



FELIX



NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

Nr. 187

WEDNESDAY, 13th FEBRUARY

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NUS AT LAST?

By J. M. Combes

STORM OVER PRESIDENT'S 45 SEC. ADDRESS

The Imperial College Union decided by a majority of 16 votes to join the National Union of Students forthwith at a debate last Thursday. Main features of the three-hour meeting were brilliant speaking by Finch and Stacey, followed by an irregular outburst by Chandmal who spoke emotionally and out of turn. All present were surprised when the President leapt to his feet after the debate had closed and in 45 furious seconds split the solidarity of the executive with an unconstitutional plea to support the motion.

In a historic secret ballot the motion was carried by 405 votes to 389 with 27 abstentions. The validity of this vote is perhaps weakened by the fact that many either did not stay to the end, or could not get into the hall at all. But the high total of votes cast suggests that the unrest of the previous weeks has made the Union acutely aware of the magnitude of the issue.

FINCH PROPOSES 25 MINUTE ORATION

Mr. Finch spoke clearly and effortlessly for the best part of 25 minutes while elucidating the two points he had to make. First, that I.C. ought to be paying to support a National Body of students; second, that I.C.U. ought to join N.U.S. for the facilities it offers. Referring to the opposi-

tion as "the flat earth brigade," he farsightedly explained that their financial arguments would be dealt with later.

N.U.S., continued Mr. Finch, student national body, and it exists to campaign for student welfare, to focus student opinion. Their views are expressed in a policy statement issued every year giving the opinions of the majority. He went on to give examples of such policies: the University Central Clearing House scheme, and automatic grants for those who have obtained University places. At present N.U.S. is seeking abolition of the means test.

A RESPONSIBLE BODY DISTINGUISHED VICE-PRESIDENTS

N.U.S., continued Mr. Finch, has on its board many distinguished names, e.g., Sir John

Wolfenden and Sir Keith Murray of the University Grants Committee. He added that all three political parties and many National Committee have conferred extensively with N.U.S. They have also submitted many carefully prepared memoranda to Government bodies; I.C. he claimed, has not and cannot do this and thus can hardly claim to be making itself heard. He further quoted instances of N.U.S. bringing pressure to bear on the Government by the use of representatives in the House of Commons.

"Can I.C. do any of this?" he asked, "when it has neither staff nor resources; nor has it representatives in the Houses of Parliament?"

HISTORICAL HANGOVER

Mr. Finch then dealt extensively with the travel concessions available through the N.U.S. agency who arrange many charter flights; also work camps in Europe. He enumerated the benefits due to its members: the Drama Festival, the Observer Mace debating competition, and the numerous and useful N.U.S. publications.

Cont. on page 4

J'ACCUSE

No member of this Union can feel either pleased or even satisfied with the outcome of the NUS debate last Thursday. The motion, precarious and inflammable as it was, was carried through all the legitimate stages of a proper and formal debate until at the very last instant the President, who hitherto had maintained a studied but deceitful neutrality, took into his mind to throw into an already close balance the marginal weight of his own duplicity.

Marginal indeed it was. Merely sixteen votes in a total of over eight hundred are alleged to clinch the case for the affiliation of our Union to the National Union of Students. This too, the result of a voting system so devised as to permit half the people to decide after hearing only half the debate.

At this moment we must accept the liability of weak and unprincipled direction of this Union. We have no excuse for self-retribution. It falls to those who regard as worthwhile the proud reputation of this Union the unhappy task of preserving it from a man who has shown himself anything but trustworthy in his duty. We are forced to recognise a President whose collusion with a particular pressure group has been neither open nor honourable, and who has attempted to perpetrate in the full view of the Union the exercise of his own volition in a manner neither constitutional nor acceptable.

M. J. STACEY.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

See pages 4 and 5

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FELIX

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

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Editorial Comment

Well, well, well, how about that? The Thesaurus has probably got a whole collection of suitable phrases for the occasion—Trojan horse, secret weapon, bolt out of the blue, or just pure and simple, a big shock for the Union. The issue? NUS, of course. The unexpected oration by President Chandmal at a crucial moment in the debate has led to doubts about the validity of what can only be described as a marginal majority, and has undoubtedly led to a serious loss of confidence in the man himself.

If, as seems likely, the President's intention was to clinch the issue, he certainly failed. The issue is certainly not a dead letter, which in a way is a pity. Lively interest created in the Union is all very well, but not when it can lead to public airing of dirty linen.

ON THE SIGHT**COLCUTT**

What a Union Meeting! So we are in N.U.S. Or are we? Many people think Mr. Chandmal has gone too far this time. Well it was a bit unconstitutional speaking after the final summing-up. Did I say unconstitutional? Let's face it, I.C. has not got a constitution, just a set of by-laws, which are O.K. so long as we have a President that we can trust. The Union Meeting was a disgrace—a mockery of democracy.

I wish to apologise to my readers for misleading them. I was sold up the river by this "politician" too. In the 180 issue I said "perhaps he will turn out to be one of the best Presidents this college has had," in the 182 issue I said, "Colcutt, like Asit Chandmal is neutral." I have shown to be wrong. Let's hope that Mr. Chandmal realises that he was wrong before it is too late. Somehow I think it is too late.

I see my friend Mr. Harris has at last revealed the ramifications of his troubled mind. He makes a lot of good points in an article written in his own inimitably hilarious style. A scientific training certainly makes you think straight—what a pity we haven't enough men like him to devote time to his schemes. "Dan the Bomb" tried to organise foreign students at the expense of his academic work. Who is going to run our lodgings bureau and non-organised social activities for anti-social Union members who do not wish to join organised clubs. Anyone spending too much time running the Union will not get a degree. Still, never mind, NUS will run the Union for us. Trouble is, we still need six people with enough spare time to be a delegate to the NUS conferences, and still satisfy their tutors and examiners. The only solution would be to become a Technical College and make Chandmal President.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

As a rational member of this Union, I should like, through your columns, to express my surprise and disgust at the handling of the NUS debate by Union President Chandmal. Entering the Union Meeting undecided, I was surprised that it was not until 2.25 that a speaker against the motion was given the floor, the chairman allowing a speaker "for" to have his say although he had clearly called for a speaker against. I presumed that the President had done this due to inexperience, but was able to make my mind up after the summing up speeches.

Imagine my horror and disgust when after the "final" summing-up speeches, the President, without de-robing, and without regard to his office as chairman, with its implied neutrality, spoke his unexpected piece, just as people were marking their ballot papers.

No opportunity was given to the opposers to reply to this last outburst.

It seems to me that in view of the deplorable action of the President and the very small majority (16 in a count of over 800) the result must be considered invalid. I therefore call upon the President to have the issue debated at a further Union Meeting: if he feels so strongly about the matter he is perfectly entitled to hand over the chair to some neutral person, and say his piece at the proper time. We can then decide one way or another without any recourse to what can only be described as shoddy tactics.

A. D. HARVARD.

Dear Sir,

I should be most grateful if you could help me in finding a pen-friend for the cute Indonesian girl whose specifications appear below.

Name—Mieke Palar.

Address—

Djalan Diponegoro No. 48,
Bandung—Java,
Republic of Indonesia.

Age—20 years.

Interest—International Law.

Languages — English, German, Dutch.

Vital statistics—32, 24 (+ 1%) 34.

Other facts (vegetable, animal and mineral)—No boy friends!

Thank you very much for the help.

Yours sincerely,
International Heart-throb.

TEN YEARS OF THE COLLEGE

It was intended, in this issue, to present an account of the Rector's address dealing with the expansion of the College. Due to the space consuming propensities of the NUS issue, this has been held over and will appear later in the term.

2nd Year Aeronautics Course
February 5th, 1963

My Dear Sir,

When in a recent Felix we were urged to wear our gowns, I was sure that my voice amidst the general clamour of applause would be superfluous. It seems things are not so, therefore I haste now tardily to commend the sense of dignity and tenacious moral fibre of your—alas nameless—correspondent. I wish he would defy that notorious injustice to Undergraduate London, the ban on public Rags.

May I suggest that we should have an Imperial Gown Wearer's Association, pledged to the Wearing of Academic Dress? One can envisage many exciting functions which such a body might organise, such as visits to Cambridge where the Shorter or Baby Doll gown may be seen, and of course to ceremonies of presentation of degrees; members would thus get opportunities of finding out improvements to their existing gowns by the addition of gaily coloured ribbons, hoods and fur trimmings, these last especially in view of our recent inclement weather. I am sure many students would derive much enjoyment from such activities, and if needlework proved an obstacle to some, those of the Fair Sex would no doubt be ready with their helpful thimbles. Thus all can share in the fun together.

Should this happy thought of mine strike an answering tasseled cord in hearts that beat high to the Imperial Ideal, then indeed I have not failed to be undecieved in mistrusting the good sense of my colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER MAY.

Beit Hall,
Imperial College,
London, S.W.7
7th February, 1963

Dear Sir,

Mr. Phillip's letter in your last issue opens new fields in the realm of the descriptive adjective; there are many more that it would now be possible to apply without fear of misrepresentation. At any rate, the ones I used previously must undoubtedly have been correct.

But what was the point of his outburst: Was it to complain at my accuracy (my name, Mr. Phillips, is spelt COMBES), or was it to give himself further publicity (hardly; he assures me that he is both sincere and self-effacing). It may have been to give me publicity (perhaps, if so I am grateful), or to criticise the incompleteness of my article; (some of my choicest remarks were unfortunately omitted by the Editor). It may merely have been an objection to my expressing an opinion in a report on the sacred cow of Imperial College.

I submit, Sir, that his letter was nonsensical, and venture to suggest that further incoherence by the garrulous Welshment be returned to him with your compliments.

I remain, Sir, highly amused.
J. M. COMBES.

Dear Sir,

Is it possible that through the good offices of your paper, an article or statement on the reasons for the unforgivable delay on South Side might be printed? All that has been received to date is a brief duplicated note giving vague promises of accommodation for a certain few, perhaps at Easter.

This is a matter that concerns about a seventh of the student population, and all the students that patronise Mooney's, and yet all is quiet on the Southern Front. If it was known at the time when application forms were being filled in that 1962-63 was as good as out as regards South Side (Summer Term is, apart from the Carnival, the time for exams and premature exodus to vac jobs), one could have planned accordingly.

South Side was due to open last October—now we shall be lucky if it opens by April. Why has there been this delay (typically British) of some seven months? Is it due to prolonged tea breaks, six-month strikes, or just plain bungling by the contractors, giv-

ing an attractive completion date just to clinch the deal?

Whatever the reason, it has deprived some 80 third year students of their chance of two years in hall, and it has deprived 3,000 of the chance of having proper hot meals.

Or is it all caused by Mr. Mooney putting a Norwegian Meat Ball in the works, in the knowledge that things will be the same qualitywise at his food halls, even when South Side opens.

D. G. BISHOP.

WHAT IS THIS O.S.W. ABOUT

"Yes, I've seen those posters around the place and now I've got this leaflet—but I still don't know what this Overseas Service Week is all about." This was said to one of our leaflet distributors last week.

O.S.W. is a collection of talks, films and discussions. These are all meant to arouse some interest in the opportunities for work in the developing countries. If you feel you would like to work abroad, either for one year as a volunteer or for several years under contract, then come to the O.S.W. Information Centre for more details. It is open from 12.30 p.m. to 7.0 p.m. every day this week. We have a marvellous selection of leaflets, etc., to give you. We may even be able to answer some of your questions!

BILGERAMA

To all good Bilgemen; we are celebrating the latest magnificent achievement of the Spitty and Bilge College Union, and at the same time giving obeisance to our great leader, and more especially to our wise, intelligent, witty, modest vice-president, who is writing this article on your behalf.

In a daringly performed raid on the Royal College of Organists, four hundred Bilgemen disguised as organ pipes filtered stealthily into the main hall of the College. With a great shout of the College chant "Oomeenakas," they overcame the caretaker and the solitary student of that College (a certain Hungarian called Mitch Rota), and then seized the mascot of the RCO, "The lesser Tremulo Windpipe," known in the trade as a "Magglowen."

Come along to our next Union Meeting and you will be able to see this mascot being exhibited

together with those of Ballybunion Rural Tech and the Royal School of Minors.

A special attraction will be a life-size model of the President of the Royal College of Signs, into which the Executive can stick pins while muttering weird incantations.

The superiority of the Spitty and Bilge Union in the sporting field is demonstrated by the fact that for the sixth year running, we have won the Intercollegiate walking race from "Mooney's" to the bar. This successful achievement cannot be explained away simply by saying that, for instance, Bilges is much the best College at running (away?). We in Bilges are good, we know we are good, and we tell everyone that we are good.

Remember the date of the next Union Meeting—January 37th, in the Golders Green Crematorium. Yours till H-11 freezes.

CITY AND GUILDS UNION MEETING

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Union Meeting

(Continued)

Finally, dealing with finance, he told of a projected students centre with auditoria and many facilities for which they have a reserve fund of £105,000.

"I.C. is suffering from a historical hangover carried by the flat earth brigade, many of whom are no longer students."

This had been a long introduction, but one which remained with the audience right to the end. Superbly persuasive, he kept to the point continually, despite repeated heckling.

CARTER IN GOOD FORM SHORT SPEECH CONTRAST

Disdainfully ignoring the microphones, and shouting as if the Queens had only just closed, Mr. Carter followed in contrasting style. Heckled repeatedly by a bearded colleague, the speaker used it to good effect and soon won his audience—to himself if not to his sentiments. "There is no such thing as a Universal students view point," he cried, "far better that the College



Carter Speaking

should express its own opinion out of the swamp that is N.U.S." As far as facilities were concerned, he had obtained from every N.U.S. listed firm exactly the same concession offers for I.C. To this there were two exceptions: "a grotty little postcard from Foyle's," and a letter of mammoth proportions containing only two recognizable sentences from the lesser known source. He continued by saying that I.C. is the strongest Union in the country because they did things for themselves; and with a final cry he claimed that we have not enough personnel to run our own Union, let alone that of N.U.S.

PEARSON ON FINANCE "OF NO SIGNIFICANCE"

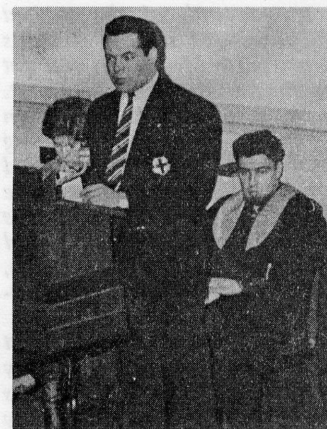
Opening with his customary "Mr. President, Sir," Mr. Pearson gave a detailed and deliberate resume of the financial situation in this Union. Not wishing to cut his own neck he did not suggest that the required £300 be raised from the Club Grants. His point was that since the Union is paying out large sums for such things as gliders, boats, and sports centres, it could easily afford the extra sum for N.U.S. membership. His manner rather than his text was convincing, and he closed on the note that the financial aspect was not of great relevance; the issue should be judged on the points made by the proposer.

MEETING BECOMES CHAOTIC CHAIRMAN LOSES GRIP

At this point the debate lowered its tone considerably and became unfortunately reminiscent of one of the more sporting of College occasions. Heckling, shouting, and laughing assumed gigantic proportions and the speakers were given no chance. **In part the speakers themselves were responsible for failing to control themselves and their audience; but on these occasions it**

is the duty of the chairman to restore order. This he entirely failed to do.

Mr. Johnson endeavoured to make a point but was caught up in the general confusion and eventually sat down unsatisfied. This he took in good part, but the next speaker Mr. Phillips was unable to do any better against repeated rowdy outbursts. Unfortunately, he lost control of himself as well as his oration and the point he tried to make was not very clear; eventually he descended to the level of his audience. At this point Mr. Berry rightly pleaded that the Chairman exert his authority and call order.



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PEACE RETURNS LIDDLE AT HIS BEST

After an inconsequential speech by Mr. Finney proposing that the President's Ball be used to finance N.U.S., Mr. Liddle shed his Presidential cloak and took the stand. This was a fluent and convincing Liddle, an informed and well delivered speech. It was the first time that the opposition had presented a balanced and prepared point of view, and how welcome it was after the previous incoherence. "We are an expanding College and we can barely afford the price of expansion," this was his theme. The £8,000 in the reserve would just about cover the cost of renewing the Union furniture; then there is the sports centre which will need equipping, also extensions at Harlington. The Presidents Ball entertains not only the Administration, but also those who have served the Union throughout the year; as such it is a good and necessary thing. As a parting remark he made a point later stressed by Mr. Oldfield: the Royal Dental College left N.U.S. two years ago because they did not consider they were getting true value for money.

BERRY PERSUASIVE OLDFIELD BENIGN

Mr. Berry, late of Bristol University, followed Mr. Liddle on to the floor. This was a brilliantly persuasive speech; by subtle flattery of the Union, the executive, and the opposition, he wooed the audience into a half-

belief that all would be well in NUS. He started by saying that a Union should provide a service to its members; this the ICU did very well, but 1s. 3d. seemed a small price to pay to extend these services very considerably. He went on to show some of the workings of NUS and proved inconclusively that IC could not be swamped or dominated.

Another excellent speech came from Mr. Oldfield, leaning benignly on the lectern, and questioning the power of NUS in both Union and individual cases. Recently Battersea College Union closed and NUS could at best maintain a meaningless "watching brief." Strangely this point was never answered by the opposition.

MEETING SLOWS DOWN MANY LEAVE

By this stage in the debate people were getting restless. It was almost three o'clock, and the flow of speakers showed no sign of abating. Many had left for lectures, and more continued to stream out. A promise by the Chairman to limit the speeches temporarily halted the exodus. Mr. Turner gave a good personal speech defending the principle of Unions and saying that most would be prepared to pay to go to the Presidents Ball. He ended on the phrase, "the case for NUS is completely and utterly unanswerable." Strong stuff, but for a debater, a rather confined outlook.

Mr. Preece, the Secretary of the Union, followed with the rather vague idea that more work would not be a good thing; he said he was speaking for himself, however, and not for the executive in general.

SUMMING UP STACEY UNBEATABLE

Mr. Stacey gave one of the most polished and convincing speeches heard in the Union for a long time. A pity there was not a greater number present to witness it; certainly it was the best of the day. He was perturbed, first by the emphasis on moral obligation by the proposer, and secondly by the timing of the motion. This, he pointed out, was the most famous cause celebre of Mr. Finch's; why had the voice of conscience allowed him to rest so long and so well (three years).

CHURCHILL QUOTED

In support of his above mentioned remarks Mr. Stacey quoted "It is a fine thing to be honest, but it is also important to be right." And on concessions he added that these can be obtained by anyone; "Philanthropy is a rare thing in commerce." Mr. Stacey could not accept that NUS was solely responsible for all the things for which they campaign, and further suggested that the NUS administration was not as efficient as it might be. Mr. Berry's indignant "a most indelicate suggestion" was shouted



down and the ex-secretary of the union continued. After praising IC and emphasising the responsibilities of its members to their predecessors, he defended the purchase of gliders and boats (not even NUS can get them cut price). He ended with the sentiment that the motion was ill-timed since money is short with the present programme of expansion: "We are faced with a stranglehold, the motion is ill-judged." This was superb oratory and for the first time the opposition began to look confident.

After this Mr. Finch completed his summing up, but his speech appeared listless and uninspired after that of his predecessor.

CHANDMAL SPEAKS ILL TIMED MOVE

It was at this moment that the President, apparently incensed by what had gone before, asked if he might state his views. **The debate was closed and the summing up complete.** While still in the chair he stated: (1) that the extra work involved was negligible; (2) that the financial problem was inconsequential, and (3) that "IC could not remain a princely cloister in Prince Consort Road, but must have a window on the open world by joining NUS."

In his defence it is true that the audience did not object when asked, and true also that he was refuting misleading information; but his method was dubious.

BAD PRESENTATION BY OPPOSITION "ALL MAD"

It is a pity that the opposition did not plan their attack in more orderly fashion; they drove away the votes when they most needed them, and were at their brilliant best at the least effective time.

A final comment on the afternoon was passed by some of the participants:

"Fair debate" said Finch, while Mr. Oldfield took a different view, "I am not satisfied that Mr. Chandmal had the right to influence the voting in the underhand manner in which he did." Mr. Phillips took the attitude "Debaters twisted my words," and from the President himself:

"We are all mad."

PRESIDENT REPLIES TO CRITICISM

First a factual correction: the proposer of the NUS motion finished speaking at 1.55 p.m. Then I said, "It is customary for the seconder of the motion to speak immediately after the proposer, but since the proposer, Mr. Finch, has spoken for 25 minutes, I feel we should have a speech against the motion."—Time 1.56 (not 2.25). At 2.25 Mr. Phillips was speaking the second speech against the motion.

Immediately after Mr. Pearson had finished seconding the motion, I asked for a speech against. When the gentleman who came on to the platform actually spoke in favour of the motion, I was as astonished as everyone else.

It is interesting to note Mr. Stacey's comment. I wonder whether he felt the same way last year, when President Si Lyle (under whom Mr. Stacey was Secretary) did exactly the same thing, viz., indicated which side of the motion he was just before he called for the vote. I presume he did, for Mr. Stacey is an honourable man.

My justification for my action is twofold:

1. PRECEDENT

The President of ICU is not the chairman of a debating society; very often he gives his views for or against the motion just before the vote is taken. This was done last year, and several years ago, and again, by me this year.

2. ASSENT

In spite of precedent, I clearly asked the consent of the Union Meeting in the following words: "Several people have asked me to commit myself on the NUS issue. Is it your wish that I give my opinion on the NUS issue in less than 45 seconds?"

Several people shouted "Ye," and no one objected. I therefore felt that I had the unanimous consent of the Union Meeting, tacit or vocal. (It is significant also that there were no objections forthcoming when I had finished speaking.)

On the basis of these two—precedent, and common consent, I feel that my actions were fully justified.

ASIT CHANDMAL,

President,

Imperial College Union.

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Music and Drama

D. Farrell

Apart from the three or four plays already reviewed, there is nothing new in the West End, which can be honestly recommended, so I'm shouting about something new this week.

Would you like to hear, in the coming month, Andor Foldes playing Bartok, or John Ogden playing Messiaen? Would you like to hear Mozart's Violin Concerto in A Major, Bartok's violin concerto, a "first performance," Stravinsky's "Orpheus"? Would you accept tickets for these and similar concerts for one year absolutely free?

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The content of a typical concert would be Hindemith-Bach-Bartok, with frequent excursions to the extreme avant garde on the one hand, and on the other, the cool, refreshing motifs of the seventeenth century. A quarterly review of all these concerts is available free and on receiving this, one can send off for all the complementary tickets required for that quarter.

So if the processed musical diet of gramophone, radio, and TV is slowly transforming you into a pop culture moron, why not write off to rich Auntie BBC and ask to be invited to some of her concerts (on the Third, of course).

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Auntie Lope Column

In our last issue, there was an announcement that Auntie Lope was opening up a Readers' Advice Column, and for lack of space, we reprint a selection only of the letters received, with Auntie's advice.

Dear A.L.,

My mother let me read the recent report in Sennet. I am neither married or living together. Can I be catered for by an I.C. Society?

—"Urgent" (Physics I).

Dear Urgent,

Having read this report with Mary, we were also worried by the fact that none of our friends were living together either. The conclusion that we came to was that we were normal, unlike the cases treated in Sennet. I am sure that IC can fit you in somewhere.

Dear A.L.,

What is your opinion of a friend of mine who regularly takes girls out, and is friendly towards them. He is not frustrated, or unhappy, and treats them in a gentlemanly fashion.

"Worried."

Dear Worried,

Be it far from my mind to decry his activities, but he is still obviously a bachelor. After six months of wedlock, I am sure that he will see reason and lose his present habits. This will be a GOOD THING (1066 and all that jazz).

Dear A.L.,

I am in my sixth year at IC and have still not been out with a young lady. Is there anyone that you could recommend?

PG 3.

Dear Allison,

The only young lady we can suggest who is definitely not young is the Sportswoman of the year.

Dear A.L.,

I am going to have a baby just before the exams. What should I do?

"Virginia" (NUS).

Dear Madam,

The question is verging on the ridiculous, but I should answer all the questions in section I.

Dear A.L.,

I have a problem in that I am a fresher and seventeen. Nobody has invited me to any of the IC functions. I am seriously contemplating suicide. What should I do?

"Flossie" (ICWA).

Dear Flossie,

I am sure that if you contemplate regularly, someone will invite you to a function.

Auntie Lope is willing to answer serious questions of a controversial nature. Replies will of course be biased, but plain envelopes and free booklets are OUT.

KEEP YOURS FASTENED

Per Ardua ad Nauseam

I remember once hearing a member of this College remark: "The three most important things in life are beer, sport and women—in that order." This remark seems to exemplify much of the actions, although not necessarily the true feelings, of many members of this College. Are these really the three pillars of wisdom upon which this union stand?

There also springs to mind the comment that appeared in a recent "Felix," after remarking that C.E.M. had knocked us out of the Cup in both Rugby and Hockey—"They must be a big College. Naturally they must be—if they can beat us!"

For the people who actively participate in the Union there is a considerable amount of enjoyment to be obtained. But to the rest who don't—i.e., the majority—this Union probably doesn't seem all that is cracked up to be.

"But what more can we do? We provide all the facilities we could, don't we? Far more than most other Colleges do. After all these people just aren't interested."

Not interested in what? The things those who run the Union say they should be interested in?

It is a difficult situation for a college expanding as rapidly as this one, with such a large P.G. to undergraduate ratio, and so many overseas students. But does

providing extensive sports and recreational facilities and then saying, "There you are, now get on with it" define a Union? Is it enough? After all, what is a Union? It's not the building, or a set of rules or even the small group of people who profess to run it. It's all the people who make up that Union. Every single student who is a member is an integral part, and without his participation in some way, no matter how small, both he and the Union lose something. The greatest thing about a Student Union is the opportunity to meet others of widely differing races and beliefs, whether through playing in a soccer team, or just chatting over coffee. I feel sure that a lot more emphasis could be put on non-sporting activities at this college than is at present, and try to give more of a University atmosphere. I remember feeling this atmosphere only once. And that was at a Southampton University carnival rag. We went down there to avenge the stealing of one of our mobile mascots, and finally ended up fraternising with the "enemy," and I remember quite enjoying their Carnival Ball, but not the hitch-hiking home at 4.0 the next morning. That was in my first year, and ever since I have been longing to see a more personal atmosphere introduced here too.

One of the main complaints of those who try to run a Union is the amount of apathy one finds. But how do you define apathy? If a fellow happens to be more interested in something other than what you are trying to arrange for him, do you blame him for not bothering? Would it not be a good idea to find out what these outside interests are, and why he prefers them to college affairs. Could it be we have not provided all the facilities we could?

Did you, for example, enjoy last Christmas? Did you once again bring up enough of your over-eating to feed a dozen people? Or were you one of the less fortunate ones whose home is overseas, or who has no real home to go to? Did you wonder as you celebrated alone, just what the Union is doing for you?

Cont on next page

VOLUNTARY SERVICE AT HOME

You are all no doubt aware this is Overseas Service Week: a week during which I.C. students are being encouraged to go abroad, after graduating, and extend a technically helping hand to their fellow World Citizens of the developing countries. While hoping that this campaign has all the success that it deserves one realises that there must be many among us who, though keen to engage in voluntary service, find it impossible, for one reason or another, to go abroad.

The Commonwealth Service Group was set up specially to tap this enthusiasm. It is a group of young people in the 18-plus age range who offer their services to promote racial integration in this country. This work takes place of necessity mainly among immigrants. The group tries to achieve its ends by three main methods. (1) Learning more about Commonwealth countries from lectures and films at monthly meetings. (2) Working for immigrants. (3) Attracting Commonwealth young people into the Group and so working with, as well as for, overseas members of the Commonwealth. (This last method has been singularly unsuccessful in that the vast majority of members are natives of this country.) Membership of this Group requires no practical qualifications, only a desire to help with the work projects organised during the weekends: and members may give as much or as little of their spare time as they choose. The only demand on the pocket is a subscription of 5/- a year.

If you would like to know more about this Group please contact me via the Maths. letter rack (Huxley Building). I would like to mention, to avoid misunderstanding, that this group is not an I.C. society.

NEVILLE J. CRAMER.

CARNIVAL PAGE

Did you have difficulty finding digs last term? Did it perhaps occur to you that I.C. could have easily compiled a list from the experiences of all those others before you? Isn't this something I.C. Union could do to help towards another aspect of the welfare of its members apart from sports facilities? Or do you think the U.L. Bureau is sufficient? I wonder.

Are you a P.G. who works almost alone in the lab., and finds it difficult to make new friends easily? Are you having trouble with the language? Have you found yourself in a small clique and would like to make some new friends?

Are you wondering where to find the true, purely social, life of I.C. without having to join an organised activity? Can it be at the Saturday Hop(e)?

I have been told of a continental University whose Student Union produces a neatly bound sheaf of printed notes, based on lecturer's notes, for every course. These the students can purchase, and thus enables them to concentrate more on what the lecturer is saying and therefore understand it better. There are dangers in this, of course, but basically it is a good idea. The University itself should do this, but since it doesn't the students do it themselves. Is this too big for I.C.?

There are a great number of things that could be done to improve this Union considerably before we can sit smugly back and say, "We've got the best Union in the country." Comparisons are useless unless you compare what you are, with what you could be. I intend to experiment with these and other ideas in R.C.S. Union to see how much can be done, and find just how it could be extended to I.C. Union itself.

That is why, for me, the question of joining or not joining NUS is rather ridiculous. Charity begins at home, and we have so much more to do here. It's rather like proposing to build a spaceship when you haven't yet learned to build a house. Even if we do get some extra concessions, why sell your bread and butter to buy jam to put on it?

But that's for the Union to decide. As far as I'm concerned building should take its logical course and start at the foundations. (Maybe that's what is wrong with South Side). And that means we should start improving **this** Union, because sure as hell, nobody else will.

M. HARRIS.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE . . .

We're afraid you will have to make your own arrangements about the love, but the food and the music will both be provided at the CARNIVAL LUNCHES, to be held this term. For 2/6 you are provided with cheese rolls and the I.C. Jazz Band. (You are recommended to eat the rolls and listen to the band rather than vice-versa). Many of the College's Top People will be attending these lunches; so if you want to be seen in the best of circles, go to the **Carnival Lunches**!

In connection with these lunches, we should like someone to help out as Assistant Carnival Lunch Organizer. This is an interesting job with many perks (including of course free cheese rolls). If you fancy yourself as a budding Charles Forté, please let the Carnival Office know.

COMMANDOES

Judging by the response to appeals for commandoes, there are large numbers of I.C. men interested in doing something different and exciting at Carnival time. Will all those who have already volunteered please note that there will be a Council of War in Committee Room A next Tuesday (February 19th) at 1.30 p.m. So please attend, all would-be commandoes—and leave your bayonets outside!

STYNX

STYNX is still short of original stories by I.C. students—STYNX is YOUR Carnival Magazine, so hie ye to your garret, men of I.C., and write! Stories are needed most, but jokes and cartoons would also be very gratefully received by the Editor.

OVERALL TICKETS

One product of the questionnaire—which has provided some interesting information about your views on Carnival—was the suggestion that Carnival Tickets be sold which admit the holder to all Carnival Events—Films, Bar BQ, International Evening, etc.—at reduced prices. This will save us work and save you money, so look out for the tickets when they come on sale. And to the person who suggested the idea—thank you!

QUESTIONNAIRE

While on the subject of the questionnaire—the response has been fair, but only fair. There are still some questionnaires lying about the place, so—if you haven't filled one in yet—please do, and return it to the Carnival or Union Office. We should also like to apologise for the fact that the questionnaires were not in all cases distributed with Felix.

EXTRA ATTRACTION!!!

If the present weather conditions permit—as seems extremely likely—then a new feature of Carnival activities will be a Grand Skiing Competition. The exact form has yet to be decided—some prefer a grand slalom down Hampstead Heath, others favour a ski run built on to the Elec. Engl. High Block. We will keep you posted, but in the meanwhile we suggest you keep your skis ready for action.

P.S.—Any volunteers to form a First Aid Club?

PRIZES

It has been decided to award a prize for the best float at the procession and the best staff. Though we of course realize that people will in any case give generously of their time and effort with no

thought of material reward (moral blackmail, they call that) the prizes will, we hope, be a further spur to the efforts of float and stall builders. If this kind of thing interests you (stall building, that is, not moral blackmail—you can leave the latter to us!) let the Carnival office know.

SMALL ADS

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Read THE TIMES

* STUDENTS AND THE TIMES: As a student you can have The Times for 2½d. Write for details to the Circulation Manager, The Times, London, E.C.4

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1963

Last April, at the British Universities Skiing Championships held in the Cairngorms, Scotland, London University gained 3rd place overall, behind St. Andrew's and Edinburgh Universities. Eight Universities competed. In the meantime, the organisation which until recently was purely a Scottish affair, has been greatly improved, and it is hoped that this year more Universities will take part. The organisation of the University of London Ski Club has also kept up with the times, and we are intending to enter a far stronger first team than last year, also a second team. The standard of these teams depends upon the number of top class skiers at London willing to support the University. As things stand at present, we should have at least two internationals in the team of sixes, as well as one or two continental county racers.

The arrangements are to send a training team of seven to Scotland, leaving London on the 29th March, and staying in the same place as last year. A further training party of ten will leave for Val d'Isère in the French Alps on 21st March and stay there till early April. Around the 5th

April, the best skiers from France together with a few others with other training commitments will travel up to Scotland to take part in the giant slalom and two special slaloms on the 8th and 9th April. It is proposed to return to London on the 11th April, travelling probably being by train as it is hoped to get reductions from British Railways. Anyone wishing to come and cheer on the London teams as well as getting in a few days' skiing, is very welcome, and the University officials will be only too glad to help with the arrangements.

Finally, the IC Ski Club in conjunction with the UL Club is intending to send a mixed party of 21 to Zurs, leaving 23rd March for a fortnight. This will be primarily a social party in Austria's top skiing country, the Arlberg. There are only a limited number of places left, so anyone interested should get in touch with the organisers as soon as possible.

The people to contact at IC about any of the above are Colin Williams, President IC Ski Club (Int. 2533) and Andy Kisiel vice-President, UL Ski Club (Int. 2611).

Badminton

The term began with the Club's yearly acknowledgement of culture, in the form of a dinner and theatre outing. After a dinner in somewhat spartan conditions, a last minute dash to "Beyond the Fringe" was made, resulting in about half of us missing the puzzled audience reaction to the National Anthem.

As regards our more mundane activities, the first team go marching on with consummate ease, beating Battersea 7-2, but ironically Chris Harvey and Dennis Forster lost their three-year unbeaten record, which was praised in these columns last term. Last week, they summarily dismissed West Ham, another all Malayan combination, with an 8-1 victory.

After being balked of matches last term through cancellations and postponement, the Ladies marshalled their best team for the annual battle with UC, but unfortunately, the result was a 6-3 defeat, though this was more of a cliffhanger than the numbers imply. The Men's second team continue their enigmatic performance, enigmatic in so far as results are disappointing, although the team is stronger than in previous years. Since the win over LSE I last term, they have lost against UC I 6-3, and QMC 8-1. In the former, Lim

and Raman played well, winning two, but they were not available for the latter match, while R. Clements gave a solid performance. Both matches were marathon five-hour affairs, due to there being only one court available, the match against QMC being more of an exercise in keeping warm. It was played in a converted barn, aptly called "the Hut" by the resident Boy Scouts, and matches were punctuated by the sound of parts of the roof falling down.

The meagreness of club days at Nine Elms is recognised, and extra courts have been booked; it is hoped that full use will be made of them. Finally, the Club Singles tournament will be held on Wednesday, February 13th, and this will give an opportunity to at least one dissident who at the moment complains of the preponderance of doubles play.

J. H. WEDDLE.

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Should you decide to make the Army your career, there are opportunities, providing you are qualified, to convert to a Permanent Regular Commission.

Regular Commissions. To qualify for a Regular Commission, you must be between 20 and 27, have a Degree in Engineering or Physics, or be qualified for Graduate Membership of the Institutions of Electrical or Mechanical Engineers. When assessing seniority, account will be taken of any suitable civilian engineering experience you may have had. By 27 you would be a Captain and earning £1,500 a year, if married. If you were to retire after only 16 years, you would get a life pension of £500 p.a. and a £1,500 tax-free gratuity. Pensions and gratuities increase proportionately to a maximum after 34 years' service. For service from 10-15 years you would get a tax-free gratuity, ranging from £1,150 to £2,300.

Further Training. Specialist and post-graduate courses are provided to augment the training you have already had. If you are interested in following this worthwhile career, write now, giving your age and educational qualifications, to:—

Maj.-Gen. D. A. K. Redman, O.B.E.,

The War Office (A.G.21), FKS, Stanmore, Middlesex.

There are vacancies for similarly qualified women in the W.R.A.C. Such W.R.A.C. officers are permanently employed with R.E.M.E.

IC AND THE WEATHER

By the Sports Editor

Despite the effects of the weather on their activities, the "big three" sports clubs are holding regular training sessions in an endeavour to maintain all-round physical fitness.

The first XI who have yet to play their second round Challenge Cup match against Goldsmiths, have a varied programme which includes swimming, circuit training, and cross-country running. The Hockey Club admit to playing the occasional game of basketball while the Rugby Club are making every effort to ensure success in the UL Sevens Tournament, beginning on March 2nd.

As far as women are concerned a reliable ICWSC source interviewed recently disclosed that "we are confining ourselves to indoor activities." The details of the training programme have not been released.

The other Clubs report steady attendances, the Swimming Club being the most active. With three teams entered in the UL Water Polo League, there are games every Friday, and the first team players are averaging two games a week. The hardest sportsmen in the College appear to be the members of the Boat Club—Wednesday and Saturday outings have continued unbroken by the Arctic conditions, the Thames refusing to freeze over at Putney.

Future prospects? Harlington is still covered with a layer of ice and snow, and there is little likelihood of matches being played there until at least a week after the thaw sets in for good.

Meantime, anyone for chess?

FOR SPORT UNAFFECTED BY THE WEATHER—

TAKE UP SQUASH

The Captain of Squash is feeling smug. There can be few other sports clubs which can claim to have achieved "business as usual" throughout the cold spell.

The largest event this term was our week end at Oxford on 26th-27th January. Despite the gloomy weather forecasts from the AA, our fleet of five cars, containing three teams arrived without mishap.

On Saturday afternoon, our pride was shattered. Not only did all the teams lose, but the first V, with a previous record of 15 wins out of 16 games, was routed 5-0 by St. Edmund's Hall. This College we had defeated by the same margin last term. Perhaps there were extenuating circumstances—notably a thin layer of ice over the playing walls, making the ballistics of the ball quite unpredictable. Nevertheless, the same difficulties faced our opponents, and we were fairly defeated.

The 2nd team were playing another College, Queens, using the next door court. They encountered similar icy conditions but acquitted themselves better, just losing by three marches to two. The girls' team played Oxford Univ. losing 5-0. They then returned to London alone,

which seemed an unwise move without the care and protection of the men's teams.

The evening was spent in a variety of fashions. No detailed statistics are available, but the Captain can confidently report that no one spent it preparing for the next days' matches. In the theatre, I had a brief moment of embarrassment when I was found in the corner of the bar, not only drinking a glass of Alka Seltzer, but offering some to the barmaid as well. However, I got my own back when I caught Dick Gibbons snoring his way through the second act. Peace finally descended on Oxford in the small hours when Adrian Erskine stopped throwing snowballs through the window to attract his landlady's attention.

Sunday morning saw the first team scoring the first victory of the weekend, defeating Worcester College 4-1. After lunch both teams played a final match, the first V defeating Magdalen 5-0, the second losing to Keble 3-2. After that, we split up, seven staid and sober PCs returned to London, while the three undergraduates stayed on for a final cocktail party.

This rather brings me to a final point, linked with the title of this article. Where are our up and coming undergraduate squash players? Of the twelve players who have played for the first team this session, only one is an undergraduate. Unless some of you take the game up quickly, we shall run out of players in a year or so.

PETER SCHOFIELD.

RUGBY FIVES CLUB

Fortunes have been mixed so far this season. Of the first team fixtures, the match against a very strong St. Thomas's Hospital team (which included three UL players) resulted in a draw. The game against UL 2nd team was won quite comfortably, but a team weakened by reserves suffered defeat at the hands of the Jesters Club. We were also beaten by Glove Club.

Fixtures in the near future include St. John's, Cambridge, Bank of England, and a return fixture with St. Thomas's Hospital. As soon as the courts are desnowed, it is hoped to renew the Wednesday afternoon practise games—anyone wishing to play is welcome to come along. We continue to pray for covered courts.

S.McF.B.

YHA GROUP



A GOOD WEEK-END IN YORKSHIRE

Late on Friday, 1st February, a coachload of YHA members from IC, QEC and Bedford College set off for Malham, in the West Riding, near Skipton. The snowy weather, which promised good walking, did not however lend itself to driving 200 miles. The coach skidded first in the Edgware Road, but neither this nor the frequent snow showers on an icy road prevented our driving up the A1 at high speeds. We reached Malham Youth Hostel with time in hand, after passing Skipton where some of us straightened out an articulated lorry that was blocking the road.

Saturday and Sunday were days of beautiful sunshine, that left everyone two shades browner, and this, coupled with the few inches of snow, was probably the best weather enjoyed on a winter weekend for some years.

On Saturday, most of the party visited Malham Cave, the geologists' paradise, and nearby Malham Tarn, which appeared merely as a large flat area. We returned to Malham for lunch (two pubs) and in the afternoon visited Gardale Scar, where 200 foot limestone cliffs overhang the stream, before spending the night in the very comfortable hostel.

On Sunday, a longer walk

across the moors in search of a small and more elusive cave was enjoyed by all, returning to Malham for tea, then boarding the coach for the return journey. The roads were much better coming back, and after an uneventful journey, we returned to the Union and sought our respective beds.

R. E. HOBBS,

Sec. YHA Group.

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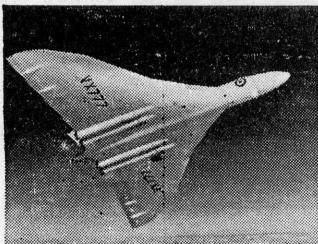
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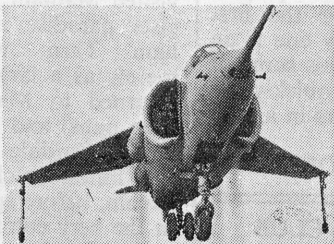
is arranged for pertinent academic study.

Bristol Siddeley representatives will be visiting the College on 21st February. Students who are interested in obtaining further details of these opportunities should apply to the Appointments Board to arrange a meeting.

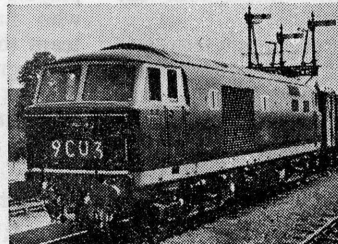
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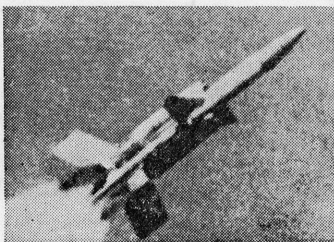
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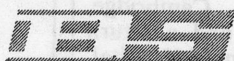


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