

Taig Over



Christine Taig

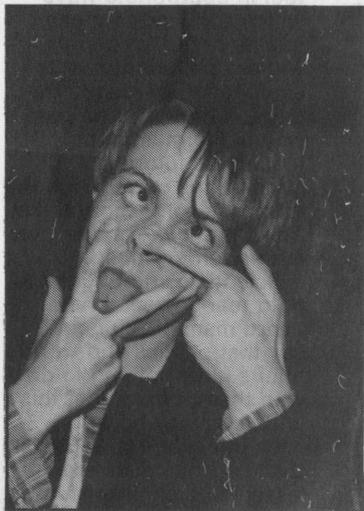
Christine Taig will be next year's Imperial College Union President. She beat J Martin Taylor after reallocation of the other three candidates votes. Jackie Pierce is the new Deputy President and Dave Colley is the new Honorary Secretary.

The election for President was close. Before reallocation Ms Taig had 566 votes, Mr Taylor had 332 votes, Chris Stapleton had 192 votes, James O'Shea had 121 votes and Paul Merckx (aka Dobbin) had 90 votes. Mr Merckx was thus eliminated. After the second reallocation Mr O'Shea was eliminated and Mr Stapleton was eliminated after the third. The final reallocation left Mr Taylor with 476 votes and Ms Taig with 681 votes.

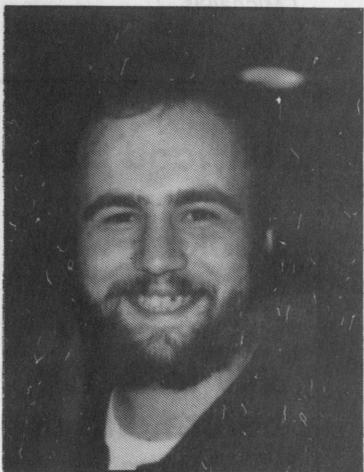
Ms Taig told FELIX last night that she was 'reasonably surprised' with the result. She added that she did not think in a years time people would think they made the wrong choice. She said she was disappointed with the low turn-out bearing in mind the work put into publicity by the candidates.

Ms Pierce won the election for Deputy President comfortably. She received 967 votes while Paul Shanley received 164 votes. The election for Honorary Secretary was won in an equally comfortable way. Mr Colley received 825 votes compared with Michael Newman's 280 votes.

Ms Pierce told FELIX that she was 'over the moon, John'. She looked forward to 'a good working Union next year'. Mr Colley said he felt 'really good'. He said that 'I now have to get down to doing the things I promised in my manifesto'.



Jackie Pierce



Dave Colley

Editorial

New Sabbaticals

Christine Taig **may** be the best thing to happen to this Union in years. She has a lot of ideas about how the Union should be changed. If she manages to implement them then Imperial College Union may become relevant to average students. She lacks experience, though. The performance of people like Roger Preece who have been elected to posts when they have little experience of the Union shows that you need more than ideas, you also need a lot of ability and support. Christine seems to have the enthusiasm and ability necessary to implement her ideas; I hope I'm right. Dave Jones must make sure that FELIX next year forces Christine to keep her promises. If she does he must praise her and if she doesn't he must attack.

Jackie Pierce and Dave Colley were always likely to win their elections as the standard of the opposition was very low. It is sad that a union as big as ours can only provide one decent candidate for 3 out of its 4 sabbatical posts. If Jackie and Dave don't succeed it will be difficult to criticise because it is very unlikely that their opponents could have done any better.

Results UGM

Make sure that you turn up for the Results UGM. There are elections for several important Union posts. They're important so turn up and vote.

FELIX The Newspaper of Imperial College Union

LETTERS

A Complaint

Dear Hugh,
I read with interest Luke Walkers opinion article on academic affairs. Relieved, as I am, that there is someone on the Guilds Exec who claims to represent students, I am left with one question. what has he actually achieved? What have any of the Academic Affairs Officers achieved? There are still irrelevant courses, lecturers who can't communicate, and staff promoted because of research rather than teaching. Has no-one noticed that all these committees that our 'representatives' sit on only function to keep the students quiet. Year after year the Union has asked for lecturers to go on communication courses, and what has happened?- NOTHING.

Carl Burgess and Luke Walker are away this week, at a conference in Belgium which is being paid for by the Union, but I'm sure they'll reply to this letter just as soon as they get back.

Pete Wilson

An apology

Thanks to Luke Walker for setting me straight on my misgivings about the student questionnaire that he, Carl and others went to a lot of the trouble to organise. My greatest reason for complaint was the conviction that I had not been sent the results of the first questionnaire. In fact I had been sent them in good time, but had 'filed' them in such a disorganised fashion that it was only when I came to check for the third time, last Saturday, that I found them, I feel that while my criticism that the questionnaire was biased is still valid, this alone does not justify my Opinion of two weeks ago. I made this objection known, at a meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee working group on Student Needs, and should have let it rest there. I would, however like to state that the reason I don't

go to some meetings is because I am not told (or at least I don't think I am!) that they are going on. Also, it is quite true that I did receive a copy of the second questionnaire before it was circulated to Dep Reps, but only in fact about one hour before. This was apparently inevitable due to the shortage of the time before the next working group meeting.

Luke is also correct to say that he does more work towards Academic Affairs which I appreciate is very constructive. Most of what I do is talk to students and think, trying to isolate more fundamental problems which cannot be immediately tackled. If you think, this sounds ill-defined and waffley, that's because it is! There should be an example of this elsewhere in this week's FELIX (and others in previous issues).

Finally I would like to say that Jane Ryder has had nothing at all to do with my opinion of Luke.

*With sincere apologies to Luke and Carl
Peter Klemperer RCS AAO*

A Correction

Dear Hugh,
Although not wishing to be petty I think I should correct a small point in the news item referring to me last week, which may have arisen from a misunderstanding between myself and the news staff. I did not deny being involved with the removal of the Gestetner, my complaint was about the abusive treatment I received from Carl Burgess. It was later brought to my attention that Carl was under considerable pressure at the time and the matter now appears to have been settled amicably. I suppose I should thank all the people who seemed intent on taking my case to heart, but I would rather they took a more rational attitude, especially in view of the number of potential crises facing the Union at the present time.
*Thank you
Mark Cottle*

Technology not the Problem

Dear Sir,

This may seem like a contradiction but I agree with most of the points raised by Peter Heap (letter's last FELIX) and Mark Field (Opinion, FELIX before). However I do feel that Peter has missed the essence of Mark's article.

There is no doubt that certain aspects of technology have been applied in a destructive manner. Technology has developed in to a tool which has the power to destroy the world, if not by a big bang then by slow erosion. However this tool is not self-determining, it has no mind of its own.

Decisions as to what shall be done with technology are made by society. For far too long scientist and engineers have distanced themselves from such decisions, being unaware and unconcerned as to the consequences of their action. All too often the pathetic a cry 'Oh, thats politics, I'm apolitical' is heard and accepted as the normal way to think, especially here. This attitude is not only dangerous but naive. Politics is about people (not just political parties) and without any interest in people, what point can there be?

My point is that yes, technology has been used destructively but that is a condemnation of the user not the tool itself. It is up to you what you do with the knowledge and skills that you aquire here (or attempt to anyway). You don't have to follow the example of the legions of morons who are only concerned with their own little world. Technology has the power to change the world, are YOU going to let it be part of the problem or part of the solution?

*Iain Smith
Mech Eng 3*

You are the solution

Dear Hugh,
Peter Heap (last week's letters) wrote about the use of technology to 'deprive millions of their jobs and make their lives purposeless', to 'pollute and destroy the environment, kill people and cause other nefarious

effects'. He was making the point that 'technology is a bad thing'.

He seems to view technology as something which has its own momentum, the results of which are inevitable.

I disagree with this.

Technology is not autonomous or neutral, it is directed by the values of society. Factories were not created because technology demanded them, factories were created to control people and their work, and the technology developed to strengthen this control.

Technology has been developed in such a way as to take power away from people (both in capitalist and communist countries). It has been directed to make weapons. It has largely been controlled by people that will not feel the effects of resource depletion or pollutions.

Technology itself is not a bad thing. It is a useful tool.

As scientists and engineers we must use that tool in appropriate ways which can lead to greater quality of life for people, without pollution or over-exploitation of resources. Our Technology and our way of life must not jeopardise future generations or continue the ruthless exploitation of the Third World which we have left underdeveloped.

Scientists and Engineers hold real powers. I have heard many IC students say that politics and world affairs have nothing to do with them. I think that this is ridiculously naïve.

I agree with Mark Field that Technologists are 'essential members of society'. We must use our education appropriately!

*Yours,
J Michaelis
(Appropriate Technology Society Chair)*

**Silwood Ball
Booking Now
Open**

**£40 to RCSU
before end of
term.**

WHAT'S ON



KENNEDY'S children

BY ROBERT PATRICK

Today

1830h

Italian Wine Centre
Italian Wine Tasting. Meet outside the trade centre (opposite Fortnums). Ticket holders only.

2000h

Union Concert Hall
Kennedy's Children. Tickets at £1.50 are available every lunchtime from the Dramatic Society. (Top floor of the Union Building on the East side int 3531)

Thursday

1230h

Huxley 413
Methsoc communion service, lunch and AGM—electing next year's committee.

1240h

Elec Eng 403
Female Circumcision a talk by a member of FORWARD.

1300h

Great Hall
ICU Results UGM. Come along and elect next year's non-sabbatical Union Officers

Mech Eng 220
Guilds Elections UGM. Come and elect next year's Guilds exec.

2000h

Union Concert Hall
Kennedy's Children. Tickets at £2 are available every lunchtime from the Dramatic Society. (Top floor of the Union Building on the East side int 3531)

Friday

1230h

Bot Zoo
Evangelism Group Meeting

1730h

Beit Arch
Ap-Tech Soc trip to Wales. Don't be late. Bring a sleeping bag.

Eve

Southside Bar
Disco

Saturday

1315h

Beit Quad
Coaches leave for Gutteridge Cup Final. Go and support Imperial College Rugby Club. The coaches are provided for free.

2000h

Union Concert Hall
Kennedy's Children. Tickets at £1.50 are available every lunchtime from the Dramatic

Society. (Top floor of the Union Building on the East side int 3531)

Sunday

0915h

Beit Arch
Coaches leave for Ladies Hockey ULU Plate Final. Come and support Imperial College. Again the coaches are free.

Monday

1230h

Union Snack Bar
Traidcraft stall. All profits go to Third World charities.

1800h

Union Upper Lounge
Film and Game. Third World First present the film 'Under Fire'.

1930h

Magical Mystery Dinner Wellsoc Dinner. See Chairman (Huw Parry) at Wellsoc meetings or via Biochem pigeon holes for more details. Free cocktails beforehand. Tickets £7.50 (very heavily subsidised).

Music Room, 53 Princes Gate
Opsoc Principals Rehearsals

Tuesday

0820h

Upper Lounge
Prayer and praise organised by ICCU. All welcome.

1240h

Elec Eng 403
Third World First discuss VSO. John Nurse talks about VSO.

1300h

Jazz Room
Jazz Club AGM. Will Duo take over? Can Chas fiddle the books? (*Who wrote this crap?—Ed*) Find the answer to all these things at the Jazz Club social event of the year.

1800h

Union SCR
Wine Tasting AGM. Chairman's report and elections etc.

Union SCR
Claret Tasting. The wine tasting event of the year! Taste the undisputed champions of the wine scene—Red Bordeaux. Admission only £4.50 for members.

1900h

Mech Eng 220
The Rocky Horror Picture Show. SFSoc's final film fling of the year. The unique film fling of our time. If you've not seen it yet you're in for a surprise. Admission 50p for members, £1.50 for non-members (½ price for non-members).

1930h

Union Concert Hall
Bessie's Dilemma. A Victorian melodrama NOT by Gilbert and Sullivan. Will Bowles the faithful family retainer save Bessie from her awful fate? Admission 50p

**Free Lunchtime Concert by the
Concert Band, next Tuesday in the
Mech Eng Foyer at 1pm.**

Joke Candidate Elected

Dermot Flannagan, has resigned in protest at the election of Mr Stafford.

Mr Stafford told the present Executive on Monday that he intends to take up office. He said he intended to think up some serious policies when he had time.

It is understood that the other new sabbaticals are unhappy about the election of a joke candidate.

Students at University College Dublin have elected Ulick Stafford, a joke candidate, as sabbatical College President. Mr Stafford promised in his manifesto to convert the Arts Building into a nudist colony, to clothe the porters in fig leaves and to introduce duck shooting on the College lake.

The current President,

Rag Trip Success

The Annual RCSU North and Middle England Rag Tour took place over this weekend and raised an estimated £1,500 for charity. Seventeen people, two coaches and over four thousand Rag Mags set off on Friday morning and took in 12 Universities over the four days including Leicester, Nottingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham.

The highlight of the tour was the Bradford Beer Festival at which over £100 was raised alone. However

several people took offence at the inclusion of the Bradford City fire disaster jokes. The Rag Mag was officially banned by both Leicester and Loughborough unions with one seller being physically thrown out of the Union Building. So far only one complaint has reached the Union Office from the University of Aston who were concerned about the aggressive selling tactics used and the sexist/racist content of the Rag Mag.



The Taste Of Victory

First year Electrical Engineering student Nicholas Battersby won The Junior Malt Taster of the Year Award.

Mr Battersby won the Imperial College heat of the competition in late 1985. He then competed in the national finals held at The Athenaeum Hotel, Piccadilly on Friday January 24. The competitors had to identify

five different whiskies and answer a questionnaire on whisky production.

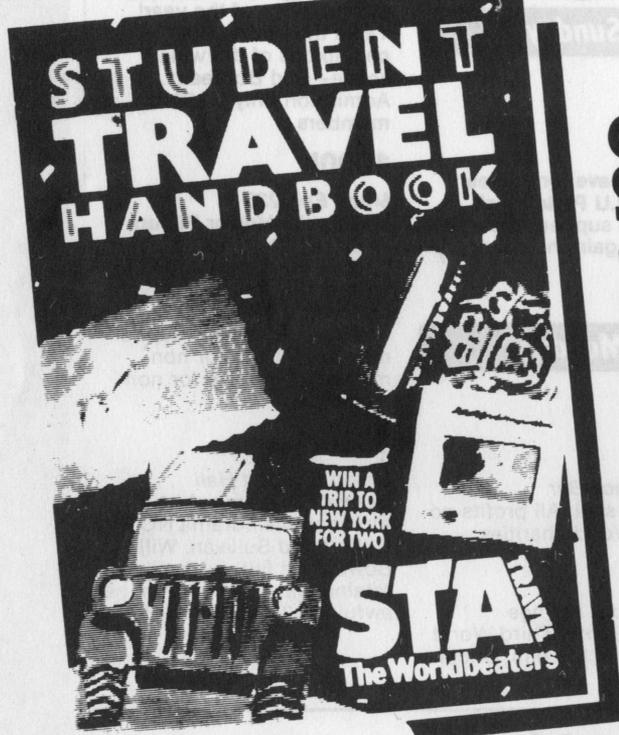
Mr Battersby won an engraved crystal decanter, 6 bottles of The Macallan 10 year old, a cheque for £150, a visit to The Macallan distillery and a years subscription to Decanter Magazine.

Last year another IC student, John Craven, won the award.

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STA TRAVEL
 The Worldbeaters

Collection

£600 has been raised for the family of the man who died in an accident in the Chemistry Department last week. The collection has been organised by Jack Parry and John James of the Estates Section. Mr James told FELIX that there had been a 'marvellous response' and that lots of people were involved in the collection. The organisers will continue to accept money until the end of today. Any student who wishes to contribute should see ICU Deputy President Dave Kingston in the Union office.

Snap!

The Rector of Imperial College Professor Eric Ash has broken his leg on a skiing holiday. Professor Ash's office refused to comment on the accident saying the Rector didn't want a fuss made about the accident. FELIX wishes Professor Ash a speedy recovery.

CLUBS

Hang-Gliding Club

Once again, Swansea University have sprung the dates for the inter-university competition on us (22 and 23 March). We must try and present a team this year so anybody from day 4 training onwards please contact David Evans on Int 4180 or room 416 Biochemistry. This is usually a great social event with some excellent flying possibilities for all levels (one trainee flying for 3 hours to get his P1). We are hopefully going to have an instructor along with us to assess conditions and give advice but others will be there, so don't let the weather get you down, come to the Monday meetings above Southside bar at 12.30pm and GO FLY SAFELY.

I must have the names of anybody interested in going to this competition by Friday 14th March.