NEW INGERSOLL:

A Blend of the Past and the Future

By JOSEPH S. JERET

The Ingersoll Hall Extension, affectionately called "New Ingersoll," is celebrating her tenth birthday. Next year, the parent building will be fifty years old. Our Ingersoll complex provides a unique blend of old and new, as well as good and bad.

"Old Ingersoll," which was constructed shortly after Boylan Hall, was the second building on our campus. It was named for Raymond V. Ingersoll, President of the Borough of Brooklyn when the site for the College was chosen and the move made from downtown.

Dr. Mordecai Gabriel, who first came to B.C. in 1945, delivered a welcome address at one of the inauguration ceremonies. As an "oldtimer," Dr. Gabriel is able to view both the past and the future without losing perspective of the present. (Much of the information in this report comes from Dr. Gabriel, to whom the author is indebted.)

In The Planning Stages

As Dean of the (now dissolved) School of Science, Dr. Gabriel handled the equipment requisitions submitted by the individual departments. The generous allocation by the State Dormitory facility satisfied most departments and made his task easier.

Ingersoll Extension was intended to be a teaching and research facility, unlike the parent building that was intended primarily for instruction. It was felt that good research facilities would attract a superior faculty and create an ideal atmosphere for both undergraduate and graduate research. This prediction has held true, as evidenced by the active Bachelors and Masters programs in Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, and Mathematics.

Outstanding Features

New Ingersoll became the home of the first electron microscope in the borough. In addition, the Bio Dept. was provided with temperature-controlled rooms and a greenhouse. The Chem. Dept. was furnished with a laser lab and numerous, well-equipped teaching laboratories. The Physics Dept. received a "jewel," a $750,000 dynamotron — the only one in C.U.N.Y.

The Ingersoll parking lot, with space available for S.G.S. students, is a welcome convenience. The original plan was to buy the air rights over the railroad tracks and extend the lot. However, that plan fell through.

All That Glitters Isn't...

Unfortunately, not everything about New Ingersoll is flawless. A concrete wall shades part of the greenhouse. The chemistry labs have water showers, but no drains. The ventilation and elevator systems occasionally seem to have minds of their own. The plumbing pipes tend to freeze and burst during winter.

One glaring mistake is the fifth-floor planetarium. It has a huge dome and specially designed seats and acoustics, at a cost of well over $100,000. However, the projector, which costs $35,000, was never purchased. Since the consensus held that it would have little scientific value, it was given low priority.

The Present & The Future

President Hess has strived to preserve the physical appearance of our campus. The rationale is that the improved image and appearance of B.C. will attract more students, which translates into more government funding. The validity of this "You-can-have-your-cake-and-eat-it-too" philosophy will be tested in the future.

Dr. Gabriel's career is illustrative of B.C.'s changes. Since serving as Dean of the School of Science, he has served as a biology professor and Judaic Studies Chairman before becoming Associate Provost. The College was reorganized from a several-school system of 35,000 students to a one-school system of one-third the size.

The decrease in enrollment impacted heavily on S.G.S. students. Several science departments were forced to discontinue offering the advanced electives to complete a major. One proposal under consideration is to combine weekend and evening offerings to enable the scheduling of these courses.

Furthermore, science majors lost some of their identity; Ingersoll is no longer the "Home of the Sciences." The Computer Center is across the street, and the Phys. Ed. Dept. is relocated in Roosevelt Hall. However, the recent installation of computers in Ingersoll may help reverse this trend.

In Retrospect

New Ingersoll is living proof that research and teaching can complement one another. Virtually every science faculty member, regardless of his research interests, teaches on the undergraduate level. Although the building is not perfect, visitors are almost always impressed. We can truly be proud of Ingersoll and its reputation.

In the words of Dr. Gabriel: "The bottom line is that we have a science facility for undergraduate and graduate instruction and research that is unparalleled—then and now."

Prof. Henry Yuskus and the officers of the SGS Chemistry Society wish a hearty congratulations to

Debi Arbiser Grohman

upon her marriage to Abe Grohman. Thanks for 2 years of selfless service to the society, good luck in your life, and best wishes in med school next year.

Ingersoll Extension as it was being constructed.