



# Felix

The Newspaper Of Imperial College Union

Founded 1949

## Election turmoil as Howgate pulls out at last minute

# Who cares wins!

**The election for ICU President will have to be rerun next term. Election committee decided last night that the candidates for President had contravened election rules, and so the election was invalid. In the contests for the other sabbatical posts, Chas Jackson was elected as ICU Hon Sec and Judith Hackney is next year's FELIX editor.**

The decision to rerun the presidential election brings to an end two days of speculation, sparked off by the shock decision of Ian Howgate to withdraw. Mr Howgate pulled out on Monday, leaving Bill Goodwin, the only other candidate, returned unopposed as ICU President. Later, Grenville Manuel lodged an objection on the grounds that Mr Goodwin and Mr Howgate had each broken election rules by producing a joint poster. This was upheld by a special meeting of elections committee, which was convened late yesterday afternoon before the count took place.

Mr Howgate had pulled out of the election in protest over the "Abstain for President" campaign, which he felt was detrimental to IC Union. He announced his withdrawal in a press statement which he circulated on Monday lunchtime. The news was broadcast on IC Radio at 1.00pm, before most of the ICU Executive were aware of his decision. Mr Howgate argued that the late emergence of the abstain campaign affected the way that both he and Mr Goodwin ran their campaigns. The full text of his press statement is printed on page 2.

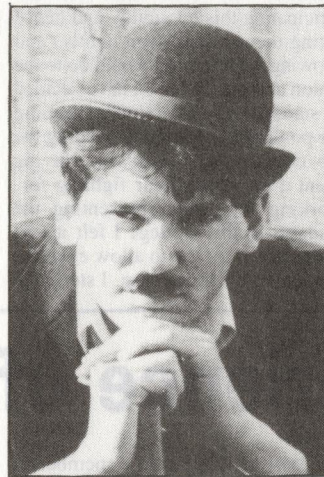
In the objections he brought to elections committee, Mr Manuel said that there was a clear breach of the rule which states that election publicity must not refer to any of the other candidates. In his view both candidates, by cooperating, had devalued the election procedure.

**Next year's sabbaticals (so far): Deputy President, Alan Rose; Hon Sec, Chas Jackson; FELIX Editor, Judith Hackney**

Representing Mr Goodwin to the committee, Sarah Allsop, his proposer, said that ICU Hon Sec Dave Colley had permitted the joint publicity to be distributed, and that the election had not been affected by it. The committee decided to uphold the letter of the election rules, though there was a general agreement that the spirit of the rules had not been broken, and declared the election invalid. Unless Mr Goodwin makes a successful appeal to ICU Executive, there will now have to be a second election next term.

In an interview with FELIX earlier yesterday, Mr Howgate said that he had discussed the position with Mr Goodwin when it became clear that the abstain campaign could be successful. He had suggested to Mr Goodwin that he (Goodwin) should withdraw, hence negating the abstentions, and that if Mr Goodwin declined to pull out, he (Howgate) would withdraw himself.

Mr Howgate said that if the election had to be rerun he would be prepared to stand again. He added that he still thought he was the best candidate for the job, and that if there was another



Ian Howgate



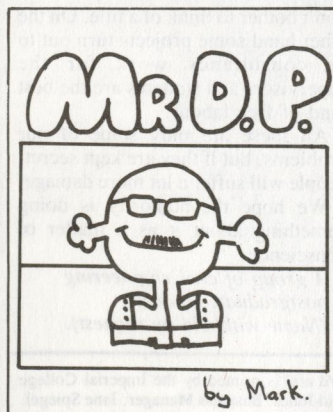
Bill Goodwin

abstain campaign during the next election he would run his own campaign with a view to defeating the abstentions. Mr Howgate thought that he had conducted his publicity in a proper manner, bearing in mind that his only opposition had been a joke candidate, Mr Goodwin. It was important, he felt, for the electorate to appreciate fully the significance of an abstention vote, and that this had not been made possible because the abstain campaign had begun so late. He concluded that he would like to see AB Stain made a full member of ICU so that he/she could be put forward as a candidate in any election, with

the normal publicity rules applying.

After the ruling of election committee had been announced yesterday, Mr Goodwin told FELIX that he had not yet made a firm decision over whether or not to appeal to the Executive. He confirmed that he had discussed the effects of the abstain campaign with Mr Howgate, but said that Mr Howgate had overestimated the support for it. He did not think Mr Howgate had made the right move in resigning. He was particularly unhappy with the performance of elections committee,

*continued on back page*





# Howgate: Why I withdrew

Over last weekend I went around the halls asking students whether they were aiming to vote, abstain or not vote at all.

The results I came up with, combined with the calls I have heard when canvassing votes suggests to me that there was a reasonable chance that abstains could win in the Presidential election. The abstain campaign was organised in such a way that neither Bill nor I were given the time to fight it, or allowed to speak out against it. I would at this point like to protest to the election committee for allowing this to take place at such short notice although I understand that their hands were tied.

It is my opinion that the students are unaware of what a detrimental effect such a result or even just such a campaign can have. At present this College is overrun by apathy: a vote of apathy (which this would be) merely reduces the support, strength and ability of the Union to motivate students into events and standing up for themselves. A win for abstain would mean that the election would have to be rerun approximately 5-6

weeks (note, this is very close to exams) into next term; any candidate likely to stand would either know very little about the Union and hence be incapable of doing such a pressure job as President, or did not have the guts or commitment to stand the first time (obviously not presidential material). Bill and I would be in no position to stand again having already been rejected once. The impression I get is that many students have decided to abstain either because they do not know either candidate (unfortunately we are not omnipresent) or because it is a trendy thing to do.

Seeing that abstains could win (partially my own fault for not anticipating this possibility and hence taking the campaign too lightly) and knowing what harm it would do to the Union and the students I have decided to stand-down, effectively stopping the possibility of this and handing the job over to Bill Goodwin. Having spent a lot of this year fighting for, working for, and representing the students in this College I felt it was hypocritical for me to allow even the chance of this happening. I stood for

this post (whether Dave Jones believes it or not) because I felt I was the best person for the job and could do the most for the students. I would have stood down had a better candidate appeared or I had been able to persuade someone I felt was better to stand. Although I do not feel Bill Goodwin is a better candidate than I, he does know a lot about the way the Union runs and how it might be improved (even if he stood as a joke candidate) because he has been news editor and an active student and hence would do a competent job and at least be better than any person who stood after an abstention vote. I also feel Bill has his heart in the right place. I would now like to apologise to, and thank all my friends and supporters for all they have done in vain: they know who they are; and say sorry for disappointing anyone who was going to vote for me. Finally I wish Bill and the Union the best of luck and success next year.

*Yours regretfully,  
Ian Howgate.*



## What's On

### WEDNESDAY

**Tafseer of Qur'an ....1.00pm.**  
Prayer Room (9 Prince's Gardens). Talk given by Dr Darsh. See Islamic Society.

**Circuit Training.....12.30pm.**  
Beit Gym. Free to Keep Fit Club members. £1.00 membership. See J Day

**Jazz & Rock Club AGM..... 12.45pm.**  
All members should attend in the Jazz Room.

**Imperial Workout.....1.00pm.**  
Southside Gym. Please wear something comfortable and bring training shoes. £1.00 membership, 50p per lesson. See J Day.

**Ap Tech Soc .....1.00pm.**  
The Lounge. Come to the Ap-Tech AGM to elect next year's committee.

**The New Hi-Tech HamSoc ... 1.00pm.**  
Level 3, Union Building

**IC Wargames Meeting..... 1.00pm.**  
Union Dining Hall.

**IC Radio AGM .....1.00pm.**  
Northside Studios. Who'll be running the station next year?

**10-Pin Bowling .....2.20pm.**  
Chem. Eng. Foyer. £4.00

**Rock 'n' Roll Routines.....3.00pm.**  
Dance Club in the U.D.H. 70 pence.

**Tap Dancing .....5.00pm.**  
Dance Club in the Lounge. £1.00.

**ICSO Rehearsal .....7.00pm.**  
Great Hall. Final rehearsal—turn up on time for final panic!

**Guilds Motor Club ...7.30pm.**  
Clubnight. Scalextric, booze, autosport, MN (if they're out) and lots more.

**DramSoc .....8.00pm.**  
"The Ghost Sonata" by August Strindberg in the Union Concert Hall.

**Social Evening .....8.00pm.**  
Main Refectory, Sheffield. Ballroom, Latin American and Rock 'n' Roll. 70p students, £2.00 non-students. See Dance Club

**ICSO Rehearsal .....10.00pm.**  
Queen's Arms. RECOVER!

# Bitter experience of IC

Dear Editor,

Recently, some civil engineering undergraduates wrote to the 'Guildsheet' to express their dissatisfaction about the way they are treated in the department. We understand their frustrations very well because we know the story from an insider's point of view, except our experience is a lot more bitter.

We applied to study at Imperial because we were attracted by its ruthless advertising which was so convincing at the time. For those of us who came from overseas, we trusted the image built up by this advertising, because we had nothing else to go by, some of us did not know any friends who had studied in this department before. All of us now feel badly cheated in many ways.

First of all, we have to fight amongst ourselves for office accommodation. I seems that they take people on without considering the problems of accommodation and facilities. Once you are in the department, you are committed to paying your fees and hence your value of being exploited has decreased, they can start taking on more new comers. The congestion got so bad that nobody could work productively. Surprisingly, despite many complaints, nothing was done to ease

the tension. We put to a member of staff that some students had already warned their friends about the lack of responsibilities shown by the authority, and before long, people would think twice about coming to this department. Quite shockingly, he said that by the time this happened, he would have become a professor in another university.

Some of the lecturers show no interest in their students' work. Many of us do not get to see our supervisors. For those fortunate ones who do, they seldom get any advice. Often, the supervisor does not know the subject. They claim they are working on a fashionable field in order to attract funding. The lack of accountability comes about because they know industry does not pay much attention to their fantasies anyway. All they want is to attract some public funding to write a few academic papers for their promotion. Of course there are those who are very busy doing their private work.

It is a well known fact that the sections within the department do not help each other. Often, students are caught in the political struggles of the staff. Some of us are fortunate to get advice from our good technicians and hence can complete the study on time. Others may not be so lucky, they are

completely helpless, it is unlikely they will ever get their degrees, nobody is interested in their work, nobody knows enough about their work. This is allowed to happen because there is no system to check on the supervisors. They always say they have got bad students, we don't know where or how to complain, we fear we may suffer revenge.

For those of us on the MSc courses, life is no better. We are faced with very bad teaching skills. Some teachers like to use the projector so quickly that we cannot copy and listen at the same time. Projects are set and we are left on our own without guidance. We never get a feedback on how we have done in the project. Mind you some of the courses don't do projects because the supervisors don't bother to think of a title. On the other hand some projects turn out to be consultancy work for the supervisors and students are the best kind of free labour.

All these are only some of our problems, but if they are kept secret, people will suffer a lot more damage.

We hope the authority is doing something about it as a matter of conscience.

*A group of civil engineering postgraduate students.  
(Name withheld by request).*



## THURSDAY

**Concentration Camp..all day.**  
JCR, Sheffield. IC Amnesty Group's self-imposed incarceration for 24 hrs. Sponsor the group, come and see the camp and display, write a letter. See IC Amnesty International.

**Youth Hostelling Club .....**12.30pm.  
Meeting in Southside Upper Lounge.

**Fencing Club .....**12.30pm.  
Union Gym. Professional Coaching for beginners and experienced fencers.

**BUNAC .....**12.45pm.  
JCR. Everything you want to know about working and playing in America.

**Phil Soc .....**1.00pm.  
Every Thursday in Chemistry 231, until 2.00pm

**Arabic Class .....**1.00pm.  
Prayer Room (9 Prince's Garden). See Islamic Society.

**ICSF Library Meeting.....**1.00pm.  
Green Committee Room. Access to our vast Library, Organisation of future events and news from all over the SF World. Members Only.

**QTSoc EGM .....**1.00pm.  
Emergency General Meeting Convening Committee. S. Side Upper Lounge.

**Imperial Workout.....**6.00pm.  
Southside Gym. Please wear comfortable kit and bring running shoes. £1.00 membership, 50p per lesson. See J Day

**Judo.....**6.30pm.  
Union Gym. Beginners Welcome.

**Lesbian/Gay Society 7.30pm.**  
ULU Building, Malet Street. Womens' group meet in Rm SE, Mens' group in Rm 3b. Different speakers/events each week followed by trip to pub.

**Aliens .....**7.30pm.  
Mech. Eng. 220. IC FilmSoc presents...see clubs section for details. £1.00 non-members, 50p members. See IC FilmSoc

**DramSoc .....**8.00pm.  
"The Ghost Sonata" by August Strindberg in the Union Concert Hall.

**ICCAG Soup-Run.....**9.15pm.  
Weeks Hall Basement—normally back by 11.30pm. See Derek Hill, Physics III.

## FRIDAY

**Conservative Society .....**12.45pm.  
Annual General Meeting. Mines G20. All members welcome.

**Friday Prayers .....**12.55pm.  
Union Building, Halaal food provided. See Islamic Society.

**IC Biology Society Meeting .....**5.30pm.  
Now in Huxley lecture theatre. Huxley 213.

**Christian & Politics..**6.00pm.  
Speaker: Alan Storkey. Music Room, 53 Princes Gate. Buffet provided.

**Nigerian Society Symposium.....**6.00pm.  
Room G20, RSM. FREE! See Nigerian Society.

**Fencing Club .....**6.00pm.  
Beginners and experienced fencers welcome.

## SATURDAY

**Nigerian Society Party .....**7.00pm.  
Metallurgy Common Room, Level 7, RSM. £2.00. See Nigerian Society.

**Country Choice.....**8.00pm.  
On 999kHz. An hour of your favourite music on IC Radio with Steve Kilmurray.

## SUNDAY

**IC Wargames.....**1.00pm.  
Union Dining Hall.

**OpSoc Marathon Rehearsal .....**2.00pm.  
The Brown Committee Room, Union Building. Rehearsing Iolanthe & Princess Ida.

## MONDAY

**Beginners Ballroom .**7.00pm.  
Dancing Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

**Medals Class .....**8.00pm.  
Dancing Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

**Dai Rocking.....**11.00pm.  
IC Radio on 999kHz. The best in hard rock music thro' midnight including the featured album every week with David Williams. FREE!

## TUESDAY

**Prayer Meeting.....**8.15am.  
Christian Union in the Union Upper Lounge.

**Mass .....**12.40pm.  
Chemistry 231. All Welcome.

**Recitation of Qur'an 1.00pm.**  
Prayer Room (9 Prince's Gate). See Islamic Society.

**IC Amnesty Meeting**5.30pm.  
Brown Committee Room (venue may be different and will be specified on posters etc). See Boshier—Chair of IC Amnesty.

**Beginners Rock 'n' Roll .....**5.45pm.  
Dance Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

**Sherry Tasting .....**6.00pm.  
Union SCR. The chairman says it will be wonderful. Last tasting of term. £2.50. See Wine Tasting Soc.

**Judo.....**6.30pm.  
Union Gym. Beginners Welcome.

**Intermediate Ballroom.....**7.00pm.  
Dance Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

**Laserium .....**7.45pm.  
A behind the scenes visit. Come to this amazing live, laser rock show, to the music of Genesis, with the added bonus of seeing what goes on behind the scenes, after the performance. Members of Mech Eng Dept £1.50, others £2.45. Please put a cheque, payable to City & Guilds College Union, in R A Spencer's (IM) pigeon hole (Mech Eng foyer) by Friday. Include your name, dept, and year on the back. Meet Mech Eng foyer 6.45pm Tues. A Mech Eng Soc event.

**Improvers Ballroom .**8.00pm.  
Dance Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

**Nigel On The Wireless .....**9.00pm.  
Aural Titillation on IC Radio. 999Khz Medium Wave.

### Rag Meeting

12.45pm, Friday 13th

All Soc Reps should attend

## Ever wished you were better informed?

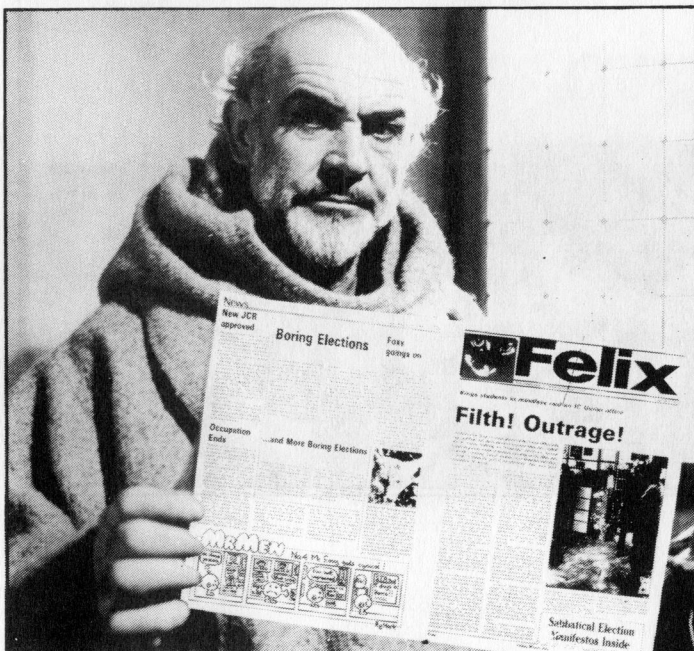
Watch out for news of the forthcoming Biological Society. A new forum at Imperial College open to all, to promote an awareness of the Biological Sciences, their applications and implications for industry, technology, society and you.

We aim to appeal to people throughout IC with a range of speakers and discussions on all manner of biology-orientated themes. Our inaugural meeting takes place on Friday March 13th in Huxley 213 at

6.00pm. Our own Professor Anderson (FRS, Head of Pure and Applied Biology) will be giving us 'the low down' on the latest media overkill of AIDS and its epidemiology.

So, if you're worried about AIDS or epidemiology (whatever that may be) don't die of ignorance. Bring your friends and questions and 50p for a glass of something from 5.30pm.

Contact Ben Myram, Life Sci. III or Andy Richards, Life Sci. II



continued from page 1

## Who cares wins

and was critical of the election rules in general. He stressed that both he and Mr Howgate had not broken the spirit of the rules, and that, by upholding Mr Manuel's objection, the committee was giving more credence to the letter of the law, rather than to the interpretation of them by the sabbatical officers. No set of rules could take account of every eventuality, he explained. Mr Goodwin said that he would consider running again if the election had to

be repeated.

In the election for Hon Sec, Chas Jackson polled 447 votes to win, ahead of Symon Corns who polled 299, with 229 abstentions. In the contest for FELIX Editor the voting was: Judith Hackney 509, Chris Edwards 376, abstentions 60.

The elections will be formally announced at the Results UGM on Thursday. There will also be elections for the major non-sabbatical Union officers.

## Results UGM

Endless fun as the new sabbaticals try to look inconspicuous! Don't miss Dave Colley grumbling about having to run another election! Hot air free!

**Great Hall, Thursday  
March 12th, 1.00pm**

## No headline required

Dave Tyler (Chem Eng III) was elected President of Guilds Union at the UGM today, with over twice as many votes as his closest rival Tracey-Ann Hall (Civ Eng I). The other candidates, Alastair Seymour (Elec Eng II) and Simon Childs (Aero II) trailed close behind with third and fourth positions.

The election took place in Mech Eng 220 before an audience of about 300 exhilarated students who jeered, cheered and heckled in response to the candidates' lively speeches.

An election for HJT also took place which saw Gehan de Silva (Civ Eng II) beat Colin Trotman (Mech Eng II) by 138 votes to 104 with 40 abstentions.

The other posts in Guilds Exec next year are held by: VP Chris Simpson (Chem Eng II), Hon Sec Alan Hepper

(Mech Eng II), Ents Murray Williamson and Stuart Brooks (both Mech Eng I), Publicity Officer Dave Osborne (Mech Eng I) OC's Rep Clare Lupton (Mech Eng II).

The post of Academic Affairs Officer is still open to candidates.

The Guildsheet Editors for next year are Alison Dewey (Elec Eng I) and Dave Hudson (Elec Eng III) returned unopposed.

A source within Guilds commented that the elections weren't quite as highly contested or eagerly attended as in previous years, but nevertheless seemed to be fairly run and contested. The source also stated that it was felt the highlight of the meeting was VP-elect Chris Simpson's acceptance speech which featured him baring his bottom to the electorate.

## Land's end to London run

In order to support the **National Deaf Children's Society** Imperial College Relay Team is organising an outstanding event:

**"A non-stop run from Land's End to the heart of London"**

On Friday March 20th 1987, a team of men and women will set off from Land's End to run day and night until London is reached, covering over 600 kilometers.

Swapping runners every 10

kilometers, each team member will cover a total of 60 kilometers in 6 laps. Running at an average speed of 10 km/h, each lap will take one hour allowing nine hours rest between them.

Leaving early Friday morning, the team will run through major cities such as Plymouth, Exeter, Bournemouth and Winchester to end in Trafalgar Square, London, by Sunday evening.

# Win a Holiday from STA

Congratulations but no prizes to all of you who noticed the error in last week's competition—yes, Rag Fete is on Saturday May 9th, not May 8th, as printed. Because of the unusual FELIX schedule at the end of term we will not be giving the answers to last week's questions until the last issue before Easter (Wednesday 18th). The answers to today's question, and to the third set, which will be printed next Wednesday, will be given in the first issue of next term. Please get answers to both sets of questions to the FELIX office by 1.30pm on Monday April 27th. Remember that the overall winner will have a choice of weekends in Paris or Amsterdam, and that there are £10 prizes each week to the first correct entry drawn from a hat.

This week's questions are;

- 1) What part of College is this?
- 2) Who was the first President of IC Union?

