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EVERY  
FORTNIGHT

No.46.

# FELIX



20TH FEBRUARY 1953.

## IMPERIAL COLLEGE

### U.L. DEBATE MISCARRIES.

Debaters in the U.L. Hut, on 6th February decided that "This House Approves of Legalized Abortion", by 80 votes to 8.

Bart's Hospital Proposed, and they dropped a bomb among the sensation and scandal seekers by declaring that "approves" is in the present tense, and that they, in common with most doctors, thoroughly approved of the current legality of medically necessary abortion. There were 700,000 births in England and Wales in 1950. As one in five or six pregnancies is not held, this makes the number of abortions between 100,000 and 150,000 a year, about 30% of which were believed to be criminal, 90% of these being in married women.

The speakers from Bart's condemned all those forms of abortion which are at the moment illegal.

Bedford College Opposed. They had arrived prepared for a defense of all kinds of abortion by the doctors, so naturally enough their guns were rather badly spiked. Their main points concerned the increase in promiscuity which legal protection of abortion would produce, and also the religious (especially Roman Catholic) harm resulting from the destruction of an unchristened infant. The ghost of the old "Child or Mother?" controversy crept in here, and produced a selection of the usual comments. The Bedford opposition, after stressing the dreadful consequences of women making a habit of legalized abortion, shocked the House by asking for sterilization of mental deficients.

Speakers from the floor were indignant about the way in which the motion had been twisted. It was pointed out that the current practice of not prosecuting a doctor who performs a medically necessary abortion rests, not on Law, but only on a precedent. Thus, current Law is unworkable: reason enough for altering it.

A more practical speaker quoted some approximate statistics: 1 death in every 87 abortions in U.S.A., where it is illegal; one in 10,000 in U.S.S.R., where it is State sanctioned.

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Another speaker asked for legalisation in cases where the production of the child would be unhealthy to society (poverty, disease), but stressed that a line should be drawn somewhere.

Then, a spiritual descendent of Shelley stood up. Shelleys are rare enough, even among students, in these days of disillusionment, and this one brought a touch of true sense and purpose to a debate which was being conducted on a suffocating moral plane. "Shelley" said: promiscuity is high. Very many children are conceived out of wedlock. Legalized abortion would be a smaller evil than the dreadful convention of enforced marriage in such cases. Undesired children should not be brought into the world; there is not the right atmosphere for them. Also, it is well-known that abortion can be obtained by those who can pay well. Why not make it democratic? As for the religious, they could act according to their principles without interfering with other people.

Another speaker, a woman, suggested that the problem concerned only women. It was unfair that any decision should rest with men. The establishment of legal abortion would be a further step towards the Emancipation of Women.

Summing up, the Bedford case could be stated in terms of the well-known Commandment: Thou shalt not kill. Bart's said that current legal practice was sufficient as a solution of the problem.

Though the speaker was all for free love (cheers), with due precautions, he wanted no change in Law.

The Debate was most unsatisfactory. While the Floor had no doubt about the meaning of the Motion, the Proposition refused to accept it in the obvious sense. The Motion should have read "This House would Approve of Legalized Abortion", thus allowing the doctors no loopholes to creep into a restricted department about which there is little controversy in any case. U.L. ought to frame its Motions a little more carefully in future.

### CANVEY ISLAND



Imperial College, in common with other Colleges in U.L., sent working parties to Canvey Island throughout the period preceding the second expected flooding. The Gliding Club truck carried the volunteers each day. The work consisted largely of sandbag filling, either at the Wall, with mud, or at the Red Cow, with sand. Sandbags also were carried to the Wall, as shown in the photograph above. The impressions gained by a FELIX reporter appear on the sport page.

The thanks of the Editor are due to J. Rotgaus and J.A. Barlow, who sent us photographs of Canvey Island. Also to J.B. Andrews who worked overtime to ensure that one would be available for printing.

### R.C.S. CARNIVAL.

A criticism of an I.C. Carnival must be professional in its acuteness for it to be of any use at all; for Carnivals have reached a peak which is only insulted by the usual type of kind, considerate I.C. comment.

The decoration aimed far higher than that used by Guilds; but it came off worse. There was an impression of discontinuity in the Gym - a set of brilliant individual pieces, each complete, but leaving something to be desired in the gaps between. The Green Lady "Amanda" in the upper Dining Hall, was frankly pornographic, though the writer personally was not shocked by it. An "Evening Standard" write-up of the occasion described the dancing as occurring in "sulphur fumes". While this is not more accurate than the usual standard of the popular press, the atmosphere, reflected in a variety of hideous costumes, was certainly reminiscent of Hades.

The Cabaret, an ambitious affair, was largely ruined by the efforts of some noisy gentlemen, who had drifted from the Bar without tickets, and whose disgusting conduct is dealt with further in the Editorial.

A recent report by the Royal College of Physicians indicates that London and Oxford are outstanding among British Universities for their poor student health facilities. University College, London is said to have a fine scheme which could be studied with advantage by other establishments. I.C. is described, in the Editorial of the Times, as having a "modest" health service. Other colleges are a good deal worse.

CAMBRIDGE The Council of the Association of University Teachers has condemned the practice of students spending prolonged periods in work unconnected with their studies.

## PROFILE

WILLIAM  
SANDWITH  
ROBINSON



William Sandwith Robinson, known to most of us as just plain "Bill", born at Morecambe in 1930, has crowded an amazing number of achievements into his comparatively young life.

He was educated at Morecambe "co-ed" Grammar School until 1945 when he went to Nottingham High School to complete his school education. Whilst at Nottingham he became head of the school, captain of the rugby XV and swimming VIII besides representing the school at cricket and athletics. It is interesting to note that at some point during his school career he was awarded a prize, for the boy who had the best influence on the school (all done by kindness!)

In 1949 Bill first graced I.C. with his presence, entering the Royal School of Mines with an oil scholarship and graduating in oil technology last year - he is now studying for a Ph.D. Academically speaking Bill is not exactly dumb having been awarded the Institute of Petroleum prize for all round excellence together with the Charlton prize.

During his stay at I.C. he has held many offices executive and sporting. Apart from being the Secretary of R.S.M. in 1951-52 and their President this year he has been on I.C. council for three years.

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Regarding Bill's sporting achievements, although he is a swimmer of no mean ability, and dabbles in a few racket games, his prouder game is rugby.

Last season he had the honour of captaining the University rugby team, during which they built up the best record the club has ever had. Furthermore Bill himself set up another record for the club by playing in only one match, a severe shoulder injury keeping him out of the game for the entire season. However in spite of this and numerous other injuries of a less serious nature (such as having an ear almost torn off!) he is now back in the game again. Apart from having had county trials for Notts, Derby, Lincs and Middlesex, promotion came rapidly in the rugby world, for during his first term at I.C. he played on three consecutive occasions for Mines, I.C. and U.L.

There is no doubt that W.S.R. is unique in more ways than one. He is proud of possessing two cauliflower ears and of being the only man who tried to go to a Saturday night hop at 4 o'clock in the morning. The story is told of how on one Saturday evening, Bill returning very tired and a little under the weather from a rugby match decided to have a sleep before going to the hop. Awakening from his slumbers and thinking that it was time to trip the light fantastic, he went down to the Union to find the whole place in darkness - not unusual at 4 o'clock on a Sunday morning.

Outside college duties Bill has many wide and varied interests, but the list is too long to discuss here. However, he is usually seen at Carnivals dressed in a Mines rugby shirt, and it is said though with what truth I don't know, that he was well-known for regularly attending St. George's Hospital for a long time after recovering from his injury!

Although living in Nottingham Bill is a very stout Lancastrian and has been known on several occasions to argue with Welshmen on matters political and national such as rugby and cricket.

## I.C. "YES" TO G.S. <sup>74%</sup> LIKE TIMETABLE: <sup>28%</sup> KEEN SUPPORTERS.

The FELIX Survey of General Studies has shown several facts which may be of interest to the college in general. The opinions of 130 students were obtained, mostly by interview, but a dozen from your written replies to the FELIX questionnaire.

Twenty-six per cent of the replies were of the opinion that the present Tuesday and Thursday time-tables were not justified by the good done by the Lectures. Most of these were people who travel a considerable distance to the college. The rest, 74%, were quite happy about the system; and many of them were very enthusiastic. A few people suggested that Mondays and Fridays should be used for the Lectures, or that they should be given in the evenings. We put these suggestions to the others, and they were rejected by a large majority. Thus it can be concluded that, despite resistance in some quarters which ought to know better, the new time-table is very acceptable to 3 students out of 4. Even among the objectors, violent cases were rare.

Regarding attendance at the Lectures, we divided replies into four categories: often, sometimes, seldom, never. While this sort of loose thinking may be objected to, we would point out that it is difficult to find numerically how often people go to the Lectures, since they are inclined to vary week by week. The results which we recorded were general impressions. 28% attend the Lectures regularly (one or more each week), 15% never go at all. The rest divide equally between those who go "sometimes" (one a week to one a month), and the rest, who go seldom. One student had never heard of the Lectures.

Supposing our sample to be representative of I.C., then about a quarter of the students, (400) form a nucleus of attendance, one or more a week.

We asked whether attendance at the Lectures increased and broadened the interests of those who went. This is a difficult question to ask. People, when interviewed, tended to become a little embarrassed about it. Our results show that 40% of our sample of 130 students consider themselves broadened; 24% feel that they only get enjoyment. A "test" case was that of the Picasso Lecture by E.H. Gombrich. Many students referred to this as approaching the ideal in so far as the diffusion of new knowledge is concerned. Many people came away from that Lecture with the feeling that they were on better terms with Picasso: that he had become an aesthetic reality instead of an incomprehensible joke.

Forty per cent: almost 600 students feel their interests (largely cultural) are expanded by the Lectures.

We asked for suggestions for the improvement of the Lectures. Those which were received in our early questionnaire were put to people whom we interviewed later.

The most outstanding conclusion obtained by us from the whole survey is that there is a very wide demand for more Lectures on CURRENT AFFAIRS, both local and international. The majority are interested in information, as unbiased as possible, but a strong faction also wants politics. There is a feeling that the Lectures have been too uncontroversial. In fact, apart from establishing without any trace of doubt that the Lectures have been widely acknowledged by the students as a very fine thing, thus giving them a solid foundation for their further progress, our survey has pointed out the most common criticism. MORE CURRENT EVENTS AND CONTROVERSY.

We asked a lot of people whether they favoured scientific Lectures. Four out of five were convinced that they wanted anything rather than science. There is a widespread demand for more films, but in a large room. The large physics lecture theatre is criticised: a microphone is needed for many speakers.

Bad timing comes in for a good deal of comment. The general opinion is that Lectures should finish strictly at 2.20, though some (not many) think they should be ten minutes shorter. It is felt that the student chairman has become a cliché machine: he is often not competent to deliver a good vote of thanks.

There are often three good Lectures together; and sometimes three bad. This is a very subjective criticism, but a lot of people have made it. Tuesday is generally better than Thursday; but the trouble here lies in the amazing popularity of the series of music Lectures given by Dr. Jacques. Whenever there is a really good Lecture on a Tuesday, a large collection of fans is torn between loyalty to a Lecture which will certainly be good, and another, more doubtful, but with an attractive title or speaker.

Apart from Dr. Jacques, the names of Dr. Gombrich, L.A.G. Strong, Dilys Powell, Henry Sherek, C. Day Lewis are mentioned as outstanding lecturers; but the general opinion is that the standard of last term's Lectures was very high: it is doubted whether it can be kept up.

The Physics Theatre door should be oiled. There should be talks on archeology. The music concerts should be made free, without a silver collection. These and many open suggestions illustrate the lively and highly critical interest in the Lectures which made such an impression on our interviewers.

In the Refectory Suggestions Book:

"Could we longer spaghetti, please. Less of this clipped Heinz Variety".

Heard in a Nursing Home.

"Is this your first baby?"

"It's our first, but between you and me, it's my second."

# Felix



THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE

EDITOR: A.R. BHAY

CIRCULATION: 1250

Our General Studies Survey has brought a clear reply from the Union. The experiment has succeeded. It is now an indispensable feature in the education of the College. All power to the elbows of those who run it!

A correspondent asks for "a newspaper worthy of Imperial College . . . decently printed on good quality paper."

It should be realised that, up to now, FELIX has paid his own way, with the aid of an occasional dance. This is, we believe, a record unique among the London University newspapers, except for a few small, duplicated ones with circulations a tenth of ours. If we graduated to newsprint and type, the bill would have to be paid by the Union funds available for other uses.

The abominable conduct of certain well-known gentlemen during the Carnival Cabaret is deplored by FELIX. It is widely realized that a tremendous amount of work goes into the planning and production of a Carnival. But those louts seemed to be unaware of this. They inflicted their coarse and sottish habits on a crowd of revellers who were waiting to hear, not the spontaneous senility of these brutes, but the carefully prepared entertainment provided by more tasteful artists on the stage. The moral, R.C.S., is to have chuckers-out.

In direct contrast, the exploits of the Union at Canvey Island must have earned us a good name. We heard that, prior to the students going to Canvey, there had been talk about the "blackleggers" who are always ready to help out during a strike. This impression of students, common enough outside, must surely have been eradicated now. The troops also were glad to have us there, though they put it more bluntly, though obliquely (i.e. they refrained from calling us — to our faces. Those of I.C. who went down more than once deserve a medal.

Nobody has yet come forward to tell us how it came about that I.C. was libelled in the film "Lost Hours". Was our outcry been conveniently ignored by the person responsible?

There are still plenty of vacancies for reporters and writers on the staff of FELIX. Future coverage will involve accounts of the Duke's visit, which we are anxious to describe accurately. We also require people to sell FELIX.

The Production Department's work falls on alternate Sundays. The work is mainly done in the afternoon, and includes typing, checking typed articles and cutting them to size, stencilling head-lines, and arranging the material on each page make-up for photographing. No experience is necessary for this - though illustrators and skilled typists are always in demand but a larger staff is needed so that no person will be overworked.

FELIX notices appear on the Phoenix board in the Union, and on this a production rota is placed each fortnight. Those interested are asked either to sign for a particular shift, or to write to the Editor, or to come along to one of the Board meetings, held each Monday at 1.15 p.m. in Committee Room 'A'.

### The Education and Training of an Engineer

On Thursday January 20th Brig. A.C. Hughes C.B.E., M.I.C.E., the Chief Surveyor for the County of Hampshire, visited Guilds and gave a lecture entitled "The Education and Training of an Engineer" to the Engineering Society.

As Brig. Hughes is also a member of the Council of the University of Southampton, he was in close touch with the problem and gave a very interesting and provoking lecture.

He felt that most Universities spent too much time on subjects which could be left out of the syllabus. Given a sound mathematical education, the engineer could learn about these as he required them. The speaker stressed the importance of engineering reports and said that far too few graduates were capable of writing a clear and lucid report.

Brig. Hughes believed that insufficient guidance was given to the student by the staff to help him select the branch of engineering for which he was most fit. Also he deplored the ignorance of most members of a college staff of the requirements of the major engineering Institutions, with the result that the student was ill-equipped for membership.

He considered that personality was more important than anything else when applying for a job, and that in the first few years, the young engineer should hold several jobs in order that he should obtain a wide experience.

### A STUDY OF THE SEWER.



## PASSAGEACAGLIA.

A very long lane with remarkable few turnings is the subway from South Ken. station to South Ken. Post Office. It can be the dreariest of trudges at 5.15 on a winter's evening, or like one of those nightmare tunnels you have to run, run, run for ever along in an Alice's Wonderland or Dr. Caligari's Fantasie welt at 9.57 on a winter's morning. It is conventional in these semi-documentary features to give masses of Fax and Figures. But you won't want to hear how long it is, or how many of those bleak, brown veined white tiles it has; if you have any interest in these, you should try counting sometime. It will relieve the oppressive monotony. But I must say here that it takes 3 minutes 42 seconds to walk from the Post Office to the Gents at South Ken., and 3 minutes 56 seconds to walk from the Gents to the Post Office. The discrepancy is, of course, due to the rotation and the ellipticity, of the earth.

'Felix' is at present engaged on research into the past history of the tunnel, and Security prohibits more than a hint that there was once more to it than now meets the eye. However, enigmas of the tunnel are legion. I often ponder on the reason for changing from a circular sectioned roof to a square tunnel. Which leads us to consider the square tunnel - these little brown printed numbers by each of the iron arches. Why are they there at all? Is it just evidence of Civil Service minds with their inborn tendency for cataloguing? (The mind which will impartially stamp "plant number A12739" on a five shilling box of weights and "plant number A12740" on an electron microscope.) I think that somewhere in London transport archives there is a table something like this.

TYPE NO.	DESCRIPTION	SERIAL NO.	LOCATION	INITIALS	DATE
23/X/516A	Steel arches for subway tunnels 6 yds. wide	1	S.Kensington passenger subway		3/6/1850
		2	S.Kensington passenger subway		4/6/1850
		3	S.Kensington passenger subway		5/6/1850

How do the little ferns that grow in the window frames alongside the Natural History museum survive; where did they come from? I believe they have arisen from fossilised spores which got tired of sitting fossilised in the museum, and were carried away in the breezes of Kensington. I am sure that the little man who lives in the one roomed basement flat along the tunnel goes along and waters them all after he has locked up the entrances. It is quite a pathetic thought really; the little bowed figure, scorned by the world, and living only for his Tunnel and his Ferns, plods down with his oil lamp and waters each little fern from the cracked Dresden tea pot that the V. and A. porter gave him. Incidentally, why do they never open the gates onto the steps that lead to the Natural History Museum? Never-opened gates always give me the same sad feeling as do overgrown disused railways and abandoned mine workings.

But the craziest thing about our tunnel is that Cromwell Road exit. If you are unprepared, you take ONE STEP off the top of the stairs and you're in the middle of the traffic, if not under a bus. You are precipitated into the street, without even the refuge of two square feet of traffic island for security. Your immediate reaction is to cling to that wonderful lamp post for safety. The shock may not be too bad for tough undergraduates, but we should think of the Old Folks and the Children, you know. . . . B.R.E.

### RADIO SOC. EXHIBITION.

The radio Society's Annual Exhibition of Home Constructed Equipment was held on Monday evening, 2nd February. The Exhibits ranged in size from GYARD's pocket modulation Meter and power Pack to an imposing Magnetic Tape recorder. Considerable interest was aroused by a V.h.F. receiver picking up the latest crimes direct from Scotland Yard and also by 3FNL's T.V. Pulse Generator - a foretaste of his demonstration of a complete T.V. Camera chain later in the term. An attempt to show how happy a Williamson amplifier was with square waves was less successful, only proving that the 'scope was much less happy.

The number of visitors was almost more than the size of room could contain; some said the crowds were attracted by a weird contraption that had earlier appeared in the entrance hall, but all agreed that it had been a most interesting and successful evening.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, "Felix"

Box No. 1

Sir,

I had always imagined until recently that "Felix" was a progressive journal. It seems I am wrong, for surely it is retrogression when editorial correspondence is written on marble slabs, when there is an adequate supply of paper.

Yours etc.

C.D. Spink

Dear Sir,

This evening I happened to be passing the Union and dropped in to see the decorations for the R.C.S. Carnival "Nightmare". I would not have said my friends consider me particularly Victorian in outlook, but I must confess to being unpleasantly surprised when I saw some of the pictures adorning the walls of the gym. It occurred to me that the theme 'Sex' would have been more appropriate.

I do not think that inviting visitors to view such a sordid exhibition gives a very good impression of the moral tone of the college responsible.

I am prepared to admit that a lot of the ideas were very good and if some one had known where to draw the line I think the decorations would have been excellent.

In future, if Colleges are going to choose difficult themes for their carnivals, and in particular themes open to abuse in the manner I have just deplored, I would suggest that the Union Committee appointed a few responsible persons to act as censors in order that the good name of the college shall not be tarnished by a few irresponsible artists.

I am not alone in this opinion as I have heard it also expressed by members of the R.C.S.

Yours faithfully,

Gunga Din

Dear Sir,

In view of the proposed changes in the structure of the Union I would like to propose that "Queenie's" dining hall be seriously considered as an alternative to the gymnasium for Saturday night hops. The facilities already provided are excellent and a temporary bar could be erected in the lounge below.

Yours etc.

G. Wilson  
G. James Cooper  
P. Levine

Sir,

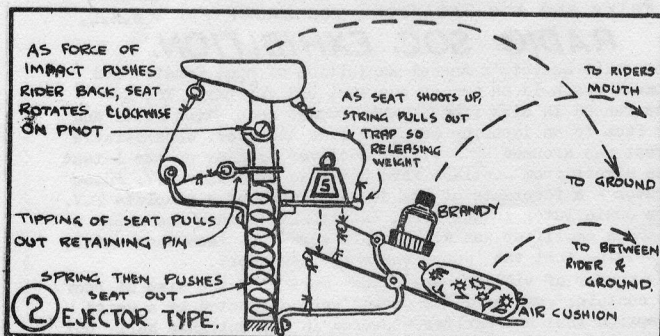
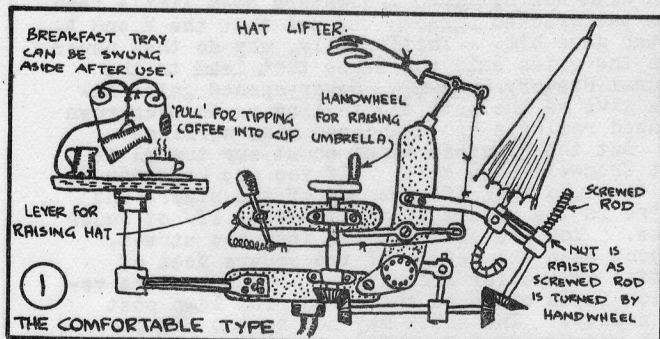
I noticed in a recent issue of Felix an advertisement concerning a Prize Essay Competition. This advertisement was well printed and easy to read despite the small size of the printing. In contrast, the rest of the paper was badly printed in various sizes and shades of type. In fact, the whole paper looked like three Tutorial sheets fastened together by someone who hadn't the remotest idea of how to use a stapling machine.

So I ask, why cannot a newspaper worthy of Imperial College be produced - a newspaper decently printed on good quality paper. Perhaps if Felix were properly produced, there would be less unsold copies than there usually are.

Yours faithfully,

A.H.C. Fraser

## BICYCLE COMPETITION PART 3.



Dear Sir,

London University is unique (at least in the U.K. and, I believe, in Europe) in awarding external degrees. This practice necessitates the setting out of a very precise inflexible syllabus to ensure impartiality between widely dispersed candidates mostly studying under the guidance of teachers whose only contact with the University is by correspondence. Such is an essential feature of a system which expects all candidates to sit a common examination.

A rigid syllabus is a serious handicap to a good teacher and a constant source of worry to the conscientious. Adherence to a strictly prescribed programme results in stereotyped lessons in which personal enthusiasm and "feeling" for the subject are often lacking. It accounts for those types of text-books which appear to be nothing more than suitably expanded copies of the syllabus and give one the impression that herein lies the sum total of knowledge of the subject. Such books, once memorised, guarantee a fairly good pass in the appropriate London examination. Thus, memory becomes a substitute for understanding, a fact well-known to the correspondence colleges.

The examiner is similarly hampered by this need for uniformity, and unimaginative questions result which reappear, with slight modifications, from year to year - a boon to desperate candidates but not really in the true spirit of scholarship. Apart from all else, the syllabus is always out of date.

Despite this evil, the external degree is an excellent institution. It offers the opportunity of an important qualification to many who could never afford the necessary years of full-time study. To offset the weakness in their teaching and examination, external students are usually employed in the practice of their field of study and the slower rate of learning may leave a deeper impression upon them.

To have any value in its present form, the external degree must be equivalent to its internal counterpart. This fact, together with the need to correlate the numerous small colleges which comprise London University, leads to a similar cramping of internal teaching by the dominating syllabus. The larger colleges are freer inasmuch as they may set their own examinations but, since they belong to the same degree awarding body, they cannot escape the influence of this need for uniformity.

The recent announcement concerning the proposed expansion of this college affords an opportunity to press for independence. Imperial College is large enough and sufficiently well established to stand alone. A Technological University of South Kensington, awarding its own degrees and with a character of its own would attract more academic individualists. The staff should be encouraged to teach and examine in their own way - properly supervised by the responsible Professor and with standards safeguarded by an external examiner.

In this way students would add to their technical knowledge the valuable impression obtained by contact with personalities - essential feature of any University training.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Rowe

Dear Sir,

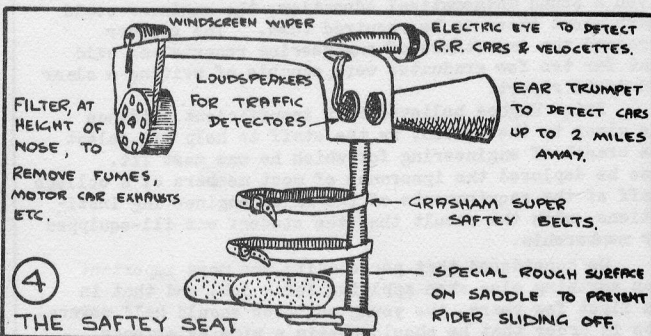
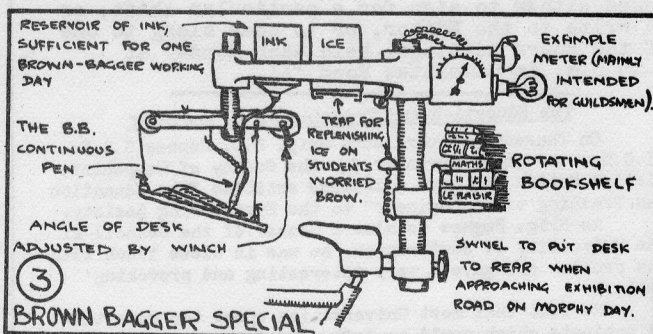
Re FELIX, 6.2.53.

TONIGHT. At Westfield College. 7.45  
This House Hopes To Live To A Ripe Old Age  
Motion opposed by I.C. Refreshments.

I am interested to know whether this vicious attack on the work of the Refectory Committee was intentional

Yours,

J.S. Johnston





Les Jeux Interdits: Academy Cinema, Oxford Street.

A joke about death: not a subject for a film you think? Then if you like to hold on to your beliefs and you thrive on false ideas, don't visit the Academy Cinema for a few months, for the "Secret Game" is one long joke on death, and such is its success it will surely fill the Academy for a long time.

A little girl, whose parents have been killed, is found by a peasant boy and taken to live in his home. The two children, Michael and Paulette, bury her dead puppy but feel it must not be alone - so the "Game" begins. The game of collecting dead companions for the puppy and crosses for the graves. But soon the game grows to more than a search for companions and they become lost in "the love of the game for the game's sake". They have an ever-growing urge to embellish and increase their secret cemetery. The action takes place on a French peasant farm and the family feud between neighbours forms the background to the main story. Not only in the "Game" are we involved with Death but in the farm-life itself, Death brings a smile to our lips and often a guffaw from our stomachs. Yet there is no farce, no clowning, only fine acting from the whole cast, dominated by the children, Brigitte Fossey and Georges Bouljouly.

The performances given by these children are outstanding. Child acting of this quality fills me with wonder. How can a girl of five be made to show such feeling, to behave so naturally and to express such meaning with voice and gesture? All possible praise is due to the director, Rene Clement, for these wonderful performances.

In the horrifying opening scenes, of the bombing of refugees. Paulette is not shown as a petrified yelling child (how easy that would have been) but as a pathetic, bewildered girl, stunned by the disaster that has overcome her family and clinging longingly to her puppy, even when it is dead. It is in this opening scene that we see for the first time an action that is to be often repeated; Paulette lightly touching a dead face then touching her own to feel its warmth.

The growth of the friendship between Michael and Paulette is shown with great tenderness and warm humour. Such scenes as the one showing Michael comforting Paulette on her first night in the farm and of the children in church, wide-eyed counting the crosses, will long be remembered by the writer. In the children's scenes particularly Rene Clement makes considerable and very effective use of close-up. Paulette's face has a radiance that is in remarkable contrast to the gloom of the farm-house. In other scenes also the director shows a mastery of this technique, as in the view of the heavy lips and unshaven jaw of the priest in the Confession. The children's dialogue has an ingenuous simplicity which is delightful even to an Englishman, and Paulette calling out "Michael", is a sound heard often in the film and which still rings in the ears long after leaving the cinema.

Yet the children alone do not make this a great film; all the performances are faultless. The director using these actors creates a startling picture of the squalid French peasant life. The filth of the farm-house and the people in it is unbelievable. Can it really be like that? But that is a question that will certainly not bother you while you are enjoying the film.

G.B.T.

## THE SPRING CONCERT

I.C. CHOIR

JACQUES ORCHESTRA

GARETH MORRIS (flute)

Bliss Pastoral - Mozart Requiem

**Q.A.H. MARCH 19 7.45.**

Miss Knight, of the Physics Dept. Library, is reported to have received four dozen valentines, mostly signed "Roger".

### PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### WANTED

Metal-framed Rucksack.  
Apply A.J. Sparkes R.C.S. Rack.

#### FOR SALE

Tail suit in good condition, to fit slim man about 5'5". \$6 or offer. - R.W. Goodley, R.C.S.



## EATING AROUND I.C.

The High Street area is very well served by numerous good restaurants and snack bars. Some of them are deceptive and seem innocent enough till you look at the bill, but many are quite reasonable. It's a good place for lunch too, if you have a long lunch hour, or don't want to attend a General Studies meeting.

The "Black & White" cafe is near the Air Station, on the opposite side. It serves good food (soup 6d and 8d, fish and chips 1/8d or so) and very good coffee (6d). There is the usual snack bar as well as some tables and chairs. A very pleasant place.

On the opposite north side of the road, two shops beyond Smiths' is the Majestic Restaurant, which is never empty but rarely crowded. Service is quick. A set 3 course lunch can be had for 3/6d. Also a la carte.

Nearer I.C., the Slater's Store and Restaurant is a place to recommend. It is a very large restaurant with waitress service and surprisingly efficient. A 3 course lunch for 2/9d offers a wide range of main dishes to choose from. The food is of the usual mass-production standard, but we've got used to that anyway.

### THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL.

Take a walk to S.Ken. and along Pelham St. (cut through opposite Brompton Oratory); just after the traffic lights is Vi's Cosy Cafe. Here you can get hot or cold lunch and mince pie or pudding for 2/2d. Do not be put off by the crowded tables of cabmen downstairs, but collect your lunch and go upstairs where there is plenty of room.

The quantity of food at Vi's vastly exceeds that at the College refectories and it is certainly not inferior in quality. Only in the decor may Vi's be said to be inferior. Most people who try it find they can tolerate this when they see the thick slices of meat on their plate. Jack, the rotund and ribald proprietor is always ready to exchange a quip with his young gentlemen clients. On your third visit there he will address you 'Squire'.

Vi's opens at 7 a.m. (ham and egg breakfasts for athletes in training, dustmen etc.) It closes at 5.0 p.m. Highly recommended.

## COMING EVENTS

### SOCIAL.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH. C&G. "The Engineers Ball". Evening Dress, 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Tickets 8/6d double.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST. I.C.U. Entertainments Committee Hop. Tickets, price 1/-, on sale from the Union Office Annexe on the preceding Friday lunch-hour.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND. I.C. Film. Soc. Film show, New Lounge, 7.30 p.m. No details available yet.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD. I.C. Christian Union. A talk by the Rev. N. Bainbridge on "God: Revelation or Discovery?" will be given in the Botany Lecture theatre at 1.15 p.m.

I.C. Mus. Soc. Gallery party to Covent Garden ("Sleeping Beauty", Tschaikovsky)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH. I.C. Mus. Soc. Gallery party. (Sadler's Wells, "Cosi fan Tutte", Mozart).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH. C&G Engineering Society. A lecture on "The Influence of Motor Racing on Car Design" by T.G. Rose (as given to the Society in 1907) will take place in Room 15, C&G, at 5.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH. I.C. Hockey Club Hop. I.C.U., 8 - 11 p.m. (Bar until 11 p.m.) Band: John Morgan and his Music. Tickets 2/- single, 3/6 double from Secretary, Hockey Club.

MONDAY, MARCH 2ND. I.C. Christian Union. A talk by Prof. M. Guthrie, Ph.D., on "A Christian's Philosophy of Life" will be given in the Botany lecture theatre at 1.15 p.m.

I.C. Mus. Soc. A lecture on "Adventures in Chamber Music", illustrated with records, will be given by L. Roth, M.A., in the Council Room, C&G, at 5.15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH. I.C. Mus. Soc. Gallery party to Sadler's Wells (La Boheme, Puccini.)

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH. The Natural History Soc. dinner, Guest speaker: Maxwell Knight. No further details available at time of going to press. London Students Dance, Royal Hotel Ballroom, Woburn Place, W.C.1. Tickets, 4/- single, from ULU. C&G Eng. Soc. lecture "Looking Ahead in Electricity Supply" will be given by E.R. Wilkinson, Esq., in Room 15, C&G, at 5.30 p.m.

(FELIX would welcome more details from clubs of events they wish to be inserted in COMING EVENTS, at present we conclude they do not wish many events to be generally known!)

## SPORT



## U.L.HOCKEY.

The U.L.H.C. has done very well this season, the results to date being: Played--22; won--16; drawn--3; lost--3. Goals for 84, against 27.

Good wins have been against Oxford Univ., Richmond, Spencer, and Blackheath. The Club lost to the Army 2-1., Hawks 2-1., and Essex County 3-2.

It is only since the war, and more especially during the last three or four years that major clubs consider that U.L.H.C. is a 'must' on their fixture cards.

This season the publicity given the Club has been most gratifying, and deserving of the Club. It has taken members of the team some time and good groundwork, both in Hockey and socially, to obtain this recognition. In hockey certainly, U.L.H.C. has attained the standard of both Oxford and Cambridge.

I.C. is indeed unlucky in that the University draws on 5 players regularly, and occasionally the odd player on the eve of the match. J.G. Smith at centre-forward, has scored an alarming number of goals-- alarming, that is, for the opponents. B.D. Smith gives of his best and is much improved. H.I. Hayes, the Hon. Sec., casually roams, but rarely lets anything go by. E.J. Forster is by far the most competent member of the team, effectively sealing off the left hand side of the field. He plays for Kent and the South of England. Gillett (the Captain), at back, is extremely wild and is given to 'ticking', but manages somehow to play hockey! Others who have played are D.J. Power, W.C. Pike and T. Lanz.

## Hockey-

## CUP RUN ENDED

U.L. HOCKEY CUP  
U.C. 5; I.C. 2.

U.C. were far too strong for the depleted I.C. team on Wednesday 4th Feb., on the U.C. ground at Shenley. The home team split open I.C. defence by swinging the ball around, and the visitors had no answer except the occasional sortie.

In a Stephenson Cup match on Wednesday 11th Feb., RCS defeated Mines by 8 goals to 2.

## MEN BEHIND THE POT

- Rugger Club -



## VESTED INTEREST?

Advert. seen outside Kensington Town Hall:-

"A ST. VALENTINES DANCE.

Arranged by Kensington and Paddington Family Service Unit".



**FOR  
AILING SHOES**

**KEMPSON'S**  
SHOE REPAIR SERVICE  
44, Queen's Gate Mews,





## Rugger-

During the last few weeks the Rugby Club has had a number of games cancelled through inclement weather and the inability of some opponents to field teams due to flu.

Against Bristol University the 1st XV fought out a draw although pressing for most of the game. A blustering cross wind at Harlington was the real villain of the piece and effectively blocked all attempts to play open rugby.

On the same day the 2nd XV lost their unbeaten record, losing to Wasps 'A'. A glance at their points total, however, shows how they have in general outclassed their opposition. At the time of writing the 2nd have scored 238 pts. and have had only 28 scored against them.

The 'A' XV have recently beaten C.E.M. 1st XV 9-0 and lost heavily to a very strong St. Mary's side.

Kitchener's team is rapidly assuming the nature of a convalescent home with guests from 1st and 2nd XVs trying out their injuries. It is understood that applications for permanent positions from a former University Captain and a County player are being favourably considered. The latest results are a 19-0 win over Charlton Park and a 13-5 loss to Richmond Ex. "A".

When this article appears I.G. will have played Wye College in the semi-final of the University Cup and although it is unlikely that the side will be at full strength victory is confidently expected.

## STICK IN THE MUD I.C.

No force on earth is more likely to produce a cramped style than a journey between Canvey Island and the Union in the back of the Gliding Club Truck; especially when you have sixteen companions, all with soaking trousers and freezing feet. But every pain has its pleasure, as the Marquis de Sade may have said, and I still remember with a feeling of relief how the truck stopped on open ground after half an hour of organised agonised howling mingled with a tattoo of fists on the driving cab roof. The next set of passing headlights silhouetted eight motionless curbside figures.

On the Island itself, nothing was more memorable than the morale of the servicemen who had been on relief work for a week. The Scots Guards worked side by side with the R.A.F. in an entente cockle-warming to see. As a burly Guardsman said to me "Look at those -- R.A.F. They have a -- break for tea every twenty -- minutes." A few minutes later I was drinking tea out of a billy-can which had just been washed in a pool of muddy water. The owner's voice hummed confidentially in my ear, "You can see these -- Guards are no -- good. They had to bring the R.A.F. in."

It seems quite wonderful how those boys are never stuck for a word.

Then there was the Officer. National Service Commission - you know the type - and he wandered along to where a heavy lorry was axle deep in mud and had almost heeled over. "What's the matter? Arent you mobile? Have you tried pushing?" Five veteran I.C. toughs looked with mingled feelings at his virgin pink chin, and tried again, just to please him, while the Army growled and the driver grunted.

Beer and skittles are all very well; but you cant have them all the time, and the isolated patches of humour only served to punctuate long stretches of monotonous drudgery. The notorious East Wall (a name which, for me, will always smack of Siberia) is about fifty feet wide at the base, and five at the top. We were filling the weak parts with sandbags, which we carried on our backs through mud and water, and through all the other obstacles which prevented supply lorries from driving right up to the wall. Some of us were filling sandbags with mud, some with sand. Whatever we were doing, everything was filthy, squelchy, muddy. Except the food! How they did it, I do not know; but we had a delicious hot lunch.

Canvey! The very name tails off in mournful melancholy. Deserted houses, floors covered in silt, ruined gardens, despair. A barge, two miles inland, straddles across a fence, where it fell when the floods receded. Wooden bungalows, hopelessly insubstantial things, turned completely upside down.

"The bones of Desolation's nakedness"

## THE INFLUENCE OF MOTOR RACING ON CAR DESIGN

At a joint meeting of the Guilds Engineering Society and Motor Club to be held on Thursday February 26th at 5.30 p.m. in Room 15, a lecture will be given entitled "The Influence of Motor Racing on Car Design" by T.G. Rose. This paper, with slides, was originally given by the author to the Engineering Society in 1907, whilst he was still a student of the college. The Chair will be taken by the original Chairman, Mr. Mervyn O'Gorman C.B., A.C.G.I., F.C.G.I. It is hoped that some of those students who took part in the discussion on the previous occasion will also be able to attend. Everybody is invited to attend.