

FELIX

REHABILITATION

A certain sum of money has been granted to the Union in lieu of the expenses incurred in finding alternative accommodation to the Gym.

Arrangements have been made for the Badminton Club to use an outside hall. Judo, Boxing, Fencing, and Dancing will go to the large central room on the 3rd. floor of the Beit Building - (at present labelled "typists"). This room is above the New Hostel and is between the Table Tennis room and the Senior Staff room. There is also a possibility that Dancing will be in the New Lounge.

The Old Lounge has been replaced by a room on the 4th floor, with periodicals etc.. This is the Muniments Lounge. The New Lounge will be used for lectures, Concerts and Social Functions. The Bar will stay open at least until Easter in its customary hallowed surroundings.

The problem of where to hold 'Hops' is a difficult one, there being two main alternatives. Firstly the use of outside premises, i.e. the Town Hall, or Q.A. and Q.E.C. (in co-operation, both official and unofficial) ; and secondly the use of inside premises. This latter course is obviously preferable; here the possibilities are:- Upper Dining Hall and New Lounge 'wired' together, Queenie's (for formal dances only) , and the use of Imperial Institute space, i.e. Jehangir Hall.

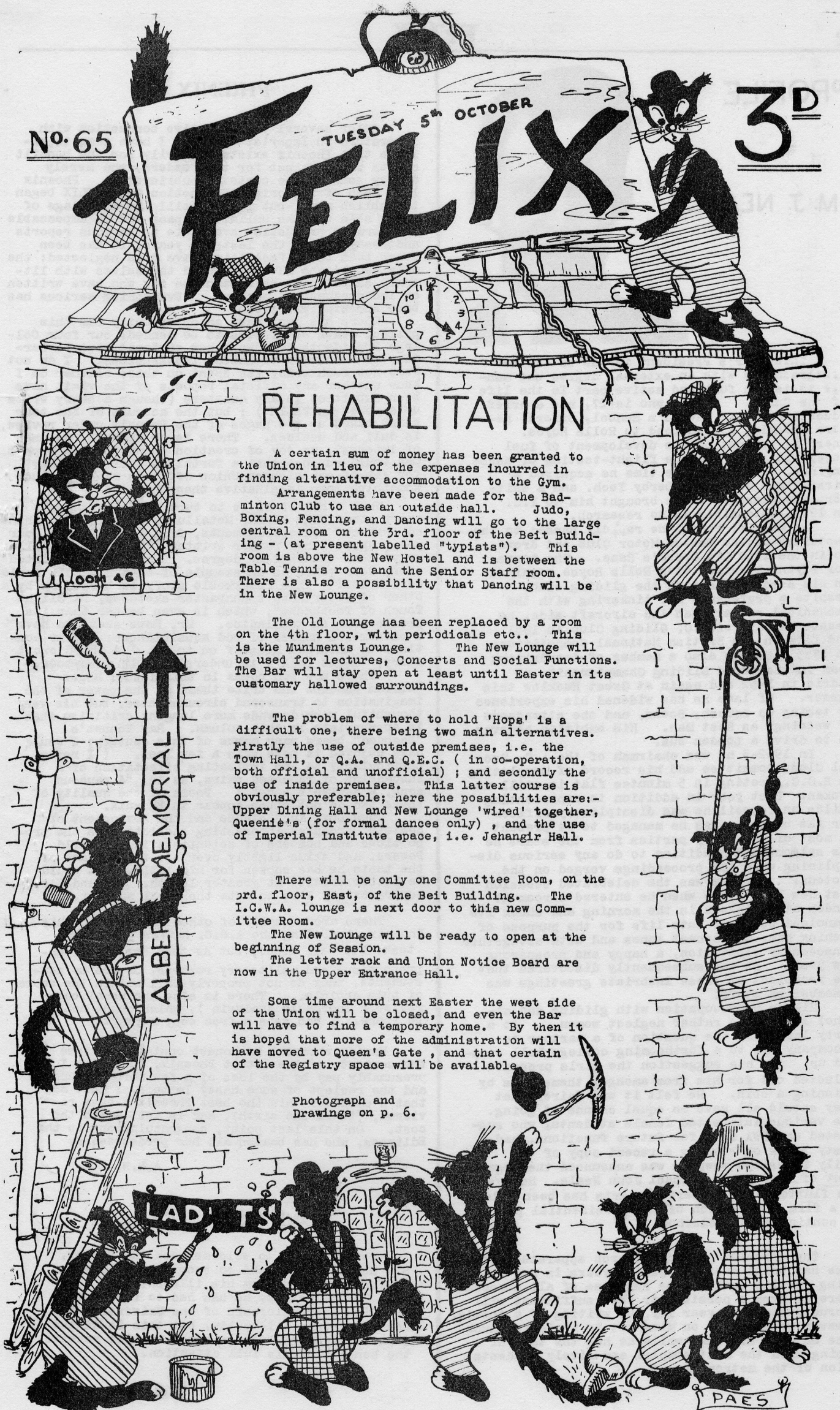
There will be only one Committee Room, on the 3rd. floor, East, of the Beit Building. The I.C.W.A. lounge is next door to this new Committee Room.

The New Lounge will be ready to open at the beginning of Season.

The letter rack and Union Notice Board are now in the Upper Entrance Hall.

Some time around next Easter the west side of the Union will be closed, and even the Bar will have to find a temporary home. By then it is hoped that more of the administration will have moved to Queen's Gate, and that certain of the Registry space will be available.

Photograph and Drawings on p. 6.



PROFILE

M. J. NEALE



This year's President is one of the few postgraduates with an external degree who manage to take a full and active part in the life of the Union. Mike, who is 27, had a brief education at St. Edward's School, Oxford, before becoming apprenticed to Rolls Royce. There he was put on the development of fuel injection pumps and the flight-testing of aero-engines. In his spare time he acquired a first-class degree at Derby Tech. and a Whitworth Scholarship which brought him to I.C. in 1949, ostensibly to do research.

As an M.T. Pundit he rapidly passed to the captaincy of the Guilds Motor Club and drove 30 in the 1950 Old Crock's Race. The taste for Flying acquired with Rolls Royce resulted in his association with the gliding club. Despite a preference for tinkering with the mechanical rather than the aircraft side, he became captain of I.C. Gliding Club in 1951 and flew in the British National Competitions in 1953. He was also a member of the British Team in the World Gliding Championships at Madrid in 1952 and again at Great Hucklow this summer. Of late he has widened his experience by taking up Squash, Bowls, and the attendance of weddings as Best Man. His ambition however is to drive a London bus.

In 1952-3 he was chairman of the I.C. Social Clubs Committee and his record of completing an S.C.C. meeting in 5 minutes flat is still unbroken. Last year in addition to representing Guilds on Council he was disciplinary officer for the hostel. As he managed to be present at most of the merry parties from the start he was seldom in a condition to do any serious disciplining when the proceedings verged on the riotous. There was the celebrated occasion last New Year's Eve when he entered a room at random at 2 o'clock in the morning and shook its somnolent occupant into life for the purpose of wishing him, in earnest tones and with altogether unnecessary repetition, a happy and prosperous new year. It was subsequently discovered that the recipient of these inebriate greetings was a member of staff.

Mike's preoccupation with gliding and alcohol led him to rather neglect women. At a party last year the question of a partner to accompany him to a forthcoming college ball cropped up. On his suggestion the girls present selected one for him from amongst themselves by spinning a coin. He felt it was fairer that they should all have an equal chance of going. The various interested female students, who suggested an ICWA rota for future functions, had a nasty shock on reading a recent copy of the Daily Telegraph wherein was announced the engagement of some other Michael John Neale. However the fluttering of Iowarian hearts has been calmed by a firm declaration of the presidential policy of continuing bachelorhood.

The chromium-plated research apparatus which Mike has built over the past 5 years is now exuding results much to the surprise of all concerned. There is even a possibility that sufficient will accrue during the year for the writing of a thesis. However we can rely on Mike not to waste too much time on this sideline while he has the task of coping with the most complex and lively students' Union of the metropolis.

PHENIX

After several years' active connection with literature in Imperial College, I have come to believe that Phoenix exists primarily for the benefit of its writers; not for the readers, who merely defray some of the costs of publication. Phoenix lost much of its original function when FELIX began to publish news, but it has still the advantage of being able to make unlimited space and an impeccable standard of production available to serious reports and essays. In the last few years, it has been clear that these facilities have been neglected: the only people who have concerned themselves with literary shapeliness have been the few who have written on inconsequential matters. Everything serious has been shockingly written.

There has just been an opportunity for this pitiful state of affairs to be mended: our four College Presidents and two other students went to Germany on a tour of technical institutions. I do not know how much money was spent on this; neither do I know whether any official reports of the visit have been submitted in any quarters (though a beery write up appeared in FELIX); but the account of the tour which takes up two pages of the Phoenix under review, is dull and useless. There is no sparkle, no show of interest, no joy of creation shown in this report. One would suppose that a fortnight's free holiday for six of our highest Union Officers might produce something more imaginative than this.

What a relief it is to turn to Selby Angus's short story "The Higher Metallurgy". This is reprinted, without acknowledgements, from a Phoenix of four years ago. I had rather written "The Higher Metallurgy" than obtained my degree. May it be reprinted every four years as an example of what students could once write! This remarkable story is backed up by a other of Peter Rowe's character sketches, "A Slight Touch of Toothache", which is even better than its predecessor on landladies. Mr. Rowe seems to have a phenomenal number of odd acquaintances; may he continue to unburden himself on to us. A third short story, "Sales Talk", is understandably anonymous.

There are two poems in this issue: Roger William chooses the trite theme of the power of the imagination to transcend circumstances, but his very thoughtful work demands more lengthy criticism than is appropriate in this column. Ray Bonnet's "Baghdad" bears many marks of this century; I would have enjoyed it more with a few less. (I refer particularly to the irritating affectation of a succession of repeated pairs, as in "A raucous song, a native's song".) Poems of the quality of these two do not often appear in Phoenix.

John Cox, in "Science and the Development of Society" produces interesting statistics on the proportions and numbers of scientists in the World Powers, and skims lightly over his the surface of the topic he has chosen for his title. It would be better treated at greater length. Acland Essay aspirants may like to note the ideal subject.

There are a number of other articles in this Phoenix, including the A.C.C. Review (thankless task, but well done), but as they are either unpretentious and unliterary reports, or are by non-students, they do not properly fall within the scope of this article. There is also the usual book review (Inorganic Analysis), which ought not to be there. (Who gets a free copy anyway?)

Having recorded an honest opinion of some of the contents of the latest Phoenix, for which I will presumably pay by the loss of a few more friends and the receipt of some nasty letters, I must add that I consider this the best Phoenix I have reviewed, (it is the sixth), and is well worth the cost. On this last point, congratulations to the Editress, who has beaten all her predecessors.

A.R.B.

WELCOME BACK

We are glad to welcome back the Rector, Sir Roderic Hill, and to congratulate him on having recovered from his illness.

Unfortunately, he has had to resign from his Vice-Chancellorship of the University of London through ill-health, but this is to the gain of Imperial College since we will receive the benefit of his full attention.

Felix



THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Editor : J.S. SEELEY

Circulation : 1200

For the first time the readers of FELIX are able to start off a new Session with an issue on the very first day of term; but before we explain how this has come about we must address a few words to the Fresher. At this time of year they are the most important people in the whole of I.C. To them the whole idea of I.C. will seem a little strange, and the idea of FELIX very strange (as well as its appearance). Words of encouragement do not flow easily from this column, but Freshers we really are very glad to see all of you. The older members of the Union provide the continuity and solidarity essential to College life, but the Freshmen provide the 'shot in the arm' necessary to all forms of society, which would otherwise become too complacent.

The first two weeks of term are hectic enough for the established inhabitant, but they are infinitely worse for the Fresher. By the time he has recovered from the 'pep' talks, the free teas and buffets, and has paid his breakage deposit, he will no doubt be a trifle confused. We all were; but after a few weeks the strangeness wears off, and one can put work and play in their proper perspective.

Finally it would not be out of place to blow our own trumpet a little. Freshers, you have come to a College whose Union can provide all the social life and camaraderie necessary to complete a 'University' education. To a College which at present holds fully half the U.L. Sports Titles. Our Buildings may look battered but our 'esprit de corps' is second to none in the University. All these things come about because our Union is 'alive'. I.C. men give of their best to the Union because it is their Union; everyone belongs to it, everyone benefits from it, so let everyone contribute something to it.

This FELIX has been prepared primarily for the fresher, and so we do not apologise for using some of our last year's material. To allow for this we have spread ourselves over 10 pages for the first time, so that there is room for as much new material as possible. The price has been kept at 3d. by the inclusion of outside advertisements. For the next issue we shall be back to our customary 6 pages, with several of our customary features missing from this issue. The principal one of these is the 'Letters' page. FELIX is probably the forum most easily accessible to everyone, so use it to express your opinions. If these cannot be put suitably in a letter, the 'Viewpoint' column is used for longer expressions of personal opinion on Union affairs. FELIX is written by the Union and is its NEWS-paper, so that we always need contributions of News value from as many sources as possible. Do not hesitate to write in.

FELIX will continue to come out on every other Friday throughout the Session, and contributions should be in by the preceding Fridays. Thus for the next issue, due on Oct. 15th., write in by Oct. 8th.

URGENT!

FELIX requires the use of a typewriter, and for preference a typist to go with it, for make-up work on alternate Sundays. Production workers will also be most welcome at the same time. If you can draw, write or type, so much the better; if not, general help is always needed. The hours are not set, just come and go as you please.

Next FELIX Make-up is on Sunday 10th Oct. Appropriate notices are put up on the FELIX (PHOENIX) Board. Any enquiries should be addressed to the Editor, through the Letter Rack.

PRESIDENT'S DANCE

The final event of last session was the President's Dance held in the evening of the last day of term. For this the Gym was decorated with flowers and the floral arrangements at the top of the stairs were noted in the 'Evening Standard' albeit only for the descent of the goldfish on to the floor.

Those invited enjoyed ample space for dancing and a rather unusual cabaret in which Tony Gill (the ex-president of C. & G.) displayed hidden talent in his playing of a drum accompaniment for Tullis Sutherland's piano 'recital'.

After the band went home, dancing carried on to records. Alternative exercise could be had in the various games of tennis which were being played in the quad, and around the Albert Hall. When the dance ended at 6.00 a.m. some of these tennis matches were still in progress.

Abandon Hope All She's Who Enter Here

The place is now crawling with freshers. Among this horrid horde are a small number of hopeful young ladies. But disillusionment will soon set in; we know, because it happened to us, and now that we're old and battered inhabitants we will pass on to them the benefits of our experience - it's no use husband-hunting here, because the only types available are:-

- 1) The Majority. They work; make feeble scientific jokes and to home to Putney (or Chiswick) at 5 p.m. sharp. If they notice you at all see item 4.
- 2) The Hop-Pickers. These look for a new girl-friend every Saturday night. They don't like us; they only appreciate girls from training colleges. (What do they train for?)
- 3) The Athletes. Superficially these may appear attractive. But beware - they're either out "drinking with the boys" or else "rowing in the Head tomorrow". Either way, you get neglected.
- 4) The Inexperienced. This is the lad who says "What would you like to do, dear?" and doesn't like what you tell him.
- 5) The Experienced. He assumes what you want to do and is nearly always wrong.
- 6) The Perfect Man. He's engaged.

Cassandra.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED : Squash Racket, good condition preferred. Apply : Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, c/o I.C. Union, or Room 90 New Hostel.

A rate of 6d. for 20 words is the nominal charge for plain personal advertisements and book-offers.

I.C. Union Entertainments Committee
have pleasure to present
THE
SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
on
Friday 29th October
at
The Royal Festival Hall
THE
COMMEMORATION
BALL
Dancing 11 p.m.-5 a.m.
Double Tickets 2 gns inclusive of buffet

The Social Year

On this page we are giving a brief review of last year's Social Events, for the obvious benefit of the Freshers, but also for those older members of the Union who are feeling nostalgic now that the wooden floor of the Gym will no longer shake under the dancers' feet.

This review is not intended to be complete in any way, so that we hope the members of the various Clubs, whose activities are not mentioned, will not be offended. The activities of all Clubs are not always suitable for reporting, and this review is strictly as seen through the eyes of FELIX. Even so we have had to leave out the learned Societies, the Debating Society, the Guilds Motor Club, to mention only a few.

This year we would like to report as many Social Events as possible, so we ask Club Secretaries to write in when they have anything of interest, so that arrangements can be made.

MUSICAL SOCIETY

The Musical Society has always been one of the pillars of the S.C.C., and last year was another of almost continuous activity. Although Dr. Jacques had resigned from the Conductorship of the Choir, there was no setback, the full membership (S.A.T.B.) being maintained at the level of 80. The Choir, under its Conductor, Dr. Eric Brown (a member of staff), provided the backbone for the two major concerts last year, given with the Jacques Orchestra in Queen Alexandra's House.

Unfortunately the College Orchestra lost some ground, instrumental players of sufficient calibre being rare in I.C.

Both the Choir and the Orchestra look forward to the time when they will be able to have their own Concert Room in the New Union.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

One of the most notable features about the serious side of College life has been the growth of support for the Religious Societies over the past two years. The Christian Union has reported the most notable increase in activity during last year, with a doubling of membership. The Student Christian Movement has reported similar progress, with many activities held in combination with other Colleges. Special events in the College last year were the Mission Week, arranged by I.C.C.U., which had average attendances of 100, and an address by Dr. Billy Graham, arranged jointly by I.C.C.U. and S.C.M. This was given in the Albert Hall to an audience of 2,500. What was achieved at these events cannot be assessed by mere numbers, but at least it has been shown that the average student is prepared to be interested in such matters.

The Catholic and Jewish Societies provide appropriate activities for their members, each Society numbering about 50.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB

This Club has become one of the most flourishing in the College, although nearly the youngest, since it was only set up last year. Its aim is to encourage international understanding at the Student level. As well as bringing together members of I.C. from more than 20 nations, general audiences of over 100 were attracted to stage presentations of national culture, film shows and lectures. It is hoped that the Society will now attempt a more active programme embodying exchanges of ideas in serious debate and discussion, as well as merely entertaining a passive audience.

drop in at

JANE BROWN

7, EXHIBITION ROAD.

• morning coffee 9 to 6
• lunch • tea

ENTERTAINMENTS

Each year the Entertainments Committee do sterling work in organising the lighter side of the College Functions. In the official wording "it is responsible for the organising of social functions other than those organised by individual clubs and societies". A masterpiece of understatement.

For innumerable years Saturday night 'Hops' have been a by-word for pleasant, care-free evenings at nominal charges. The Commemoration Ball and the President's Dinner and Dance are annual institutions, and are the best in the University, we like to feel.

During the Winter and Spring terms 'hopping' seems to be very popular with I.C., and to cope with those types who actually worry about treading on their partners' toes, the Dancing Club runs Dancing Classes at all levels.

Finally mention must be made of the Carnivals. These are organised by the individual College Unions, and can only be described as all-night riots in fancy-dress. Over the past few years these have been some of the themes :-
"Shanghai Showjunk"; "Orgia Romana";
"Fiesta"; "Russian Salad", and many more.

NOTES FROM THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Perhaps the best way to persuade socially-minded Freshers that the Dramatic Society is their best way of enjoying college life is to present a brief review of what we did last year.

November: One-act play for L.U.D.S. Festival (placed 3rd).

December: "The Hollow" with notable successes

from some new actors.

March: "The Browning Version" and "A Phoenix Too Frequent", the latter play cast entirely from the year's newcomers.

May: The Society held a dance and presented a One act play as entertainment.

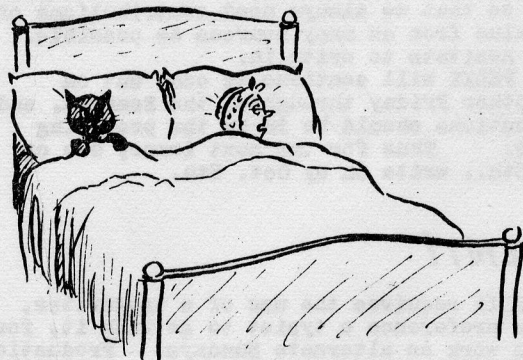
Several theatre visits were held during the year, also an excursion to Oxford involving dinner and a visit to "The Government Inspector".

The year finally ended with a trip to Cheltenham in the early part of the long vacation, when a dozen members put on two plays and, incidentally, had a good holiday.

We hope to put on as varied a programme this year, in spite of the apparent difficulties, and, as ever, to enjoy our activities to the full.

OPEN AIR SOCIETIES

The Mountaineering Club, the Y.H.A. Group, the Riding Club and Ski Club all had a successful year, although naturally Kensington is not ideally situated for some of these activities. The Ski Club and the Rover Crew both travelled to Switzerland during the Session; the Ski Club to an hotel for a fortnight at Xmas, and the Rover Crew to the World Rover Moot, also at Xmas.



"DID YOU PUT THE CAT OUT, DEAR?"

COMING EVENTS

A GUIDE TO THE GALLERIES.

THURSDAY OCT. 7th.

S.C.M. Freshers' Tea. 5.30 - 7.00 p.m.

FRIDAY OCT. 8th.

I.C.C.U. Freshers' Tea in the New Lounge.
R.C.S. Freshers' Buffet in the Upper Dining Hall 7.30 p.m.

MONDAY OCT. 11th.

I.C. Catholic Society Freshers' Tea 5.15 -- 6.15 p.m.
I.C. Christian Union Open Meeting.
Botany Lecture Theatre. Rev. John Stott. "Jesus Christ today". 1.15 p.m.
Sandwiches on sale.

FRIDAY OCT. 15th.

C. & G. Freshers' Buffet 7 -- 11.

MONDAY OCT. 18th.

Chem. Eng. Soc. Freshers' Tea. 5.15 -- 6.30 .

FRIDAY OCT. 22nd.

R.S.M. Freshers' Tea 7.00 --

THURSDAY OCT. 28th.

COMMEMORATION DAY PROGRAMME

- 1.45 p.m. A service in Holy Trinity Church.
- 2.30 p.m. A procession of the College and guests leaves I.C. Union for University Great Hall, Imperial Institute Road.
- 3.00 p.m. Ceremony in the Great Hall. Diplomas are presented, and address given by the Rt. Hon. Sir Oliver Franks.
- 4.30 p.m. Conversazione in the R.S.M. Tea in the Union.

Felix Services

TO ALL SECRETARIES.

The 'Coming Events' Diary is open to all I.C. Clubs who desire publicity for future meetings and events. An actual Diary is now kept in the Union Porter's Office. The Coming Events column will cover events from the Friday of publication for the following fortnight. Club officials should enter their events in the Diary at least a week before FELIX is due to appear; alternatively details may be addressed through the rack to the Coming Events Editor.

Secretaries are also invited to submit some additional information concerning their events which MAY be printed if space permits. Bare details of all the entries submitted will be printed in any case.

ADVERTISING RATES.

For I.C. Organisations.

1/4 column 10/- per insertion
Other sizes at this rate, in direct proportion.

Outside Advertisers.

1/4 column 26/- per insertion
Other sizes at this rate, in direct proportion, extra charges for front page space.

All drawings, made-up advertisements and typing should be black on white paper. These should be prepared to suit a column width 5". Before the printing a 1/4 column advertisement measures 5" by 4", and the printing process reduction is 5:3.

All enquiries should be addressed to the FELIX Business Manager, c/o I.C. Union.

THEATRE	CONVENIENT TUBE STN.	CAPACITY	PRICE	STOOL SYSTEM	STOOL TICKETS at
ADELPHI	STRAND	148	3/6	NO	-
ALDWYCH	HOLBORN	242	4/-	NO	-
APOLLO	PICCADILLY	200	2/6	YES	10 a.m.
AMBASSADORS	LEICESTER SQ	35	3/6	YES	10 a.m.
ARTS	"	56	5/-	NO	*(5/-)
CAMBRIDGE	TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD	450	5/-	NO	-
CASINO	L.S.	186	5/-	NO	-
COLISEUM	TRAFALGAR SQ	500	4/-	Book on same day	-
COMEDY	PICCADILLY	170	2/-	YES	10 a.m.
CRITERION	"	77	6/-	NO	-
DRURY LANE	HOLBORN	435	4/-	YES	10 a.m.
DUKE OF YORK	T.S.	150	2/-	YES	10 a.m.
DUCHESS	HOLBORN	42	5/6	NO	-
GARRICK	T.S.	110	2/6	YES	9.15
GLOBE	PICCADILLY	135	2/6	YES	10 a.m.
HAYMARKET	"	-	3/6	NO	-
HER MAJESTY'S	"	111	4/-	NO	-
HIPPODROME	L.S.	-	3/6	NO	-
IRVING	L.S.	-	5/-	NO	*(5/-)
LYRIC	PICCADILLY	200	4/-	Book on same day	-
NEW	L.S.	180	2/-	YES	8.30
PALACE	L.S.	335	3/-	NO	-
PHOENIX	T.C.R.	56	5/-	NO	-
PICCADILLY	PICCADILLY	92	3/6	NO	-
PRINCE OF WALES	L.S.	64	5/-	NO	-
PRINCES	T.C.R.	500	2/6	YES	10.30
SADDLERS WELLS	ANGEL	250	2/-	YES	8 a.m.
SAVILLE	T.C.R.	-	5/-	NO	-
SAVOY	STRAND	141	3/-	YES	10 a.m.
ST. JAMES	GREEN PARK	300	2/6	YES	10 a.m.
ST. MARTINS	L.S.	70	4/6	NO	-
STOLL	HOLBORN	344	2/6	YES	10 a.m.
STRAND	"	250	2/-	YES	10.30
VAUDEVILLE	STRAND	34	5/-	NO	-
WHITEHALL	T.S.	93	5/6	NO	-
WINDMILL	PICCADILLY	113	11/-	NO!	-
WINTER GARDEN	T.C.R.	(Gallery	(2/-)	being altered)	-
		87	3/6	NO	-
WYNDHAM	L.S.	104	2/-	YES	8.30

*Indicates a private theatre club, the membership fee being given in brackets. The capacity figures should be taken as approximate only, and give some indication of the chance of obtaining a seat. The time of issue column refers specifically to Saturday, but in the majority of cases applies to all weekdays.

It is suggested that this text, which is nearly complete, be kept for reference, since its length necessitates infrequent publication.

S.R. & R.B.

are you interested in music?

The Musical Society invites Singers at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday 5th October and Instrumentalists with their instruments at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday 6th to C and G Council Room.
No Auditions!

NEOLITHIC REVIVAL AT (SIL)WOOD-HENGE

At half-past four on one July morning (sunrise), a rousing Boomalaka before Silwood House marked the completion of the quickest erection in ancient-temple-building history. For there on the hillside, under the admiring gaze of a herd of prehistoric cows (who were seen later that morning paying homage to TRYIN - the -henge god of examinations), stood Wood-henge built by the -hengists to the memory of the 1st Year Civils who fell in the part I struggles of 1954. (SIC REPENTIT) Near closing-time, the previous evening, under the cheerful auspices of "The Thatched Tavern", the GRAND PLAN (formed by the -henge arch-druids) was explained to the Neolithican plebs. The arch-druids having already "found" tools and materials, they led each party of serfs to their allotted tasks. Ancient British Railway sleepers (authentically used by Boadicea's train and mentioned in "the book of primitive transport") were kindly "provided" by the Silwood Park Authorities, there being little native hewing-stone available. (See Druid's handbook, block IX, para. V on "-henge building, serfs, for the use of".)

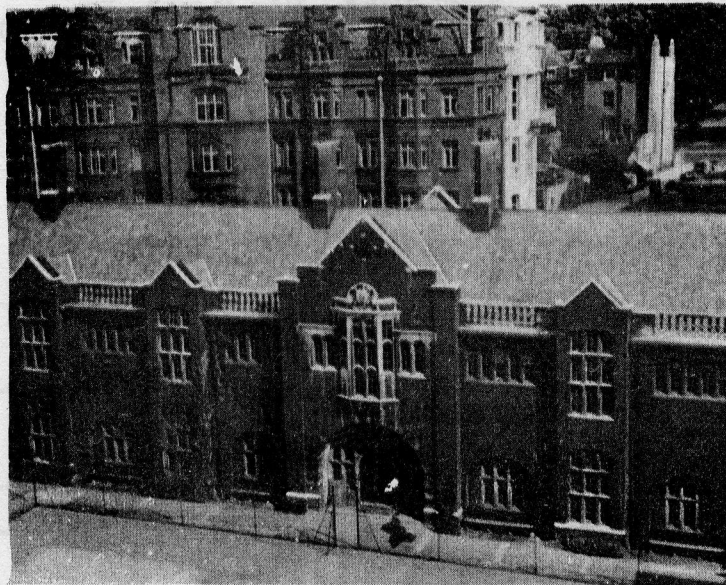
Aborigines from Welsh and African colonies had been imported to build the altar for which there was a small quantity of natural rock (or Portland cement). These master craftsmen showed great aptitude for their task and were later conferred with the order of the Wode (the highest -hengeman award). After six weary hours of toil, the -henge was completed and the service of dedication performed (after the style of the 2nd floor memorial originated by the -hengists in the village of Clochmerle, France). As an act of supplication for the downfallen an Ancient British spanner (primitive tool) was embedded in the altar.

Archaeological Footnote:

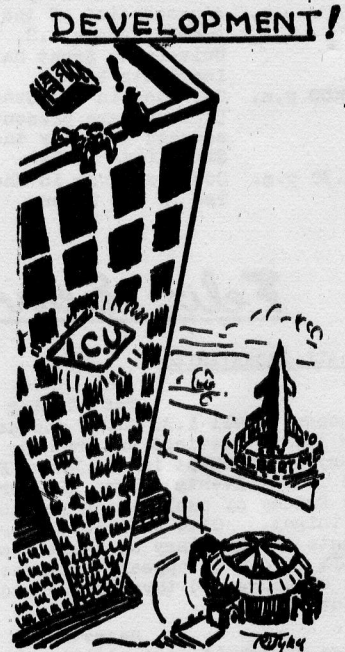
Your correspondent records, with interest, the gradual increase of the -hengist cult in wilder regions of Britain and France and will furnish details of cult in exchange for 1 pint (ancient measure) of primitive ale.

from our prehistoric correspondent.

THE UNION



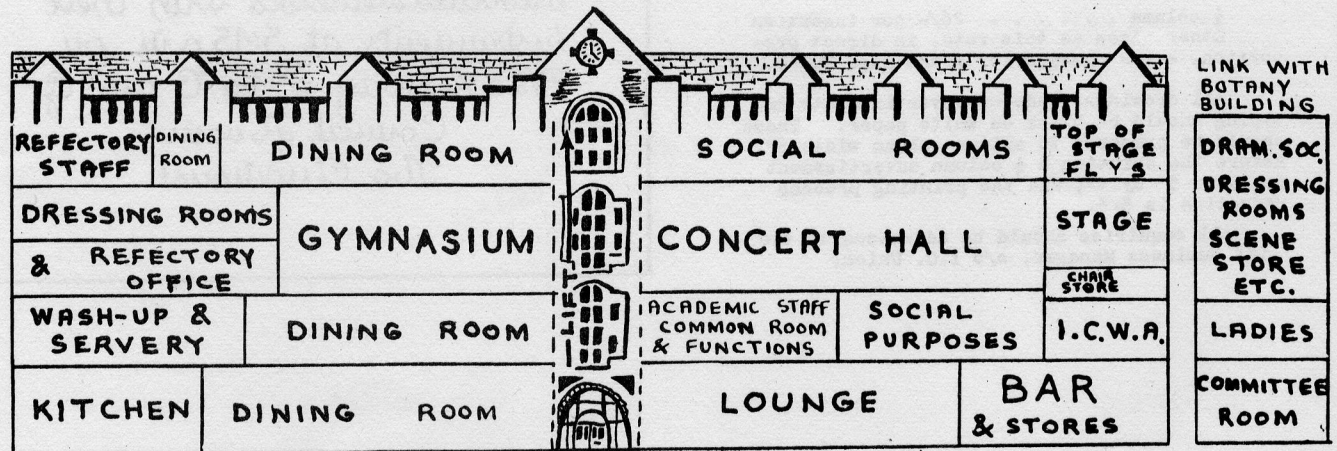
AS IT WAS



"WAY BACK IN '64 I DO BELIEVE THEY USED TO DROP IN AT THE ALBERT HALL QUITE OFTEN...."

AS IT MIGHT BE

AS IT WILL BE



A Letter from the Oldest Member

Dear Fresher,

Our Editor, in his wisdom, is of the opinion that a short note from the oldest active member of the FELIX Board may be of interest to you. It is with some astonishment that I find this honour falling on me, and with much trepidation that I record my experiences and ideas on a few questions which have been important in my University life. There is nothing in these notes for our glib young-man-about-town: I write only in the hope that some of you are as sly, confused and lost as I was when I entered our college.

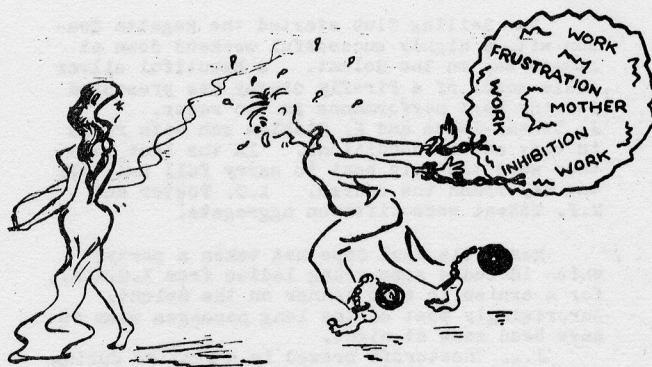
Only four years have passed since I crept into the Bookstall and bought a scarf (which represented Studenthood to my young brain), and then stuffed it into my pocket because I was too self-conscious to wear it. I soon learned that I need not skulk in disguise, for the Fresher is not a target for jibes and sneers; indeed the same day a thousand officials from a hundred clubs urged me most piteously to join them in their particular road to Elysium.

In those days a high percentage of the older students were ex-servicemen, and many were old enough (and experienced enough) to be my father. They were much more self-assured than the people who arrived straight from the sixth-form, and they occupied all the important positions in the Union. We lived in awe of them - for the first few days. The percentage of ex-servicemen has fallen considerably since then, and it seems to me that with this decline we have become more steady, sober and industrious, much less interesting, and much less enterprising in Union affairs generally. This view may, however, suffer from aberrations associated with my extreme age.

In our early Fresher days, most of my contemporaries studied conscientiously, and went home at five o'clock. I was among them. After a term or so I began to yearn for female company, but having been equipped with an efficient mental chastity belt at school, I was very reserved, awkward in company and, worse, unable to dance. The latter defect at least could be repaired, so I bought a book on Ballroom Dancing (the Union Library has since been equipped with one) and grimly learned a few steps on the floor of my lodgings. Then, with palpitating heart, glistening brow, dry tongue and hands dripping with sweat, I went to a hop. It was a dreadful experience, but it was the beginning of my college life.

I was fortunate enough to share lodgings with several other students, and we wasted a great deal of time together. We would often spend half the night discussing Politics, Religion, Art, Women, Prostitution and allied subjects, Morality, Books, and the World as it was beginning to unfold to us. We worked sufficiently to pass our exams, with a little to spare. (We found it helpful to suppose that anybody who learns everything in his syllabus not only has no time to learn anything else, but must surely go mad). We were never in danger of madness or suicide, and these discussions form some of the pleasantest memories of my life.

In due course I came into contact with the Student Rag. We dashed down the streets and did things collectively which none of us would have done alone. I saw acts of wanton destruction (smashing a Belisha beacon, for instance) which would have been called vandalism or hooliganism had they been perpetrated by the "lower classes". But on other occasions, Morphy Day, the Great Victoria Rag, and at several informal battles between R.C.S. and Guilds, I witnessed scenes which I shall always remember with delight. It seems a quality of Rags that they appear best in retrospect. (The back numbers of FELIX, available shortly in the Union Library, contain accounts of many of these events).



'to yearn for female company'

You may have already run your head into the eternal problem of the Cultural relations of the Scientist. It is widely understood that "Culture" means recognising Picasso's blue period, Beethoven's Quartet Op. 59, No.2, (first movement, second subject), or Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound". If you know nothing about these you can learn something by going to the I.C. General Studies Lectures, and by reading a few carefully chosen books: by becoming, in fact, a Kultur-conscious Bore. This is rather like sitting in front of an infra-red lamp in Stepney, and then boasting of your Riviera holiday. Surely, a cultured person is one who is responsive to beauty, and who is repelled by ugliness, and who makes his own life, and others, happier and richer by his reactions to all external conditions. Knowledge of the list above may help in the achievement of such a state, but so may many other things, one of the most important being the rational discipline and aesthetic appeal of Science. In this respect we have an advantage over the Arts man, although many scientists neglect it, with the result that we have a collective reputation for moronishness. Do not be intimidated by the common, erroneous, petty conception of "Culture".

It may seem to you that I.C. is a bit of a hole. Our Union is in a shocking condition: we have nowhere to eat comfortably; we have nowhere to sit. The authorities promise us eventual relief from these inconveniences, but we cannot expect it for years, and it will be inadequate when it arrives. Until we have a high percentage of residential students our college will always be something less than a University. But it is the centre of our lives for several years, and it provides us with the greatest of all boons; the companionship of kindred spirits. If you neglect your fellows at college you will pay for it in loneliness and frustration. Do not go home regularly at five o'clock. Stay for supper occasionally and talk with your new friends. Have a drink every now and then, but not alone. And pity the poor post-grad who has to dash back to his lab!

Yours sincerely,

Watt A. Wordsworth.

P.S. Pardon my use of a nom de plume, but it is hallowed with time, and is better known than my name.

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SUMMER SAILING

The Sailing Club started the Regatta Season with a highly successful weekend down at Stokes Bay on the Solent. A beautiful silver scale model of a Firefly dinghy was presented for the best performance in two races. J. Conway-Jones and K. Stables won both races in very severe conditions. In the last race they were the only boat to carry full sail all the way round the course. A.C. Foster and M.J. McNeal were fifth on aggregate.

Meanwhile Paul Cope had taken a party, which included some young ladies from I.C.W.A., for a cruise in a 15 tonner on the Solent. Surprisingly most of the long passages seem to have been made at night.

J.A. Wheatcroft crewed in a Swallow during Jones Week, finishing second on points. While Chichester Harbour Week again saw Faust (F 701) taking the honours in 3 races and second in two more. Conway-Jones was at the helm.

The National Firefly Championships this year saw a record entry -- more than 120 boats out in each race. The social aspects of the occasion were not ignored by the I.C. contingent, which included a privately-owned boat and another borrowed boat, besides the 3 College boats.

In the light winds at the end of the week the performances were rather disappointing, but in a strong wind on Wednesday T.Rodgers was 6th and Conway-Jones 7th. Stables was 5th in the practice race. The lack of success of I.C. helmsmen in lighter winds has been noticed before. Current theory would suggest that the rate of recovery from the previous night's festivities is directly proportional to the strength of wind (bearing in mind the yield point of cobwebs and the viscosity of haze etc.). This was noted again at Burnham Week where Tony Rodgers and Anton Brown were sailing F 654. It was found however that a correction must be applied when a particularly good wind follows a particularly good party; the result is a capsize. However Tony still managed to finish 2nd. on points for the week.

The summer season finished with the University Marine Week at Hayling Island. Chichester Harbour provided innumerable opportunities for getting into trouble and I.C. members were well to the forefront. Rumour has it that several young ladies from Bedford will be making determined efforts this winter to learn to helm for themselves before the next Marine Week.

Winter sailing at the Welsh Harp with the other London Colleges commences on Oct. 9th.

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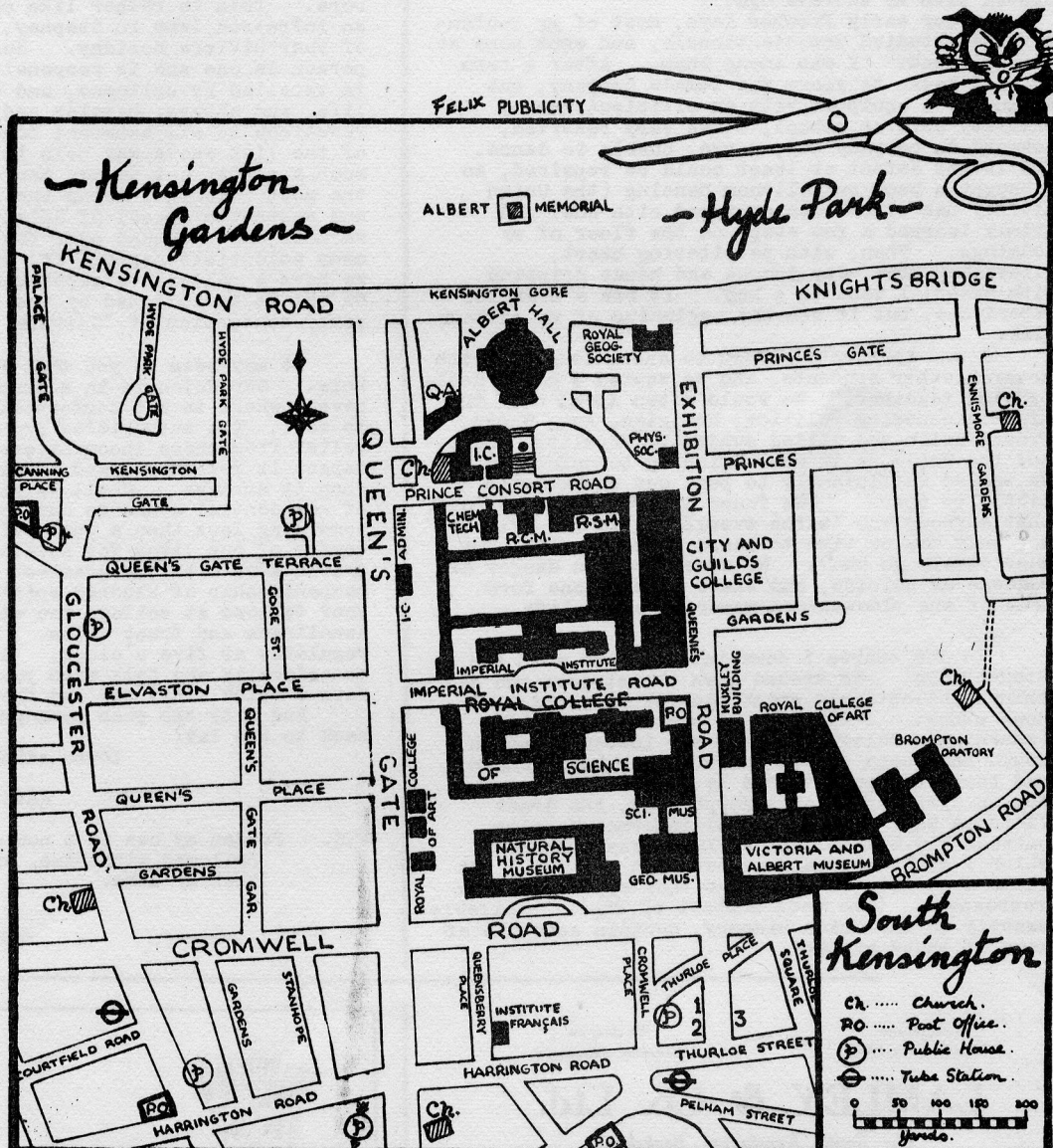
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more SPORT

I.C. FULL COLOURS 1953-4

I.C.W.S.C.

M. Brown, D.M. Goodway, B. Griffin
Gillen, M. Hawes, J. Findlater.

BADMINTON.

N. Ginn, J. Kirch, G. Lawrence,
A. Prosser, A. Walker.

TABLE-TENNIS.

A.C. Graves.

RUGGER.

D. Brown, Bunting, Chester, M.L.
Holman, D. Hughes, D. Hykin, M. Lewis, P.O.
McCann, Pontin, Tucker.

SOCCER.

J. Anderson, C. Brindley, B.P.L.
Hitchen, K. Hodge, J. Judd, L. Locke, D.J.
Moore, K. Richards, J. Scott.

HOCKEY.

B.J. Curtis, M.R. Hayes, D.J. Power,
B.D. Smith, J.G. Smith, J.J. Taylor, J.L. Taylor,
A. Woolaston.

FENCING.

D. Ainsley, J. Knill.

RIFLE.

I.M. Abbott, R.N. Goodley, D.G.B. Horne
S.P.O. Jassinger, P.A. Lemin.

CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB.

T. Bailey, D.J. Pain
N.C.F. Huxford, C.H. James.

SQUASH.

I.G. Macbean, T. Ridley.

HOCKEY

The hopes of the Hockey Club ran high at the beginning of last season, for with several promising new players, and five U.L. representatives, the team appeared to be a very strong one. As the season advanced this proved to be the case, except that the most important match was lost. This was in the 1st. round of the U.L. Cup, when I.C. went down most unexpectedly to Battersea 5-3.

A festival XI ended the season on a note of success at Teddington over Easter by winning all its matches. The only regrets were those of the captain, who had rashly promised to buy a round of beer if the team won all its games, and despite his efforts this was achieved.

OTHER SPORTS

I.C. has always been very strongly represented at all sports, and many other Club and Team events should find a mention on these two pages. Freshers whatever game you play you will surely find it catered for at I.C. somewhere.

On looking back through FELIX of last year, in addition to those activities already mentioned. We find that, in spite of the short season, I.C. Tennis was very strong (some brave souls play all winter!). Golf was well supported by the enthusiasts, as was Judo. The Cross-Country team is always strengthened by track athletes during the winter. The other U.L. teams have always been outstripped by I.C. Badminton. The Soccer team last season did not have the best of luck, the good players being lent to U.L.

And so on, and so on through the Sporting Calendar.

CRICKET TOUR 1954

A high spirited party of I.C. cricketers descended on an unsuspecting Devon last July and returned with the incredible record of 7 victories and 1 draw in eight matches, to complete a highly successful season.

Most of the I.C. players struck their best form, and the fielding was generally excellent. Thurman, Weale, Kitchener, and Hitchen scored plenty of runs, and Ault, Miles, Dytam, and Cook snared the wickets. Dytam was our fastest bowler, and doubtless it was physical exhaustion that caused him to be found unconscious on the floor of the coach at 3 a.m. on the last night. No such excuse could be advanced for Ault's unpremeditated decision to sleep at full length on the floor of a saloon bar in Exeter, nor for Hitchen's strange insistence to sleep in other people's beds, only to be astonished when he woke to find himself there.

The tour began in Plymouth, with fine wins over the Royal Naval Engineering College and the Royal Naval Barracks. The party spent a good part of the third night in Plymouth Police Station --- not as a result of any misdemeanours on their part, but as guests of the City Police, who had been that day's vanquished opponents. This particular Police Station (unlike the one at Hartley Wintney) quickly assumed the aspect of a particularly jolly public house, and the worthy officers of the law revealed themselves

as amiable and entertaining hosts -- so much so that I.C.'s fielding the next day was atrocious, and we had to be content with an even draw with the Marines (Exmouth).

There followed a series of victories against our good friends and traditional opponents at Whimple, Torquay, Brixham, and Paignton, who will be thirsting for revenge next year. I.C. played magnificently throughout the Tour and thoroughly deserved their excellent record.

The return journey was enlivened by an anonymous member of the party sprinting unintentionally into the Ladies' Convenience at Camberley. At first he was mystified by the lack of the usual amenities and loudly declaimed his surroundings, as realisation came, sprinted even faster out again and turned the colour of the proverbial lobster.

Unfortunately we have not sufficient space to publish a fuller account, or to print the scores, but doubtless any member of the Cricket Club will be only too happy to supply you with more information in happy reminiscences over the proffered pint.

All cricketing freshers who aspire to taking part in this great College institution should note June 29th-July 6th in their diaries.

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SPORT'S PAGE

SQUASH CLUB

The prospects for the 1954/55 season are somewhat brighter than they were for last season. Two of last year's regular 1st team members are still with us and should form the nucleus of an improved team; also a number of 2nd team members who should have benefited from their experience in 2nd team matches last year. It is to the freshers, though, that we must look for new blood, so freshers, whatever your squash standard, even if you have never played before, there may easily be a place in one of the teams for you this season or before you leave college. Finally, we wish all squash players an enjoyable season.

The club officers this year are:-

Captain: I.G. MacBean (Rm. 14 Old Hostel)
Hon. Sec.: K.R. Gray (Rm. 23 Old Hostel)

RIFLE CLUB

Rifle Club's Success in National Competition

I.C. Rifle Club wrote a new page in its history of over 50 years by scoring in June of this year its first success in a national competition.

The "A" team won through the six rounds of Section B of the Mackworth-Præd Competition, taking by a wide margin all matches but the first. Mattishall and District Home Guard were the first opponents, and were beaten by only two points when the urgency of the Inter-University League was at its height. Later I.C. equalled its own record score of 790 ex 800, and was always within three points of the record. The team of eight was chosen from the following, all of whom shot at least once: I.M. Abbott, R.G. Cope, R.W. Goodley (Captain), D.G.B. Horne, D. Hughes, S.P.O. Jassinger, P.A. Lemin, J.R. Ryder, R.F. Seaborne, M.R. Sharpe. All are to be congratulated on a fine display of sustained good shooting.

ROWING

This is one of I.C.'s strongest sports, not fewer than eight VIII's being entered in the Tideway Head-of-the-River Race, although results for 1954 were slightly down over the previous year. The first VIII were eighth, beating for the second year running the U.L. crew!

This result was confirmed when I.C. won the U.L. Rowing Cup.

I.C. crews were up and down the river all summer, culminating in the appearance at Henley; here the first VIII maintained its reputation as a crew to be reckoned with.

We hope to include a report on Henley in our next issue.

SWIMMING

Although not one of the more heavily supported sports within the College, the I.C. team of eight won an equal share in the U.L. Swimming Cup last year. This was essentially a team performance because only two places were gained in the individual events; the nucleus of Manley, Stewart, Lampard, Roy and Mc.Chesney bringing I.C. up by wins in the Medley and Free style Relays.

The final result was a triple tie, and was the first time I.C. had been in the first place in this event.

GAMES TRIALS WILL BE HELD AT HARLINGTON ON WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY, 6TH & 9TH OCTOBER.
WATCH THE NOTICE BOARDS FOR DETAILS !!!

ATHLETICS

Due to the shortness of the season, and to the fact that many members of the club were in the U.L. team, I.C. were not often at full strength for fixtures, except the U.L. Championships, in which we were 3rd. Nevertheless, there were many good performances. Trevor Bailey, the most outstanding middle-distance runner I.C. has ever had, last year set up new records for all distances between $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and 3 miles! M. Rickard, H. Pinsent and J.B. Davies, continued to improve.

The R.C.S. won the I.C. sports in the last event, the Relay, when Guilds were disqualified.

The prospects for the club next summer are good, since many of last season's performers are still with us.

ICWSC

For the uninitiated this abbreviation stands for Imperial College Womens' Sports Club. The doings of I.C.W.A. on the sports field deserve publicity because nearly every member seems to do something or other. Not least of last year's highlights were the mixed Netball matches on the Tennis courts. These were held in the lunch-hour and probably had more spectators than any other I.C. sporting activity. Teams of I.C.W.S.C. performed with varying successes at Netball, Table tennis, Mixed Badminton and Tennis. For any game requiring a team of 11 I.C.W.A. has always realised its limitations, since the total membership is only about 40. (except Hockey) At the U.L. Athletics Championships the Sherwood Cup was carried off by I.C.W.S.C., mainly through the all-round ability of four members, J. Findlater, M. Mawes, D. Goodway, and P. Clarke.

RUGGER

Once again the U.L. Rugby Cup has come safely back to I.C., showing that the club is the strongest, as well as being the largest, in the University. Last season was one of the best ever for I.C., and the playing strength was reflected in the fact that six XV's were often fielded. In addition to the normal fixtures, two full-size tours were undertaken, to Holland at Christmas, and to Paris at Easter. The matches played on these tours were won, but the mere winning of matches does not make for successful tours. The exploits of the team at other pastimes on these tours are remembered with affectionate amazement; I.C. Rugger men on tour need no excuse to let their hair down.

The playing strength in the team is so deep that, although several of the senior players have left, the overall standard should not suffer, and the College expects that the U.L. Cup will become a fixture in its show-case.

— IN MEMORIAM —

We mourn the passing of our Sports Editor who has succumbed, but not gone under (Coxes of 1st, VIII 's never go under), to his Part I Exams.

Without a guiding hand on the steering ropes these two Sports Pages are very incomplete, for which we apologise. We hope to include further reports in the next issue. Club Secretaries, who are interested, are asked to get in touch with the Editor through the rack.