

3^dEVERY
FORTNIGHT

No. 47.

FELIX



6TH MARCH 1953.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE

OU ETAIENT LES JEUNES FILLES?

A surprise Rag meeting was called in the Union last Friday lunch-hour. The crowded Gym was told of I.C.'s plan to kidnap the three French students who were coming over for the Reading University Rag. These ladies had been invited by the men students of Reading to lead their Rag Procession. Reading women students objected, of course, to this slight on their physical charms. They appealed to the men of London Colleges (and in person to the P.M.) to uphold the name of British womanhood and protest at the arrival of these French "lovelies". I.C. were certainly glad of an excuse for a rag, but they had their own ideas about what should happen to the visitors. The plan was to "coax" them to come to the Residents Dinner and Ball on Friday night, and then dispatch them to Reading on Saturday morning.

FELIX arrived early at Victoria and witnessed the dramatic entrance of I.C. They were heralded by a subterranean rumbling, then with a crescendo of I.C.I, I.C.I! (still no war cry!) they burst from the Tube stairways and in seconds had enveloped the station. The leading banner ("Le diable a votre derriere Jacques, I.C. est content") was hoisted to a place of prominence and I.C. were momentarily hushed as they learnt, from the newspapers, that the girls were not coming. Then the men of I.C. looked at each other with a mild surmise: "t'is a Fleet-Street-Reading Conspiracy" and spirits soured again. Singing and chanting stirred Victoria's rusty frame; banners were set alight only to be trodden down by the police; police reinforcements poured in. The train arrived; no French girls. I.C. dashed to cover all exits and would allow no one to leave the platform. Two young things were reported to be hiding in the Customs shed and the Police or British Railways Staff were suspected of ill intent. Throughout this whole business every one kept in good humour. The public thought it a great joke; the porters loved every minute of it and the police although pelted with flour bags (not thrown by I.C., FELIX is pleased to note) were broad grins. One irate taximan who was losing considerable custom, was heard to remark, however, "B- lot of hooligans, causing all these b- gates to be b- well closed."

Members of the Staff prominent in the crowd during this waiting period were a well-known duffle-coated member of the Physics Dept. and an equally well-known member of the Maths. Dept. "Hector" was also prominent. "Hector" was a fierce-looking tiger's head, supported on a pole, which was snarling viciously at every blue-coated gentleman in sight. This head was found unaccountably over the entrance to Mines on Friday morning.

Soon I.C. had to admit that the trio were not on the train and the Police were able to clear a passage for the passengers to get off the platform.

The College returned to the Union in two forces. One walked back taking a railway trolley and the usual booty, and lost one member to the Police. The other group travelled by tube and were grieved to find that Kensington didn't want them, or so it seemed, for S. Ken. Station was heavily barricaded. The defences were overcome, for only one militant portress wielding a broom offered any resistance.

UNION PLANS.

Contemplated additions to the Union came in for a good deal of discussion at the Refectory Committee Meeting on 23rd February. The Student Presidents expressed the opinion that current proposals for two extra floors above the Union are inadequate; and that all should be done to have a site elsewhere.

A working party is to investigate the possibility of Silwood Park supplying us with fruit, vegetables, poultry and pigs.

The Refectory looks like having a deficit the same size as last year's, for while prices have risen, 20% less meals are sold. Food supply costs have also risen. Nevertheless, the current meal prices are to be retained. Appreciation was expressed of the fine work done by the chef in preparing meals for people returning in the late evening from Canvey.

The suggestions book in Queenies' is not being used to the best advantage. Neither is the buffet service on Saturday dance nights (the fate of this hangs in the balance).

The Refectory will close from April 1st to 9th inclusive.

Offering from Victoria to Albert

So I.C. gathered near the Union and feeling in need of spiritual comfort after their disappointment at Victoria, pleaded movingly for 'Music!' outside R.C.M. This came in the form of a wavering piccolo and a doleful horn. Thus revitalised the crowd turned to their old friend Prince Albert. Indeed it was fitting that they should tell the Prince all that had been happening to Victoria. At a second attempt a police helmet was firmly fixed on the Consort's head, and for nearly half an hour I.C. reigned on the Memorial steps with no Officer of the Law in sight. Then three arrived, on bicycles, through the park to clear the barriers which had been put up across the Zebra, to ensure a safe crossing for the few hundred members of I.C. who wished to pay homage to Albert. More police arrived and an unfortunate scuffle over the barriers resulted in another member of I.C. leaving in a Black Maria.

Meanwhile, tired and disappointed, President MacFie and Co. arrived back from Dover. They had travelled overnight, and had scrutinized in vain the unloading of two boats from the Continent.

An interesting anecdote is recorded, about the crowd which surged past a helpless ticket collector at Victoria. He managed to stop the last two people of the mob, and asked for their tickets, smacking his lips in anticipation of prosecution. They produced season tickets! The collector was at least as surprised as the student who later found himself travelling along Prince Consort Road at 30 m.p.h. on a car front bumper; and possibly more surprised than the Union clocks, which stopped in protest when a porters' trailer was carried in, and have been funny ever since.

In recognition of the excellent conduct of the police on this, our first Coronation Year clash, FELIX suggests that the Rag Committee make a collection for the Police Benevolent Fund.



We print the correspondence which led to the affair at Victoria.

President, Reading (Women?) to President, I.C.
HOPE YOUR COLLEGE WILL FOR ONCE SHOW COMMON COURTESY AND MEET FRENCH GIRLS VICTORIA FRIDAY DRESS OPTIONAL

President, I.C. Union to President, Reading
ALWAYS WILLING HELP BACKWARD PROVINCIALS STOP WHAT TIME QUESTIONMARK OUR COURTESY IS FAR FROM COMMON

President Reading (men) to President I.C.
UNDERSTAND INFLAMMATORY TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM READING
UNION COMPLETE HOAX REGRETS

DUKE'S VISIT.

The Duke of Edinburgh has expressed the wish that his visit shall be as quiet and as informal as possible. People are asked to work normally, and to resist the temptation to form a crowd of followers. Those who wish to see him are recommended to be near the corner of Imp. Inst. Road and Exhibition Road at about four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. A full account, with photographs, will appear in the next issue of FELIX. Photographers, private or otherwise, are asked not to impede the Duke during his tour.

FELIX offers its congratulations to U.L. Correspondent Roger Fisher who has just been awarded the 25 guinea Sir Arthur Acland Essay Prize, for his entry "The Problem of Progress".

PROFILE

MR. JAMES

Mr. F. W. James is well known both to students and staff, either in his capacity as Librarian of Guilds or as Hon. Treasurer of I.C. U.A.C.C.

In the first position, his helpfulness and his equable disposition, his astounding memory, his knowledge of chemistry and his amateur interest in wireless and television give him a general knowledge in engineering which is invaluable to the students, and combine to make him an extremely popular librarian.

His scientific leanings first became apparent at a small grammar school in Pembrokeshire, where the headmaster, a crack shot and an enthusiastic disciple of Isaac Walton, was very generous in the award of half holidays on days which promised him good sport. Unfortunately, anyone acquainted with Pembrokeshire will know these occur only too rarely.

Having learned all that Wales could teach him, except how to become a Nationalist and to master the language of the Land of the Leek, he now came to R.C.S. During his first year there his patriotism received a serious shock, which suppressed it for ever, when on St. David's Day he arrived sporting a magnificent leek, and was invited by his fellow students to eat it in its entirety or to suffer degradation too horrible to relate. These and other incidents convince him that student life in the late 1930's was much more exciting than it is to-day. However, he came through all these trials, and only retained his accent to bear witness to his Welsh origins.

Having graduated, he took up research in the field of rubber-cement mixtures, and worked as Research Assistant to Prof. R. G. H. Clements in the Guilds. He was called up in the army and served his country until 1946 when he returned to the College as Librarian. His experiences in the army, though uneventful, considerably enriched his knowledge of human nature, but the stories of this period of his life are better left to his own telling.

On his return he found the Library in need of recataloguing and started on the job with great zest. However, when this was half completed he learned that the Library would be moved to its present position to allow for expansion. He then abandoned cataloguing and started getting ready for the big move. This took place just before the summer vacation of 1951; during that time Mr. James could just be seen emerging behind piles of books, dust-covered but ever cheerful. He still found time to deal with ordinary enquiries, but at first a bit of luck was needed to find a particular volume from among the chaos reigning on the shelves. Old and musty volumes came to light for the first time in many years and have found space on the shelves.

The Mines Entertainment Committee are urgently seeking a piece of canvas approximately 10' X 60'. Anyone who knows its whereabouts is requested to convey it to the Secretary, B.L. Fenhoulet.

BO'S CONTEMPORARIES.

After the Minutes of the meeting of 1st Feb. 1907 had been read, the chairman, Col. Mervyn O'Gorman, introduced the speaker Mr. T. G. Rose, at the Eng. Soc. and Motor Club meeting, Feb. 26th. The lecture, a repeat of "The Influence of motor Racing on Car Design" was originally given in 1907 by the same speaker, with the same Chairman, and partly the same audience.

Beginning with 1896, when the winner of the Paris to Bordeaux and back averaged 15m.p.h. for 48 hours, solo with only 20 minutes stop, Mr. Rose traced automobile design up to '06. He mentioned the time when a Prefect of Police put two columns of infantry and four heavy guns in the path of a race; the time when Janassie on "Le Jamais Content" did 65.3m.p.h. in '97; the unforgettable occasion when three million spectators covered the route of the '03 Paris-Bordeaux, and twelve were killed. That put the tin hat on the French long distance races. The winner averaged 65m.p.h. So shaken was the Government by the toll of casualties that the cars had to be taken home by rail.

Mr. Rose showed 48 slides and was never dull; he knew his stuff intimately. He described the Darracq cars, which in '04 reached 104m.p.h. They were rather heavy, and after the lecture Col. O'Gorman described how, as a judge, he once had to weigh a Darracq to make that it was inside the 1000Kg. limit. Although the gearbox top had been replaced by paper, the frame drilled, and everything slingable slung, the car was still too heavy. Late that night, Col. O'Gorman was roused and asked to reweigh the car. He found that it was within the limit. Mystified, he asked the mechanics how they had done it. They said, "we turned the car upside down and shook it". This shook Col. O'Gorman, so he turned the starting handle, just to make sure. There was no resistance. The valve seatings were gone. The car did not qualify.

Slides of a '05 Guilds car race were also shown.

Congratulations to the societies concerned for organising such an interesting and entertaining event.

Mr. James's equanimity was never more apparent than at this period and largely contributed to the smooth way in which the change-over took place. He has now settled down to recataloguing, though his natural pessimism makes him fear that the expansion of the College will probably mean another change in the future, a prospect he can hardly face.

Despite the large amount of work to be done, Mr. James, whenever he can afford the time, is very willing to talk on a large variety of subjects. He will discuss the construction of wireless sets, amplifiers and television sets with anybody interested, but usually in the last case his advice is "don't". His own personal experience ended in failure, since, after six months of vicissitudes trying to remedy terrible distortions in his picture, he went out, bought a set, and is now such an enthusiastic viewer that he has lost all interest in T.V.'s technical delights.

He enjoys classical music and his opinions on modern art and music are surprisingly strong coming from such a mild man. He also likes reading, but not detective stories. He believes in the policy of 'Live and let live'. He is an inveterate pipe-smoker. A long time ago he decided to give up smoking but after a few days his temper became so excitable that his wife presented him with a good supply of tobacco and the advice to put that into his pipe and smoke it. He has never repeated the attempt, and encourages students in this habit, allowing smoking in the Library.

He is also a great lover of animals, and of cats in particular.

As far as his post of Hon. Treasurer of I.C. U.A.C.C. is concerned he can only think of one reason for his selection. In one memorable staff-race he fought gallantly for last place relinquishing it, in true sportsmanlike fashion, to his rival, who received a magnificent booby prize of a golliwog.

All these are just a few aspects of his character as those who know him well will probably realize. His sympathy and understanding for others, his conscientiousness towards his work are very noticeable, but I think that it is better to finish on the story which he himself considers his most embarrassing moment:

A former member of the staff asked him if he had seen various scientific articles in an encyclopaedia published by a well known daily newspaper. Mr. James, having a very poor opinion of this particular paper, said: "No, but if they are comparable in accuracy to the scientific information published in the paper, they are, without doubt, unmitigated rubbish!" At that the member of the staff smiled, paused and said: "I wrote that section of the encyclopaedia."

We apologise for the absence of a photograph of Mr. James.

EATING AROUND I.C.

This week's recommended 'eating houses' cater for two types of lunch hour. The first is prompted by the feeling that sandwiches and coffee in the Union are, while commanding the required sum, not of sufficient interest. Your correspondent feels that the Pelham Snack Bar - not to be confused with the Pelham Grill - is worth a visit when this is the case. Here a lunch of soup, followed by beans, spaghetti or Welsh rarebit and so on, with a roll and coffee can be had for just over two shillings. The girl behind the counter is very charming, as is the clientele - I mention this because I feel that environment is as important during the lunch hour as the food we eat.

The second type of lunch you might require is of substantial plain fare. I mean by this such a meal as: soup, "cut off the joint and 2 veg." rhubarb and custard and perhaps coffee; for this I recommend the "Bath Bun Shop" in Kensington High Street, it is on the left, going west, almost opposite Slater's Restaurant. The "Bath Bun Shop's" clientele is small and you can be sure of a table downstairs at all times during the lunch hour. The price here is, 2/9 or 3/-, and as an added incentive shall I add that they sometimes serve a delicious tripe!

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL.

A longish walk along Fulham Road brings you to no. 208, SALAMIS Restaurant, where you will find tasteful impressionist water colours, uniformed waiters, serviettes, spotlessly white cloths, and a very good meal for 2/8d. The cost may mount a little, as a roll and butter is 4d, and coffee 6d, and there is a small surcharge; but it is an excellent place to take a guest. If we used the star system Salamis's would get the maximum.

THE KENSINGTON ORACLE.

In a not very informative article, the "Evening Standard" profiled Professor Levy, "Britain's Spotlight Scientists" (4). It is reported that he hedged questions about his political affiliations, though he affirmed his Marxian beliefs. He made some of his usual comments about the popular press, British and Czech. It is our opinion that he made more, which were not printed.

Felix



THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Editors: A.R. Bray

Circulation: 1200.

A recent correspondent in the Letters column advocated a return to the use of student academic gowns, his idea being the construction of an atmosphere of learning; of belonging; of a University. He was joking, but there is a fundamental truth behind the joke.

Our Post Graduates are notorious for their lack of interest in Union affairs. Most of them know the "well-bred club" atmosphere which exists at some older universities. There are places which have Professors no better than ours, laboratories and theatres no less antiquated, and yet which turn out men much more suited to taking top places in industry. The answer? Atmosphere.

If the present scheme for adding two floors to the Union is carried out, we shall be sitting pretty. There will be plenty of room for all activities; room for calm reflection, and room for companionship. Long ago, it was realised that our Union, built for 600, was far too small for the present 1600; and it was decided that it should be increased. And it appears that those long planned increases are to occur now. How lucky we are!

But when we remember that we are to double our student population, things look a little different. The scheme which will add two floors above the gym, cannot include much extra hostel accommodation, and while it might have satisfied 1500, it will be hopeless for 3000.

Let us look ahead. It is well known that those who live in the Hostel have social advantages denied to the rest of us. If our present Hostel residents were all to disappear overnight, social and athletic life in the Union would die; for those people are the cream of I.C. Many of them are much the same as the rest of us, but they have developed and matured in the stimulating conditions of a life which involves constant close contact with other intelligent and tasteful people.

The solution: the only solution which can be seriously considered in the light of the Government's heart-cry for enlightened leaders of Technology, is that there should be a large hostel in a single unit, with a single compact Union closely interwoven into it. Every student should be able to spend at least one, and preferably two years in that place: that place which may come to be a real University.

Now is the time for action. If we add our two paltry floors, spending a large sum on a scheme which is from the start obviously inadequate, then we severely jeopardise our chance of being able to build a new Union later.

The Technological University is not an idle opium dream. It has a greater chance now of coming into being than it ever had before. But, at the heart, it does not lie solely in spotless and up-to-date laboratories. It can only be founded on a nucleus, a colossal nucleus, of intelligent, broad minded University men; men whose science degrees are not the objects of scorn from veneered Oxford men. It cannot rest on tin trays, and a gabbling refectory, and overcrowded lounges, and long tube rides, and isolation from fellow students, and all the other things which combine to make the average I.C. product a narrow (though efficient, within limits) technical sausage.

This being the most important matter ever tackled, or ever likely to be tackled by FELIX, your views are, to put it mildly, welcome.

U.L. DEBATE.

I shall never understand why the frivolous always has a greater attraction for the undergraduate than the morally or politically important; especially when the latter directly concerns his career.

On February 20th the motion - "It is better to have loved and lost - much better!" was carried by 25 votes to 22 with 8 abstentions, while the following week a flow of only 20 debated "This house believes military service is not a service to the community." That it was carried by 18 votes to 2 must have been as much due to the sincerity and experience the secretary of the non-conscript committee brought to its defence, as to the lack of logic in Commander Ransome's opposition. It was also unfortunate for his cause, and discourteous to the house, for him to leave during the course of the debate, whatever the excuse.

Roger Fisher

"The interior of the Senate House looks like Hollywood's version of Cleopatra's Bath" - Prof. Read.

A MASCOT AT LAST.

"Herbert", our new mascot shook its gay plumage and blinked its wicked eye for the first time at the I.C. Union Meeting on the 24th February.

"Herbert", a Phoenix, named after H. G. Wells the founder of FELIX'S contemporary is at present 2' 6" of vividly painted plaster. But a metamorphosis is believed to be imminent. "Herbert" will then emerge in his final form of concrete or aluminium; which it will be only the Gods can tell (and the I.C. Rag Committee who anyway, since the Union Meeting, must have moved their digs to Mt. Olympus).

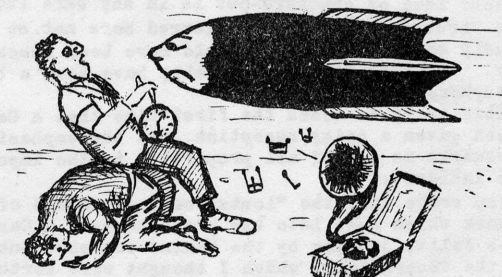
All those who have not already seen "Herbert" are urged to support I.C. at the U.L. Rugger Cup Final on March 14th, where it is rumoured He will be giving a ceremonial "fly past", and (we hope) a Victory loop.

The other important news at the Union Meeting concerned I.C.'s plans for the Coronation. The President, after telling us that I.C.'s allocation of tickets for the U.L. Coronation Ball was only thirty-five, suggested that I.C. should run their own Ball on Coronation Day. This suggestion was loudly approved. The provisional plans for this Ball include dancing in all four rooms, a buffet in the Snack Bar, and a Beer Garden in the tennis courts.

Sports Day, on June 4th, is to be a general College holiday and it is hoped that it will be a "Gala" affair, with Clubs and Societies running side-shows and everybody encouraged to "make a day of it". The Gliding Club hope to give a display. There was considerable discussion at the meeting, on where the Sports Day Hop should be held. Harlington, the Union and something "floating" between the two, such as a boat on the River, were all suggested, but finally, as usual, the decision and arrangements were left with the Entertainment Committee. Another proposal which, in the words of the Minutes "was greeted with acclamation", was that the Harlington transport on Sports Day, should be used on the return journey for a Grand Tour of London.

Phillip Allsopp, who is a member of the Ayrton Hall Committee, announced that the serving rate there should improve shortly.

The President asked for the Union's opinion on a strong recommendation which is to be sent by the President's council of U.L., to the University Grants Committee, asking that college refectories are subsidized for meals served in the vacations. The Union gave their full support to the President to vote for this recommendation.



We are asked to insert the following.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Australasian Government announces a limited number of vacancies for PHYSICISTS to be employed as ROCKET TECHNOLOGISTS. The work will be, in the main, concerned with rocket detecting and path plotting. The successful candidate will, for the first 10 years of the 15 years' appointment, perform annual tours of 11½ months in the Western Australian Desert. He will live in a tent, spending the hours of daylight seated in a specially constructed chair, facing the Rocket Base. His duties will involve starting a stop-watch on sighting a rocket, following the path of the missile until such time as the back of his head strikes the ground, then stopping the stop-watch. The salary will be £A400 (less 10% cost of living deduction). In the event of a man losing sight of a rocket the cost of that rocket (approximately £A250,000) will be deducted from his salary. One native servant will be supplied on request (male or female as desired).

The annual leave will be spent at the Base; which is the well-appointed village of Boomalaka (interesting Aboriginal relics), 800 miles from Darwin, 17 days by pack-horse. Only a limited amount of luggage will be allowed. However, a gramophone, eight records and an inexhaustible supply of needles may be included.

The transport of a successful candidate to Australia will be arranged by securing for him a temporary position as Stoker (2nd class) in Her Majesty's Australian Navy.

Candidates should have a good 1st Class Honours Degree, and be fluent in Portuguese and German. A knowledge of Aborigines would be an advantage. Also, a number of vacancies exist, for PHYSICISTS with pass degrees, at the Base. The work will involve supervision of rocket design. Applicants should apply in person to the Personnel Officer, YCE/XF-3: Sect. 8/R Div. Q. (admin.), Boomalaka, W. Australia, N.E.7.

Personal Advs.

For Sale: Typewriter, one. In good working condition. £8 or best offer above. Apply Box. 25, FELIX.

WANTED, for I.C. Orchestra, a tympanist; instrument and tuition provided. Apply Secretary, I.C. Musical Society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

So vindictive and unjust were your comments on the Carnival Cabaret fiasco that they cannot be allowed to go by unchallenged. Your remarks were unjust because you placed all the blame on those who came up from the Bar without tickets, thus casting suspicion on many people who in fact behaved in exemplary fashion. You offered no criticism of the Cabaret itself.

The "Cabaret" began with a harassed-looking gentleman appealing for one of the actors, who was unaccountably and quite unforgivably missing. The same gentleman returned shortly afterwards to apologize for the late start. Surely no audience could be expected to sit through this in sympathetic silence? Matters were made even worse by the appearance of a frowning John Harding, looking like a severe Headmaster, who told us that the Cabaret would not begin until the noise had stopped. Next there appeared from between the curtains a disembodied face, sporting a large moustache, whose owner seemed to be either reprimanding us or issuing a further apology. It later transpired that he was the unfortunate victim of circumstances and no-one in the audience could be blamed for misinterpreting his function.

When at last the curtains opened fully, to reveal John Harding with Joe Lockyer at the piano, the audience fell silent and gave an appreciative hearing to some good and excellently delivered songs.

Unfortunately the sketch which followed depended almost entirely on the ears rather than the eyes of the audience. It consisted largely of two characters chatting amiably to themselves and was quite unsuitable for the occasion. It contained too many dispirited scenes on several occasions when the curtains were closed our hopes of a merciful deliverance were almost immediately shattered by the curtains parting again to reveal the same rather static scene.

It is absolute nonsense for you to write of "louts inflicting their coarse and sordid habits on a crowd of revellers waiting to hear the carefully prepared entertainment of more tasteful artists on the stage." Most of the audience wanted to see people - preferably people they knew well - performing some act which was funny to watch - slapstick of some kind, perhaps. This should have been anticipated by the R.C.S. Entertainments Committee.

Your idea of chuckers-out is in any case ludicrous, as the "brutes" to whom you referred were not so "spontaneously senile" that they could have been chucked out easily. In fact it would probably have been a case of the chuckers chucked.

This is by no means the first time that a Cabaret has been given a noisy reception, and the emphasis in your remarks is out of all proportion to the importance of the incident.

You wrote that the "louts" seemed unaware of the hard work which goes into the production of a Carnival. So does Felix, judging by the unkind comments published about the decorations, which I thought were worthy of high praise. Congratulations to the tasteful artists who prepared them.

Finally, I hope that the brutes and louts who burned "Amanda" on the Tennis Courts have apologized to the Tennis Club for their irresponsible action, which might well have damaged the court surface more than it actually did.

Yours faithfully,

Ed. replies

T. Total

If I may respectfully submit a correction to your chronology, the disembodied face which tried to give a monologue appeared some time before John Harding. I was seated near the front, and it was possible for me to hear the monologue unsuccessfully begun several times. You were at the back among the noisy people, and it was due entirely to their efforts that you were unaware that the entertainment had started. It was the behavior of your colleagues at this time which was particularly objectionable; for once the cabaret was under way the barracking was little worse than normal.

My idea of chuckers out is, I agree, ludicrous. Many of your associates would have been very difficult to remove. Thank you for reminding me.

My criticism of the decorations was, as I explained, an essay in objectivism. I too considered the technical execution worthy of high praise, but I felt that, viewed as an ensemble there was something missing. My remarks were on the general friendly level which I welcome in criticism of FELIX.

I join with you in deploring the tennis court damage. You accuse me of being "vindictive". Yet, before I wrote the Editorial comments on the Carnival I had already written praising those who went to Canvey more than once. Some of these people thus found themselves attacked in one paragraph and congratulated in the next. It is the concern of FELIX to present fair comment.

There has been a tendency for a certain amount of rowdiness at our other dances. It is my opinion that, when we invite ladies to our Union, we should behave properly. I do not withdraw any of my comments, though I am aware that they have done me harm in some quarters.

Finally, if you care to come out from behind your nom de plume, and your friends with you, (those who feel they have been unjustly maligned) I am prepared to print your names under a letter dissociating yourselves from the actions which made so many sober people shudder on Carnival Night.

Dear Sir,

Peter Rowe's letter in the last issue of FELIX needs a rejoinder, for it contains a special plea for the independence of I.C. as a degree conferring body. My intimate experience is only in one faculty (mathematics) of the B.Sc.(Eng.), but from conversations with colleagues in the other departments I have reason to believe that it is not exceptional.

As an examiner for the External degree I would assure Mr Rowe that the maths syllabus is not so inflexible as he thinks, nor are the teachers of the subject so handicapped in the institutions which take this degree. The "External" has a number of defects, as these teachers (and I) are aware, but weakness in teaching and in examination is not among them. Naturally those university institutions which are still growing up would much prefer to have their own degrees, instead of being subject to the London External degree. But the "rub" comes mostly in the field of autonomy.

Mr Rowe wishes the external degree to be equivalent to its internal counterpart. Speaking for the B.Sc. (Eng) there is the 'General Internal' degree and the 'Special Internals' at four Colleges. Moderators appointed by London University in the various faculties do their best to ensure that there is equivalence in the 6 examinations without any hampering rigidity. Their conscientious efforts prove reasonably successful: Moreover, a 'Co-ordinating Board' in mathematics, (consisting of examiners in the 6 examinations together with the moderator) meets annually to examine problems of examination procedure. In fact, the dire results Mr. Rowe decries do not exist. Admittedly there is room for improvement but this will be achieved through informal methods which have characterised London University for so long.

The latter part of Mr. Rowe's letter is more pertinent. Imperial College is large enough and sufficiently well established to stand alone. This has the familiar ring of nearly 30 years ago which saw an earlier drive for a technological university of South Kensington awarding its own degrees. Whether this would "attract more academic individualists" and whether such an influx is desirable are matters of opinion. The teaching staff under the "responsible Professor" have considerable latitude in teaching even now and the moderational system above referred to goes a long way to ensuring that standards are safeguarded.

It is when this plea for independence is linked with expansion of the College that there are signs of danger. The great gain in the Government pronouncement of last January was the announcement of the decision to expand some existing technological departments of Universities instead of building a new technological university or the institution of a purely degree (or diploma) conferring body. Imperial College is not the only college due for expansion; nor is it the only college of London University doing the B.Sc. (Eng.) degree.

The work of expanding the College will be a test of statemanship for many years to come, taxing resources of patience, goodwill and negotiation - from the Governing Body to those thought of as lowest in I.C. hierarchy. In my opinion it would be folly to rupture the good relations between the Senate House and Imperial College so splendidly built up in recent years by pressing for independence. London University through its Court and in other ways, endeavours to deal fairly with its constituent Colleges and our College is fortunate in benefiting from the personal touch. The strife engendered by such a move for independence would not be worth the candle. The work of the 3 colleges forming I.C. is well-known, the qualifications they confer are honoured 'labels' and there would be no gain, either to students or to the College, in a 'new fangled' degree. London University has a long and fine tradition and its degrees have a 'hall mark' the world over.

As one who has been a member of the teaching staff for over 30 years and remembers the days before 1926 when the College had, perhaps, a better claim to press for a separate University status I would urge Mr. Rowe to think again.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Hatley

Dear Sir,

Our President, Fred Spriggs has been invited to represent London on a delegation which the Student Labour Federation is sending to the U.S.S.R. for a fortnight in the Easter vacation. There are seven people in the party, and I understand that four, apart from Mr. Spriggs, are not in the Party.

This is an excellent opportunity for acquisition of some first hand knowledge of Russia; and we hope to obtain the support of all students in I.C. A meeting is to be held soon to discuss aspects on which our man should once entrate (assuming he has any choice in the matter), and we extend a cordial invitation to anyone who wishes to attend. Details will appear on the Pol. Soc. noticeboard.

Yours etc.,

A.S.J.Farrow

Hon. Sec. I.C. Socialist Group.

The extent to which research in guided missiles has progressed was demonstrated in a most unexpected quarter on Tuesday the 24th - in the Geology Dept! A veteran pram, but complete in all its essentials, suddenly appeared there in the afternoon, marked "To Dr. Gwyn Thomas, in anticipation - this year? Next year? Sometime?" On dismantling, no trace could be found of any radio apparatus. It remains an unsolved mystery, as not only did the pram propel itself to the second floor, but perched most precariously on a cubic rock which has been there for a long time. The aid of Callaghan Investigations is being sought, Holmes having declined to investigate.



THE FELIX

FILM OF THE FORTNIGHT

"THE LITTLE WORLD OF DON CAMILLO" (Italian Version, American Commentary, English Sub-Titles) - La Continentale.

The advertisements outside La Continentale say something to the effect that this film is "The Greatest of ALL Time". For myself I would not speak of it with quite this degree of enthusiasm, but it certainly ranks among the greatest. I suppose that most people think of it primarily as a comedy even after seeing it, but from my scant knowledge of the country I would consider it to be a sincere caricature of Italian village life just after the late war.

The film, being a caricature, the communists do not escape caricaturisation. Parades, red flags, hammer and sickle, and "Comrades": all these familiar symbols are stressed, but behind it all we are shown the difficulties which they are faced with are the good work of improvement that they do; so nicely are all these aspects balanced that the film is neither anti- nor pro-Communist in outlook, and could not possibly offend anyone politically.

And now what of the two main characters in the film, the Priest, Don Camillo, and the Mayor Reppone? They both want to do all they can for the improvement of the village, "but in their own way" as the commentary says. This is not really so, however. As the story unfolds, we find more and more that they actually do things in the same way. If Reppone has bribed someone to do something it transpires that Don Camillo has bribed him not to, and the issue is more often than not settled between the two with fists; in fact, we soon find out that Don Camillo is the strongest man in the village and in communal fights usually knock s out "Comrades" to a total of a two-figures number.

I said earlier that there was nothing politically offensive in the film, but other points have been under debate on the occasions when Don Camillo is in the church he seemingly discourses with Christ, usually speaking to a crucifix; people of a religious turn of mind may feel strongly about this but surely not after the preface of the film which explains that, in reality, it is the voice of Don Camillo's conscience. The function of this voice is so important, however, that it could hardly be dropped without the necessity of introducing another character, or lengthening the action. It is, in effect, the point of influence of a trend in modern art for economy of line; that is, making one item of your material do the work of many.

The actual function of the voice is to elucidate parts of the story which occur "off stage" and to give us some insight into the character of Don Camillo. Another, less useful, voice, of which the function is uncertain, is the American commentary, which slips in at odd times of silence to explain points to the audience. Besides having an American accent, it under-rates one's intelligence and seemed to me unnecessary. But we can hardly blame the producer for that.

I advise this film for a really amusing evening, but also as one to be remembered seriously, less in its narrow characters, than in its wider implications.

H.C.G.

DON'T GIVE IN -
COME TO THE
SAILING CLUB DANCE
JOHN MORGAN'S BAND
BAR. 8-11.30 SAT.14TH.MARCH.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE DRAMATIC SOCIETY
presents

"THIEVES CARNIVAL"

by JEAN ANOUILH

MARCH 24th-26th.

7.30 p.m.

MR UNIVERSE 1953.

If you are honest, reliable, persistent with your difficulties (but not such as to lose sight of your goal by distorting the true perspective), conscious of time (unless you are on research), and are endowed with commonsense, an appreciation of the virtues of simplicity, an orderly mind and tidy ways (which are far from synonymous); then if you are a proficient and incorrigible doodler (for thence comes much inspiration), and habitually record on paper your mental processes in working out problems, you may read the following paragraph.

An ability to work with others, to pass the ball and forfeit a chance of scoring, combined with a little sympathy, tact, loyalty and generosity; take all these and mix well, then what will you be? You'll be an Engineer, my son.

This was the substance of the Presidential Address given to the Radio Society by C. E. Strong, O.B.E., B.A.I., M.I.E.E., a fortnight ago. The application of engineering knowledge does not receive the attention that it deserves, said Mr. Strong. Then he went on to describe, in a speech which was never dull, the virtues he would look for in a man he was considering for employment. And the greatest of these is honesty.

At the Dinner, also a success, your reporter was struck by the high standard of the student speeches.

Altogether a good show.

ONE SMALL SPHERE.

This year's President of the C. & G. Engineering Society, Capt. Holbein, gave his Address on February 19th. The Address was followed by the Society's Annual Dinner.

During his address on "The first few years of an Engineer's Life", Capt. Holbein gave his advice on a career which for him, he admitted (for the first time in public) had been his life. The President started with a warning. Don't be surprised if the work you do is not the work you were trained for. Many great men, Handley Page for example, were trained for a branch of engineering different from the one in which they gained their greatness. Anyway added Capt. Holbein, you do not start learning to be an engineer until you leave college. The President's main advice, which he stressed greatly, was "Decide what you want to do"; "Make up your mind on your aim in life. Is it security or advantage?" Whichever you want another question should be answered early in your career, "Do you want to deal with people or with things?" Capt. Holbein's other advice was more particularly for construction engineers. Gain experience with contractors and cultivate Accuracy. The worst crime an engineer can commit is. "To stumble over the same stone twice".

The Dinner was distinguished by some fine speeches, not the least of which, by Student Orator Brian Walker, had the audience curled up on the floor, helpless.

COMING EVENTS

SOCIAL.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH. I.C.U. Entertainments Otte Hop, 8 - 11 p.m. Tickets from Union Office Annexe in Friday lunch-hour, price 1/-.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH. I.C.Film Soc. show in New Lounge, 7.30 p.m. "Cottage on Dartmoor", Anthony Asquith comedy, "Flying Doctor", documentary. Tickets on sale immediately preceding the show in I.C.U.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH. I.C.Christian Union. The first of three talks by Mr. M. Goodman will be given in the Botany Lecture theatre at 1.15 p.m. Subject - "The life of Christ".

TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH. U.L.Golf Club. A Film Show, Lecture and Demonstration by W.J.Cox will be given in the New Lounge.

I.C. Dancing Club. N.B. Beginners classes for Tuesday March 10th are cancelled.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH. I.C.Mus. Soc. Brahms Horn Trio. Council Room, C&G.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH. Rifle Club Dinner, Ayrton Hall, 7.30 p.m. Tickets, price 10/-, from Club Officers or Range.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH. I.C. Sailing Club Dance, I.C.U. 8 - 11.30 p.m. John Morgan and His Music. Novelty Dances, etc. Price unquoted.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH. I.C. Political Society. A talk on "A University in Revolution" will be given by Dr. R.Lapwood, (recently of Yenching Univ., China) at 1.30 p.m. No place quoted for the talk.

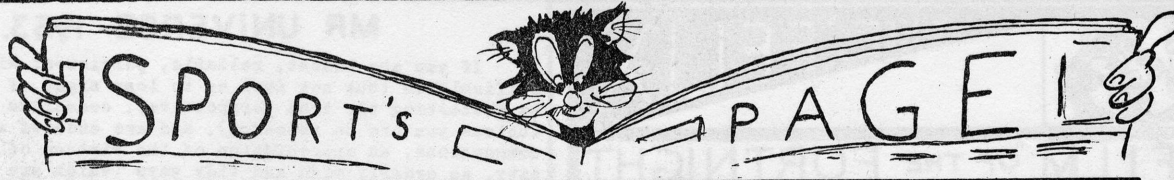
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH. Silwood Park Dinner in Hall, followed by a Dance. Tickets, price 3/6, from P.T. Haskell, Silwood Park, Sunninghill, Berks. Accommodation can be arranged. Formal Dress preferred.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH. I.C. Mus. Soc. Piano recital - Denis Matthews. Place and time as for Mar. 12.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH. "Gold Rush". Double Claim One Guinea. 9 p.m. - 4 a.m. Tickets from Saloon. FELIX on sale.

(Over the weekend 20 - 22 March there will be a I.C.U. Hop on March 21st, I.C.Film Soc. show on March 22nd, also the R.C.S. Smoking Concert on March 23rd.)

The final of the U.L.Squash Championship will take place, March 16th. at I.C. 6.00p.m.



I.C. IN U.L. RUGGER CUP FINAL.

U. L. CUP - SEMI-FINAL

Wye College 3 pts I.C. 9 pts.

I.C. survived their long journey into darkest Kent and are now in the Final for the second successive year, with a good prospect of retaining the Cup. Wye provided much sterner opposition than that encountered in earlier rounds, but generally speaking I.C. controlled the game and never seemed likely to lose. The team was not at full strength because of injuries, but Palmer on the left wing and Bell, as hooker, were able substitutes.

Beginning against a slight wind and a slope, I.C. soon advanced to their opponent's '25'. The first score came after ten minutes when Hearn broke through and passed to Palmer who ran strongly to touch down wide on the left. In the mid-field play which followed the better-drilled I.C. forwards were superior, and our backs, though not always tackling very firmly, were able to check the Wye threequarters, and force them into too-frequent kicking. Just before half-time I.C. went further ahead when Knox landed a good penalty from about 40 yards.

The second half began with a determined Wye attack, and they scored after a high kick into our '25', which was very poorly covered by the defence. Further attacks looked dangerous, especially when another well-judged kick found the full-back out of position, but at this crucial phase the I.C. forwards rose to the occasion and gradually worked play down-field. The remaining 20 minutes were a long siege of the Wye goal line with several near-scores. At the very end Bell fastened on to a strong pass from a defender and crossed for a try.

On the evidence of this match I.C.'s cup team is a strong and well-balanced side. The threequarters do not lack penetration and the forwards are capable of putting heavy pressure on opposing packs. The defence could well be tightened by swifter covering and heavier tackling, but the main thing is to see that an attacking position once gained, is fully exploited by intensive and opportunist backing-up. In the other semi-final Kings defeated Q.M.C. and so will be our opponents at Motspur Park on March 14th.

Cross Country-

In perfect conditions I.C. took 5th place in the annual Hyde Park Invitation Road Relay (6 x 2.75 miles) for the Roderic Hill Cup last Saturday. After being nowhere in the first lap, we recovered to 12th, 10th, 8th 6th and 5th. Although we were improving our position each lap, we were steadily losing time with respect to the winners, L.S.E.

The lap record was lowered to 13m. 9s. by Dunkley of L.S.E., and both L.S.E. and Bristol broke the team record.

RESULT:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. L.S.E. | 2. Bristol |
| 3. Manchester | 4. U.C. |
| 5. I.C. | 6. Nottingham |

There were 28 entries.

Hockey-

STEPHENSON CUP

MINES 2 GUILDS 1

The Mines gave Guilds their worst surprise packet of the season when they defeated Guilds on Wed. 25th February. The score was not a true reflection of the game as the ball rarely left the Guilds' half of the field. The shouts and pricks of their senior players failed to rouse the Guilds' team to any appreciable effort, while the Mines demonstrated what a team with a will can achieve against heavy odds.

Report by a Mines correspondent.



**FOR
AILING SHOES**

KEMPSON'S
SHOE REPAIR SERVICE

44, Queen's Gate Mews,



Soccer-

TECHNOLOGY CUP

R.C.S. 1 GUILDS 0

R.C.S. made sure of a place in the final of the Tech. Cup for the 4th year in succession by defeating Guilds 1-0 on Wed. 18th February. The score suggests a close game but in fact R.C.S. were well on top throughout and only bad finishing by their forwards kept the score down. These two teams are to fight out the Final on the 18th March when another close struggle is expected.

MINES 0 GUILDS 7

A strong Guilds' team easily accounted for a depleted Mines' side on Sat. 28th February. Playing with only nine men for a considerable time the Mines' team could make no impression on the Guilds' defence. However, in spite of the odds the Mines stuck to their task manfully and all praise is due to those players who turned out for their College knowing that their chances of success were small.

Rifle Club-

If any student in his rush along the tunnel at 9.57 on a winter's morning * forgot to turn left and mount the stairs at the end of the tunnel, and went through the basement of the post office and under Imperial Institute Road, instead, he would find himself at the wrong end of the college rifle range; the range being another part of the tunnel (built for the 1851 exhibition) that went from the station to the Albert Hall. In this part of the tunnel, during shooting hours, the club members endeavour to make holes in the right places with pieces of lead.

So far this year the club has done very well. In the Inter-University League the "A" is top of Divn. I, at the moment, having won 3 and drawn 2 matches. They have 2 good teams to shoot against yet, however, Durham (the holders) and Aberdeen. The "B" team is 5th in Divn. II, having won 3 and lost 3 matches.

In Divn. I of the Inter-Collegiate League, the "A" team is now 1st, thanks to the "B" team conveniently beating U.C. "A" - who had beaten our "A" team. The "B" team is 3rd in Divn. I and the "C" team 3rd in Divn. II

* with acknowledgements to B.R.E. passagecaglia last Felix.

Golf-

The Golfing Association is continuing with its long run of successes. Of the 21 matches played in the last three seasons, 18 have been won, 2 halved and one lost against St. Thomas's Hospital last year. Recent results have been two victories against St. George's Hospital and one against University College.

Finding ourselves with a small space to fill, in the evening, Sports Editor Anderson was invited to compose an impromptu poem. His effort is to appear in serial form.

I thought I'd write a sonnet here this morning
Alas it wouldn't come, all in a flash
But suddenly, just as the night was dawning
With space to fill, I thought I'd have a bash,
But space is not as large as you might think, sir

And sonnets fourteen lines must all contain.

GOIN' TO THE
GOLD RUSH, PAL



THE MINES CARNIVAL

IS ON MARCH 20TH.

TICKETS FROM THE BAR

PRICE 1 GUINEA