

3^dEVERY
FORTNIGHT

FELIX



No. 52

IMPERIAL COLLEGE

16th Oct. 1953

ENTER THE FRESHER

This year saw the introduction of a new approach to Freshers' Day. Instead of being just one day to which all the Club officials look forward as F-day, the crowd of 500 odd freshers was split up into three groups and invited to tea on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday preceding Black Tuesday. This provided Club officials with a better opportunity to speak to the Freshers.

On each day, the Pro-Rector, the President, the Chairman of the A.C.C. and the S.C.C., and representatives of U.T.C. and the Air Squadron made speeches from the platform, after which Freshers went to tea and the Club officials. Repetition of speeches seemed to improve them in a way, though the platform party on Monday wore, one thought, a look of being resigned to it all - or was I seeing things?

A welcome idea was to have one group composed entirely of Post-Graduates, as usually they don't take kindly to the line handed out to Undergrad Freshers. On Sunday, though, when the Post-Grads and the ladies were in, there seemed to be far too many people with tags and far too few freshers to persuade.

The bar put up in the Old Lounge that evening also lacked demand. This in fact appeared to be a case of a well-meant, well-planned idea misfiring due to causes beyond, so to speak, the Union's control.

Another innovation was the afternoon talks given on successive days by Profs. Levy, Blackett and Ford. They spoke on topics of their own choice and, not giving obvious sales-talks, were well appreciated. Evensong was held in Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, this also being for the first time in the history of Freshers' Days. Altogether, an enterprising and successful attempt to improve on the old system of cramming all the Freshers under one roof.

People

I.C. as usual has been wandering far and wide under the summer sun. Miners and geologists do it professionally and almost as a matter of course. The rest find various means of getting themselves away from it all.

Four miners went to Gold Coast, three of whom returned with healthy tans and the fourth with a deathly yellow complexion; the result, we learn, of taking the wrong anti-malaria drug. Anton Brown went to Labrador and was thus spared the agony of bumping into other I.C. ties, for it seems that all the people who go to Canada keep running into each other however they may wish to avoid it.

Scandinavia attracted many, and treated them well. Forscher and Ramstad must be cursing somebody, for they were within a few miles of each other in Denmark and yet couldn't meet. Tully went to E. Sweden and says you can bring money out of that country now.

Pete Liley spent a fortnight in Spain and spent all his allowance then, which by Spanish standards is a life of extreme luxury. No further details are available. Bill Hudson went to France, there to work at making wine. He has got so used to thinking about litus of wine that he still hasn't readjusted himself to drinking pints.

Various individual members of the Gliding Club passed the latter part of the vacation gliding in France. Mike Neale, who went to the French National Competitions at Pont St. Vincent as aide-de-camp to Philip Wills, the world gliding champion, assures us that he was drunk only once.

Our Ex-Production Manager, Phil Purser, languishing in Birmingham looking for a job tells us "Don't even come here. The only bright spots at night are the Belisha beacons. My highspot of the week is when I take the dog for a walk on Friday night." (We imagine that it is the dog's highspot too.)

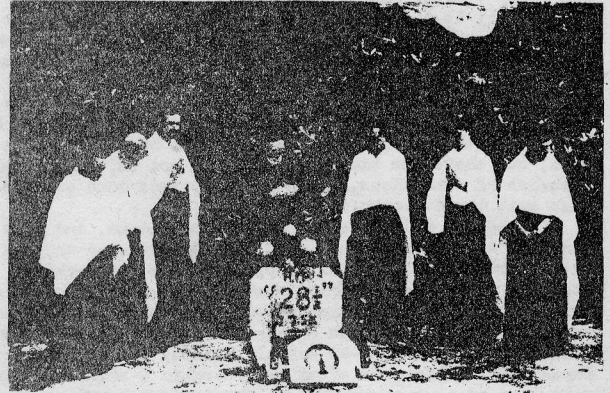
This year, members of I.C.W.A. have shown a desire for the wide open spaces in their choice of vacation work.

Three little maids lived in a caravan whose official address was "No Mans Land." The first little maid studied the flight of greenflies; the second put insect-

(Contd. on next column.)

DEPART THE '29'

PROLOGS AT SILWOOD.



The funeral service being conducted in Silwood Park.

The death is reported at Silwood, on July 7, of the 29 Club. This movement was very active last year and made the headlines twice in FELIX. People will remember the trail of the improbable spinster from the R.C.M. to the Q.A. Hostel in and over the Union last term. This July, they met Guildsmen at Silwood. Their taxi apparently ran amok, assumed an anaemic shade of white, and jacked itself up in a pile of bricks. The wheels went off for a spin on their own. When last seen the taxi was seeking sanctuary in Sunningdale Church.

Seeing the state into which the Club had fallen, it was decided that rapid internment was necessary for the well-being of the community. Accordingly it was re-christened the 28 Club and given a solemn burial near the cookhouse. No effort was spared, with a pious Welsh preacher officiating and a Guilds choir, gravediggers and mourners assisting him. Mr. A., respected lecturer of the Guilds, read a Lesson from mathematical tables.

Every summer after exams, 1st year Civils descend on Silwood Park for surveying, and always manage to leave their mark. Last year they painted a zebra to the local pub and decorated the picture house. Similar plans this year were well advanced but were postponed after a social call by the Berkshire County Constabulary and subsequent departure in their lorry of various road and other signs. Nevertheless, one bright morning a 30 ft. black and red ranging pole sprouted up, as did a totem pole with mystic signs of the Central American tribe known as Guilds. A telegraph pole promised adventure, being painted white and labelled "North Pole. Queue here for Eskimo Nell."

The entomologists at Silwood report the discovery of a new huge winged insect *Polyspottum palliasum*, and an as-yet unnamed 10 ft. variety of the caterpillar. Research is in progress in the department, though the specimens are now in a badly deteriorated condition.

(From the last column.)

icides on beetles and fed the menagerie on honey, condensed milk and dried ox blood: the third little maid followed bumble bees home. Two active members of I.C.W.S.C. found themselves in the wilds of Scotland for a time although exactly what they were doing is cloaked by the "Official Secrets Act."

Another two went to Sweden where they worked in a canning factory picking out bad peas, sticking on labels and learning how to make "smörgåsar."

Of the stay-at-homes one undertook the job of librarian at the Marine Biological Station at Millport, and an illustrious post-graduate having completed a meteorology course is now selling umbrellas in Harrods.

Special mention should be given to Miss Janet Findlater who was one of the British University teams taking part in the International Students' Athletic match in Germany this summer. She came 4th in the long jump and was a member of the women's relay team which came 3rd in their event.

PROFILE

JOHN S. HARDING



Earlier this year, the profile of John Harding appeared as president of R.C.S. This time **FELIX** profiles him as number one man of the I.C. Union. Besides his union activities, John is also well-known as a leading member of the Dramatic Society, amongst whom he is more usually known as "Willy", after his celebrated performance.

Willy is a difficult person to analyse, beyond the first observation that an artistic bent is a greater element in his character than is plain force. He keeps in mind many fluent ideas and accurate comments on events, but is reluctant to thrust them forward, too quickly, in public. One is therefore surprised at his success in the Union. On occasions, these two interests suit each other's demands well, but there are times when this is not so, such as his speeches at receptions, which are sometimes more serious than suit the function.

Freshers will have met him at receptions, and some Chemists will have known him as the demonstrator who put out their earlier experimental fires; but these appearances, together with those at Union meetings, do not add up to show the whole Harding. Commonsense he may have gained from being tossed around in war-time evacuation, and experience from taking Matric. at a Co-ed school. Success in obtaining a Royal Scholarship came after two years in a school of boys only, and he came to the R.C.S. Chemistry Department in 1948 at the age of seventeen, a year earlier than he expected. He thus missed his turn as Head Boy at school; here is the link that has led to his being 'Head Boy' of the R.C.S., and also to his professed interest in industrial administration.

He admits that his abrupt change from school to I.C. left him with social commitments at home (Ilford), that, together with Finals in his second year, left him effectively a Brown-Bagger at I.C. for so long. He eventually passed from a mild interest in the Rifle Club via a second in the Seconds in Finals, to research and the Dramatic Society. He has maintained his interest in singing and sailing, and must be rare in having read all but one of the books on show in his considerable bookshelf.

This is John's fourth post-graduate year, doing research on some extremely organic sulphur compounds, with their unpleasant chemical - and social - problems. It is an odd truth that for all his Union activities, John manages to parcel his time so well that he may most surely be contacted in the laboratory. This is quite a reputation to maintain.

During last year, John has had little difficulty in presiding over the R.C.S. Union meetings. Some say that this is due to the general lack of liveliness in R.C.S. If so, John will have a new experience in having to control those who will never be satisfied with the Unions plans for the Fifth of November, when the next I.C. Union meeting takes place.

This is what John Harding, the President of I.C.U., himself a postgrad, has to say to his colleagues:

Imperial College probably differs in many respects from your previous university or college but I am sure that for the facilities it offers it is second to none. Whatever sporting or social interests you pursued during your undergraduate days, you will find them all more than adequately catered for at I.C. To those of you from overseas the activities of the Union provide the most convenient way of becoming acquainted with the peculiarities of the English way of life.

Now that the majority of undergraduate freshers come straight from school there is a shortage of experienced men to take responsible positions in Union affairs. It is to the postgraduates to whom we must look for more support than, in general, they have given in the past. As a postgraduate myself I am sure that you can all find time for active participation in at least one sphere of Union activities.

A Frenchman who came here to study English suddenly dispaired and went back to France. On being asked the reason, he pulled out a newspaper cutting which said: "O K L A H O M A - pronounced success."

FELIX will be published this term on Fridays Oct.16 and 30, November 13 and 27, and December 11. Contributions should be addressed to the Editor, sports reports to the Sports Editor, advertisements to the Advertising Sec., and coming events to the Coming Events Ed.

All material should be handed in before each Saturday preceding publication, and preferably the Monday before that.

THE FRESHER'S GUIDE:

To clear off some fog that no doubt still persists in your mind about the Union, the **FELIX** guidance bureau (Regd. under the Companies Act) has compiled an alphabetical guide. It is in no sense complete, but enough to start with. A classified index will appear in a later issue.

AYRTON HALL: See "Queenies".

BAR, THE UNION: Primarily intended for the consumption of alcohol, it has developed into a great institution. Those pots glittering on the shelves are reserved; maybe you'll get one later on (see "Yard"). Branches operate on special occasions.

BARBER'S SHOP: On the top floor. Start looking for it in the morning, so you can get a good haircut in the lunch-hour. Open Monday to Friday*, 9 to 6.

CLOAKROOM: This is where you put your cloaks. No daggers are accepted, but harmless things like brown bags may be deposited at the owner's risk.

COMMITTEE ROOMS: These are behind the doors at the end of the Old Lounge (q.v.). Room "A" has a historical collection of stamps, posted on the ceiling in the days of King Alfred.

DINING HALLS (Upper and Lower): These provide food, as you no doubt know by now (see also "Queenies").

GYM, THE: This is the place most often disguised in the Union. It is seen in many garbs - as a theatre, concert hall, badminton court, boxing ring; but most often as a dance floor. You'll find out.

LOUNGE, THE OLD: This is where everybody seems to come in the lunch-hour. Seats are provided, but don't be surprised if you spend more time in it as part of the lunch queue, standing up.

LOUNGE, THE NEW: See "Snack Bar".

"QUEENIES": This is in the Union building, on the first floor (I think). Easiest way to get there is from the road. If you are interested in psychological patterns, let your friend loose on the top floor in Guilds, tell him to reach Queenies in the quickest possible time, and watch his behaviour closely. I almost forgot - Queenies serves food, in surroundings slightly brighter than in the dining halls. (See "Ayrton Hall")

RADIO, THE: In the Old Lounge, audible (if on) when the Bridge Club is playing bridge. When it is conducting post-mortems, you'll be lucky to hear anything in that place.

SNACK BAR: In the New Lounge, opposite the bookstall. Sandwiches. Good lounge, too.

UNION OFFICE: Get your hop tickets here.

YARD, THE: Ask a Miner. The winner of the Mines Fresher's Yard gets a pot in the Bar.

Well, this is where we started, remember. Happy hunting!

*Inclusive, except Tue. Wed. and Thu.

The poem printed below was discovered in an odd corner of the **FELIX** cupboard. It was written by Bryan McCarthy, who left I.C. in 1951, and who must be one of the most colourful people who ever inhabited our cloisters. We recall how, with a few minutes available at the end of a debate, he stood on the floor, and proceeded to give a short survey of the History of Human Achievement. "A master of the telling phrase, he wrote in Phoenix "the Victorian barge was beginning to creak." If ever a post-Mellian prophet left I.C. it is he. The original third verse of this poem, which referred to a young lady's dress being caught in a tube train, has been removed.

WE'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE, BOYS!

The log-truck races down the hill
Tall pines flash by on either side,
The driver's looking rather ill
He's being taken for a ride,
The brake is gone - the engine roars
And a cinema audience snores.
They've seen it all before, boys!
They've seen it all before.



The frowning hero of the screen
Coolly wallops the leading Judy,
She swipes him one across the bean -
Rather piqued, she's mean and moody,
The weary crowds are filing out
They know too well it's love at first clout.
They've seen it all before, boys!
They've seen it all before.



Great Powers rumble with inflation
And race to arm - the people call
"Deliver us from liberation,"
Powers, puppets, one and all
Take partners for the dance macabre -
Or should I say the dance MacArthur?
We won't see it many times more, boys!
We won't see it many times more.



Felix



THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Editor: D.C. Kale.

Circulation: 1200.

Well! Well! So here we are again, including the freshers, especially the freshers, for whom this issue is mainly intended (Old hands please stop reading this column here and now, you have had all this before.).

This is, as you should know by now, Imperial College. You have no doubt been softened with teas and plastered with propaganda by the Clubs and Societies. Did you take them very seriously? We hope not; for if you did, you will go in for too many activities and won't have any time left over for your studies. Keep your wits about you, and make a sensible selection - there's a wide choice. If you are really good at something, you will certainly take it up. But try also a thing or two that you never tried before - through lack of interest or opportunity or both. Do not hesitate to ask all the questions you want to before you decide; don't worry about that subscription figure either - you will be given plenty of time to pay that.

Remember that this is your Union, and depends on your support for its activities. Whatever you wish to do, try and do it here - and there are precious few things you can't do here. You have come here not merely to get an academic drilling (you will certainly get that) but to get a University education, the full benefits of which can only be gained through active participation in student activities. Make the most of your opportunity.

The post-graduate freshers (and indeed all post-grads) are time and time again criticized for their lack of interest in the Union's activities, but no constructive approach had so far been made. They will undoubtedly find the article on page 2 interesting and, we hope, convincing.

Now for a word about ourselves. FELIX is entirely made up by students, though all of its readers are not students. It invites the support of all of you, either as contributors or in any of the many other capacities in which you can help it. If nothing else, do write a letter to the Editor from time to time when you are grudging about something or another, or when you have a suggestion to make.

FELIX congratulates Cliff. Hargreaves, one of its past Editors, on his marriage to Lathis Stuijveling.

VIEWPOINT

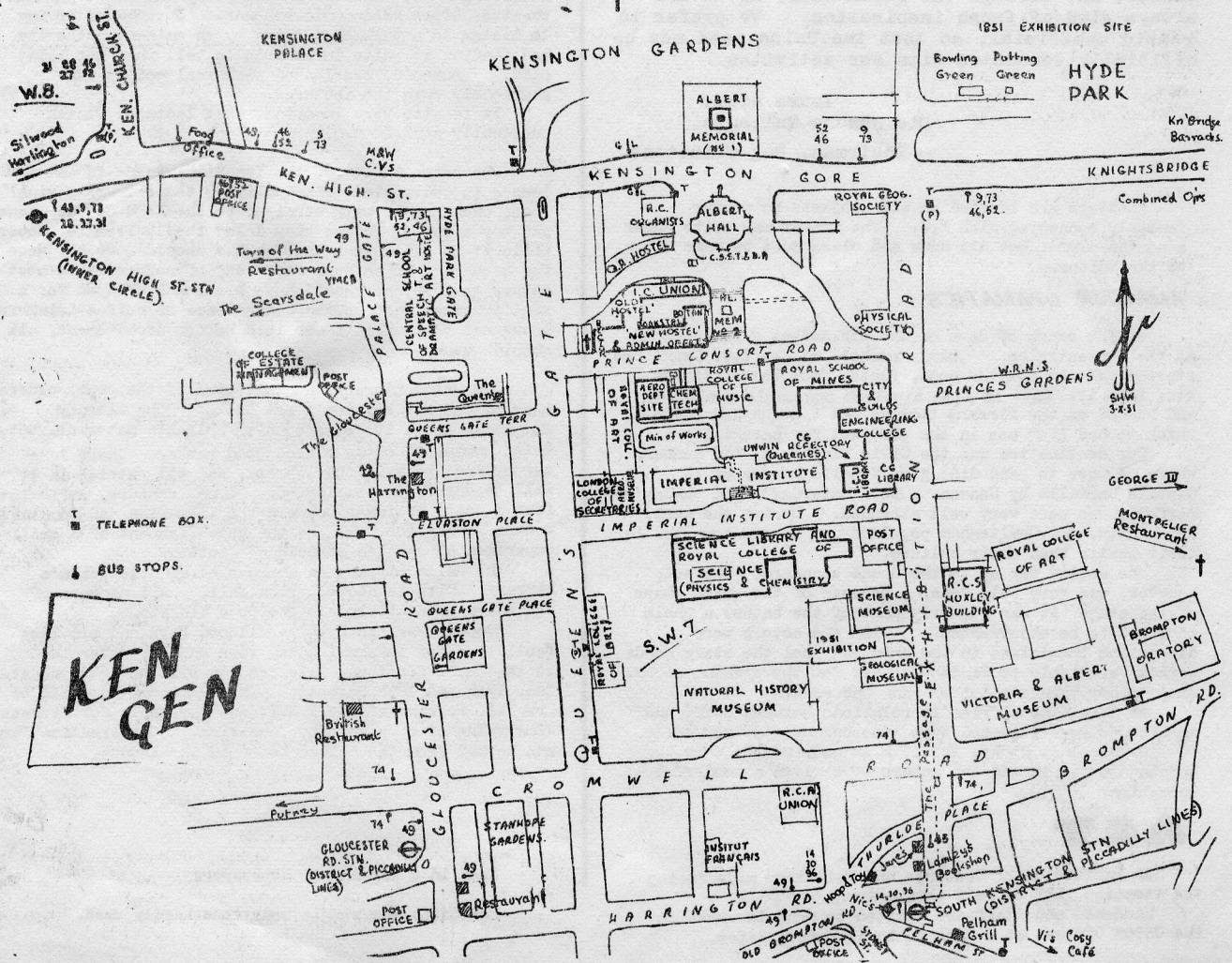
It is usual, at this time of the year, for FELIX to comment on the first Hop of the term, for FELIX to comment on the arrangements of the Hop and on the behaviour of those present. This year FELIX went amongst the young ladies present to see what they thought of the Hop.

It was remarkable that we ever met our first victim, as she complained that after arriving outside the entrance to the Union in Prince Consort Road, they could not find the way round the tennis courts. This young lady did not say at what time she arrived; if it was any time after 10.00 we could well imagine the difficulties confronting anyone attempting to get to the gym. However, once inside the gym, this visitor from Westfield thought the arrangements quite good but did not enjoy seeing a great mob of I.C. standing across the edge of the floor. She added that she had no objection to them standing there, once she had been asked for a dance.

A member of Q.E.C. was the next to be interviewed. Her main objection was to fellows spending the evening in the bar until pass-outs were no longer required to get into the Hop. When it was pointed out to her that quite a few of these fellows would have come in earlier if they had been able to buy tickets, she replied that she had got in without a ticket and had stayed at Q.E.C. until she thought she would be able to get in. It was not being able to get a ticket that kept her away - she did not think the manners of the men were good enough to spend a shilling on a ticket.

The use of vocal records was criticized by one of the young ladies from The Central School of Speech and Drama, which was to be expected. She said that a vocalist should be trying to put feeling into the words, and if this was done, the rhythm would be affected. FELIX was not aware of much feeling in any of the records, but the rhythm still left much to be desired. One of the worst features of the Hop, was the nerve-racking process of having to traverse the length of the lounge in order to get to the ladies cloakroom, while all the male inhabitants of the lounge eyed them up and down. She did not appreciate that most of us like to know what will be available during the evening.

Our severest critic was from Bedford College. She accused the crowd, at the back of the gym, of moral cowardice in not asking the girls for a dance. It is a debatable point that this 'moral cowardice' might be justified. Then she went on to criticize the very poor standard of dancing. It was admitted, although very reluctantly, that there were some quite good dancers amongst us, but she argued that these were limited in their actions (dancing actions, we presume) by the crowd of unskilled dancers getting in the way. According to this lady from Bedford, the men at I.C. should all learn to dance before coming to the Hops, instead of trying to pick-up the steps at the expense of the unfortunate girls. She evidently thought the sole purpose of our Hops is to dance.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,
Felix.

9th October, 1953.

Dear Sir,

I was amazed on coming into the lower dining hall the other morning to be told that non-residents are not permitted to have a cooked meal for breakfast, but may partake of cereals and toast; the rule having been in force for a considerable number of years.

Now the two apparent reasons are 1. Ration books, which the residents have to hand in; and 2. A feeling on the part of the residents that they should be allowed preferential treatment to the non-residents. With regard to the first virtually the only rationed food is butter, and anyway the catering licence of the dining hall goes entirely on meals served. The books are handed in solely because the members happen to be resident there. In the second case the occupants of the hostel seem to forget what a tremendous privilege it is to be one of the 85 out of 1600 who have managed to get into the hostel. They go seeking further privileges, not only to their own advantage, but to the definite disadvantage of the pitifully few members of I.C. socially minded enough to have meals in the Union.

The thought that possibly a student may travel up to London and need a breakfast in town, naturally at the most convenient place, or even live in a room near the college and eat in the refectory seems to be completely lost. To be domesticated in the centre of college activities at a cost very many times less than that available anywhere else in London, and still ask for more is poor form. I therefore call on the Union to throw out, as they can, this and indeed all such, petty restrictions which serve no practical purpose.

Yours faithfully,
Michael F. Baty,
2C,C and G.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on two matters concern the I.C. Rag Committee. The first is the matter of an I.C. war-cry. Last year FELIX at our request published an appeal for ideas on a war-cry, and one effort appeared in a later issue. If any more are available, I would like to have them

I would like you to bring our existence to the notice of Freshmen. We invite any of them who have any bright ideas in the way of rags to contact me, through the Union rack, as we are always glad of fresh inspiration. We prefer to remain unofficial, so that the Union need not be officially connected with our activities.

Yours etc.,
Die Schone Mullenin.
Chairman, Rag Committee.

Letters are invited on all subjects howsoever remotely connected with I.C. The writer may write under a nom-de-plume, but his name and class must be made known to the Editor.

AMATEUR DRAMATICS

At the crack of dawn on the 5th August a bus stopped at the top entrance. Quiddy members of the I.C. Dram. Soc. started putting all the mops, flats, fool boxes, lights etc. into it. Just in time a police constable cycled up and handed us the firearms license for the gun and rifle which we had (for use in the play not for harakiri).

Our destination was the Civic Playhouse, Old Henham, where we were to (and did) give 7 performances of Captain Carvalls by Duncan. Both Saturday's and Sunday's performances were very well attended. During the week, apparently, the Cheltenham populace was more interested in their wealth than their culture.

The acting was up to the usual standard; the set, however, was very well done. Because of the queer shape of the stage (it was formerly part of the baths) a whole roof had to be constructed. While the actors were disporting themselves in the swimming pool the stage hands worked feverishly to finish the set for the opening night. Among other things a lot of sand was used!

At Geraldine's friendly relations between staff and actors was re-cultivated over numerous cups of coffee.

On our last night, the 15th August, people were queuing to get in and the actors were given a wonderful reception.

ART

An Exhibition of Drawings and Paintings made during the vacation will be held this autumn.

Students and Staff are invited to send in works to the Union Offices at a date to be announced later.

CASUAL COLUMN

Reflections on a Dinner Jacket.

At this time of the year most freshers resolve to go to the 1954 Commem. Ball, offering as an excuse the lack of evening dress and suitable partner, or even the lack of dancing ability. Also, at this time of the year, a number of second and third year men make the same resolution, for the same reasons. Some of them wake up before they leave I.C., and discover what they have been missing. Of the others, presumably many will never know how their youth has been mis-spent. A good start to a University career has not been made unless social, athletic and intellectual activities have been properly balanced.

For some years I have been begging and borrowing dinner jackets, but a recent incident convinced me of the necessity of having my own. Being invited to a ball, I made my usual strenuous efforts to borrow clothing, and borrowed father's though it was in a condition such as to inspire the sub-heading of this column. Arriving at the ball I discovered to my horror that everybody else wore fancy dress. My embarrassment reached a maximum when I was awarded the prize for a 'magnificent imitation of Charlie Chaplin.'

The first hop of the session was notable for the number of new records used. It has been our habit to complain over the unenterprising nature of the records usually played, but this time we can say nothing. One or two of the new records were a trifle difficult to dance to, especially some slow quicksteps, but no doubt a few trials will weed them out. I wonder whether any of the early Dixie Land, Jelly Roll and Pats Waller discs are worth exploring? This is a matter for connoisseurs. Perhaps some collectors would be prepared to lend their records to the Entertainments Committee for an evening. This column will pass on any suggestions received.

The hop was slightly marred by an excitable youth who threw some fireworks on to the floor, and caused some clothes to be damaged. This kind of behaviour has occurred at Harlington and people have been injured.

Following the success of last year's General Studies Lectures, Mr. McDowall has produced a magnificent programme for this term. FELIX conducted a survey almost a year ago, and discovered that, though the Lectures were very popular there was a wide demand for more current events and more controversy. Mr. McDowall has gone a long way towards satisfying these demands. Trade Unions, Central African Federation, Co-operatives and Commercial Television are among the topics to be included this term. Dr. Jacques, conductor of the Bach Choir, will continue his amazingly successful talks on music.

We discovered in our survey that a couple of isolated talks - on Law and Modern Painting - had proved very popular. We are delighted to find that each of these subjects has been enlarged for us into a series of lectures.

Among our original criticisms of the lectures we noted that some theatres particularly the large physics theatre, often needed microphones. I remember trying to listen to a talk on America by an eminent authority, and finding it quite impossible to tell what was being said. Thus odd, overlooked technical points can completely ruin the lectures.

It is also very important that lectures finish punctually at 2.20 p.m.

The rate of flow of the lunchtime queue in the new lounge is controlled principally by the rate of paying. Thus, when people walk straight to the head of the queue and buy a cup of coffee they delay the legitimate queuers. While it is ridiculous that anyone should have to queue for a quarter of an hour for a cup of coffee it is most unfair that anyone should have his lunch delayed for a similar time, just to the convenience of coffee drinkers. I suggest that until there is a better arrangement, all should queue.

The Union Library, at this time of the year, orders many of the new session's new books. The Library Committee keeps its eyes open for suitable material, but, being human, it often misses good books. There is a suggestions book in the library, and all entries in it will be carefully considered. A new venture, springing from a unity of ideas between the librarian and Committee member David Rice, will be the establishment of a small experimental section of Science Fiction.

The Union Library is approached via the Guild's Library, which is above Artton Hall. All members of the Union are entitled to two free tickets.

"Touchstone" is held at Wilwood Park and provides facilities for informal discussion on a predetermined topic. The first one this session will be held on Sat.-Sun. 17th and 18th October. The guest speaker will be Mr. P.H. Perkins of the I.C.I. and the topic for discussion "The value of a University Education." Application forms can be had from the notice board in the lounge.

Seen in a Birmingham newspaper;

FOR SALE: Two single beds; one hardly used.

COMMEMORATION DAY

Until 1907 when our three Colleges were federated to form the Imperial College, the I.C.S. and the "Times" were administered by the Board of Education, and the "Guilds" by the City & Guilds of London Institute, which founded it in 1834 under the name The Central Technical College.

On 25th October, 1948, celebrations were held to mark the Centenary of the earliest part of I.C., the Royal College of Chemistry. This occasion saw the largest gathering of members of I.C. ever known, and the celebrations were attended by H.M. the King, Visitor to the College, and H.M. the Queen.

In 1947 it happened that 25th October was chosen for the first of a new institution of Inaugural Lectures, planned to open each College Year. This coincidence led to the naming of that date Commemoration Day, and in 1948 the present ceremony was adopted, to start with a College Procession to the Great Hall of the University, in Imperial Institute Road, where a presentation of graduates and diplomats was held, followed by an address by a distinguished visitor.

In the past our distinguished visitors have included The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison; Sir Bruce White; Sir Andrew McCance, an eminent graduate of R.S.M. and Dr. Karl T. Compton, Chairman of The Corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

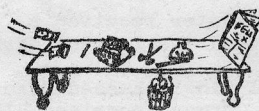
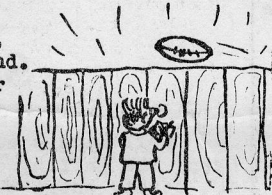
Commemoration Day this year is on Thursday, 29th 29th October, when the special visitor is D.W. Logan Esq., B.C.L., M.A., D.Phil., Principal of The University of London. A bouquet will be presented to the Special Visitor's Lady by the Secretary of I.C.W.A. Miss Doreen Goodway.

This ceremony is traditionally followed by a Conversazione which will be in the Royal College of Science buildings this year.

The celebrations are brought to a close by a Commemoration Ball which the Imperial College Union is holding in the Royal Festival Hall on Friday, 30th October.

HOW does "FELIX" come out?

A PEOPLE WRITE IT.
Reporters, writers, sleuths, all lend a hand. Sports, meetings, other Union affairs: you are right in the middle of them. Poets and other longhairs are also very welcome.



B OTHERS 'MAKE IT UP'.
On each alternate Sunday, you'll see feverish activity. Typists, artists, stencillers, and people with NO experience are needed here.

C IT IS RELEASED to an expectant public. Salesmen are vitally important.

Do YOU want to help? You get a chance to do what you like, when you like it. Drop a line to the Editor, or come along to Committee Room 'A' this Monday lunch-hour. Everybody can help in one way or another, and believe us,

IT'S FUN!

o o o o o

COMMEMORATION BALL



ROYAL
FESTIVAL HALL
OCTOBER 30TH

TICKETS FROM UNION OFFICE OR BOOKSTALL.

8 p.m. to 4 a.m. GERALDO

& HIS EMBASSY ORCHESTRA

PHOENIX

AUTUMN TERM 1953 1/-

Selby Angus has at last retired from the PHOENIX Board; and I doubt whether anyone has even done it more gracefully. For, in his letter of resignation, which is printed in the issue under review, Mr. Angus reveals to us all the secrets and sorrows of a PHOENIX Editor's mind. He writes with a clarity, wit and knowledgeability which we can only wonder at, and try to imitate. Mr. Angus, alias Jonathan Stagers, has been the pillar of PHOENIX for some years, and his loss will be felt, for a year ago his "Stagers" stories were more widely read in the college than those of his predecessor Wells.

Thus I found it very disappointing to read the story "The Creators" which Mr. Angus offers us as a close to his career on the PHOENIX Board. But "story" is not the word. "The Creators" is a dialogue between two higher beings, and it is concerned with the construction of the universe in terms very reminiscent of the physics lecture theatre. We cannot fail to recognize the imagination and ingenuity which Mr. Angus has put into the piece; neither can we fail to be stirred by some of his exquisitely formed phrases. I have never doubted that Mr. Angus's capability of the sustained brilliance he shows in "The Creators", but I would have preferred Stagers.

The best of the other fiction contributions, "A Fortnight in Llanelphaes" is guilty of many of the faults in style enumerated by Mr. Angus in his letter, but is nevertheless worth reading. As few works of fiction are not in some way related to the experiences of their authors, I should very much like to know what happened to Mr. Du Heaume on his last visit to Wales.

One of the book reviews (like most of the work in this edition the product of Chem. Tech. and the Scriblerus Club) is very readable, and the book in question, "The Struggles of Albert Woods", should be very popular when, in a few weeks time, it appears in the Union Library. Another review of a technical book, is another example of the great generosity often shown by PHOENIX reviewers to writers from the outer world. If we are going to write anything not intended to be fiction then let it be the truth, and, more important, the whole truth.

I was surprised to find in PHOENIX an article entitled "Communism and Humanitarian Causes". While it is not badly written, this article, which consists chiefly of quotations from Douglas ("I believed") Hyde, is not a gem of English Prose. In his Editorial the new Editor, Mr. Taylor, makes it clear that he was hard put to it to find contributions for PHOENIX, but I am certain, from my own experiences with FELIX that he could have also found an article of equivalent literary standard written from the opposite (i.e. socialist) point of view, to preserve neutrality. I hold no brief for Leftism, but I feel that PHOENIX has dealt it an unconstitutional blow.

The rest of this PHOENIX is about average, though the small section dealing with activities contains a heartening and stimulating account of the astonishing successes of the Boat Club last session. The Review of Activities section of PHOENIX has always been subject to attack, but who can deny Mr. Angus's remark that, as the years pass, it remains the only part really worth reading.

And having arrived back at Mr. Angus's remarkable letter, which, for me, makes this the best PHOENIX ever and which ought to be made into wall-paper for the compulsory use of every Editor, I close, exhorting you, if not to buy the magazine, at least to borrow it.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT

London County Council
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
CHAIR OF PANTAGAMY

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED for the Chair of Pantagamy tenable at the University of London. The vacancy is at present Professor Soupçon, SB, the well-known vacuum authority, who is finished this Autumn. The successful candidate, who should have been born no later than before 3 p.m. on June 15th. 1887, will be considered as a permanent post after a probationary period of 22 years. Salary, in accordance with the Fish Scales (Technical) will commence at £ 241 rising by annually decreasing increments. Persons with teaching ability and administrative experience may also apply. The post involves some contact with students; and a knowledge of English is desirable.

Further information from the Curator,

Granville House,
London, S.W.



Sport



RUGGER -

After the usual chaotic trials, four fifteens were fielded last Saturday, one match being scratched by our opponents. The first three teams won convincingly and the fourth lost 9-5 against Royal Vets. 2nd XV.

It is, of course, too early in the season to predict a good or bad year, but the core of old members and a large set of keen freshers augurs well for the season.

Congratulations to M. Holman, last year's I.C. captain, who has been playing at centre for Wasps 1st XV, in company with Woodward, Sykes and Stirling, of England!

Several I.C. men have been playing for the University XV, and I.C. must stand a good chance of completing a hat-trick of U.L. Cup triumphs.

GLIDING

As usual Imperial College Gliding Club has been particularly active this summer. The vacation commenced with a fortnight's training course for new members on the lines of the Easter course. Under more propitious weather conditions than prevailed at Easter, this raised all newcomers to an advanced stage and two of them went solo.

The major event of the year was naturally the British National Gliding Championships held at Great Hucklow in Derbyshire. For this the college entered a Sedvergh two-seater and an Olympia sailplane. In "Daisy", the two-seater, the firms of Macfie and Thomas, and Macfie and Langston did two epic cross country flights of seventy-five miles apiece, while the firm of Murden and Neale managed to get somewhat over half-way round an altogether impossible 100-kilometre triangular circuit. As a result of these feats "Daisy" was placed fourth in the two-seater class. "Creano", the club Olympia, was forced to retire on the last day of the competitions due to an attempt to land through some wires, but nevertheless earned thirteenth place in the single-seater class. Plans are now afoot to use the insurance money from the fragments of "Creano" to purchase a high-performance two-seater sailplane from Germany. In addition to making two-seater flying more luxurious, it could be employed for advanced instruction into the mysteries of soaring.

A more down-to-earth improvement in the club facilities is the new Vanguard which will shortly replace Mephista as the standard means of transport between Imperial College and Lasham. The new vehicle, covered in plush, will be faster, more comfortable and far cheaper to run.

Various individual members of the gliding club passed the latter part of the vacation gliding in France. Frank Irving bravely took his dreaded aircraft, the Kite II, to Baynes using a London taxi as towing vehicle. Unfortunately it failed to fulfil the pessimistic predictions of various other members of the gliding world and he is back in our midst without a scratch, having acquired a variety of instructive French dittys.

COMING EVENTS

SOCIAL.

Friday, October 16th. FELIX No. 52 on sale.
1.15 p.m. I.C. Mus. Soc. A.G.M. (Annual General Meeting) Committee Room 'A'. Details of the Orchestra, Choir, etc., may be found from the notice board in I.C.U.
I.C. Rover Club. Crew meeting in the Den at 1.15 p.m.
I.C. Catholic Soc. 5.15 p.m. Rev. J. Briefe, S.J. on "The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola".
6.45 p.m. I.C. Lit & Deb Soc. Joint Debate with Westfield College - Motion: "It is the opinion of this House that Man should be granted equal rights with Woman". This will be followed by an Informal Dance.

CRICKET

On June 30th a party of happy cricketers left in a coach for the annual invasion of Devon. Eight days later they returned, somewhat surprisingly, in the same coach, after winning four matches, having the best of a draw with Torquay and losing three.

All the I.C. players enjoyed some measure of success. Wyles scored 76 not out in an hour against Brixham, where I.C. won an exciting race against time. I.C. began rather slowly against Torquay, with some solid Lancastrian caution from Hitchen (59). However, Kitchener (52 not out) and K. Weale hit out freely and I.C. declared at 161 for 8. Torquay started badly and never appeared likely to score the runs, and had scored 101-8 at the close.

The closest finish was against the Royal Naval Barracks. I.C. batted first but collapsed. A fine rally by Thurman (39) and Severn (16) took the score to 145, but the Barracks just won, by one wicket.

I.C. usually fail dismally against their traditional country opponents at Whimble, but this year, under the inspiring captaincy of K. Weale, scored a great victory by 137 (Willmer 37, Kitchener 28, Wyles 25) to 82 (Hammerton 8 for 20). No-one succeeded in hitting the famous tree which flourishes half-way to the boundary.

Hammerton took 27 wickets on the tour, two more than our previously acknowledged champion, the inimitable R.J. Reynolds, who emits strange snorting noises as he careers up to the wicket.

The I.C. players doubtless owed much of their success to their ability to relax completely in the evenings - this they did with outstanding success. Many tales have been told and will be told in the Bar before July comes round again and printing them here would rob them of their flavour. Next year's tour is over the period June 30th - July 7th, all cricketers please note!

SAILING

Following a successful season at the Welsh Harp, the sailing club took two of their boats to the coast, where they acquired a goodly selection of trophies.

Bill Clayden and Brian Foster received a plaque for completing the Round the Isle of Wight Race in 13½ hours.

At the British National Single-handed Championships at Hayling Island, J. Conway Jones and Bill Clayden finished 3rd and 6th respectively, and during Chichester Harbour week Conway Jones collected four trophies and had one second in seven races.

Over 90 Fireflies competed for the Class Championship at Hunstanton. Brian Foster would have won but for the unsporting attitude of 33 helmsmen who remained sober on the eve of the race. However, Conway Jones awoke with a clear head and with a good crew, Miss B. Galliford, he sailed a well-timed race to win the Sir Ralph Gore Trophy.

I.C. co-operated with U.L. in a very enjoyable Marine Week at Hayling Island, where fast and furious planery was the order of the day.

7.0pm, G&G fresher's buffet. Upper Dining Hall
Monday 19th Oct. I.C. Christian Union. Rev. N.H. Bainbridge on 'Jesus Christ-His work'. 1.15pm.
Botany lecture theatre.
Thursday, Oct. 22. 1.15-1.55, IC Mus. Soc. Lunch-hour recital. Portions of Act II 'Don Giovanni'.
IC Contract Bridge Club trials, 7pm. See notice-board in I.C.U. for details.
Friday, Oct. 23. IC Cross-Country Club General Meeting, 1.20, Cttee Room 'A'.
Monday, Oct. 26. IC Christian Union. Mr. R. Manwaring on 'The problem of evil and suffering.'
Thursday, Oct. 29. COMMEMORATION DAY.
Friday, Oct. 30. IC Catholic Soc. 5.15 pm. Rev. J. Briefe, S.J. on 'The development of character'.
11.00pm, Commem. Ball. Royal Festival Hall.
FELIX No. 53 on sale.
-Club Secretaries should see to it that their events are made known to the Coming Events Ed.