DIT Student Union

2000-12

DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of December, 2000

DIT: Students Union

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By Samantha Rowntree

A DITSU-organised Hallo­ween event has lost the student union £36,000. "It was a disaster," said Mr Vinny Dooley, President of DITSU, failed to inform the student body of the loss to the Student Union budget and instead wrote of the successful class rep election.

"It was a disaster because they didn't inform the students," he said. "They said that it was a success, but it wasn't."

Mr Dooley pointed out that the event was organised by the student council and that it was up to class reps to relay the information.

By Aisling Casey

THOUSANDS of students took to the streets for the largest student charity event ever, 'The Fresher's 10k Walk', raising an estimated £1 million for The Chernobyl Children's Project.

On November 16th, over 10,000 third level studentsflocked to the pace of development in the ongoing campaign for increased funding for Chernobyl, taking part in a 10k sponsored walk. Sponsored walkers were organised at Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Derry, Letterkenny, Sligo, Maynooth, Athlone, Tralee, Carlow and Waterford.

"The event was designed to help the Chernobyl Children's Project in its humanitarian organisation, which helps counteract the plight of Chernobyl children affected by the radiation," said Aisling Casey.

"SOS Appeal-for God's sake help us get the children out," said Adi Roche, executive director of The Chernobyl Children's Project.

The money generated from the event will go towards funding a convoy of ambulances and trucks full of humanitarian and medical supplies, to the scene of the world's worst civilian nuclear accident. £200 will bring a child from Belarus to Ireland for medical treatment and a short break with an Irish family while £75 will pay a nurse trained to care for an unconscious. We were practically emptied out, our population was literally halved through starvation and massive emigration. We survived due to intervention, and that is why we are so sure that the Irish people come together in such situations to help," she said.

In conjunction with The Chernobyl Children's Project, USI and Bank of Ireland, the walk was initiated and directed by Dr. Lecturer Joe McGrath. As a sign of their commitment to the event, Bank of Ireland donated £1 for every third level student account opened in their bank this year.

"The bottom line is that it's a student event. Last year's Rag Ball was a success, but DITSU are not there to make money. The money is there to spend on us, so why are they trying to make money out of us?" he added.
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In the December issue of the DIT Independent, we look at the controversial issue of the DITSU organised Halloween Ball. The event was held in the Point Theatre with a number of well known acts appearing.

The overall DITSU president, Mr Vinny Dooley took over the reins of DITSU during the event, which is in hindsight has proved to be a disaster. The event had to be cancelled due to lack of interest from students with only a very small number of tickets being sold and the students union losing money.

The tickets had been priced at £15 each, Mr Dooley claims that this was a bargain because of the amount and quality of the acts performing. However personally I feel that no matter how playing this was still far too expensive for a ticket to any student event.

A student union president is supposed to understand and act on the interests of those he represents but this clearly did not happen.

Mr Dooley acted on the behalf of the students, he would not have organised an event with tickets costing £15 each. Student events should be designed for students taking into account that they do not have a lot of money to spend but still want to enjoy themselves. A night in the Point, including drinks and all the policy of the DIT independent was a considerable price.

Mr Dooley has taken full responsibility for this loss of money and has said that no services offered by the students union will suffer due to this loss. However £36,000 is a vast amount of money and I’m sure that it could have been used in a more beneficial way. Student services already provided by the students union could have been improved upon and perhaps even new services could be introduced.

I don’t know much about the running of a students union but I think that you would think that a number of people involved in the running of a union and not just the overall president. I’m sure if Mr Dooley had listened earlier to his student union representatives from each individual college, he would have realised sooner that this event was not going to be a success.

There is also a class rep system in place in each college. The class reps could have been used to tell the union very early on that this event would not work.

In order to make back the money lost, Mr Dooley has asked all bars and pubs to offer a discount on their usual rates. This isn’t good enough, no cuts should have to be made in order to be able to make back the money in the first place. And to have to make money by being in the same position as you have to in order to make back up for the loss of £36,000.

Finally it is now illegal for pubs and nightclubs to discriminate because of age. No longer can bouncer tell you that you are too young as long as you can prove that you are over 18 and adhere to the dress code. Under the Equal Status Act, pubs can no longer enforce a 21’s or 23’s door policy. While they are entitled to refuse admission for other reasons, age can no longer be used as an excuse.

There is nothing more frustrating than going out for a night, queue to get into a crowded night-spot only to be told ‘it’s only for 23’s only’ especially when you know that well that the 16 year old wearing a skirt like a belt behind you will get in no problem.

An also welcome improvement is the introduction of a new Nitelink service this Christmas for the city. The service is to run every twenty minutes and serve more areas. Hopefully both of these will make for better nights.

It is the policy of the DIT independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition. The views expressed in the above article do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students’ Union. The DIT Independent

DIT Independent

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The DIT Independent is produced by

And printed by The Meath Chronicle, Navan, Co Meath

### College to form new film partnership

**By Miguel Delaney**

The Dublin Institute of Technology is to form a partnership with the National Film and Television School (NFTS). The college is the first in Europe to form such an alliance with the school.

The partnership was announced on November 22nd at the Irish Film Centre in Dublin, attended by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Island, Ms Sheila Harrington, DIT President Brendan Goldsmith, and Irish film producer Noel Pearson.

The agreement was brokered by Dr Ellen Hazlekon, Director of the Faculty of Applied Arts, acting on behalf of DIT in conjunction with NFTS Director Stephen Bayly.

Under the agreement the NFTS Summer School Training Programme (NSCTP), a Unit of the National Film and Television School, will offer a course leading to a postgraduate diploma in Film and Broadcasting in DIT.

Students will first get the chance to study at this course in early 2001.

At the announcement, Ms de Valera welcomed the alliance, praising it as a "life-long learning opportunity" for young Irish filmmakers. Dr Hazlekon expressed her delight for DIT. "I think it's absolutely terrific, it's the first time we've been able to obtain

recognised qualifications from a world leader. The School of Media at DIT is responsible for producing highly skilled and employable graduates and alliances with partners such as NFTS really puts us on a global stage," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the NFTS, Director Stephen Bayly said that such a relationship "opens British eyes to wider possibilities and also makes available the excellent practical teaching of the NFTS's Short Course Unit to others in the European sphere."

Film and broadcasting students in DIT Aungier Street spoke of their feelings on the new partnership. Siobhan O'Connor from Clonsaur described it as "a good opportunity for people interested in film".

Celine Macgilpaddy from Tralee is considering the new course as a choice after her degree.

However Gerard Quinn from Ballina, who plans to work in RT... said, "I feel a bit left out of this, we weren't informed and I don't know too much about it." DIT itself claims a good record in producing Irish filmmakers, is entering good company in the agreement.

The NFTS, which is a leading international centre for professional training in television, film and multimedia industries, offers full-time courses and a wide range of short courses for film, television and digital production industry professionals.

It is jointly funded by the British government with partners including United International Pictures, BSkyB, Warner Brothers, BBC, ITV, Channel Television, Discovery Networks Europe and UCI.

Over 700 of its graduates have totalled nearly 400 international industry and student awards between them, including Oscars, BAFTAs and Emmys.

### Most students with disabilities at college

**By Samantha Rowntree**

A NEW report, Provision for Students with Disabilities in Third Level Education, claims the number of students with disabilities attending third-level education in Ireland has improved in the past five years.

The Higher Education Authority report shows only 850 students with disabilities in undergraduate courses are studying in higher education. This represents less than one per cent of the total undergraduate population despite the fact that four per cent of the school-going population has a disability.

"DIT is very much in line with the HEA report," claims Ms Sheila Harrington, Head of the Disability Service in DIT.

"There's been a 27 per cent to 30 per cent increase in the number of students. The disability service is very pro-active; we had an induction day for students and launched a poster campaign in all the colleges. "The advisors are there to facilitate students with a disability in their educational requirements." Mr John Hayden, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority, pointed out that all areas of study may not be equally accessible to students with different disabilities.

"Arts has the highest numbers of students with disabilities, at 27 per cent, with Business and Social Sciences at 15 per cent. Engineering with 13 per cent, Science with 12 per cent and Art and Design with 10 per cent."

USI has called for an increase of a five per cent quota intake of students with disabilities into third level education to reflect more accurately their proportion as a whole.

The new Equal Status Act passed in October outlaws all providers of goods and services from discriminating against the public on the grounds of age, gender, marital and family status, religion, race, sexual orientation, disability or members of the Travelling community.

This means that people can no longer be denied access to services like third level education simply because of their skin colour, sexual orientation or disability. "This act means students see there's legislation in place to protect them," said Ms Harrington.

"The flexibility in the turnouts show how much students really do care even though they have rent and college expenses to think about."

### 1fm for Chernobyl

From page 1

DIT was heavily involved in the event. Over 1,000 students from all 22 colleges took part in the sponsored walk.

So far, DIT students raised an estimated £25,000, however the money is still coming in. DIT student Miguel Delaney said, “It was a good laugh.

We are the biggest body in Ireland and we showed our appreciation to the work of the project by taking part in the event. The money raised shows this”.

Miguel added, "from the turnout, it was obvious students were enthusiastic about taking part, there were thousands of students at Phoenix Park."
Focus on... Coffee culture

Decaf please!

A comprehensive study is underway into the health implications of caffeine, targeting students' vulnerability.

Prof Jack James, of NUI Galway, will command a three-year £1.2 million research project examining the health effects of caffeine.

"Students are a vulnerable group because of the coffee culture in college," he said. Prof James may even implement measures to ensure that college canteens provide the option of decaffeinated coffee.

"Advertising campaigns target students, especially new energy drinks compounded further their vulnerability," he claimed.

According to Prof James, students are generally unaware of the effects of caffeine because the manufacturers are the only source of information. Commenting on the role of manufacturers in the dissemination process, he said, "Some are even likely to claim health benefits for which there is no support."

Caffeine is a drug affecting the nervous system. Prof James claims that a single dose a day may even have a mood altering effect.

"It is not a mood altering effect from using caffeine," he explained, "but rather a mood altering effect from not using caffeine, known as caffeine withdrawal." Symptoms of caffeine withdrawal include, feeling poorly, tiredness and irritability, headaches and an inability to concentrate.

"Students are a vulnerable group because of the coffee culture in college."

In an effort to educate people of the effects of caffeine, the EU-funded programme provides for the distribution of information through consumer organisations.

Prof James also stressed the importance of schools and colleges as a source of information for young people.

"The first step is to disseminate information," he said. "If students are well informed, they can make sensible decisions."

Caffeine is a constituent of the daily diet of more than 80 per cent of the world's population. It is a psychoactive substance and is socially accepted as a natural "pick-me-up", which improves alertness and concentration.

The strong demand for new energy drinks is causing worldwide concern because of the relatively high levels of caffeine included. Drinks such as Red Bull and Dynamite are marketed aggressively at young people, promising a buzz during times of stress.

However, with increased consumption or when mixed with alcohol, the health risks of these "high energy" drinks rise dramatically.

In 1998, Prof James concluded, "No evidence was found that caffeine improves performance, either in the context of acute or habitual use. On the contrary, performance was found to be significantly impaired when caffeine was withdrawn abruptly after habitual use."

Research into the effects of Red Bull has been recommended in Ireland, following the death of an 18-year-old Limerick basketball player who died of unexplained Sudden Adult Death Syndrome. The inquest heard that Mr Ross Cooney drank up to three cans of Red Bull before he died. However, lack of scientific evidence left the jury without circumstantial evidence of Red Bull's role in his death.

The drink that 'gives you wings' claims to stimulate the body and mind. A recent survey showed that 75% of 20-year-olds became regular drinkers of Red Bull after trying it once. When clubbing, Red Bull is almost regarded as a fashion item. The maker's of Red Bull claim that the drink has been thoroughly and scientifically tested and further studies are not necessary.

However the European Commission's scientific committee concluded that more research was needed to establish a safe upper limit for caffeine intake in the diet.

The results of Prof Jack James's research will either set our minds at ease or scare us from ever consuming caffeinated drinks. Although the study will take three years to complete, information on the progress of the study will be available every six months.

Aisling Casey looks at coffee culture in colleges

What you have to say...

Do you think caffeine/Red Bull has an effect on people?

Aisling Casey looks at coffee culture in colleges

Caffeine is a drug affecting the nervous system.
The students' union would like to wish all DIT students and staff a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.
The Appliance of Science

By Samantha Rowntree

THE fourth year of Science Week Ireland took place between November 13th and 16th. DIT Kevin Street played their part and hosted a series of demonstration lectures.

"The Science of Crime", a lecture by Dr Sheila Willis of the Garda Forensic Laboratory gave an insight on how chemistry is used in solving crimes. Lecturers Dr Fergus Ryan and Dr Derek Neylan, of Kevin Street DIT, discussed the issue of genetics and asked whether the genetic revolution was way forward for mankind.

Science Week also launched a new web site, Science.ie, Ireland’s first interactive science, technology and innovation web site. But what do Darra O'Briain and model Natasha Byram have in common?

Well it's not looks for sure - they are both science graduates and are just two of the role models featured on this site.

Science Week gave people an opportunity to explore, discover and experiment with science. One of the most dramatic events took place on December 9th in Gleeson Hall. This was a musical performance demonstrating aspects of physics and acoustics called "Plumber's Sinfonia."

The seven physics students from Irish universities directed by Gordon Douglas created music with an assortment of instruments made from plastic plumbing pipes. They used them to produce melodious sounds and to show the intimate connection between physics and music.

The performance included the eminent percussionist John Woodham, along with jazz guitarist Mike Neilton, who is a post-graduate student of physics and music.

Looking after your welfare

By Joanne Burke

WELFARE Week got underway in DIT colleges in the last week of November. The welfare offices were busy giving out information on the services on offer to DIT students.

Welfare officers also want to make the Welfare Office better known to students. A leaflet outlining both the DIT and Student Union services was produced.

Will Nelson, Welfare Officer for DIT Kevin Street said, "I have been handing out leaflets every day and on Thursday, I set up a stand in the foyer. I had leaflets on everything that we can do as well as any other relevant information such as housing rights and medical card application forms. I had quite a lot of interest and talked to quite a few students who might not normally come into the SU offices."

DIT students can also avail of two medical centres, one in DIT Aungier Street and another at DIT Bolton Street, a discreet counselling service in every college, a chaplaincy service and career guidance office.

The Student Union Welfare Office also provides a range of advice for students on financial and medical matters. Short-term interest free loans of up to £60 are available from the Welfare Officers to help students to get back on track. However, to avail of these loans you must have a genuine cause, not, for example, a deep-rooted desire for a few pints.

A student assistance fund is available to help students with expenses for dental or ophthalmic treatment.

This is for students who require routine dental treatments but are experiencing financial difficulties. However, the fund is only available to those experiencing severe financial hardship.

Each of the Welfare Officers were keen to emphasise DIT’s open-door policy. Simon Clark, DIT Aungier Street’s Welfare Officer said, "We are available any time to help with problems. A student may be having, no matter how big or small. Whether you have a problem of any description, please don’t hesitate to call into the office anytime. The policy of the Welfare Office is one of absolute confidentiality and discretion will be guaranteed at all times."

The campaign finished on December 1st, coinciding with World Aids Day.

This year’s theme all was "men make a difference" and colourful posters emphasised the message. Red ribbons were on sale for £1 with all proceeds going to Aids research. Many students showed their support by buying and wearing the ribbons.

Hundreds of condoms supplied by the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society were given out free to the students in order to promote safe sex and to heighten Aids awareness. Any student who missed out can obtain information from any of the welfare offices.

Welfare Week and World Aids Day are an important part of the DIT calendar. This year’s campaign was as successful as any other year in reaching the students and letting them know about the services available. It also heightened HIV and Aids awareness and the importance of safe sex.

Canteen standards vary

By Marian Harrison and Caroline Keogh

THE quality of college canteens has always been questionable. With food being the second highest living expense for students, the reasonable prices offered by colleges have always been attractive.

However, the standards within the DIT colleges vary considerably and the students of Mountjoy Square seem to get the worst deal.

Space is obviously a problem in the Mountjoy canteen and it is the non-smokers who suffer. The canteen is too small to allow for an effective division between smokers and non-smokers.

Students, Lydon and Celine, found the food reasonably priced but not of high quality. They admitted to eating in nearby Carlow Brugha St, where they were satisfied with the food. Mountjoy’s one redeeming factor is the fact that students can avail of an early hangover cure with the Irish breakfast being available from 8.45 to 11.00.

Aungier Street compares poorly to this only managing to serve breakfast for one hour 10.00 to 11.00 daily. It is not surprising that Cathal Brugha Street food has a good reputation as it has both catering and environmental health course students.

The kitchen appears to be very hygienic and food preparation areas are in view. Karen of the catering staff spoke of how they compared to other DIT colleges.

"We compare very favourably and this is evident when we think of the standards from students from Mountjoy Square and Bolton Street who eat here regularly."

The prices are within a student’s budget but the canteen itself is very disappointing being both dark and small and the students complained about this. Bridge commented, "you’re walking around with your tray and there is nowhere to sit". There is light at the end of the tunnel however with plans for a canteen extension.

In sharp contrast to the previous two the canteen in Kevin Street is both bright and spacious.

However, packed lunches are banned between 12.30 and 2.00, which doesn’t suit the cash strapped student who rely on their homemade ham sandwich.

Nearby Aungier Street, with its’ up to date facilities ranks high in student opinion with students speaking of "value for money". However, the coffee is of poor quality resulting in students and staff going elsewhere.

Overall students feel that the prices are fair, the food is cheap and the canteens are missed. However, it is obvious that the standards, particularly in Mountjoy Square need to be improved.

It seems that the college canteen is not necessary the evil it can be portrayed as, with the majority of students being satisfied.
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**Jenni Duggan checks out the idyllic island of Kos**

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Nixers.com was founded by Marco Herbst and Leigh Hamilton.

The site first went live last Christmas Eve and today it has filled over 2,000 vacancies for more than 900 employers across Ireland. Their record time for filling a job was 15 minutes.

The site also has a facility whereby users can enter what sort of jobs they are interested as well as their e-mail address and as soon as a job which would suit them comes up, they receive an e-mail about it.

There are no changes for any of their services for users who include job searches, free e-mail and CV storage.

Christmas is a good time for looking for short-term work with many employers trying to find extra employees to help ease the Christmas rush. Nixers.com offers a wide range of jobs from dog walkers to DJs.

Nixers.com is also available on Wap phones for non pc users at www.nixers.com/wap. Currently they are developing an SMS service which will offer instant messaging to mobile phones as soon as a job becomes available.

There are plans to extend the site to overseas and already an Australian site is up and live (www.au.nixers.com) and there are plans to develop UK and US sites.

Should you have any questions, or require further information please contact Marco Herbst on the 24 hotline 0876875569. Or call Nixers head office on 1800 NIXERS (1800 649377).

Jenni Duggan: "Heaven is the word that comes to mind when I think about Kos"

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The Overall View

Ahern launches DIT-backed school computer programme

By Dermot Keyes

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, recently launched the Dublin Inner City Schools computerisation (DISC) project, in which DIT has played a major role in the foundation and operation of the plan. DISC, which was founded in February 1999, is directed by Dr Thomas Cooke of DIT's Directorate of Academic Affairs, who is hopeful that the project can give students in Dublin's inner city primary and secondary schools an opportunity to develop computer skills.

"Computers are an excellent tool for engagement and confidence building measures in the younger generation," he said.

The project caters for 4,500 pupils and 400 teachers in 11 primary and nine secondary schools in the north and south inner city, DIT, in conjunction with The National Centre for Technology in Education has allocated grants, equipment and a co-ordinator for the implementation of the project. Fujitsu Siemens have provided 48 computers to schools including Whitfield Street and St Enda's in the south inner city, while Dublin Inner City Based Partnership have donated £22,000 to the project.

DIT's involvement in the DISC project is part of the Institute's effort to enact a "number of strategies that address these problems," as per the White Paper on Educating: Charting our Future and Partnership 2000 - Action for Social Inclusion." The document states that a "strategic and targeted response" is required to tackle the levels of social exclusion and disadvantage in Dublin's inner city.

Vinny Dooley

WELL can you believe it nearly Christmas, we were 69 days ago. I would like to thank the Welfare officers for getting the Christmas campaign together which is running throughout all of our sites. I bet that you never realized that you got so much for free.

Now, I must apologize for not being able to inform you of the loss suffered after the cancellation of the Halloween ball in the last edition of this paper. However, what you must understand is that DITSU Council must be informed first as they are the governing body of the DITSU, and since Council was held after the last edition went to print there was nothing I could do. Since then, though there have been two DITSU Councils with a full explanation of the whole event. Unfortunately, with every event organized by the union there is always some risk involved, the bigger the event the bigger the risk. The gig didn't work due to a number of factors and had to be cancelled. I am one of the most unfortunate things ever to happen in the history of DITSU. All our gigs in the point it have always worked extremely well. From the day it was cancelled, I was negotiating prices to reduce the cost, as you can imagine a cancellation two days before the gig made it go down to well and even with most of the contracts stating that 100% payment must be made. I managed that the majority of the funds down to 50% of what was actually due. The final cost was £3,600, give or take a few pounds. As overall President I am the manager of this company and I take full responsibility for the failure of the event.

So far this year savings of nearly £10,000 have been made, I am also continuing to make cut backs and in continual negotiations with several companies to reduce cost even further. However, at no point will there ever be a reduction in services to the students and students union services.

In the meantime, I have some very good news, only this week after negotiations since the summer with the SU I have secured a budget increase of £60,000 for this years activities and I will go straight in providing more services for the students of DIT.

Well that's about all from me this time, so all the best of luck. And to all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in January.

Cheers, Vinny

SU lose money

from page 1

Mr Dooley said the price of the tickets was "an absolute bargain".

"The 4 of Us were playing the Olympia for £22.50 while we were offering The 4 of Us and a couple of other acts for £15." he said. "I have been cutting costs across the board. This year we didn't go to USI for training but organised our own welfare officer training over the summer. There are plenty of other cuts planned to recoup the loss." However he said that at no point were there a reduction of services to the students. "I take complete responsibility for the loss," he said. "I'm part of the job.

Personally Mr Nangle feels, as a student I would have never seen any of the £36,000 anyway. At a club and societies weekend away, we brought up with DITSU that organisers of societies should get free tickets to DITSU events, but DITSU refused with Nicky Lawlor saying, 'we are not here to reward you'.

* The whole event was a shambles, if any other managing director lost £36,000 they would be gone. * The £36,000 loss is a loss to the DIT central fund to which each student's registration fee goes. This means the Student Union lost the equivalent of 130 students' registration fees - a sum that could easily have been invested in the clubs and societies or in providing more facilities to benefit everyone.

Charity race night successful

AN exciting night ensued at the DIT race night held in the Gresham Hotel.

Mr Seamus Kielty, a food science and environmental health lecturer in DIT Cathal Brugha School, organised the event, in aid of Mr Mark Governey. Mr Governey, who graduated from Cathal Brugha School last year, was injured in a sporting accident leaving him paralysed.

Mr Kielty, who has organised race nights for charity and other deserving causes, described the night as successful. "On the night, there was considerable activity in the betting ring," he said. "The weather was good and there was a lot of close finishes."

Naturally, this caused great excitement for the crowd. The night had a good attendance especially from the second year tourism course. Mr Padraig O'Neill, from DIT Mountjoy Square, was MC for the night. He was ably assisted by Mr Noel O'Connor, Head of Hospitality and Tourism, who conducted the auction, and Mr Peter Griffin. "A catering industry were very generous," said Mr Kielty.

"The Gresham Hotel very kindly gave the hall to us free of charge. On the night, we raffled weekend away, dinners in high-class restaurants and gift vouchers. I would like to thank everyone involved as it was really a night to be remembered."

The money from the night is still coming in. "Our target was £7,000 and we are very optimistic we'll reach it. We hope to make the DIT race night an annual event for a charity or deserving cause."
New law makes it easier for students to get a drink

By Enda Murphy

A new law is to make it easier for thirsty students to get served. The Equal Status Act, which came into effect in October, states that pubs can no longer refuse to serve students because they are over 21 or under 23.

The Act has limited pubs’ reasons for refusing service, compelling them to prove they are serving customers, staff and families party-goers. It has been hailed as a “right to refuse” by the Vintners’ Federation of Ireland and the Department of the Environment.

However, some DIT students remain sceptical. Student Barry Hussey claims things will stay the same. “Bouncers see students as scum,” he says, “so they can never get in. It’s all about how expensive your shoes are.”

Publicans can still refuse to serve someone who does not look over 18. A Garda clampdown has forced bars to scrutinize students’ ID cards. But one of these faces problems, as student John Buckley is a 21-year-old poplar Bolton Street bar, says: “It’s easy for students to get into pubs now. If students look young, they know they’ll need ID and if they have proper ID, we’ll serve them.”

Others pubs have stricter policies. Michael O’Neill, of O’Neill’s pub on Suffolk Street, insists: “Students have to prove they’re over 18 if they want to get served. If they can’t prove it, we’ll refuse them. There’s so many fake ID’s out there. It is a thin line and the law is strict. We could be closed down for a week if we served under-18s.”

But the Vintners’ Federation of Ireland says the right to refuse people is non-burdens. Speaking at its AGM, the President, John Martin, said the VFI was delighted its “right to refuse” was now “enshrined” in legislation. He added the Acts gives pubs control to deal with customers, staff and families party-goers. “It’s a useful tool to win over an audience. Hugh O’Reilly and Keith Lenehan, students at Mountjoy Square DIT, said it had been used to its best advantage.”

The site also has a facility whereby users can only be offered by participating speakers on the opposing side of the debate. To offer a point of information, a speaker has to stand up and clearly say “Point of Information” in such a way as to attract a person who is not participating to speak, and in the case of more than one speaker, it is the one who is the first to speak, and is the first to be heard. If that person does not have an opposing point of view, the next person to speak must be the second different centre.

This can be stored in both different centres. However, if you are fed up of walking the streets on your own, you might be interested in finding out about the different centres.

Events for the event are available at the door or telephone 4023570.
DIT horoscopes

With Christmas just around the corner, our DIT astrologer predicts what festive delights are in store for students everywhere

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Arian's love Christmas. Generous by nature, the festive season brings out your best qualities. As Venus moves onto your fourth house of relationships and friendships, your spending ability will go into overdrive as you buy lavish presents for your loved ones.

But not everyone is as generous as you are, so don't be too disappointed if Aunty Mary still only buys you a pair of sensible, woolen socks. After all, Christmas is about giving and not receiving!

Destiny heralds a new beginning.

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)
Venus collides with the Moon in your house of relationships this month. So be prepared for some serious loving! If you are in a relationship, than any problems you have been experiencing lately will be forgotten as the festive season begins.

Singles will have a Christmas to remember as well, as Venus signals the arrival of a new love interest. What better way to spend Christmas than canoodling under the mistletoe with a sexy stranger?

Destiny sees a glass of mulled wine.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
Gemini's will feel a bit restless at the start of the month. Flighty by nature, you have been feeling the strain of being stuck in one place over the last few weeks. But an exciting foreign trip mid-month will ease the burden of home life. On your return, you will feel rejuvenated and ready to take on the world again. Surround yourself with loved ones this Christmas and it will be a memorable time.

Destiny points to a government building.

Cancer (June 22 - July 23)
Cancerians may have been feeling a little left out recently but as the festive season approaches, you will become the centre of attention once again. A small windfall will have old friends knocking at your door and an impromptu reunion will have you partying for weeks. Lovers are likely to be found under the mistletoe but beware of wearing your mulled wine goggles. You may regret your Christmas snog in the cold light of day.

Destiny is a new co-worker.

Leo (July 24 - Aug 24)
The past couple of months have been very stressful. But the year ends on a happy note. Christmas will be an exciting time when an unusual present transforms your life. Last New Year's Eve was a bit of a downer, so get ready for some serious partying this year. The stars also predict a change of job, which will have you ringing in the New Year in style.

Destiny begins with the letter L.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
Virgins are obsessed with throwing the perfect party and this Christmas will be no different. But instead of concentrating too much on everyone else having a good time, relax and enjoy yourself! Your natural allure and great sense of humour will help the party go off with a swing. Any party you throw this Christmas will be one to remember!

Destiny is a familiar sweet smell.

Libra (Sept 24 - Oct 23)
As the planet Jupiter moves into your third house of communications this month, Librans will be sure to have fun with a capital F, no matter what you are doing!

Unlike the rest of us, you love Christmas shop. And after a hard day's spending, you love to let your hair down and party with all your friends.

This year will be one of your most enjoyable Christmas's and an unexpected present makes it even better.

Destiny offers an exotic drink.

Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
If you have been feeling blue, then take heart. Good times are on the way.

The next three weeks will be filled with tempting Christmas party invitations. Just be careful not to over exert yourself with all the festive frolics! A celebration at work will have you feeling light headed but will have cleared up feelings of resentment that you were being taken for granted.

Destiny wears a red suit.

Sagittarius (Nov 23 - Dec 21)
Finances have improved greatly much to your amazement. What were you worrying about last month? The Moon and Saturn collide in your house of relationships mid-month, resulting in a passionate encounter.

Do you have your eye on someone? Well, then it is a great time to ask them out. Your natural talent for loving will pay off this Christmas under the mistletoe.

Destiny offers an exotic drink.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 20)
The year ends on a happier note than when it began. You have cleared up feelings of resentment that you were being taken for granted.

Destiny offers an exotic drink.

Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Remember last Christmas? Disappointing wasn't it? Well take heart. This year will be an improvement on last.

A new love in your life will score major brownie points when they give you a thoughtful and imaginative gift. Even family home life will improve this festive season and any family rifts will be resolved in time for the New Year.

Destiny rings your doorbell.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Poor, old Pisceans. Had a touch of the flu lately? While you have been hibernating, trying to recover, you have been feeling a little left out of the Christmas preparations.

Well, now that you are back to your old self, you still have three weeks in which to show the world that you really are a party animal.

An exciting offer over the holidays should be accepted as it is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Destiny has a red bow tie.

Wishing all D.I.T. Students a Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year

BE INDEPENDENT!
A jolly good sport every Monday...
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Cathal Brugha Street's (and nine) star effort

By Dermot Keyes

DIT Badminton club lost their opening two games in the IT League, but Club PRO Cian McGroin remains confident that if the new year's series of games will signal an improvement for the team.

"It was a baptism of fire for the team," admitted McKeen, following a defeat to Tralee IT and Castlebar brilliant for the equaliser.

The hosts delivered what Cian described as a "quality display of badminton," and despite the overall low, "the first time that some of our players had played with each other. It was a commendable re-performance."

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SAYIT, FREEPOST, 13, Crown Alley, Temple Bar, Dublin 2
For eight years, DIT Cathal Brugha St have run an annual computer dating night in aid of various charities. Every November the third year of Hospitality Management take it upon themselves to play cupid with interested (or desperate?) students from the DIT.

This year, it all took place in Fraziers on O’Connell Street on November 30th, where Lyrae, lycra and Ben Shermans were out in force.

Every participant in the computer dating had previously filled out a form describing their vital statistics and the vitals of their ideal partner.

As they arrived at Fraziers, each was given a tag, with the corresponding tag given to their computer-generated match.

The matches ranged from the traditional Romeo and Juliet to the more modern East and Digifone and there were more than a few serious hopefuls - though they were trying their best to look disinterested - earnestly scanning the name tags for their prospective other half.

For an added incentive (as if one was needed) Budweiser donated a few kegs and pints to the good cause for the first few couples who arrived on the night. So where did the idea come from?

The man behind the scheme is Daire MacCullogh, a lecturer in Databases in Cathal Brugha Street.

Daire explained that it was actually a student of his who was having difficulties with the class that inadvertently came up with the idea.

One day the student in question, Declan Bolger, turned around to Daire and in an attempt to explain the databases to himself asked if it was all about putting different specifications into a computer and letting it match the relevant ones up, like computer dating.

When Daire agreed with this analogy, Declan simply wanted to know why they couldn’t do it.

So they did. The scheme is now in its eighth year, and every year the students have raised roughly £1000 for the charity of their choice.

This year the money raised will go to two charities, St. Michael’s House and the Irish Kidney Association.

Four hundred people filled out forms and one of the main organisers, Michelle McAuley, explained that it was surprisingly well-balanced between males and females, with only a small number of extra men participating.

She also pointed out there is no discrimination against people who had made a preference to be matched to somebody of the same sex.

If one was needed) Budweiser donated a few kegs and pints to the good cause for the first few couples who arrived on the night.

If dating for a good cause appeals to your charitable side, why not take part next time?

After all, the person of your dreams may only be a tag away!

As they arrived at Fraziers, each was given a tag, with the corresponding tag given to their computer-generated match

Safety Tips

✓ Do not give out personal details such as phone number, address, etc, when chatting on the internet.
✓ Avoid giving out details such as your surname, address if you are making a date over the phone.
✓ Arrange to meet in a busy public place that you can escape from quickly.
✓ Arrange for a friend to come along to meet your date and to come back at a pre-arranged time. Agree on signals to indicate whether you would like your friend to stay.
✓ Always tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.
✓ Do not invite the date back to your house, go back to their house or accept a lift home initially.
✓ Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable don’t arrange a second date or give out personal details about yourself.

*From the Suzi Lamplugh Trust

Irish Mates.com

An exclusive matching place for Irish singles!

Computer dating

If you missed out on this year’s computer dating, why not get a head start and try some of these websites? Who knows, the person of your dreams could be just a mouse click away!

www.maybefriends.com

One of the newest websites to join the internet dating revolution, Maybefriends.com offers users the chance to get in contact with a whole database of people for friendship or romance. We’ve all heard the radio ads and maybe, just maybe, the idea sounded like a bit of a laugh.

Although you don’t need to register to search the ads, you must register to get in contact with the authors of the ads.

An added incentive to register soon is the fact that the site will remain free until January 2001, but after that a charge of £10 per month or £90 per year will apply.

Registration takes about 20 minutes, and other users on the site will only see whatever nickname you deem suitable for yourself.

Pictures can be uploaded to the site. If you do decide to go ahead and meet someone from the site, there is a list of tips on the site, ranging from the obvious - letting someone know where you’re going - to the downright sensible, such as keeping an eye on your drink.

www.irishmates.com

Boasting that it is the largest singles network on the internet, irishmates.com introduces Irish singles a forum for meeting for friendship, love or marriage.

However, like most things in life today, love comes at a price - £15 to be exact.

The one-time payment allows users access to all the upgraded STAR services. Without parting with any cash, users just get the regular set of service, with access to the singles database.

But if that special someone isn’t really the worth the time, effort or £15 of your hard-earned money for the STAR services, then forget it. Move on.

Who knows, the person of your dreams could be just a mouse click away!
A wet adventure!

Karl Quinn and John O'Shea of DIT Sailing Club recapture the sights, sounds and fun of a weekend at Carlingford Lough

By Enda Murphy

Enda Murphy puts down his pint and imparts some pointers to deal with the morning after the night before

Never mix your drinks. If you Cavort several types of drink, your body will be confused. It won't know which "congeners" to process first.

Food with fructose (fruit sugar, the stuff that's in Fructis shampoo, by the way) is supposed to be great, but the experts can’t explain why.

If your body wants to get sick, then let it. Never fight it. Embrace your vomiting! Don't be embarrassed; it's natural, so take care of the business.

Roll with it; have a good time. Make funny noises like "buick" as you spew your guts out. (At least you'll feel better afterwards.)

Now many people believe the best way to avoid a hangover is to head straight to the "leaba". That is incorrect. When your body's awake, it can process the alcohol better, so every hour you stay awake is an investment in your good health the next morning. And before you go to sleep, drink a pint of water (if you can face another pint at that stage).

Your body needs water if it's to process the alcohol properly, and this will give it all the water it needs.

Oh, so you’ve ignored the experts' advice, and your head is throbbing. Never mind, because there are still ways to make yourself feel better.

Pop a couple of aspirins, and pour yourself a cup of coffee.

A bit of activity is at hand: the headache will lessen, and the caffeine in the coffee will perk up your blood levels. Then hop into the shower so you’ll feel fresher.

If you’re feeling up to it, eat some digestive food that won’t have you retching into the toilet bowl later on. Sugary foods like ice cream are to be avoided.

Avoid thinking disturbing thoughts. It’s too late now for regrets. You depress you, and make hangovers worse, so put off those glovelling apologies for at least twenty-four hours, until the hangover is cured!

Ignore people who say the best way to avoid hangovers is to not drink. We all, from time to time, let ourselves go a little bit. If you drink too much, you will always get a hangover, if you alter your drinking habits you can lessen the intensity of those hangovers without having to actually stop.

There are no miracle cures for hangovers - sometimes you just have to sweat it out. Or never get drunk.

Like that’s gonna happen…!

DIT Sailing Club hit the waters of Carlingford Lough last month.

Blair Witch (forest) for dinner. Saturday night saw us in one of the many late bars in Carlingford village where we stayed until we headed to the local chipper - the "van" followed by an attempted sing song session up in the grounds of the castle.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear allowing us another spell of fresh water and the water was light so it was quite uneventful. We had a little fun throwing people off boats and into the water and a few of even more local saw a spot of prawn jumping (into freezing cold water). In the afternoon the instructors informed us that the weather 'may change'.

We groudgingly agreed and as every one was so tired we once more went to the pub to watch the Celtic-Rangers game, where, suspiciously, we discovered the adventure centre staff already in situ, as the sun streamed in over the calm sea.

Sure what could we do but join them and wait for the bus to take us back home. All in all the trip was a great success and we are all looking forward to the next one, we are all grateful to Caoimhe for organising everything, so a big 'thank you' to the boss!
**Christmas convenience**

By Ciara O'Brien

Well, that’s that festive season of the year again. Time to dust off those hiking boots and prepare to scour the shops, looking for the perfect presents for your nearest and dearest, doing battle with the throngs for the last PlayStation 2.

But if you don’t feel like going head to head with an army of crazed shoppers or standing for hours in the cold, taking advantage of the internet and shopping from the comfort of your own home might just be what you need.

After all, why suffer sore feet and blisters if you can have the gifts delivered to your house?

**Buy4Now (www.buy4now.ie)**

Shoppers can find everything from food and DIY products to fashion and electrical goods. Being the ultimate in convenience, the site also has a special Christmas shop with all the gift ideas you need. From CDs and toys to executive gifts, the website offers a wide range of goods. Apart from the convenience, the best bit about shopping from Buy4Now’s Christmas store is the gift wrapping service. You can even have your own personal note attached.

**Ivenus (www.ivenus.com)**

For those of you who haven’t been paying attention recently, Ivenus is the web network for European women. And what would a women’s network be without a shopping channel?

Beauty products, lingerie, electrical goods... the list goes on. Ivenus also have their own Christmas shop, where Christmas candles and fabric snowmen are just waiting for you to buy them.

The Indigo store (www.indigo.ie)

Indigo’s online store is also worth a visit. Browse through the list of presents, from jewellery to cameras and camcorders.

For those of us on a budget, the site offers a bargain section, with gifts for under £25. Brunette Barflies and vodka serving sets might not be everyone’s cup of tea, but if you’re looking for the gift for that person who has everything, the backpacks and earphones could be what you need.

**Ivenus have their own Christmas shop**

**Galantias (www.galantias.com)**

Galantias offers a range of jewellery crafted from pure Irish gold. Birth stone rings, claddagh rings, pendants all can be bought via this website.

If romance is in the air this Christmas, engagement rings are available online. Even if things aren’t quite that serious, forget about saying it with flowers. Personally, I think jewellery says it better.

**Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk)**

Books, CDs, DVDs, videos... Amazon has them all. Whether it’s the latest releases or the not so popular CD you want, Amazon can usually find it for you somewhere. For Christmas gifts, the site may prove invaluable - you can browse by price, person or interests.

A gadget shop features MP3 players, webcams and DVD players.

And for those of you who are sick of getting unwanted presents, Amazon allows you to set up your own Christmas wish list that can be viewed by friends and family.

**Tips for shopping online:**

- Always check out the delivery time. There’s no point ordering something for Christmas if it won’t arrive for six weeks.

- If you are worried about security or credit card fraud, many sites use a secure server when asking you for credit card details. This usually appears as ‘https’ on the address bar.

- Like stores, most online shops have their own returns and refunds policy. To avoid any confusion, read up on the terms and conditions before you place your order.

**Christmas cookies with marshmallows and M&M’s**

Ingredients:
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2 tablespoons ground oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 4 ounces Swiss cheese, cut into 8 strips
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2-1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup red pepper strips
- 1/2 cup green pepper strips
- 4 cups cooked rice
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon cold water
- 1/4 cup red and green pepper strips for garnish

Instructions:
1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease 12-inch square pan. Place 1-1/2 teaspoons herb butter in small saucepan; keep over low heat until butter melts. Pour over chicken; bake for 20 minutes.
2. Remove from oven; let stand for 10 minutes. Cut into small squares. Place 1-1/2 teaspoons herb butter on centres of breast halves. Place one cheese

- **White Christmas**
  - 3 cups Rice Krispies
  - 1 cup desiccated coconut
  - 3/4 cup powdered milk
  - 1/2 cup powdered sugar
  - 60 g (2 oz) mixed candied fruit, chopped
  - 60 g (2 oz) red and green candied cherries, chopped
  - 1/4 cup raisins
  - 125 g (4.5 oz) white chocolate, coarsely chopped

Instructions:
1. In a 9 x 13” pan with oil. Line base and sides with paper. Mix the Rice Krispies, coconut, powdered milk, powdered sugar and all fruit together in a large bowl.
2. Chop up the shortening, place with the chocolate in the top of a double boiler or bowl over simmering water. Stir until mixture is melted and smooth. Combine chocolate and Rice Krispie mixture.
3. Press into the prepared pan and refrigerate until set. Remove from the pan, allow to stand for 10 minutes. Cut into squares with a sharp knife.

**A seasonal feast**

**By Ciara O’Brien**

Well, that’s that festive season of the year again. Time to dust off those hiking boots and prepare to scour the shops, looking for the perfect presents for your nearest and dearest, doing battle with the throngs for the last PlayStation 2.

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**Why not surprise your friends and family by adding your own Christmas recipes?**
### Reviews

#### The Last Word in Beer

#### Clubs

**Rock your socks off**

In the midst of the current pop invasion, led by the lovely Britney and of course our own fantastic five, Westlife, lies a small, revolutionary sect of hard rock musicians.

It has often been said that the 90's have buried rock under a blanket of pop but thanks to venues such as Whelans of Wexford St, our faith in rock and roll is revived from time to time.

One such occasion recently was the staging of the Kevin St DIT Rock Soc, which showcased three college bands.

The first student was a band from DIT Bolton Street and went by the name of FA.CHE.

Playing their own songs mostly, they did one cover from hardcore rockers Korn. FA.CHE were a five-piece band with two guitars, drums, bass and violin.

The crowd were informed that there was also a keyboardist, but that piece of information failed to reach us over the lead vocalist, Mo Curtains' incessant wailing.

He struggled to handle the range that their songs needed and was more concerned with moshing onsite than with entertaining the crowd.

However, the drummer, Stevaa Kenelly was the saving grace of this band as his fast and exciting playing was a real crowd pleaser.

The introduction of the violin added a small touch of class to this otherwise mixture of styles which varied from the likes of Metallica and Nirvana to Placebo.

Unfortunately, they butchered the rest of the set. Admittedly we don't have a vested interest in hard rock and we were informed that if "you don't stay after 20 seconds, you don't get the point".

Sadly, we found that there was no point to be got and calls for an encore were few and far between. Next up were a group called Presence.

**DIT music critics Eoin Murphy and Darragh Clifford went along to Whelans to check out the Kevin St Rock Soc.**

Two years in the making, Presence entertained the crowd with a good mixture of original material and covers.

Lead vocalist Sarah Carol appeared very comfortable as the band attempted the Guns N' Roses' classic, 'Sweet Child O' Mine' and Led Zeppelin's 'Whole Lotta Love'. Most interestingly, Presence did an upbeat version of ABBA's 'Mamma Mia', to the amazement of the crowd.

Sarah was backed by a very competent band, most notably Chris Synnes on drums. Thomas Brunkard on lead guitar showed great skill but the absence of a second guitar was obvious.

He did however, jump off stage during their last song's mid guitar solo which was pretty impressive. It was a pity, however, that their set was so short, as both the band and the crowd were just starting to warm up when they stopped playing.

Speaking afterwards, the band cited a number of influences, from Rory Gallagher to the man himself, Frank Sinatra.

They spoke openly about their future, with the likes of Metallica, the Stone Roses, the lead vocalist, Anthony Squire had a style similar to Ian Brown.

Without a doubt, In Phase were the most commercial of the three bands. But what was even more amazing was the fact that this was only their second gig as a rock outfit. Celtic fans note: In Phase did the soundtrack to the Celtic v. Bordeaux UEFA Cup match, and will be heard in the RTE programme 'Mushrooms and Parachutes', which is due for broadcasting in mid December.

Overall, the night was a rocking success and a note of congratulations must be awarded to Leonard Colucci of the DIT Rock Society who professionalism organisation paid off. Watch this space for future DIT Rock Soc events.

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### Albums

#### The Ultimate Christmas Album (Polygram)

Large record companies are notorious for churning out cheesy compilations every so often, but a new tack back and Christmas is no exception. Polygram's offering, this festive season, is the prime example of this and imaginatively entitled, The Ultimate Christmas Album.

However, whether this is the 'Ultimate' seasonal collection is debatable. When you think of Christmas tunes, classic hits such as East 17's 'Stay Another Day' and Whigfield's 'Last Christmas' spring to mind. Don't they? Well, obviously they do in Polygram as someone there thinks this is the definition of everyone's favourite holiday. The double CD does, however, include a few recognisable classics such as Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas' and The Pogues' 'Fairytale in New York.' But overall, it lacks any real festive direction.

With one too many musical clangers such as Cliff Richard's 'Saviour's Day' and Hanson's 'What Christmas Means To Me', The Ultimate Christmas Album is the antithesis in everything wrong with the modern Christmas.

**Rating:** 2/10

#### Rebeca Kelly, samples the latest Christmas album releases to get you into the festive mood

**Calista Flockhart, attempts the sexy classic "Santa Baby"**

Vonda Shepard have decided to torture us all this jolly season. The blonde songstress and her weirdo lawyer friends have produced this soul destroying, cr. I mean, cool, album in time to cash in on the lucrative Christmas market. But despite the misleading name, the album is really a Vonda Shepard record.

Surprise, surprise.

Butchering classics such as the joyful Broadway number, 'The Man with the Bag' and Bing Crosby's "White Christmas", the album helps put the 'bah humbug' into every festive season.

However, a few lucky dip tracks from other artists saved the album from the rubbish tip. Robert Downey Jr does an impressively powerful cover of the Joni Mitchell classic "River" and there is even a husky rendition of "Winter Wonderland" by Macy Gray. Alas, calista Flockhart, attempts the sexy classic "Santa Baby" and even her tuneless effort is better than anything sung by the lovely Vonda. However, this travesty of an album is sure to be a Top 40 hit on both sides of the Atlantic as 20 million fans tune in worldwide to watch the capers of the TV's nuttiest lawyers.

**Rating:** 4/10

#### The No. 1 Dance Party Album (Universal)

No Christmas or New Year's Eve party is complete without one of these albums. With top pop-tastic tunes from the seventies, eighties and nineties, the album is a must for you funky divas out there.

With classic disco divas such as "It's Raining Men" by the Weather Girls and "Dancing Queen" by ABBA, the collection is sure to even have your granny boogying on the dancefloor. Other cheesy party hits featured on the album are "Come on Eileen", 'I'm too Sexy', "La Bamba" and "Finger Feet" by Mad. So if you only buy one cringe inducing album this festive season, then buy the No. 1 Dance Party Album and ring in the New Year in drunken disco style.

**Rating:** 9/10

#### Ally McBeet: A Very Ally Christmas (Epic)

Oh dear. TV's favourite whining lawyer and her singing conscience,
RELYING ON TOO MANY Cliches

BLESS THE CHILD
(Cert 18s, Opens January)

It must be irritating for Gloria Stuart to have lost that Best Actress Oscar to Kim Basinger a few years back (she was the elder Kate Winslet in Titanic, and Basinger was the high-class prostitute in L.A. Confidential).

Here was a woman with 57 film credits to her name and what was probably her last chance to win an Academy Award...then along comes Kim Basinger in the one film she's ever been good in and nab's the Oscar from under Mrs Stuart's nose. Some you win, eh? Anyways, cast that superfluous fluff from your minds for the time being.

Bless the Child stars Ms Basinger as Maggie O'Connor, who is a Good Person. You know this because she smiles at complete strangers and always has a weird yellow glow around her. One Christmas evening, her wayward sister (Angela Bettis), who is Good but Misguided, appears out of the blue at Maggie's doorstep.

She promptly leaves again, but not before leaving her newborn child in Maggie's care. Maggie, being a Good Person, instantly becomes a Good Mother and dedicates her life to little baby Cody.

Six years later, the Plot occurs. I won't elaborate on it here because you've heard it many, many times before.

Anyway, cast that supercilious fluff from your minds for the time being.

So Maggie retains her weird looks when she--I mean, does she have any really--I don't know how true this is in Ang Lee's case, or how much we should lay credit to fight-co-ordinator Wua-Ping Yuen (he worked on a little-seen art film you may have heard of, called The Matrix). But the fact is-- the action sequences in CTHD are astonishing, mixing the actor's acrobatic skills with the typically Hong Kong "Wire-fu."

There is the danger that people not used to such effects will react with ridicule. There are some scares, but they're of the Big Loud Noise Very Suddenly variety, rather than the slow disquiet of The Exorcist or The Shining.

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REDA PLANET
(12, Opens December)

Pushed back by Warner Bros to a winter release date to avoid a clash with Mission to Mars. Red Planet is the début feature of Anthony Hoffman, a commercials director best known for his Budweiser advertisements.

Red Planet concerns that old SF staple - the near future. The earth, predictably enough, is dying, and the Mars Terrafoming Project has mysteriously malfunctioned.

And naturally, a crack team of mismatched individuals, led by Carrie-Anne Moss (The Matrix) and Val Kilmer are sent out to find out what's gone wrong on the eponymous Red Planet.

Comparisons with Mission to Mars could only taint Red Planet with faint praise, as the former was - quite frankly - amazingly bad, Red Planet need only have had a black screen for two hours and it still would have been better than that woeful Brian De Palma film. What is it like? I hear you scream. This is Shakespeare for the Natural Born Killers generation.

This is often incredibly violent with moments of tar-black humour thrown in for good measure. While the story may drag a little in the middle (you can only take so much bawdry, murder, rape and mutilation before it gets passe...it is the finale that will have you sitting bolt upright in your seat. A stunning film, but not for the faint of heart.
Sports brochure and website officially launched

By Brian Healy

The development of sport in DIT has been given a boost with the launch of the official Sports website and the Institute's Sports and Recreation Brochure 2000-2001, on Friday, November 24 at the Aungier Street site.

The Director of External Affairs and Chairman of the DIT Sports Council, Dr Declan Glynn launched the initiative before a gathering of student representatives of DIT clubs, managers and guests.

Dr Glynn stressed the importance of the development of sport in DIT and said that the new programme coincided with an increased interest in sports throughout the institute. He also praised the efforts of the website administrator, Eoin Bolohan, for his help in developing the website.

DIT Mountjoy Square Sports Officer, Niamh O’Callaghan, took the assembled throng on a trip through the website, which aims to include a results service in the near future.

As previously reported in the DIT Independent, the brochure and website provide a guide to all the sports and recreational activities that are organised within the various DIT sites.

It includes information on the structure of the sports committee, facilities (indoor and outdoor), details on how to join a club, contact numbers and a list of annual events.

To check out the website log on to: www.dit.ie/adrnin/sport/index.html

Karting club win in Waterford

DIT Karting Club recently travelled to Waterford to compete in the Munster championships, which took place in the Bonnerworld Karting track on the Waterford/Kilkenny border, with Dermot Keyes. The team did very well in the competition, winning by a large margin ahead of Cork IT and Waterford IT.

The DIT champion Simon Clarke met mechanical difficulties and failed to make the finals. Karl Bonar who finished third in the DIT championships won convincingly ahead of fellow DIT driver Mark Muckenkyre.

The event was sponsored by Heineken and all three teams went back to Sheffs for some beer tasting!!

"Even though my driving abilities were not up to scratch on the day, I felt it was a great day of diving and was very proud of my team for winning," commented DIT Karting President Ray Nangle.

The January edition of the DIT Independent will focus on the Karting Club, the biggest sports club in the Institute.

Ray Nangle will talk to Dermot Keyes about how things have been going for the DIT Karting Club, which has already put 485 members behind the wheel of a kart this year.

With 1,085 members, along with considerable sponsoring, the club is enjoying heady times. More on DIT Karting next month!

Briefs

By Dermot Keyes

HOCKEY

At the DIT sites were involved in the Irish Colleges Hockey Association Plate Finals and All Finals day. DIT Bolton St and DIT Kevin St were competing in the Plate finals where Limerick beat Tralee in the Finals.

And DIT Mountjoy Square, Aungier Street and Cathal Brugha Street competed in the Finals on Thursday November 23 in the ECG Grounds in Crumlin where Cork best CBS.

The Trials for the Irish Colleges Hockey Association Representative Team are on Wednesday December 5 2000 at the heaigh Grounds, Crumlin from 12.00 p.m. to 4.00pm.

The three who are selected from the trials will catch the sights of Amsterdam for five days from February 19-24 to represent the Irish Colleges.

SOCCER

The Trials for the Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFA) team take place on Wednesday 5th of December in Terenure College. DIT Soror’s Michael Whelan announced that the trials for the DIT team to compete in the 2001 Collingwood Cup take place on February 3, also in Terenure. For further information on all things soccer in DIT, Michael can be contacted at 403609 or at michael.whelan@dit.ie.

MOUNTAINEERING

We went down to Dooolin on December 2 and 3 for a weekend and plan to get a few words together for the DIT Independent about the trip,” said the Mountainanswering Club “designated journo,” Ruth Phillips.

Ruth has pledged to capture the entertainment of the weekend, promising to divulge in detail “the pub escapades as well as those on the mountain top.” Can’t wait for the January edition!

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