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DIT:Students Union

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New DIT entry system queried

By Dermot Keyes

A LEADING social commentator and DIT lecturer has questioned the merits of a new third level entry system, which will cater for current and prospective school leavers, saying it may not succeed in its projected format.

However, the convenor of the programme in DIT has asked for the plan to be given a chance to work: before its possible faults can be identified.

Sean Byrne, a Business Studies lecturer in DIT, told the Angier Street told the DIT Independent that a ‘complete bypassing’ of the Leaving Certificate points system, along with several other additions to the current plan could make the new system feasible. ‘There are a number of problems for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in entering third-level education,’ said Mr Byrne. ‘There is of course the problem of motivation that has to be got over as well as the lack of support that such students receive both domestically and in college itself. If aptitude tests and an interview were incorporated into the plan and if the new system bypassed the Leaving Cert result altogether, then it could succeed.’

DIT, along with six of the country’s universities, has adopted the new system and it is believed that approximately 100 places will be allocated to each of the third level bodies involved. The programme will allow students to enter college courses via ‘direct application’, without having acquired the minimum points requirement that the traditional system entails. This was a point that the man responsible for the programme in DIT emphasised. ‘I think it’s important to recognise that DIT will be operating a minimum entry qualification rather than judging applicants by the points they achieved in the Leaving Cert,’ said Peter Brown. ‘We must also consider the fact that in the near future all the Faculties in DIT will see a drop in the demand for courses, thereby we will see a drop in the points as well. Colleges need to put aside places for disadvantaged students in the near term. We’ve come together on this and this is a positive step which needed to be taken.’

Despite this, Mr Byrne believes that the Government and the third level institutes involved have not learned from previous attempts at bridging the socio-economic divide. ‘We already know that there is a high drop-out rate from socio-economic areas of disadvantage. The colleges that have done the most work in this regard also have experienced the highest drop-out rates.’

‘If we adopted a ‘second chance’ education policy, allowing people to come in a couple of years down the road after the Leaving Cert, they would then see the value of further education.’

Continued on page 3

Sports stars rewarded

TRACY Piggott spoke of the honour and heart-felt gratitude she felt when asked to speak at this year’s DIT Sports Awards, which were held in the Hilton Stakis Hotel on April 4.

The RTE Sports presenter said that she was ‘delighted and flattered to speak’ at the awards and also admitted to being ‘not really sure of what was required of myself’ when giving her address.

‘I’ve been fortunate to be involved in sport all my life and I’ve been very lucky in the many pursuits that I’ve enjoyed over the years.’ Piggott congratulated all the recipients of awards on a night when DIT Handball Chiefs scooped several awards. But this was a night of recognition for all the staff, as well as the athletes who have made this Moonblood Cup Final a reality, which was marked by DIT’s first ever appearance in a Collingwood Cup Final.

For his part, DIT President Brendan Goldsmith applaud the efforts of everyone involved in sport within the Institute when he addressed the large attendance at the gala evening. ‘I’ll be the first to admit that all of you have achieved what you have under extremely difficult circumstances,’ he said.

‘We’re hoping to make progress in the future, given the rather mediocre facilities that we have available to us at the moment.’

We wish continued success to both the high flyers in DIT sport and to those who simply enjoy it.”

Dr Goldsmith thanked the outstanding work of the DIT Sports Committee and the voluntary work of all staff involved throughout the Institute’s varying codes. He concluded his speech on an optimistic note when he spoke about the new governing body of DIT, which will be chaired by Professor Pat Farrell. ‘He is a distinguished sportsman having played soccer for Ireland during his career and his experience will be a valuable addition to this Institute.”

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USI Calls for Full Social Partner Status

THE Students' Union at the Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) has decided to repudiate the presence of Students in Ireland (USI), integrating instead into the membership of the republic in Ireland.

The USI, one of the largest representative bodies in the EU, has been prominent in the negotiations on the Whelan Report, all this at the beginning of April 1998, with the Students' Uniontrs to bar the agenda with each Congress'. My understanding is that the good things yet to come are the students (unlike Congress 1997 or 1998). The concern was the welfare of a handful. What surprised me the most was the lack of personal resources also preventing existing union services from being provided. It makes it very difficult for unions to provide the services to which they were entitled. The inadequacy of resources also prevents existing union services from being provided. It is an illusion that can be addressed nationally by USI, "he said.

WIT Students' Union felt that as a member of a greater national union, the voice would be stronger. The President of the Students' Union, Páraí Dusin, said: under-funding of students' unions is not an issue which is not discussed at the upcoming USI Annual Congress as a matter of urgency.

The current under-funding of students' unions makes it very difficult for unions to provide the services to which they were entitled.

The USI is the fifth college to decide to repudiate the USI in the last five weeks, preceded by the Limerick Institute of Technology, Trinity College, NUI Maynooth and Tipperary Institute.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I thought the USI Congress in 1998 would prove to be my final outing for USI. How wrong I was...

The years later after I finished with the Students' Union, I was invited to participate in a political debate and represent my fellow students once again. I was honoured but yet nervous about all this at the beginning but then deciding that with the sabbatical offered me in Kevin Street I couldn't wait to arrive in Dublin.

This time was different. I was not familiar with any of the rules or protocols expect a handful. What surprised me most was the lack of personal agenda with each individual. To me their only concern was the welfare of the students (unlike Congress 1997 or 1998). If you see DI Examiner April 1998, 'Whelan Report'.

The first Congress was in 1996, and I am glad to see that individual political parties have left the Students' Union over the years.

Students are no longer being used as ransoms for the Students' Union to bargain with. This is a good sign to me and to come in the future.

Tony Choi

USI election review

Next year's DITSU

Overall President: Marguerite Fitzpatrick.
Aungier Street President: Karl Bonner.
Deputy President: Noel Rerehan.
Bolton Street President: Neil Cromien.
Deputy President: Donna Mulligan.
Cathal Brugha Street President: John McCauley.
Deputy President: Jennifer O'Connor.
Kevin Street President: Desmond Alvey.
Deputy President: Lyndsey Jones.
Mountjoy Square President: Joseph Walsh.
Deputy President: Andrew Kavanagh Doyle.

ITM and MMP launch new award

Next year's Overall President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick casts her vote.

Across the sites, it was the Aungier Street result that received most ears at the count. Planet Murphys, given the fact that the two unopposed candidates for the Presidency and Deputy positions fared so incredibly badly and crawled across the quota line, Karl Bonner will occupy the position held by Peter Durning this year, but it was a lot closer to call than Bonner would have liked. A depressingly low turn-out (331 voters) saw Bonner receive 172 votes, with 150 opposing his candidacy. His fellow nominee in Aungier Street, Noel Rerehan, received 215 votes while 190 votes also opposed his accession into the position. What was clear was that this result reflected what happened across a couple of the sites that day, that Ray Nangle did not win the Overall vote in Aungier Street or in Bolton Street, where John Hanrahan was well beaten by Neil Cromien for the Presidency. For Nangle to have had any chance of beating Fitzpatrick, he had to take Aungier Street and Bolton Street and hope that candidates who had stood in his support in these sites would prove convincing winners. This ultimately proved not to be the case. Democracy has once again spoken and the voice of the students, however few they may be, will not be fully heard again for another 12 months.

Next year's Overall President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick casts her vote.

The electorate have decided who will represent them in their Students' Union in the next academic year.

Dermot Keys ploughed through the votes and examined where and when DITSU's top jobs were won and lost.

Final margin of 1505 votes to Nangle's 991.

The most disappointing feature of the election was the low turn out of 2343 voters, of which spoilt their ballot papers. This was a lower turn-out than last year's election, which one must recall took place on the day of a Dublin Bus strike. So one was once again left feeling that apathy, despite what had proven to be an interesting election campaign, was the ultimate winner on voting day.

ITM and MMP launch new award

TO mark its anniversary, chartered quantity surveyors Mulcahy McDonagh & Partners Ltd, inaugurated 'The Mulcahy McDonagh Premier DTSTU Student Award.'

News of the new award was announced at a ceremony at the Shelbourne hotel on March 27.

A charter for the new annual award is unique for recognising DTSTU's important contribution to the quantity surveying profession and the construction industry. This new award, valued at £1500, will be given each year to the best overall student graduating from DTSTU's Construction Economics & Management Degree course.

New DIT entry system queried

from page 1

In his experience in the DTSTU Faculty of Business, Mr Byrne said that a vast majority of mature students from disadvantaged backgrounds "truly realise their potential" at a later age.

Some incentive must be offered to such students and we have areas of some experiences that most do very well after taking a few years out from education, having been at work and wanting to get something else from life."

He also identified a need for greater Government commitment to the plan and an upgrade in resources within the plan were the plan to truly meet its potential.

While conceding that some Byrne was correct in his assessment of the standing of the

Leaving Cert within the context that socially disadvantaged students may remain hindered by the points system, Mr Brown called for voices to give the new system a chance before it is enacted.

"This is quite a positive development," he added.

"There will be a time when there will be more students entering third level at a mature age, with more students entering through policies such as the Leap Year and so on. This can only lead to a more diverse student population in the future.

"Let's give this (programme) a chance and judge it from there."

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New DIT entry system queried

Mr Padraig Mulcahy, Mulcahy McDonagh & Partners Managing Director, Brendan Goldsmith, President of Dublin Institute of Technology, as well as DTSTU President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick, were present at the launch of the new DTSTU entry system.

Discussion forum for holiday goes launched

THOSE of us planning to go on a travelling summer will get the chance to share our views with the other third level holidaying clan on the 'Traveler's Chat' discussion board on ebookers.com.

The discussion board is a place for travellers to leave their holiday stories, be they embarrassing, funny, or even humiliating! To leave a message or answer a query in the discussion forum travellers must be registered users and can log in with existing login name and password.

The discussion forum was launched across all of the ebookers websites in Europe on Thursday April 19.

The General Manager of ebookers.ie said that the forum is a great addition to the website, allowing users to share advice and their own holiday experiences with others. In particular, we feel that the fact that 'Traveller's Chat' is communal will enhance the quality of advice offered to us users and will be an extremely valuable resource especially for those planning a trip to a European destination.

Traveller's Chat can be reached by logging onto www.ebookers.ie and clicking on the left-hand navigation bar on the website.
Public Private Partnership for Grangegorman?

Further investigation is required into the notion of Public Private Partnerships and new college projects following the news that DIT’s proposed move to the Grangegorman site is being considered for a PPP agreement.

“There’s no reason why the Government shouldn’t give the money to DIT so we can build it ourselves,” claimed DITSU President Vinny Dooley. “It would save us a lot of hassle...PPP just is a term used for a more complicated loan.”

In 1995, DIT commissioned architects Scott Tallon Walker to carry out a study on the new campus in Grangegorman, from which a €150 million investment was envisaged. But it may be as many as seven to eight years from now until the campus is fully operational.

November 2000

DITSU loses €36,000 on Spellbound Ball

The Halloween ‘Spellbound’ Ball, the brainchild of DITSU President Vinny Dooley, was cancelled due to a lack of ticket sales. It is believed that the cancellation of the event cost DITSU €36,000.

Dooley said that DITSU Council had been informed of the loss and that it had been “up to class reps to relay the information.” Dooley added that Council had been told that bad publicity were the main factors for the loss. One DITSU source said that the event had turned into a “disaster because he did it on his own. The Student’s Union was only told what the line-up was and where it would be held.” Dooley admitted to having “a large input” into the organisation of the event but concluded that the timing of the event and the lack of publicity were the two major stumbling blocks upon which the Spellbound event fell.

The price of the tickets (£15) was cited as many as a major turn off for a majority of possible party revellers, though this was also denied by Dooley. “The price was an absolute bargain,” but added “I take complete responsibility for the loss.”

December 2000

DITSU survey provides food for thought

Only forty-four per cent of DIT students surveyed by DITSU know the identity of their Overall President. The survey, which was carried out before the Christmas holidays also threw up the strange figure that some seventy per cent of students were happy with Dooley’s performance.

The DIT site presidents fared better, with two-thirds of all surveyed familiar with who rules their respective roots. Deputy Presidents did not fare as well with a fifty four per cent recognition rating. 63% of students rely on wages from part-time work to remain in college.

February 2001

President set to leave office

DITSU President Vinny Dooley is set to resign from the Union’s highest position following consultations between Dooley and the DITSU Executive.

Citing personal and professional matters for his resignation, Dooley said the job had been affecting his health and because of that, at the moment, “I’m considering my resignation.” A meeting read at this month’s DITSU Council meeting in Bolton Street read: “It is with great regret that I am currently considering tendering my resignation.” A full statement on the matter will be issued at the next meeting of DITSU Council. The Presidential election, which DITSU has compiled an emergency contingency plan under which the senior body in the union will carry out all Presidential duties.

From for Dooley, he said that the experiences of the past few months, especially the failure of the Halloween Ball, had proven difficult for him to deal with. “I was heartbroken by the whole situation and heartbroken by the whole situation and heartbroken by the whole situation,” he added. “A Overall President and as managing director of the company, I took the complete blame. I was wrong to do that. There was an awful lot of factors and a lot of people who had to share the blame.”

March 2001

Karting Club finances under audit

The DIT Sports Committee has frozen the funds of DIT Karting Club, which claims the biggest membership of any sports club in the Institute. The club’s accounts were sent to an auditor by the Sport Committee, but Chairperson and DITSU Overall Presidential candidate Ray Nangle dismissed the rumours circulating the college recently regarding any financial wrongdoing within the club. “I know our accounts are clean and there is nothing wrong with them,” he said. A statement by the Sport Committee read: “Ray Nangle and the Karting Club have broken rules and regulations set out by the DIT Sport Committee. Due to this fact the Karting Club monies have been frozen while their accounts are under investigation.”

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Mount Carmel students rewarded in links programme

By Dermot Keyes

APRIL'S meeting of DITSU Council was described by Kevin Street President Nicky Lawlor as "the best meeting in the history of the union." Despite the brevity of the meeting (approximately 30 minutes), it was confirmed that DITSU had sold the car which had been purchased by outgoing President Yvonne Fitzsimons. While Lawlor apologised for the delay in receiving the letter but said that the issue should be finally resolved before the next meeting of the Union on May 1.

Nicky Lawlor described the meeting as shortest in history of the union. The total raised by DITSU from its Fag Week activities remained unaffected at £2,000. More DITSU survey is to be carried out before the end of the college year and the floor was opened for Councillors' suggestions as to what the nature of the survey should be. It is expected that the results of the survey will direct the new DITSU Council in relation to potential sponsorship arrangements for its major events next year. Forty hundred students across the sites will be asked a series of questions in an attempt "to gauge the opinion of students," according to Lawlor.

This year's DIT Seachtain Na Gaelseach has been postponed. "It was supposed to happen before Easter but a number of unforeseen circumstances arose which did not allow it to take place," said Overall President elect Marguerite Fitzpatrick. "Personally, I would prefer to have a proper Seachtain na Gaedheal rather than a one-day event," she added.

DITSU's website is to receive a long-awaited overhall, after almost two years of non-activity on the site. Kevin Street Deputy President Will Nelson said that DITSU Limited had established a provisional budget to go ahead with the redevelopment of the website. Web design company Killer Visual has been commissioned by DITSU to rebuild the site at a conditional cost of £8,000.

Plans to limit O'Connell St protests rejected

DUBLIN City Councillors last night rejected controversial proposals by Dublin Corporation to limit access to O'Connell St. The emergency motion, which was submitted in the name of Tommy Broughan and other anti-racism members, was that the by-law as proposed was void.

Councilors voted by 21 votes to four in favour of the proposal by Labour Councillor Eric Byrne that the majority of the city council should have the power to ban protests in O'Connell Street on the bases that the by-law as proposed was void.

A group of over 300 people representing a variety of student unions, political union representatives, demonstrated outside the city council's joint rights council meeting, demanding that, if implemented, the proposed by-laws should interfere with the constitutional right to assembly.

City manager John Gormley said that the corporation would now look at the situation as "causation caused by protests on O'Connell Street might be more long-term than short-term.

The by-laws went before the local area committees and there appears to be a lack of consensus on the understanding that they would go back to the corporation.

But councillors expressed outrage that the by-laws propose that no group larger than 15 would be allowed in O'Connell St without the Corporation's permission.

Such permission must be obtained more than 31 days prior to the proposed parade.

A deposit of £2,000 must be paid by the group parading if it numbers more than 15. Groups of more than 30 must produce evidence of indemnity insurance to the value of £3 million.

U3A had claimed the proposals would "abolish all the hallmarks of a totalitarian society, including 'non-disembodied voices', and had said that the proposals would "utterly destroy the spin of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and Political Rights.

Dublin Corporation's proposal to ban the organisation of The Freedom of Assembly Campaign, "a non-political organisation founded and aimed at individuals to oppose the internment of the Irish people in camps", and the amendment by-laws in Dublin city centre.

The motion was backed by members of the Government and student unions have come out in support of the campaign.
Focus on ... Alcohol and Students

Alcohol and students have become big news in recent months, especially in the light of the growing number of violent incidents in Dublin this year. Campus.ie investigates what moves are being made to ease a growing problem.

IN 1999 alone, alcohol-related problems cost the country €1.7 billion, taking into consideration the healthcare costs and the costs of road accidents, crime and absenteeism.

Binge or recurring heavy drinking is increasing in Ireland, particularly among the young. According to a Royal College of Physicians working party, alcohol accounts for 12 per cent of hospital expenditure and 20 per cent of patients admitted with non-alcoholic illnesses have a history of heavy drinking. The net result is the chronic levels of liver disease, heart disease and other alcohol-related illnesses that take such a toll on our health service.

The Mater Hospital in Dublin recently appointed the country's first hospital alcoholism counsellor in response to the flood of related illnesses that end up on the operating table. Anita Connolly, an addiction counsellor and former nurse, was initially hired to help establish the level of alcohol problems among patients at the hospital. Her shocking findings led the hospital to ask her to stay on as a part-time counsellor, advising patients on their drinking habits.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Annual Cost of College Survey 2000 breaks down student expenses into various categories such as fuel, telephone, accommodation, medical expenses and alcohol, to name a few.

Alcohol was shown to be the second largest expense, proceeded only by rent, for students living away from home in Dublin, at €68 per month. Students living at home in Dublin were shown to spend €73 per month, the largest expense by far, followed by the cost of travelling, almost €50 less.

This also marked the first time the USI specified "alcohol", as an independent category which previously had been assumed to exist in the "leisure" category - proof in itself that the subject merited more attention.

In a culture where the best ads are for alcohol and where huge swathes of the media, sport and the arts rely on alcohol sponsorship and advertising, how can any young person not assume that drink is anything other than a benevolent force?

Fiona Gael's spokesperson on health, Gay Mitchell, recently called on the Government to comprehensively address issues as the role of sponsorship and advertising, and to ban drinks advertisements and sports sponsorship deals.

If the experience of other countries is anything to go on, this measure could be effective. Countries with a ban on spirits advertising have about 16 per cent lower alcohol consumption than countries with no bans.

Countries with bans on beer and wine advertisements have about 11 per cent lower alcohol consumption than countries with no bans.

"Countries with bans on beer and wine advertising have about 11 per cent lower alcohol consumption than countries with no bans. Countries with bans on spirits advertising have about 16 per cent lower alcohol consumption than countries with no bans."

Gay Mitchell
Fine Gael's health spokesperson Gay Mitchell, who has called for a complete ban on the alcohol advertisement and their sponsorship of sporting events.

A spokesperson from the Department of Health's press office said a decision to review sponsorship of sporting events nationally has not been taken.

The student market is a very valuable one for the breweries, as it is a consolidated one where they can establish loyalty product lines and carry out valuable market research.

The main providers of recreational opportunities for students in colleges are Clubs and Societies of the University, the Student Union, and Pubs and Clubs in the City, which are all heavily characterised by association with the promotion of alcohol products.

In the face of this, it is a third level institute's responsibility to create an environment and adopt policies which facilitate and encourage students to have a responsible attitude to the consumption of alcohol.

An alcohol policy is currently under consideration of the Conference of Heads of Irish Universities (C.H.U.I.). This is a corporate body representing the Heads of the seven Irish Universities, which aims to promote the development of education and research in the universities by the formulation of collective policies, strategies and programmes.

Only UCC and NUI Galway have fully implemented policies on alcohol company's sponsoring society events or sporting events on campus, although UCD recently established a committee to develop a policy.

The committee which includes Student Union representatives, is expected to report before the end of the academic year. "So far we have looked at various policies on alcohol sponsorship, and the associated problems with it, as well as the policies of other colleges," said UCDSU President Eamon O'Lionnain.

UCD's committee was established after members of the governing authority expressed concern over the alcohol environment among young people, in the wake of the death of an 18 year old student outside the Burlington Hotel last September.

UCC has one of the most strict policies on alcohol. From next year, all clubs in UCC will be sponsored by a centralised fund by a single major company, eliminating brewery and alcohol sponsorships in the college.

The current situation is that all clubs fund for themselves, with various alcohol promoters sponsor different clubs and societies. Spirit promotions have long since been banned on campus, following an accident involving a student falling into a river.

The next step is to implement stricter policies within the college's two on-campus bars. "We're trying to get rid of "beat the clock", "drink till you drop" promotion, and to ensure that if a student is drunk, they're not served any more," said UCCSU's Welfare Officer, Phil O'Callaghan.

O'Callaghan asserts that the policy has been broadly welcomed by students and because of the campus's city location, "students wishing to get drunk go into town to do it".

"We've no problem with students drinking, we're just trying to stop binge drinking." That is the challenge facing students unions throughout the country.
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THIRD year engineering students at Dublin City University (DCU) came a step closer to solving Dublin's public transport problem by designing autonomous robots that can drive, collect and deposit passengers, sound horns and flash lights, all without the assistance of a driver.

The students used a handy board for the project, which is a micro control developed by the renowned MIT. Each RoboCab controls itself - there are no joysticks or remote controls sending instructions to the car. Students worked in small teams and were given six weeks to design and build their RoboCabs.

"The idea is students will learn a lot about self-discipline and project management, by working in teams, while undertaking a particular technological challenge," Dr Noel O'Connor of DCU Electronic Engineering Department told campus.ie.

The project integrates a number of different aspects of engineering, according to Mr O'Connor.

"Students have to design the mechanical structure of their robot (using Lego building blocks and various gearing mechanisms), decide what electronic sensors to use and how to connect these to the controlling microprocessor.

"They have to write the software programme that provides instructions to the micro-processor and enables the RoboCabs to drive, pick up passengers and take them to their desired destination without human intervention."

He stressed that the project was devised for educational purposes as opposed to research.

"The robots that result are not something that could be sold commercially - they are merely demonstrations of various concepts."

RoboCab competition winners, Paul McAuliffe, New Anthony Murphy, Siobhan Murphy and Violine Ragot, beat off 17 other prototypes that competed for the title of RoboCabs champion.

Three years after its inception, the competition continues to gain momentum. Last years' competitors had to devise a robot mini-mouse, which had to find its way around the maze, without prior knowledge of the maze layout.

The project was co-funded by the school, the electronic component suppliers.

Nothing fishy about CIT's Maritime Centre

CORK Institute of Technology recently secured Government approval for the establishment of a £50 million maritime training centre in Co. Cork.

The college is to be built on a 10 acre site at Ringaskiddy in Cork Harbour wounf will service all the needs of the Merchant Marine and Naval Service, in a unique collaborative venture between Cork Institute of Technology and the Naval Service.

The volume of international maritime trade is projected to increase by over 100 per cent by 2012. The new center will redress the growing shortage in the supply of skilled seafarers, both in Ireland and world-wide.

Cork-based companies may yet gain momentum. Last years' competitors had to devise a robot mini-mouse, which had to find its way around the maze, without prior knowledge of the maze layout.

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Dr Michael Woods: announced approval for college

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The college is to be built on a 10 acre site at Ringaskiddy in Cork Harbour wounf will service all the needs of the Merchant Marine and Naval Service, in a unique collaborative venture between Cork Institute of Technology and the Naval Service.

The volume of international maritime trade is projected to increase by over 100 per cent by 2012. The new center will redress the growing shortage in the supply of skilled seafarers, both in Ireland and world-wide.

The centre will have up to the minute equipment and technology such as computerised simulators for bridge and engine room operations and control of large ferries and merchant ships. Qualified seafoos graduating from the college will fill key executive and managerial positions in commercial seaports and fishery harbours as port and engineering managers and executives, harbour masters, pilots etc. Qualified maritime personnel also find shore based employment in the pharmaceutical and associated industries. New skills will also be brought to bear on the expanding Irish shore-based maritime services sector.

The approval for the establishment of the National Maritime College was announced jointly by the Minister for Education and Science, Dr Michael Wood and the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, Mr Frank Fahey.

The college will provide instruction in the following areas:

- Merchant Marine and Naval Studies at CIT, welcomed the consolidation in Merchant and Naval training.
- The combination of training expertise from the Department of Nautical Studies at CIT and the Naval Service will produce graduates of unparalleled expertise.

Ericsson to sponsor MLE

ERICSSON has announced it is to become a sponsor of Media Lab Europe, a new research and development centre recently established in Dublin, Ireland. Ericsson will contribute Euros 2.5 million over five years to the centre.

"The contribution will see Ericsson become a member of Media Lab Europe's new sponsor research consortium and will support five Ericsson research fellows over a five-year period, to research and develop new wireless technologies into the potential uses of wireless communications for the future."

The £150 million centre brings together areas that can be tied into technology, including music, cinema, psychology, video, and linguistics. Media Lab Europe is an independent, university level research and education centre recently established in Cork.

"The Dublin-based independent arm will be set up along the same lines as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a huge emphasis on interdisciplinary research, bringing together areas that can be tied into technology, including music, cinema, psychology, video, and linguistics.

Ericsson has been a long-standing sponsor of the Media Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. "This commitment by a company of Ericsson's stature is solid evidence of how Media Lab Europe's innovative approach is appealing to major corporations," said Dr. Rudy Bunger, Chief Executive Officer of Media Lab Europe.

"We see the development of new applications for UMTS and other wireless networks as an essential part of Ericsson's strategy to continue to lead the development of the mobile Internet," stated Hakan Eriksson, Ericsson's Research Group President at Ericsson Research. "From discussions with our customers we get the clear message that innovative mobile services will be a key contributor to the success of UMTS and future systems... Ericsson has therefore decided to offer a major contribution to our application research and our future product development," he continued.

Ericsson provides total solutions covering everything from systems and applications to mobile phones and other communications tools.
USI Congress Review

Hammond clinches Presidential vote

At the annual congress of the Union of Students in Ireland, held in Ennis, Richard Hammond was elected as President for the next academic year. Hammond, who had failed to secure the DIT mandate following hustings at March's DITSU Council meeting at Cathal Brugha Street, saw off the challenges of Eamon O’Lionnain and Gthren Williams to secure the post for the 2001-2002 period.

Hammond (23) is a law graduate of University College Cork and has served as Southern Area Officer for USI. Upon election in Ennis, he reiterated claims he had made before DIT students backed in March. “It is only by giving students adequate financial support that we will ensure equal access to education,” said Hammond. “To achieve this we must empower students and students’ unions through the ballot box. We must push for the implementation of a number of measures to increase student voter turn-out. Issues such as on-campus ballot boxes, Sunday voting and Internet voting must be addressed.”

The President-elect also spoke of the USI’s need to “tackle the creeping moves to turn our colleges into ‘degree factories’. There must be accreditation for student involvement in clubs and societies activity. Such accreditation is a crucial step in encouraging and enabling students to receive a fully-rounded third-level education.”

As expected, former DIT Aungier Street President Colm Jordan was returned as Education Officer. But one of the election’s more interesting winners was the unopposed Deputy Presidential candidate Ross O’Donoghue of Mary Immaculate College in Limerick. His performance at the Cathal Brugha Street hustings was “interesting” to put it mildly, when he admitted to standing for the post despite having no policies. Instead, O’Donoghue said that the issues of primary interest and concern to the student populace of USI would be the source of policy formation for the year ahead. John Paul Swaine of University College Dublin was elected as Welfare Officer with John Friend Pereira of Mary Immaculate College selected for the Equality position.

Delegates call for on-campus ballots and weekend voting

DELEGATES at Congress called for the introduction of on-campus ballot boxes and weekend votes for all future general election and referenda in an effort to encourage greater student voting.

According to USI statistics, the Republic of Ireland experiences the lowest level of first-time voters in Europe, with just 40 per cent of such voters visiting polling stations on decision day.

Outgoing USI President Julian de Spainn said: “The equivalent of an entire population of a city the size of Galway failing to exercise the democratic right to vote.” Political apathy amongst third-level masses, said de Spainn, “will have serious implications for the future of democracy,” if left unaddressed.

USI is expected to launch a voter registration campaign during the summer, according to President Julian de Spainn.

Next year’s USI officers

President: Richard Hammond
Deputy President: Ross O’Donoghue
Education Officer: Colm Jordan
Welfare Officer: John Paul Swaine
Equality Officer: John C Friend-Pereira

Northern minister advised to abandon third-level fees

CONGRESS was all the more significant this time around by the first ever address the annual gathering in the Republic by a representative of the Northern Ireland Executive.

Sean Ferran, the Minister for Higher and Further Education, was advised by Julian de Spainn that the abolition of university fees in the North would be a significant move by the Executive. “USI passionately believes in the principle of free education,” said de Spainn.

“We believe that education is a public service, and should be provided through general taxation.” De Spainn added that were the Irish Government to impose fees for the use of a public service such as the health service, “it would rightly provoke widespread public outcry. In just the same way education should be treated as a service free at the point of delivery.”

The Northern Area Convenor of NUS USI, Brian Slevin said that Minister Ferran had issued a report on student finance, which would restore grants to students in Northern Ireland as well as a child-care grant.

“However,” said Slevin, “the report stopped short of abolishing university tuition fees. We are very disappointed with that, despite evidence from many informed quarters, Government will continue to charge many students and their families tuition fees in higher education.”

Slevin concluded that his union will continue to “tackle the creeping moves to abolish university fees and means testing arrangements which treat adult students as dependants of their parents and spouses.”
Kevin Street

By Nicky Lavlor President DITSU Kevin Street

When asked to write a couple of hundred words on "how did I spend my term," I didn’t know the answer.

If I said I had a great year, people would disagree, and if I said I had a poor year, people would also disagree. All I can do is give my point of view on what happened, and I believe the best way to do this is to fight for student issues, i.e. the grant, course problems, and to organise events and entertainments for the year. The reason I ran for this position was because I enjoy myself, and even more so, seeing other people enjoying themselves.

When fighting for such issues as increasing the grant, I realised that a student’s problem can never be a thoroughly satisfactory one, whereas a student’s joy can. If we achieved a £200 a week increase in the grant, our opinion is that this is not enough. It is a never-ending battle and one which will definitely not be completed within this term.

The day-to-day running of a Union is much more work than people sometimes think. At this point, let me explain that when a student comes into the office with a serious problem and is seriously worried, there is nothing I can do. I realise that some student leaving with a weight lifted from their shoulders might think how big or small the problem was. In my opinion, students see the students union as the blokes who organise the events for the year, the year that was in DITSU.

Aungier Street

By Marguerite Fitzpatrick. DITSU Bolton St President

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Radio retrospective

DITFM was run by the communications students in the first week of April. Dermot Keyes recalls a week of hair pulling, sleep deprivation but ultimate satisfaction for himself and classmates, ending with a couple of cans of Dutch Gold!

What impressed me immensely was the way everyone involved in DITFM went about their business. The film and broadcasting students ran their shows very smoothly and were a pleasure to interview during the top of the hour bulletins. Lisa was a fine news editing colleague, while the 11 o’clock crew of Janece Gaffey, Deirdre Ni Cheallaigh and Aoife Stokes provided me with many moments of fun and excitement.

Laurence Mackin was our technical whiz as well as the brains behind the critically acclaimed ‘Farranworth’ series (what do you mean you didn’t hear it?) while Fiona Hynes and Suzanne O’Leary held their own as producers of The Rush Hour. The highlight of the week for me was undoubtedly the sports chat I came into the evening show for with the show’s presenters John Paul Gibbon and Brian Healy. It was great fun and it was nice to have a blather about something I actually know some little bit about. But our station manager was the legend of the week.

The ebullient Pat Hannon was an absolute star and kept all our chins up whenever we dropped them and provided all his years of knowledge and expertise to make us feel proud of what we had achieved that first week in April. I’d just love to do it all again.

Societies Awards night a great success

THE first annual DIT Societies Awards were held on March 26th at the Shelter in Vicar Street and the event provided organisers Anita Conway with an overwhelming success.

Thanking all who attended the event, Conway admitted that she “had no expectation that so many people would be here” and thanked all that had made the effort to be present. DIT lecturer Richard Heywood Jones said that while the awards “may not provide the same accolades as the Oscars in Hollywood” (which was on the same day!) the awards were a new platform which “recognised all the wonderful efforts of all students proving that participation is the real winner.”

The evening was hosted by Don’t Feed The Gondola’s roving reporter Patrick McDonnell and he did his best to keep some of the more slightly inebriated entertained during the proceedings. The big winners of the night were the DIT Drama Society, who won the overall society event (Drama Week), best society individual of the year (Hugh O’Reilly), as well as the big gong of the evening, the best society of the year award. O’Reilly was delighted with the Drama Society’s success, and thanked all who helped the society during the year.

“It was great to get the recognition for what proved to be four spectacular shows in Drama Week. The awards are very nice and I accept them very wholeheartedly.”

Anita Conway’s year-long effort was applauded by DITSU Kevin Street President Nicky Lawlor following the presentation of the awards. “She has done a fabulous job throughout the year and that has culminated in the success that this Societies Awards has proven to be.”

The other winners on the night were as follows:

Hugh O’Reilly of DIT Drama Society, who was awarded Best Society Individual of the Year
Best Society of the Year – Aungier Street: The Business Society
Best Society of the Year – Bolton Street: The Photostation Society
Best Society of the Year – Cathal Brugha Street: The Leisure Management Society
Best Society of the Year – Kevin Street: Drama Society
Best Society of the Year – Mountjoy Square: Marketing and Management Society
Best Society of the Year – Rathmines: The Culture Club
Best New/Improved Society – The LGB Society
Special Commendation: The Saint Vincent de Paul Society
The audience assemble for one of the four performances put on during Radio Week

Drama Week

By Anita Conway (DIT Societies Organiser)

DIT Drama Week proved to be a massive success. Although the idea of Drama Week was not initially innovative in itself, this event deserves special credit as it was the first of its kind in DIT. It has also brought previously segregated site groups together under one umbrella and brought a more cohesive and integrated approach to student drama in the institute.

The success of the week was illustrated through the participation of some students with over 300 people attending the plays throughout the week and 100 students being directly involved in the week from acting, directing to stage crew and front of house.

The DIT recognised and appreciated the success by awarding the DIT Drama Society the "best society" award and "best event" award at our DIT Societies awards night. During the week each group, four in total, performed shows in a professional theatre environment beginning with Kevin Street performing John B Keane's "Big Maggie." Mountjoy Square wrote its own play "A Room with a Door" and performed it in front of a capacity crowd of 120.

The students from Aungier Street wrote, produced and directed their own show called "Urbana" and finally Bolton Street performed "the naked sketches" based on adaptations from Shakespeare's A Midsummer Nights Dream and a short piece from "Midsummer Night's Dream." The week ended with the awards night - Oscar style, dinner in the Royal Dublin followed by commendations by the judges on the professionalism and talent shown throughout the week. The judges had attended each show and wrote critiques that were circulated on the night, judges were ex-member of the DIT Drama society, Donal Mc Loughlin who works with a Nina Theatre company, Barbara Gray a graduate of the London theatre Academy and Mark Phillips a graduate from the DIT Media Production course who now works with Windmill lane production.

The following awards were presented:

Best Actor - Michael O'Loughlin (Room with a low) Mountjoy Square

Best Actress - Marie O'Sullivan (Room with a low) Mountjoy Square

Best Comedy Performances - Bolton Street in the excerpt of Midsummer Night's Dream.

Best Play - Urban - Aungier Street. A play written and directed by Hugh Travers and Garry Duggan. Manhattan whispers was part this production which consisted of a series of monologues on living in Manhattan.

Best Moment - Hugh O'Reilly "It will be alright on the night" - Kevin Street where an individual improvisation skills shines, when he had forgotten his lines.

Best Individual in each site was an award given to an individual that the directors and presidents felt had participated well and benefited both personally and artistically by being involved in the society.

Best Moment - Hugh O'Sullivan - Mountjoy Square

Maura O'Dwyer - Aungier Street

James Carroll - Kevin Street

Niall Mc Cathy - Bolton Street

The awards night proved the perfect way to end such a fantastic week. Finally I would like to congratulate levels of organisation and professionalism were outstanding. Many people were responsible for its success: all committee and society members, our sponsors AIB, Guinness and Hugh O'Reilly, President of the society who received a standing ovation at the awards for his work.

One of Drama Week's thespians gets pencilled in for a role!

Three ladies on the stage do their best Patrick Kavanagh by the canal impression

Will the vice-like grip of large corporations on tele­vision and media allow words like pay-per-view to transform to pay-per-learn as profit driven organisations scramble to buy up the rights to all social issues. "Unsurprisingly the answer seems to be yes."

Such a nightmare scenario now appears closer on the horizon as large corpora­tions and institutions such as the International, Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organisations (WTO) and the power behind them, the G8 (the Group of the world's seven richest nations and Russia), push to dismantle all barriers to free trade.

Though free trade might seem on the face of it a "good thing" it will only be a fair trade for some and will eventually put an end to the "uncompetitive practices" of governments taking care of their countries education, health and social welfare for instance.

The question this ultimately leads towards is whether we wish to see our children's or parent's social services depend on large profit driven corporations.

In recent times there seems to be an emerging worldwide force that does not want this scenario enfold and who feel that "our world is not for sale."

More and more groups, often diverse in nature but united together have emerged worldwide in voicing the concern and anger, against what they see as the growth of global corporations intent on putting profit before people.

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More and more groups, often diverse in nature but united together have emerged worldwide in voicing the concern and anger, against what they see as the growth of global corporations intent on putting profit before people.

This has not been restricted to countries abroad and the seeds are now being planted in Ireland in the formation of the umbrella group of Globalise Resistance.

Intending to unite individual people and groups, whether environmentalist, debt-campaigner, anti-capitalist, all the above or those simply concerned about social issues, Globalise Resistance attempts to unite and inform those who want to know more yet involved in the struggle.

Over the coming weeks Globalise Resistance hopes to expand and involve more groups and individuals who are concerned by the social and environmental concerns of corporate globalisation in Ireland and abroad and the increasing tendency to put profit before people.

Of significance in the coming months will be the annual meeting in Genoa, Italy this July. Power by business and often U.S. based concerns there is a likelihood that even more barriers to free trade will be dismantled and laws designed to protect human needs, the environment, workers rights and to prevent abuses to human rights and child labour will be severely compromised.

Such concerns are not ungrounded and can be observed in the privatisation of the telephone market and oncoming privatisation of the transport and energy sector within Ireland.

If the troubles experienced in the U.K. with the privatisation of the rail network and in California's energy sector, which has experienced severe electricity shortages due to mismanage­ment following its privatisation, are anything to go by then such a scenario will become a nightmare reality.

Jose Bove is one of the world's most fervent anti­globalisation activists.

In the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meeting next year, whether such services will be at their most vulnerable, it is vital that these continue to become aware and pressurise their elected representatives to every level with the belief that "our education, our health, our basic rights are not for sale."

It will be at Genoa that Globalise Resistance will hope to aid a sizable contingent of Irish people to attend and demonstrate a "people's abhorrence" to what is been proposed. Additionally it is in an aim to hold a solidarity protest during the summit.

Those wishing to get involved can simply join the mailing list, come along to any of the meetings or view the website: http://globalise-resistant ej s.net or email: globalise_resistance@yahoo.com

Ronan Moore is currently studying for a MSc in Sustainable Development at DIT Bolton Street.

Will the next decade see education, public health and social welfare pass from the hands of the government into the hands of private business interests? writes Ronan Moore

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GOAL Aid Worker Mary Faherty talks to Etain McGuckian about leaving her hectic lifestyle in Ireland for a career move as a civil engineer in Kosovo

At only 23, Mary Faherty was a qualified civil engineer, working in one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. As well as a good income she also knew the downside - stress, bills and mortgages. Like so many young people, there was something nagging her, the pace of life, the constant talk of money and house prices, of getting a bigger car and other luxuries, so she upped and left, for Kosovo.

She is now an aid worker for the aid agency, GOAL, in a small, war-torn town of Peje. "I was just getting so sick of the whole rut race in Ireland, because it has just got so money oriented. Whereas this place reminds me of who I would imagine Ireland was like, maybe 20 years ago. People are very generous, and friendly, and they care about each other more. It's less about money and more relaxed, whereas in Ireland people are just getting a bigger car and a bigger house!"

Obviously concerned for her safety, Mary's family were reluctant to let her go at first, but realising how much she wanted this life change, they weren't prepared to stand in her way. "Initially it was like 'Oh my God are you mad, what do you think you are doing?' because everyone thinks you are coming over here dodging bullets, whereas in reality the greatest danger is a car accident."

Mary actually looked forward to becoming a project engineer. Although her new environment was becoming a project engineer.

Although her new environment was different to home, you have an immediate circle of friends, so there are a lot of advantages to it, and it's something different you can do for a year and then go back to whatever you were doing before.

You would think from reading the horrific news stories about Kosovo, that it would completely change your whole outlook on things. Instead, over the past four months Mary has learned how much of an insane and lucrative business aid work actually is. "I don't think it has changed me at all. It has just opened my eyes a bit more as to how the world really works. Like I would have always thought NGOs are all voluntary based, but a lot of volunteers are earning high wages."

Mary earns her reward in her job and enjoys the progress that her work provides. She makes an average of €300 a month. Not bad when you consider that her housing and transport expenses are all paid for and that everything costs next to nothing here anyway. She tells me though, that some of the volunteers here could be earning hundreds and even thousands more. Another striking thing that she has noticed, which will have it's revenge soon, is the fact that NGOs are setting higher wages by local standards, for construction workers, than teachers and doctors are paid. "I don't think it's a healthy and a good way of doing things, to come in and completely change the whole running of things entirely. When the agencies have all gone, they [the locals] are going to go back to their normal salaries, which could cause bigger problems later."

To get away from the daily realities, Mary leads a surprisingly ordinary life, like reading, watching videos, dining out and playing football. "There is never really a dull moment, it's not as if you are sitting around thinking what am I going to do now." One of the things she does miss from Ireland though is a good disco, as she reminds me of the UNICEF party where we abused the Bob Marley DJ all night for some reason.

Mary admits that spirituality more than religion is what has guided her so far. Her philosophy on life seems to reflect that, and is maybe the reason why she is here, "Do what you want to do. Don't be motivated by money. Try to cause as little harm to others as possible. Try to keep a positive attitude and beware that we are just passing through."

Mary is certainly a mase for the value of life, and in the past four months she has realised how precious life really is. Her break from Ireland's money mayhem has opened several doors and her path for the future is destined to be a busy one. After her year here, she has plans to go back to Ireland for six months and get involved in some housing projects.

No matter what happens though, she can definitely see herself in and out of aid work, and is looking forward to spending another year with GOAL in the future, perhaps sunny South America this time through.
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**reviews**

The last word in beer

**Battle of the Bands**

**Apes top the rock tree**

By Darragh Clifford and Eoin Murphy

CIVILISED Apes were recent winners of the DIT Battle of the Bands. Held in Eamon Doran’s Temple Bar on Tuesday, March 27th, Civilised Apes overcame opposition from two other acts to claim first prize of two days studio time. The gig was organized by the DIT Rock Society, which is based in Kevin St.

Civilised Apes were deserved winners, were musically very tight, with some catchy original tunes, especially “Today”.

Kearney and James Taylor’s “Fire and Rain”.

The lead singer, Frances Downey, possessed a haunting voice that seemed almost out of place amongst the leather-clad audience. Guitarist Alan Fennery was impressive and braved a soothing instrumental. There were clear influences from Nick Drake and the Frames and in different surroundings would have received greater applause.

In a jaunty finale the played the theme music from that old t.v. favorite “The Little Hobo”.

While the task of opening the competition was daunting, they coped well, though the duo spent more time looking at each other than at the audience. Huckerbunny are usually a three-piece and DIT graduate Thomas Norton was absent due to personal commitments.

Huckerbunny are at present recording an album. This summer they plan to tour Chicago and if you want to catch them before they go, their usual haunts are the blue room and Doyle’s of Fleet Street. It was a credit to the judges that a talented band was considered even if their style was a dramatic contrast to the other finalists.

The third band to perform was Playground Psychotic. An all female band, Playground Psychotic played a mostly heavy metal set. Their shy personalities were in total contrast to the music they were performing. Unfortunately, their set was cut short, but the end and the band struggled to maintain the audience’s attention.

Clara Gunn on lead guitar showed great skill, but more work must be done on their overall performance if they wish to go further.

The event’s organizer Leonora Colucci was thrilled with the success of the competition and applauded all entrants. She is pleased with the success of the Rock Soc. and is looking forward to next year. She felt that the gig was hampered by the poor level of assistance that she received from the DITSU.

While Clubs get great attention it appears that societies are left by their own devices and the results the Rock Society have achieved are impressive.

**Albums**

Chill out tunes

DIT music critic, Rebecca Kelly, gives you the lowdown on this month’s latest album releases.

Various Artists: The Chillout Session (Ministry Of Sound)

The Ministry Of Sound pretty much dominate the market when it comes to great dance compilations with its selection of Annuals, Clubber Guides and Tarce Nation. But the masters of uptempo house and hardcore have decided to wind down with their latest release, The Chillout Sessions.

The opening track “Truffles” is clearly ska-influenced and is pretty much in the same wheelhouse of the better tracks on the album. Although that is not saying much. “Jump ’em n’ bump ’em” and “Punk ass bitch” let the album down big time.

In attempt to regain interest, Wheatus (God love them) try to cover Graven’s “Little Respect”. However, this bunch of whiny guys don’t do the song any justice and simply annoy the listener even further. The album is very short (35 minutes long) but this really is a blessing in disguise.

If, however, you are a fan of adolescent brat-poppers Blink 182, geek rock the Offspring, or some other tragic American rockers export are the business, then by all means try it. But believe me, after listening to the album quite carefully, the term “one-hit-wonder” springs to mind.

Rating: 31/10

Wheatus: Wheatus (Columbia)

Oh dear, Hailed as the new Blink 182, geek rockers Wheatus have shot to fame on both sides of the Atlantic for their catchy, if not slightly irritating, single “Teenage Dirtbag”.

While the tune is catchy and the video features celebs of “American Pie” fame, the rest of the tracks on the album leave a lot to be desired.

The opening track “Truffles” is clearly ska-influenced and is pretty much in the same wheelhouse of the better tracks on the album. Although that is not saying much. “Jump ’em n’ bump ’em” and “Punk ass bitch” let the album down big time. This could have something to do with their intriguing song titles or their equally intriguing song lyrics.

Rating: 71/10

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HMV – the last word in beer

Through the years, HMV has provided entertainment for the masses in Dublin.

Rating: 91/10

Various Artists: I Love The 80s (Virgin/EMI TV)

Fashion and music critics everywhere predict it would happen. We’ve revived the fifties, the sixties and the seventies, and now it is time to relive that preferably forgotten decade, the eighties. And as the 21st century embraces the best of this high-powered, money hungry, badly dressed era, record companies are frantically churning out cheesy compilations to meet the new demand.

Straight on the bandwagon is Virgin/EMI TV with their latest offering, aptly titled “I Love The 80s”. Revive those musical highs with classic 80’s greats such as “I Think We’re Alone Now” by Tiffany and “Never Gonna Give You Up” by Rick Astley. Reminisce about your first kiss at the school disco to Huey Lewis’s “The Power Of Love” and bop around your living room to Banarama’s “It Ain’t What You Do”.

Overall, the selection is impressive and this double CD compilation is a must for fans of 80’s music everywhere. So get your leg warmers and groove to the very best in power ballads and synthesised beats.

Rating: 9110
War, Mummies & Lara!

Pearl Harbor

Starring: Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett, Cuba Gooding Jr., Kate Beckinsale
Director: Michael Bay

Pearl Harbor reunites director Michael Bay with producer Jerry Bruckheimer for the first time since their 1997 summer hit Armageddon, which raked in over $500 million despite being panned by critics. And it's not beyond the realms of possibility to see their latest project achieving a similar level of success.

The screenplay, which was written by Bravest Heart writer Randall Wallace, looks like bringing the storyline of Titanic (love triangle set during a defining historical moment) forward 29 years to the day that the Japanese Air Force wiped out the American Pacific fleet in Hawaii.

Ben Affleck, who has featured in some decidedly poor affairs of late, will obviously hope that the war drama will propel him into the next stratosphere of action hero, and add another few zeros to future pay cheques.

Tomb Raider

Starring: Angelina Jolie, Iain Glen, Daniel Craig, Jon Voight
Director: Simon West

Another previous member of the Bruckheimer stable, Simon West could well be rubbing his hands with glee with the prospect of the massive box office success that Lara Croft's inception as celluloid superstar is likely to provide.

Dragging millions of nerds to the cinema in a way that Star Wars: Episode II is likely to replicate next year, Tomb Raider brings to the screen the first serious female equivalent of James Bond.

It also looks like providing Jolie with a money spinning franchise to work with over the next decade. Having already confirmed that she is contracted to at least another two movies of judo kicking, gun toting, hotpants wielding action, Jolie was always the first choice that Simon West had for the role.

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The Mummy Returns

Starring: Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Arnold Vosloo
Director: Stephen Sommers

While the world waits for Indiana Jones 4 to finally happen (and we're assured that it will take place some time before Harrison Ford reaches retirement age!), the next best thing to Indy and his whip looks like Brendan Fraser with his.

Following the surprise success of The Mummy two summers' ago, Fraser is back, with the action set a decade after his first desert duel with Imhotep, played with frightening intensity by Arnold Vosloo. The Mummy's mistress (also the Pharaoh's squeeze), who set the ball rolling all those millennia ago by having an affair with the delightfully named Ank-Su-Namun (Patricia Velasquez) and we all know the story from there.

The story largely focuses on Namun, who was a peripheral character in the original movie and her antics bring about a series of events which, you've guessed it, lead to the return of the Mummy to twentieth century Egypt.

With a supporting cast featuring Alec Baldwin, Jon Voight, Tom Sizemore and Dan Ackroyd, it's hard to see how this movie cannot fail, which is presumably why it won't.

Dermot Keyes takes a look at the movies which are set to hit the big time over the summer holidays

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Planet of the Apes. Starring Mr. Wahlberg, Helena Bonham Carter, Michael Clarke Duncan and T. Roth, the movie promises much what the 1968 original featured except better looking apes and a graphic touch that Burton's directly always provides.
By Dermot Keyes

DIT Handball Club was rewarded for a year of high achievement at the fourth annual Sports Awards, which took place at the Hilton Stakis Hotel in Dublin on April 6.

The Handball Club claimed the Club of the Year award and the efforts of organiser Padraig Gaffney were described by DIT Sports Committee Chairman Declan Glynn as "exceptional." With success in the Dublin Senior League, a number of members representing Ireland at World Championship level in Minneapolis, as well as a number of successes at All-Ireland level, it truly was a year to remember for all involved in the club.

For his contribution to the club's efforts, Padraig Gaffney was awarded the Club Executive of the Year prize and earned further plaudits from Dr Glynn.

"He has been a great contributor to the improving the status of the game in DIT and has greatly increased the profile of the club." Handball club member and World Under-19 Handball champion Dessie Keegan was one of the night's All-Star winners and was rewarded for a year of high achievement both for DIT and his native Ballaghaderreen club.

The Badminton Club was named the most improved club of the year award, much of the credit deservedly being given to co-ordinator Ciaran McKern, whom Dr Glynn said had "illustrated tremendous dedication and commitment" to his position.

Ciaran secured sponsorship from Badweiser, maintains the club's website and has helped to organise several social events during the year.

Presentations were also made to Billy Winter DIT Canoe Club for his efforts throughout the year and a similar presentation was made to Colin Bresnan of the Olympic Handball Club.

The other All-Star award on the night went to DIT's soccer captain Robert Hederman, whose efforts for the college (the team reached this year's Collingwood Cup for the first time ever) and club Tolka Rovers have caught the eye of several scouts cross channel.

DIT's first batch of sports scholarship recipients were also rewarded for an outstanding year of commitment and success both at intervarsity and club levels. James Murray (Irish Cerebral Palsy Soccer squad), Fiona Healy (golf), Paul Campbell (athletics), Barry Lambert (hurling) and Maria Lynch (athletics) were the first five such athletes to receive such awards in the Institute. Speaking after the awards ceremony, DIT President Brendan Goldsmith congratulated all those who had contributed to the DIT sporting year and added: "We hope that we can take the scholarship issue to a higher level."

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**Irish Independent**

**10 TICKETS TO ARDAL O'HANLON MUST BE WON!**

You can choose to do either quick or cryptic clues, the answers are the same.

**Across**
1. Time to get spectacular for telling the time (11)
2. Eats potted shrimps (8)
3. Book (7)
4. Keyboard instrument (7)
5. Footpath across the road without moral transgression (6)
6. Tchaikovsky about top teacher getting attacked by a bee (5)
7. Neglect (5)
8. Memory defect (7)
9. Assimilates (7)
10. Of a town or city (7)
11. No to the middle of the road (5)
12. I regain a new order in Africa (5)
13. Neglected to tidy up, a region (6)
14. He has not been a great contributor to the improving the status of the game in DIT (5)
15. A sharp one needed for embroidery (7)
16. Not a rural pope (5)
17. Fading to win a record without moral transgression (6)
18. A Scandinavian (5)
19. A woman who likes his hair (5)
20. A nation's leader (5)
21. Nordic like Mo Gigg's, for example (5)
22. A European man, but certainly not Norse (4,2,5)
23. A harvest of (6)
24. Embroidery (11)

**Down**
1. Egg times (11)
2. Keyboard instrument (5)
3. Book (7)
4. Being irritated (6)
5. Paired sharply (5)
6. Possess (4)
7. Caesar's last meal (4,2,9)
8. Appointments (11)
9. Genuine (7)
10. Nazi secret police (7)
11. Royal building (6)
12. Satisfied (5)

**DIT STUDENTS** simply complete the attached crossword and return it along with your name, address and name of DIT college attending to:
Linda Beatty, Marketing Department, Irish Independent Newspapers, 90 Middle Abbey St., Dublin 1.

The first correct entry from each of the 5 DIT colleges will receive two tickets to see the hilarious Ardal O'Hanlon in Vicar St. on either 5th, 6th or 7th June. Closing date for entries is Wednesday 9th May 2001.

The Irish Independent would like to wish all DIT students GOOD LUCK in their summer exams.
By Ciarán McKeon
(Treasurer & PRO, DIT Badminton Club)

THE past two months have been an extremely busy time for the DIT Badminton Club, even though all our remaining competitive fixtures were cancelled due to the foot and mouth crisis.

The Club held a successful mini-blitz, took part in the prestigious annual AGM, and had its end of year night out, attended the DIT Sports Awards night, where we picked up the trophy for the New or Improved Club of the Year.

The mini-blitz took place over “March 13th and 20th” with a great turn out during our normal training time.

The improvement in standards and hunger for competition shown by many of our players was a huge boost to the Club, particularly as it involved preparation of teams for the AGM. Brian Keegan and Brian Barry camped out on the Wednesday night, with Jake Archell and Diana Folan taking second place.

A special award for Most Improved Player went to Alison Kelly for her commitment and dedication to the sport throughout the year.

The night was finished off by a celebration in Planet Murphy’s where many free pints of Budweiser quenched the thirst of the tired players.

On Monday 24th, we joined up with UCD and TCD racquet sports (badminton, tennis and squash) clubs in the Royal Dublin Hotel in a unique black tie event known as the “Racquet Ball”.

Originally, this event was only for UCD and TCD clubs, but this year the Club had the privilege of taking part. Organised by the Dublin Colleges Racquet Clubs Association, the ball was a huge success given the fact that it was put together with such short notice.

The Delighted Badminton crew with their pride on DIT Sports Awards night. Pictured from left to right: Jenny Green, Ciarán McKeon, Albert Harrison (Coach) and Jane MacEoin

Another complaint of the poll are either under the committee and election of

Man U believe it?

Has Ryan Giggs been more valuable to Manchester United than Roy Keane? Was Paul Ince a better servant than Nicky Butt? Is Nicky Butt better than Paul McGrath? And is Eric Cantona also a genius, as his one-man behind the scenes, we were crowned with the coveted title of Best New of Improved Club of the Year.

Neilussy to say, our party of nine at the awards celebrated like mad, well into the early hours.

To celebrate our win at the awards, we decided that this year, we will be having “another” end of year social.

Finally, I would personally like to thank everyone who helped out with the running of the Club throughout the year, and all our members who turned up week in week out for training.

Remember keep in contact with the Club through our great website - find it at www.dit.ie/admin/sports at “clubs A to HT”.

Manchester United’s fans truly revised history when it came to selecting the 100 greatest players ever to play for club, argues Miguel Delaney

and United’s foreign support, the result should be no surprise. What 12-year-olds is going to place Gordon Hill ahead of Gary Neville? While United’s “biggest fan” from Reykjavik is never going to place Liam Whelan ahead of his beloved David Beckham. But this sort of thing is seen in all these types of polls which have persistently cropped up since the turn of the Millennium. In Channel 4’s quest to find the most influential musician of all time, Robbie Williams came top.

In the Observer’s poll to find the greatest sporting moment in Booth’s lifetime, a huge and not surprising (it was just a little too early) was the Jimmy Greaves goal in the 1970 World Cup final. But it is likely to attract more cricket supporters than most. The polls are democratic so they must be accepted whatever the experts think.

However, these polls are never going to absolutely satisfy everybody. I would have Mark Hughes at least in United’s top five. Imagine the worst case scenario if his last minute volley against Oldham in extra time of the 1994 FA Cup semi-final had hit the bar.

All avoided because of their
By Kevin Marnane

DIT Northside Mountaineering

Round one
The first round of the Irish Bouldering League for 2000/2001 was held in the lovely city of Galway at their premier educational facility, NUIG.

The Galway lads, knowing where the talent lies, imported a couple of route setters from our own fair city. Along with the very capable setting of the routes, they also provided some more entertainment in the form of some half-raising unicycle satirical.

Nigel Callender, the infamous junior supremo decided it was time to make his mark on the big board. And a fair size mark it was too! Callender must find it hard to kick old habits thus christening the Male A number one spot with a bit of good old unicycle magic.

Another notable newcomer to the Male A section was Joan Flanagan. Like the young Nigel, Joan had a bit of history making to do. The current women’s champion had no intention of letting the young whippersnapper and collar down her guard.

No, it was time for Male A to see how they did. As for this excuse for a roof, the haulers put together a technical-challenging and very enjoyable collection (well, this five foot something enjoyed it anyway; the same may not be said for those six foot somethings who seemed to find it a bit tight getting those oversized frames around this tricky circuit).

Callender seemed a bit confused when he was told that he had come in second to the mighty Alistair Wilson. Wilson put on a flawless show to pip the young whippersnapper and collar himself that elusive Male A number one spot. Ms. Flanagan was back in DIT keeping the heads turned as she leapt through the Male A number one spot Ms. Flanagan was back in DIT keeping the heads turning as she leapt through the Male A ranks.

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Round two
The second round saw the action back in good old Dublin town. The DCU boys brought Al Sahran’s unquestionable route setting skill and added to his ranks the powerful Ronan Browner.

A pair put together a technical-challenging and very enjoyable collection (well, this five foot something enjoyed it anyway; the same may not be said for those six foot somethings who seemed to find it a bit tight getting those oversized frames around this tricky circuit).

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Round three
Cook beckoned for the third round but obviously not loud enough for me to make the long trek down...so sorry no news.

Round four
Round four saw me back on the train headed for Belfast and the annual Ozone BBL. This year we were treated to the sight of the Ozone’s new extended wall. Their decision to put in a ‘roof’ (for those not in the know, there’s a climbing roof not the kind that keeps the rain off) made life interesting and saw a few not so elegant trips to the floor.

The roof also gave us the ‘Eliminator,’ which was aptly named as to saw everyone dispatched to the floor until the competition’s end.

But, I am happy to say that my fellow five foot something colleague, Al Sahran, showed his genius in conjuring a magnificent solution to best the beast before we got the flock of there and made the swift trip to the pub.

Yet again, in Belfast, I found myself as the sole DIT representative. I managed to give myself another push, which landed me in seventh place with 130 points. On the Sunday a few of us headed off for a spectacular day’s climbing in Fair Head, but that’s a story for another day. I’ll write again after the finals in UCD or whenever this foot and mouth puts its foot in its mouth where its foot is and legs it! (Editor’s note: Could be waiting until the next college year to see how they did!)

Due to the foot-and-mouth score, the mountainering club’s training programme has been delayed until possibly June, said DIT Mountaineering Chairman Gavin McManus. The programme will include mountain skills training, multi-pitch training in Glendalough and RCI training.

SPORTS AWARDS

DIT Handball’s Pádraig Gaffney, from Ballaghadereen, Co Mayo presented with his Club Executive of the Year Award by Tracy Piggott

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