unwin Building is vastly more pleasant than that in the Union, particularly for an intimate or serious talk round a fire. And when it is crowded the Union S.C.R. can at times resemble an Hogarthian taproom. But for the average Dinner-in-Hall it served very well, and for the average Dinner-in-Hall the Unwin S.C.R. is too large. Over sherry and coffee the diners, divided from one another in what are virtually three rooms, find themselves again below critical mass, and split up into fixed and intent little groups - into what a more question-begging viewpointer might have described as 'cliques'.

In sum, until Dinners-in-Hall are habitually attended by a hundred or more, I should prefer them to be held in the Union building - and if many agree they are less likely to reach their century while they are held in Ayrton Hall.

URSA MINOR

FELIX GATECRASHES:

OVERSEAS STUDENTS RECEPTION

I.C. overseas students assembled in the Old Lounge on Friday (7th) evening on an invitation from the Overseas Students' Subcommittee of the Union. Mike Neale, the committee chairman, opened the proceedings and introduced the speakers.

Prof. Read, the Pro-Rector, first welcomed the students to the college, and recommended them to get to know the country while they were here. He was followed by Miss Mary Trevelyan, the University Adviser to Overseas Students, who gave a few practical tips to the newcomers; including that her office in Gordon Square was always ready to help them.

John Harding, the R.C.S. President, deputising for Ron Macfie, recommended in particular Touchstone and Dinner-in-Hall as two excellent ways of mixing with people, as a start, so that when the overseas student goes back home he should be able to say that he had been 'of' I.C., not just 'at' I.C. Frank Slingerland, the Secretary of the Committee, a Canadian himself just getting used to kippers and the left-handed fork, warned the new students of the early tendency to mix only with ones own countrymen.

Then the meeting went up to the buffet supper. Here the various Clubs were represented by Captains and Presidents, though there was none of the flourishing advertising of Freshers Day. Small groups were seen discussing all kinds of subjects (Your reporter recalls Drama, atomic physics, Mau Mau, & Dutch Geology under examination) It was indeed a welcome function for the overseas fresher who had felt 'left out' for the first few days.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Television Newsreel visited the Hydraulics Laboratory two weeks ago to film a flood gauging model for the West Lyn River being tested by Mr. P.O. Wolf for the Consultant Engineer.

The few minutes film is reported to have been technically quite interesting, but the amount shown in the Vision broadcasts later that week ran only a few seconds. The work was also mentioned in the Radio Newsreel.

The "Low Temperature" section of Chem. Tech. have recently been on a five day trip to Holland, where they visited the Kamerleigh Ornes Laboratory, Leiden, the Dutch State Mines, and Philips, Eindhoven

The new Secretary of the Entertainments Committee is I.W. Joffe, and the Dance Secretary M.A. Champney.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Sir,

It is my view that even the diehards among the college are at last reconciled to the view that democracy is dead. Disturbing as is this remark, let us make a post mortem of the last Union meeting to draw the attention of the main collegiate body to the appalling conduct of affairs. First ly the annual irritation that is November the fifth is over and the President of the Union has achieved his object in minimising the chances of arrest of the rebel few. As such he is to be congratulated but in his method he has earned the sessional resentment of the vast bulk of the students.

November 5th is an odious affair for any President to have to handle, but is it too much to expect that the majority student opinion will be heard on future occasions? Or will each President take it upon himself to present the College with a fait accompli a brief week before the event? These at any rate are matters that will concern those who stay and suffer in the succeeding years.

But to more pregnant matters, those which will affect the economy of students lasting the present session. In the first place I am appalled at the profit that the book-stall makes. Not that I consider £1800 a good trading return. My personal view is that with competent foresighted organisation this profit could be doubled by attracting to the bookstall those customers like myself who recognize that nearly every commodity sold that can be bought elsewhere is either at or above a par price. Also a great variety of commodities that are really useful are not available, showing either inadequate stocking or just sheer bad business in selling only what you want to sell and not what the customer wants. To be specific: is the present administration adequate or does the bookstall committee need closer liaison with the main student body?

Then there is that heartbreaking queue at lunchtime in line for the expensive lunch. I say expensive bearing in mind that if I feed downstairs that I shall have to undertake a 20 minute walk to get a better one at the price. But last session I would never have thought of going elsewhere for lunch (human inertia and all that). Now alas I have taken root in my room during the morning and am reluctant to appear in college until p.m. Pity the poor undergraduate with his timetable and the prospect of a 30% increased price to pay for his ¼ hour-queued-meal! Does the Union, which has taken upon itself to fall into line with the government policy of economic restraint no matter what the consequences, still claim that it has the best interests of the college at heart? What about making the lot of the students easier by a workmanlike policy towards the refectory such as a £2000 subsidy per year? Or has that got the brass hats screaming?

Finally I think that it is as well to air views in Felix before they are brought to the next Union meeting.

Yours etc. Adam Sobey



Dear Sir,

"Another Antarctic Explorer"

The articles in "Illustrated" referred to in today's issue of Felix have a far greater connection with I.C. than you imagined - such is the dulling effect of time.

The member of the expedition who took the magnificent photographs which appeared in "Illustrated" is an old Guilds man, and he it was who went down the crevasse and rescued Alec Trendall.

Kevin Walton who was a "Civil" from 1936-39 joined the Navy on leaving college, and was later awarded the D.S.C. In 1946-48 he was in the Antarctic, where he was awarded the Albert Medal for a similar rescue to the one he performed in South Georgia.

These feats were not accomplished without previous training and members of the Civil Engineering staff may well remember a sunny morning at the surveying camp in 1938 when a certain student complained that he could not leave camp until his suit of tails (we were under canvas) had been retrieved from its suspension from the branch of an elm tree some 70 ft. above the ground. Staff and students enjoyed watching the perpetrator repeat rope trick of the night before and lower himself and tails to the ground.

Kevin Walton is now teaching at Gundle and we look forward to having some of his trainees at the Guilds in due course!

Yours etc. A. Stephenson

Dear Sir,

Quod: Quo Vadis?

What has become of the resolution, proposed and well supported, at an I.C. Union Meeting last session (or was it the one before?), to convert the garish looking tennis courts in the Union Quadrangle into a luxurious spread of lawn?

Although such a plan, if carried out, would be hard on the Tennis Club, it would provide Imperial College with one set of buildings worthy of its dignity, especially as in my appreciation of the external morphology of the Huxley Building, I appear to be among a minority (perhaps to constitute the minority!)

By digging up this old bone of contention early in a new session perhaps students opinion will have time to gather sufficient momentum for action to be taken upon this point before the annual dissolution, which was apparently so disastrous to its first voicing.

Aesthetically yours,
Philip F. Entwistle

To Felix,

8th November, 1952

To a dying Imperial College.

Is there any spirit left in I.C.? Are we going to continue to take a back-seat while other colleges take the lead?

Next year is Coronation year, why not start it off with a grand I.C. carnival parading through the streets of London, displaying the faculties of the Imperial College of Science and Technology and make collection for some worthy charitable cause?

Let us restore I.C. to what it used to be or what it could be!

Signed: Another dying student

Sir,

Many people, during the past week, have held forth at great length, and with much beer, on the sorry state of affairs revealed by the failure of this Union to observe the Glorious 5th in the traditional manner. Unfortunately, most of them have failed to diagnose the ill correctly.

The fault, as many of us see it, lies with the Union Officers who deem it their duty to make decisions on behalf of the student body without attempting to consider the wishes of that body. Are we children, to be spoonfed thus? No, Sir. We are not! But until we can arouse our elected representatives to a full realisation of their duty towards us and their dependance upon us, this once proud Union will remain little more than a large and untidy Bridge Club. The remedy is in our hands. If all who eat in these buildings were to attend Union meetings and raise their voices, however small, in Union affairs, the greater part of the ill would be immediately removed. Despotism thrives on apathy. Now is the time for a reformation. Act before it is too late.

Yours etc. M. J. A. Brown

Dear Sir,

Once again I.C. Union has distinguished itself in executing a daring raid on one of the other Colleges in the University - as usual without leaving its own Union Meeting. In comparison with this popular expedition the Harlington Hop was an utter failure, being boycotted by all but a meagre 400 Union members and their guests.

I think that the time is now ripe for the College either to forego the periodic outbursts of hot air to which certain Union Members continually subject us, or to organise a Reg worthy of I.C. There are innumerable opportunities; what is required is less talk and more action.

Yours faithfully
B. H. Wyatt

Dear Sir,

In answer to the article on the Hops published in the last edition of Felix, I should like to make a few observations. The Hops were stated to be so crowded; our Hops are so popular that we could sell almost twice as many tickets as we do now. The numbers are restricted to about 400, as this does not make the dance floor too crowded but allows most of the Union members to attend if they wish.

On the issue of men from other colleges, I would point out that we have reciprocal Union membership with various other colleges, in particular C.E.M. who regularly buy Hop tickets. Members' guests are also not limited to females and male guests from other colleges are naturally welcome in the Union.

The records have been chosen carefully, and records are played only if they are suitable for dancing. Every endeavour is made to play records of the same tempo for a given dance and to avoid a violent clash of styles.

I remain, Sir,

Yours,
M. A. Champney.
I.C.U.E.C.

On second thoughts we consider that our original notes on the first hop were very harsh towards the new Entertainment Committee; it would have been a hard day for us if the first FELIX had been as closely criticized - Editor.

Dear Sir,

In 1947 Professor Willis Jackson suggested that five years after leaving college, a reunion of Staff and ex students should be held to compare notes. The first of what is hoped to be a regular event was held last night at the I.C. Union. Twenty Members of that year (which included a high proportion of ex-service students) attended from as far as Darlington; letters were received from others in Canada, Egypt, Tangier, and various parts of the U.K. regretting that they could not attend and relating their experiences.

Seven members of the Staff were able to attend, including Prof. Rushton, now retired.

We think that the exchange of views in entirely informal surroundings was most valuable, and we shall certainly gather again in 1957; we commend this interchange five years after leaving college to all your readers.

A full report will appear in 'The Central'
Yours faithfully

Peter E.M. Sharp
9 Addison Court Gardens, W.14.

THE UNION LIBRARY

Poor old Shaw! Hardly dead and the world hits back. Not that you can blame it, for 90 years of exposure, ridicule and debunking would provoke even humanity to retaliation - though they didn't dare do it while he was alive. Even our library has entered into the universal conspiracy; we have a mere handful of his lesser works (apart from those abominable complete editions which are too heavy to carry away).

He was always a joker. All his obituarists pointed out his complete lack of seriousness. Read "Mrs. Warren's Profession" and "Major Barbara", and have a good belly laugh. Try Wilde and Pinero as well, the pinnacles of divorce court comedy and airy nothingness. After these playboys it will be a relief to move over to Ibsen, to dodge as he flings an agonised ideal at you, and to shudder as it bursts into pieces. When he's stripped you naked of illusions you can pick up Pirandello and get dressed again, rather self-consciously, or collapse in the arms of Coward and wallow in sophisticated nostalgia, rather artificially, or even metaphysicise with Priestley, rather Samaritanically.

Returning to the Irish, who have just celebrated their Golden Age, Synge and O'Casey are represented, but not Yeats. How odd it is to compare the wonderful flood of genius from their poverty-stricken land with the contribution to Drama made by stupendous, colossal, Philistine U.S.A., whose Eliots and Isherwoods are English, and whose O'Neill is surely of Irish descent. Wandering a little further, I was just about to vitriolise on the absence of the Great Ghoul of Russian Tragedy when I noticed that he was stacked under T, not C. This, of course, explains why he's only been taken out 4 times in 3 years, since no lover of literature would look for a man of letters under T (or for any true artist at all for that matter). Still, the vitriol needn't be wasted. I discovered that Turgenev, Strindberg and surprisingly, Maugham are absent from our Drama shelves.

At any rate, if you read plays at all you'll be very much in the fashion. Seated in the tube the other day I was compressed between Euripides and A Woman of No Importance. A man opposite was silently mouthing his lines from "The Holly and the Ivy". It was rather overpowering. Plays are overpowering: they convey more condensed ideas than novels: the best of them are in the vanguard of political and cultural advance.

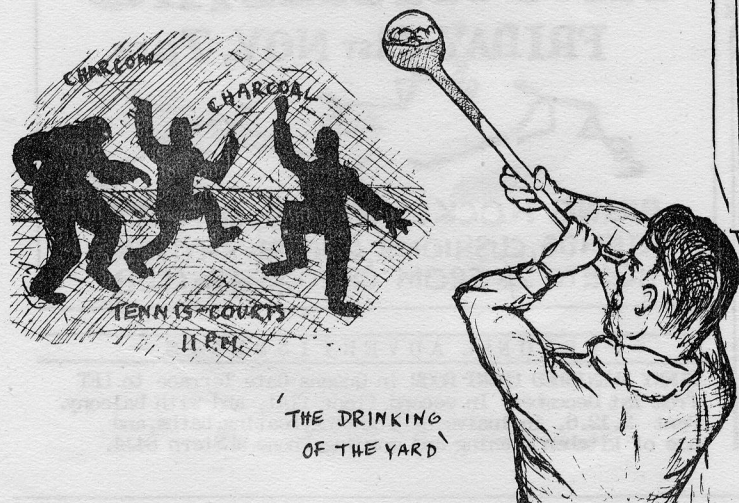
In conclusion, Ibsen again. He's still a thousand years ahead of society, which is, as usual, five hundred years behind itself.

MINES FRESHERS DINNER

The Mines Dinner officially began at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, October the 31st, but long before that hour freshers and old hands alike could be seen in the bar partaking of the liquor of life. Having thus fortified themselves against an evening of speeches, the whole assembly drifted or dragged themselves upstairs to the Dinner. The Dinner itself was magnificent, and the presence of a source of free C₂H₅OH was fully appreciated by all and sundry.

When everybody had been satisfied both alcoholically and gastronomically, the President, Bill Robinson rose and after having said a few well chosen words about the R.C.S. and its president, introduced the evenings speeches. These were made by the Dean, Professor David Williams, the Vice-President Geoff Cox, and a Fresher Bot. Kingdom. All of the speeches were witty and entertaining in content, but one or two shaggy dogs (big ones too!) managed to shuffle their way in.

The President then suggested that the gathering should retire to the bar, the expressed purpose being to initiate the Freshers into the drinking of the "yard".



COMING EVENTS

SOCIAL.

FRIDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER. FELIX No. 41 on sale.

5.10 p.m. I.C. Lit & Deb. Soc. Debating Trial, Botany Lecture theatre.

6.00 p.m. U.L.U. Debate will be held in the Assembly Hall on the motion "That the present level of Rearmament constitutes a danger to World Peace".

SATURDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER.

8.00 p.m. I.C.W.A. are holding a dance in I.C. Upper dining hall and Gymn. until 12.00 p.m. Tickets are 7/6 (double). Evening dress preferred.

SUNDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER.

7.30 p.m. I.C. Film Soc. are showing "The Citadel", "London Airport" and "Jungle Patrol" in the New Lounge. Tickets may be obtained in I.C.U. before the show.

MONDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER.

5.15 p.m. I.C. Sailing Club will be given on "Seamanship and what it implies" in Ctte Room 'A'. (No time announced) I.C. Christian Union. A lecture will be given by Prof. Short (Bristol Univ) on "My road to Faith" in the Botany lecture theatre.

TUESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER.

1.20 p.m. I.C. Political Society General meeting, Committee Room 'A'. (Election of president).

5.30 p.m. I.C. Railway Soc. A talk on "Some features of Western region Loco. and Train Operating" will be given by O.S. Nock in Room 161, C&G.

WEDNESDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER.

5.30 p.m. R.C.M. are holding a Chamber concert. Admission free. No further details available.

THURSDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER.

1.15 p.m. I.C. Mus. Soc. Recital, Council Room, C&G. Beethoven - clarinet trio.

5.30 p.m. Lecture by Mr. R.W. Matthew will be given on "Design for living - Architecture for today" at King's College of Household and Social Science. Admission by ticket only, obtainable from the Secretary, K.C.H.S.S.

SATURDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER.

8.00 p.m. I.C.U. Entertainments Committee Hop. Tickets obtainable as usual the preceding Thursday and Friday lunch hours from I.C. Union Office Annexe.

MONDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER.

5.15 p.m. I. C. Sailing Club lecture will be given on "Capsize - What to do if it happens and how to avoid it". Place to be announced.

(No time announced). I.C. Christian Union are holding an 'Any Questions?' on the Christian faith. Answers will be given by members of the college staff.

WEDNESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER.

1.30 p.m. I.C. Railway Soc. meet in I. C. U. for visit to Feltham Yard, Southern Region.

5.30 p.m. R.C.M. Chamber concert. Admission free. No further details available.

THURSDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER.

1.15 p.m. I.C. Mus. Soc. Recital, Council Room, C&G. Mozart - arias from opera, sonatas for four hands.

FRIDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER. FELIX No. 42 on sale.

5.15 p.m. U.L. Philosophical study group. Lecture by Prof. Ayer (U.C.) on "Scientific method in Philosophy" will be given in the School of Oriental Studies.

6.00 p.m. U.L.U. Debate will be held in the Assembly Hall between Catholics and non-Catholics - the motion probably being Sterilization.

6.00 p.m. I.C. Mountaineering Club trip to North Wales. This trip will last from 28th-30th Nov. and the cost will be approximately 30/-. Fuller details may be obtained from the notice in I. C. U.

NOTE: FELIX regrets that no further details of Coming Events are available for this period. It reminds Clubs that they are responsible for informing the Coming Events Ed. of events they wish to be inserted.

HOLE IN YOUR SHOE?

THEN TAKE A TRIP TO

KEMPSON'S

44, Queen's Gate Mews,

When this

part of the evening's entertainment was over, hymns were sung, and an epic poem was recited by an old hand recounting the exploits of a certain Arctic Lady. Around eleven o'clock the Miners gathered in the Tennis Courts to sing "Charcoal", and after making as much noise as possible, the gathering broke and disappeared into the night.

I.C.C.C.C.

Sport

GOLF

Imperial College was well represented in the University team against Cambridge University and Orion Harriers on Saturday 1st November, over 7½ miles at Chingford. All three runners beat the entire Cambridge team; D.J. Pain winner T.E. Keegan (L.S.E.) was said unofficially to have broken the old course record by about three minutes which would put all three I.C. runners well inside the old record. As you may have guessed London won the match very easily.

On Saturday 25th October I.C. first team ran against R.M.A. Sandhurst and Walton A.C. at Sandhurst. The match was lost, R.M.A. being first and Walton second. I.C. were represented by a team of seven and a supporter. We had the first two runners home but unfortunately the remainder of the team, packing well; joined the Chelsea pensioners and came 19th - 1st.

On Saturday 1st November I.C. "A" Team in the absence of the University runners gained a resounding victory against R.N.C. Greenwich; having the first six runners home. A.B. Watts, J.M. Turner, and A. Woods being first equal, closely followed by M.G. Royston (capt.) and C.H. James.

On Wednesday 5th November among other happenings of note I.C. 2nd team were 3rd, in a 4 sided match at Mitcham against Kings College II Queen Mary College II and Goldsmiths College. N.C. Huxford ran well to finish first well in front of the field.

A rather depleted team took the country on Saturday 8th November against Southampton University. Though the course was unfamiliar to friend and foe alike, a fine day and dry conditions, assured a good race.

Of the home team Huseford ran well on his first outing with the first team; the good packing of Turner, Woods, Watts and James secured the match for I.C.

Result - Southampton Union - 41
I.C. - 39

BOXING

U.L. TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE HARRY PRESTON CUP

The I.C. Boxing Club added another trophy to the U.L. Championship (Biott) Cup when they became joint holders of the U.L. Trials (Harry Preston) Cup, with Guys Hospital. I.C. could only enter a team of 4 against several teams of eight from Guys Hospital and other clubs but their performance in obtaining 16 points out of a possible 18 was first rate. Stiff opposition was provided by teams from Guys, Kings, London Hospitals, L.S.E. and Goldsmiths.

RESULTS I.C. 16 points Guys 16 points - Winners

R. Forscher (capt.) R.S.M. Middleweight - Won 2 Fights
B.L. Fenoulhet (R.S.M.) Light Welter - Won 1 Lost 1 (retired with hand injury.)
W. Shepherd (R.C.S.) Lightweight Won 2 (one by default)
F. Carr (R.S.M.) Light Heavy Won 2 Fights.

It is anticipated that some of the above I.C. boxers will be asked to represent the University in their first fixture against Cambridge.

The above stalwarts could form the backbone of a very strong I.C. team but a substantially larger team will be necessary if I.C. are to retain their hold of the U.L. Championship.

RUGGER

Saracens Ex. 1st. 19pts. I.C. 6pts.

I.C. opened strongly and held a territorial advantage for most of the first half. Hykin scored an unconverted try following good work by the pack, to give I.C. the interval lead.

Soon after resumption a well placed cross kick by the Saracens right wing led to a try which was converted. The lead was regained when Hearn scored a good corner try direct from a line-out. Knox again failed with the kick.

In the closing minutes Saracens scored another converted try from a scrumage on the I.C. line.

This was a game which could have been won with a little more steadiness under pressure.

SWIMMING

The Club made a promising start in its first match of the season, this being against U.C. I.C. won the swimming events - 20½ pts. to 16½ pts. and lost the water polo - 2-0. The latter compares favourably with the heavy defeats in previous years.

U.C. are the University Champions and habitually defeat the Oxford and Cambridge University teams. It is hoped that this promises a successful year.

Saturday Injuries

FELIX regrets to hear that two Miners were injured last Saturday in a rugger match against the Police; a broken leg (Stephens, a fresher) and a broken wrist (Don Fraser).

Felix Board

The temporary FELIX board is now handing over job by job to its successors. Among the outstanding vacancies are Sports Editor, Production Assistants, and Sunday typists. This last work is PAID. Correspondents can help us to avoid a typing breakdown by sending material as soon as it is ready.

I.C. beat University College by 5-4 in an all-day match at Savoy Lodge. I.C. lost the four-somer by 2-1, but won three of the six singles played in the afternoon. A return match is being played on Saturday, 6th November, at Highgate. In a match at West Hill against St. Thomas's Hospital, the result was a draw, 2-2. This was a good result as St. Thomas's were the only team to beat us last year, and had five of last year's team playing.

The Spring and Summer meetings will be played at Camberley Heath and Woking, both of which are excellent Survey Courses. The dates for these events are 27.4.53, and 26.6.53.

A hidden handicap competition was played at Highgate when each Fresher played with an old member in a foursome. The winning score was a nett 60, and was returned by two Rabbits, who also had the highest gross score, which was so large, it shall remain unpublished.

ICWA SPORT

So far this season, only squash and netball matches have been played. No successes have been attained although the netball team managed to draw against the Hostel Hurricanes.

Some members have played in mixed hockey matches, each time battling against pouring rain.

We should like to congratulate Miss J. Findlater on the award of a Team Purple for athletes.

Two other members of the club are now playing in University teams - Miss D. Goodway, hockey, and Miss M. Lister, squash racquets.

= SOCCER =

1st Rd. U.L. Cup I.C.O. Westminster 3
Encouraged and urged on by some 30 - 40 supporters Westminster were able to bring to an abrupt end I.C.'s aspirations to a long run in the cup. As the score suggests Westminster were indeed the better side. They were much quicker on the ball and their inside forwards and wing halves were able to draw their man before sliding the ball along the wings or down the centre. In sharp contrast I.C.'s forward line was badly integrated and matters were not improved in the second half when it was re-arranged. Westminster's first goal came direct from a corner, the ball landing in the back of the net after a mix up among the home defenders. After half time with the wind advantage I.C. increased pressure on the visitor's goal but despite several near misses it remained intact. On the other hand Westminster were able to make large gaps in the I.C. defence and two beautiful goals were scored in the last 20 minutes. After the final whistle the I.C. team trudged disconsolately from the field, with the sound of the Westminster war cry ringing in their ears and admitting that the better team had won.

LAWN TENNIS

The winter lawn tennis season has been in progress for several weeks and as is the usual custom has consisted of constituent college matches only. During the winter and most of the spring term very few, if any, I.C. matches are played, the courts being made available on Saturday mornings for use by the individual college teams who normally play - and sometimes beat - the same opponents met by the I.C. teams later in the session. The writer is not sure whether this policy will be adhered to in the future.

Results so far obtained are not complete but a defeat and victory can be recorded. Both of these matches were played on the 8th. In the morning, at home Battersea defeated the C.&G. 7-2. In the afternoon, away, the R.S.M. beat Chelsea, also 7-2. The former polytechnic team has two strong pairs and should not be underestimated during the following season.

I.C. ICE SKATING CLUB

AROSA MEETING

FRIDAY 21st NOV., 7p.m.



BRING HOCKEY STICKS, SKATES,
FRIENDS, CUSHIONS, QUICITS-ANYTHING
TICKETS 2/- FROM OFFICERS of the CLUB

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

SUNNY FURNISHED FRONT ROOM in Queens Gate Terrace to LET from 1st December. In second floor flat, and with balcony. Rent 2.12.6, inclusive of lighting, heating, baths, and use of kitchen evening and morning. Phone WESTern 8414.