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DIT: Students Union

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Students' union loses £36,000 on ball

By Samantha Rowntree

A DITSU-organised Hallo­

eween event has lost the

student union £36,000.

"Spellbound", priced at £15 a
ticket at The Point Theatre,
sold very few tickets and

resulted in the event being
cancelled.

Mr Vinny Dooley, President of DITSU, failed to
take the students body of the

loss to the Student Union

budget and instead wrote of the

successful class rep
ticket in the Point Theatre,

resulting in the event being

cancelled. Because he did it on his own.
The student union were only
told what the line-up was and

where it would be held:

"I had a large input in

organising the event. I hired

the event management

company," said Mr Dooley.

"The two main things were

the timing of the event and

the lack of publicity. We

found out after the event was

booked that Pete Tong and

Orbital were playing the Point the weekend after and also

the UCD ball was on. There

was not as good publicity as

there could have been. We

emailed people and had ads on the radio, but our

posters were competing with the

election campaign posters

for space." Ray Nangle, president of DITSU's Karting

Club, described it as "a joke. It's very unprofessional," he

said. "Internally they only

spent £200 on advertising

using the cheapest poster you

can print. Externally they spent £2000. You have to

promote an event well with

big mad promotions. For our

Christmas party we are spending £300 on posters and

having live DJs in the canteens at lunch time

running up to the event. DITSU sorted out The Point

before for the Rag Ball and people went to it. Christmas

and Rag Week are the best
times to run events.

People had no money, especially when the grants
didn't come out until late this

year. UCD spent the summer

organising a similar event but

DITSU had no team working

on this" The Karting Club is

one of DITSU's largest clubs but

hasn't received any funding

from DITSU.

According to Mr Nangle, It didn't work because the

posters only came out 10 or

12 days beforehand, you have to

have much more promotion.E£1 a head for a
ticket is a joke. The cheapest

tickets have been so far is £10."

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.

Continued on page 3

£1million for Chernobyl

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 students

took part in the peaceful race for development in the ongoing

campaign for increased

funding for Chernobyl, taking part in a 10k

sponsored walk. Sponsored

walks were organised at

Dublin, Belfast, Cork,

Galway, Limerick, Derry,

Letticere, Sligo,

Maynooth, Athlone, Tralee,

Carlow and Waterford.

Julian De Spin, President of USI said, "We are well

on the way to reaching our target of £1 million for The

Chernobyl Children's Project. By

taking part in the biggest ever

student charity event, students have made a huge

difference to that stricken

area of the world", he added.

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 for a

trained nurse for 1 month.

As a direct result of the

Chernobyl nuclear disaster of

1986, over nine million people have been affected by

the radiation, while 70% of the

land has been contaminated.The Chernobyl Children's Project is a

humanitarian organisation, which helps counteract the

plight of Chernobyl children

affected by the radiation. The idea

for the organisation was

initiated by the Irish

Campaign for Nuclear Disarma-

ment (CDN) offices in Cork, nine years ago.

Doctors caring for children in

Belarus sent an SOS reading:

"SOS Appeal-for God's sake

help us get the children out."

Adi Roche executive
director of The Chernobyl

Children's Project emphasised the need for

constant support of the cause.

"People may forget this, but it is somewhere in our

unconscious. We were

practically wiped out, our

population was literally

halved through starvation and

mass emigration. We

survived due to intervention, and

that is why I am so sure 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 USI 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.

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for further details contact: Mark Browne, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland 34 College Green (ph: 6793777) or Kayona Fagan, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland Camden Street (ph: 4784756) or visit the new Bank of Ireland student website www.autonom.ie
In the December issue of the DIT Independent, we look at the controversial issue of the DITSU organised Halloween Ball. The event was to take place in the Point Theatre with a number of well known acts appearing.

The overall DITSU president, Mr Vinny Dooley took over the responsibility of organising the event, which 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 in excess of £30,000.

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 was playing this is 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 had 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 part in and perhaps even services could be introduced.

I don't know much about the running of a students union but I can imagine that a large number of people involved in the running of a union and not just the overall president. I'm sure if Mr Dooley had listened earer to the 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 student services already provided by the students union could have been improved upon and perhaps even services could be introduced.

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 of the newspaper. It is not possible to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or content within it. Please forward any comments or queries to: The Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students' Union.

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**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 de Valera, DIT President Brendan Goldsmith, and Irish film producer Noel Pearson.

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

Under the agreement the Major Short Course Training Programme (NSCTP), a Unit of the NSCTP, Dublin, has been given the opportunity to run a course leading to a postgraduate diploma in Film and Broadcasting in DIT.

Students will first get the chance to participate in the programme 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 Hazlewood expressed her delight for DIT. "I think it's absolutely fantastic, it's the first time we've been able to obtain recognized 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 stated.

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 Clonskri described it as "a good opportunity for people interested in film".

Celine Mac Gilliguddy 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 claiming 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 film, television and media industries, offers full-time courses and a 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 totally nearly 400 international industry and student awards between them, including Oscars, BAFTAs and Emmys.

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**Most students with disabilities at college**

By Samantha Rowsurvey

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 400 students with disabilities or significant health conditions are studying in third level education. This is an increase from 200 in 1995.

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 this year 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 introduction 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 outlawed 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 new act is that students don't qualify for the legislation."

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**Em for Chernobyl**

From page 1

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

So far, DIT students raised an estimated £25,000, however the money is still coming in. DIT President 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."

Migue1 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 compounding 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's not a mood altering effect from using caffeine," he explained, "but rather a mood altering affect 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 rises 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?
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 Dara O’Brien 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 Gleenon Hall. This was a musical performance demonstrating aspects of physics and acoustics called Plumbers Singoria.

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 melodic sounds and to show the intimate connection between physics and music.

The performance included the eminent percussionist John Wadham, along with jazz guitarist Mike Neilson, 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 published.

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 treatment but 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, just simply want to talk to someone, then 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 looking for an effective division of proper ventilation does not help the situation.

Students, Lynne and Celine, found the food reasonably priced but not of high quality. They admitted to eating in nearby Cathal 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 one of the catering staff spoke of how they compared to other DIT colleges.

“We compare very favourably and this is evident in the student feedback 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. Bridget 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 necessarily the evil it can be portrayed as, with the majority of students being satisfied.
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The Greek Islands have become an increasingly popular destination for Irish holidaymakers. Jenni Duggan checks out the idyllic island of Kos.

With beautiful weather, all year round, Kos is an ideal destination in any season. Kos town is the capital of the island. This is where most of the tourist trade is located. Despite this, it is not a tourist trap and the town is still full of natural charm and beauty.

There is something for everyone with a mixture of historic monuments, culture, colourful flora and fauna with modern bars and nightclubs. The beaches in Kos town are nice and sandy but there do tend to get quite jammed with sun-baked tourists with loud music being pumped from nearby bars and restaurants.

If this is not quite your scene, it is well worth the effort to travel around the island to find some of the more scenic beaches. The most scenic and beautiful beaches are near the far end of the island.

There are much fewer resorts around the town of Kefalos and therefore fewer tourists. Here the views and the miles of sandy beaches are to die for. Paradise beach didn’t get its name for nothing!

There are lots of ways to get around the island. There are buses to most towns on the islands but if you think the buses in Dublin are bad, the buses in Kos are about five times worse. Cars, bikes and mopeds can all be rented for little or nothing.

Mopeds are the way to go to Greece but while there are no traffic jams to contend with, there are the mad Greek drivers.

They all seem to drive mopeds but rather badly with no concern for safety so helmets are defiantly recommended. I had never driven a moped before and with the dodgy Greek excuses for roads, there were a few near death experiences.

No holiday would be complete without a couple of good nights out.

Bar Street is the main drinking area of Kos town and is well worth a visit if you are a bit of party animal. It is a narrow street and every building is a bar.

There is even an Irish bar, surprise surprise called Molly Malone’s! Every bar hires a person whose job it is to entice people inside. In some cases they do nothing short of harassing potential customers for their service.

Alcohol flows like water here and nearly every bar has a two for one cocktail offer or a free shot with every beer. It’s basically impossible not to get drunk.

Being the closest island to Turkey, it is rather inexpensive to take a day trip on the ferry to the resort of Bodrum. The first thing that struck me was how different the two countries are despite being so close. Bodrum is a popular holiday resort. Turkey is a bargain hunters dream with shops crammed into little narrow streets.

Overall, I found Kos to be one of the most ideal holiday locations. There is something for everyone.

There are historical and cultural sites as well as some spectacular scenery but there are still some tacky bars and larger louts and see seen really beautiful scenery.

Unless you are doing a tour of the Greek islands, this is really a place to check out. My advice is that this is a time to relax.

Mopeds are the way to go to Greece.

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

SU lose money from page 1

Mr Keyes 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 Ulster for touring 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 there be a reduction of services to the students. "I take complete responsibility for the loss," he said. "It's part of the job."

Personally Mr Nangle feels, as a student I would never have seen any of the £36,000 anyway. At a club and societies weekend away, we brought up that organisers of societies should get free tickets to DISCU events, but DISCU 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 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 Kiely, a food science and environmental health lecturer in DIT's School of Commerce, organised the event, in aid of Mr Mark Governey. Mr Governey, who graduated from Cathal Brugha Street, last year, was injured in a sporting accident leaving him paralysed.

Mr Kiely, 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 Pat O'Neill, from DIT's 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. "The catering industry were very generous," said Mr Kiely.

"The Gresham Hotel 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."
DIT Choir releases Christmas CD

The DIT Choir is launching their first CD entitled, Carols for Christmas.

The CD was recorded at Trinity College Chapel and also features live recordings from a performance in Christ Church Cathedral. The list includes, Good King Wenceslaus, Deck the Halls, Come All Ye Faithful and many more festive favorites.

The Choir, formed in 1991, has received many awards for their work.

Under the direction of Ms Bernie Sherlock, conductor since 1995, the choir has won the Cuphill Cup for Choirs in five consecutive feis Ceolos.

Ms Sherlock studied conducting for two years in Germany and has extended choral experience with both children and adult choirs.

The DIT Choral Society’s Christmas Concert takes place in St. Ann’s Church, Dawson Street on December 13th at 8pm. The programme for the evening will begin with Mr. Bertie Ahern’s Requiem. The vocal soloists are from the DIT Conservatory of Music.

The CD will be launched in Trinity College Chapel in 1996 to bring together students and staff from all DIT colleges to perform. From their first concert in Christ Church Cathedral, performing works by Vaughan and Britten, to their National Concert Hall debut in 1997, the choral society has been very active in DIT.

The Christmas Concert will include the DIT Chamber Ensemble, consisting of a select group of senior part-time and full-time students of the Department and former students.

Ms Sherlock will conduct the concert, which will conclude with a seasonal selection of well-loved carols in traditional and new arrangements.

Tickets for the event are available at the door or telephone 4023570.

New law makes it easier for students to get a drink

By Enda Murphy

A new law to make it easier for thirsty students to get served. The Equal Status Act, which came into effect on October 31st, states that pubs can no longer refuse to serve students because they have an O2s or 23s policy.

The Act has limited pubs’ reasons for refusing service to include charges of goods and services to discriminate against the public on the basis of age. The Act will be enforced by the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations, which can award compensation of up to €5,000.

"As long as students are coherent and sober, they should get served," claimed one student. "It’s important. But drunk code is very important. There can’t be two standards for students."

However, some DIT students remain sceptical. Student Barry Hassey claims things will stay the same. "Bouncers see students as such, 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 scrutinise students’ ID cards. But few ask for IDs, as publican on popular Bolton Street bar, says: "It’s easy for students to get into pubs now. If they look young, they know they’ll need ID if they’re more than 18."

Other 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 100%, we will refuse them. There’s so many fake IDs 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-bias. Speaking at its AGM, the president, John Mansworth, said the VFI was delighted its “right to refuse” was now "enfranchised" in legislation. He added the Act gives pubs control to ensure customers, staff and families can "enjoy their visit without fear of overcrowding, excessive noise or intimidation or violence."

The VFI claims the Act benefits students. "Once they have proof of age, they can be served."
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 cuddling 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 nog 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 humor 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, Libra.s will be sure to have fun with a capital F, no matter what you are doing!

Unlike the rest of us, you love to 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 ever better.

Destiny offers you an exotic drink.

Scorpio (Oct 24 – Nov 21)
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 22 – 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 rings your doorbell.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
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

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By Dermot Keyes

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

"It was a baptism of fire for the team," admitted McKeon, following away defeats to Tralee IT and Carlow. "On the first day, seven of our players had played with each other. It was a commendable performance.

The hosts delivered what Ciaran described as "a quality display of badminton," and despite the "overwhelming" loss to Tralee, there were wins for Conor Deegan in the Mens Singles and the first Mixed Doubles pairing of Kevin Grace and Jenny Brene. "The score lines indicate from the tough games were fairly evenly contested with some heads the next morning as the team gave the Tralee mark on their return to the club for the money," joked McKeon.

There was less than a week between the trip to Kerry and the return to Dublin where DIT came out on the wrong side of the result. Conor Deegan put up a magnificent fight in his singles match, where he went down 2-1 after a marathon clash. The Mens Doubles pairing of Kevin Grace and David Hogan and the third Mixed Doubles team of Conor Deegan and Debbie Clarke were also narrowly defeated in their ties. "Despite the poor start, the team are still confident and are working hard, said McKeon.

"Our first home game is against Cork IT on the weekend, starting December 4 (as we go to press) and will face Waterford IT when the league restarts in early February." Asked if the PRO and Treasurer of the club, Philip Murphy, would be the first to return home, McKeon said that his return would be contingent on finishing the second half of the season.

By Ciaran McKeon

DIT's sole female runner in this competition, Gillian Clyne, ran to a superb third place in the HESF Cross Country Championship and the standard of competition was high, according to DIT athlete and PRO, Paul Campbell.

"Gillian battled hard for second place but was narrowly beaten," said Campbell.

"But this was a highly commendable performance from DIT's only female representative in athletics this year." Despite the best efforts of the men's team, there was no medal-repeating performance after the heroics of the women's 4000 metres, which was won by Pauline Kenny of Waterford IT. The HESF event is an IT-only championship and the standard of competition was high, according to DIT athlete and PRO, Paul Campbell.

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FOR eight years, DIT Cathal Brugha St have run an annual computer dating night in aid of various charities. Every November the third years of Hospitality Management take it upon themselves to play cupid with interested (or desperate!) students from the DITS.

This year, it all took place in Fraziers on O'Connell Street on November 30th, where Myra, Lexxie 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 MacCuil, 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 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.

www.irishmates.com

Boasting that it is the largest singles network on the internet, irishmates.com offers 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!
Features December 2000 I DIT Independent 13

All I want for Christmas is ... 

a hangover cure

I

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 gazzle several types of drinks, 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.
Ok, 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.
It's a start: 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 digestible 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 depres you, and make hangovers worse, so put off those guilt-ridden apologies for at least twenty-four hours, until the hangover is cured.
Ignite 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 drinking.

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

Like that's gonna happen...!

A wet adventure!

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

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

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

Anyway, as sailing was the purpose of the weekend, Caoimhe Wears (our fearless leader) along with Ian and Garrath (three sailing instructors from DIT) decided to test the waters in laser Picos and sailing was deemed alive again.
Most people got to sail on Saturday morning, but unfortunately not all, as famous "Carlingford Kettles" blew up and with the winds now blowing in every direction simultaneously (and all Pico's down in the water), we discovered that hangovers are quickly cured by icy cold swims.

"Perfect Storm" conditions meant we had to retire to the hostel for lunch. However, Caoimhe did get a chance to instruct Karl Quinn in a Pico and when Karl took sail they flew vertically and horizontally through the water with both pace and grace.
Due to hazardous weather conditions and an inability to walk steadily (even on land .... Brendan) the decision was made to descend a jagged edged 40ft cliff in the local quarry. The journey to the quarry took about twenty minutes with a steep uphill climb.
Once on we we got to the top of the quarry and abseiled down. All this fun lasted until about five in the evening before we set back (through
Christmas convenience

By Ciara O'Brien

Well, it's that time of 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.

If you are more partial to DVD movies, Ivenus has quite a good range available, including the current top ten.

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 store offers a bargain section, with gifts for under £25. Brunette Bathtubs and voilà 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.

Apart from the convenience, the best bit about shopping from Buy4Now is the gift wrapping service 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 very 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.

A seasonal feast

By Ciara O'Brien

Suffocating under the weight of guilt, the food menu looks intimidating. But if it's the Christmas spirit you're after, why not make some music with you and your family.

Christmas Cookies

Ingredients:

- 10 medium potatoes
- 4 x 5ml spoons dried rosemary, crushed
- 1 wine glass of extra virgin olive oil
- 3-4 Garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2 tablespoons ground oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 4 ounces Swiss cheese, cut into 8 strips
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2/3 cup dry white wine
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup red pepper strips
- 1/2 cup green pepper strips
- 4 cups cooked rice
- 1/2 teaspoon rosemary, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Make Christmas cookies with marshmallows and M&Ms

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
2 tablespoons ground oregano
1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
1/2 teaspoon dried basil
4 ounces Swiss cheese, cut into 8 strips
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 egg, beaten
2/3 cup dry white wine
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
1/2 cup red pepper strips
1/2 cup green pepper strips
4 cups cooked rice
1/2 teaspoon rosemary
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon oregano
1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, combine flour, oregano, rosemary, garlic, black pepper, and salt. In a medium bowl, beat egg until well blended. Add egg to flour mixture and stir until well combined.

Fold in cheese and pepper strips until evenly distributed. Scoop batter by tablespoonfuls onto parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake for 15 minutes or until crisp. Cool completely on wire racks.

Serve warm or cool and store in an airtight container.

Christmas Cookies

Ingredients:

- 4 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1/3 cup margarine
- 3 1/2 cups crisp rice cereal
- 1 1/2 cups M&Ms

Melt marshmallows and margarine in heavy saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally until smooth.

Pour over combined cereal and M&Ms; toss until lightly coated. Press into a 9-inch square pan; cool. Cut into squares with a sharp knife.

White Christmas

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

Brush a 9 x 13 pan with oil. Line base and sides with parchment paper. Mix the Rice Krispies, coconut, powdered milk, powdered sugar and all fruit together in a large bowl.

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.

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.

Why not surprise your friends and family by adding your own Christmas recipes?
The Last word in beer

reviews

The Ultimate Christmas Album (Polygram)

Large record companies are notorious for churning out cheesy compilations every so often. When you back Christmas and Christmas is no exception. Polygram’s offering, this festive season, is the prime cheddar collection, imaginatively entitled, The Ultimate Christmas Album.

Although a date has not been advertised, when you think of Christmas albums, classic hits such as East 17’s “Stay Another Day” and Whirlfield’s “Last Christmas” spring to mind. Don’t they? Well, obviously they do in Polygram as someone there thinks this pile 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 festive direction.

With 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 album thatと同じにr vrij my for the festive season.

Vonda Shepard have decided to torture us all this joyous season. The blonde songstress and her weirdo lawyer friends have produced this soul destroying, cr.. m.. получ.ould 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 everything festive this season.

However, a few lucky dip tracks from other artists save 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. Ally, aka 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 finky divas out there.

With classic disco dazzlers such as “It’s Raining Men” by the Weather Girls and “Dancing Queen” by ABBA, the collection is sure to be out of the on the dancefloor.

Other cheesy party hits featured on the album are “Come on Eileen”, “I’m too Sexy”, “La Bamba” and “Tiger Feet” by Mad. So if you only buy one cringe inducing album this festive season, then buy The No.1 Dance Party Album.

Rating: 9/10

The Last word in beer

ratings
**film reviews**

**The last word in beer**

**Relying on too many cliches**

**Bless the Child**
(Cort 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 elderly Kate Winslet in *Titanic*), and Basinger was the high-class prostitution 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 nabs the Oscar from under Mrs Stuart's nose. Some you win, eh? Anyway, 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. The child turns out to have a *Special Gift*. The wayward sister (Angela Bettis), who is Good but Misguided, appears out of the blue at Maggie's doorstep again. 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.

The plot is simple: Maggie is then a Good Mother, Angela is then a Good Person, and the next year, you can bet easy money that this will be one of the five.

Director Ang Lee's previous films have included *The Sense and Sensibility*, *The Ice Storm* and *The Shining*.

**DIT Independent film buff. Jamie Hannigan** brings you the best of all the latest movies

**Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon**
(TBC, Opens January)

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**“Bless the Child”**

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The Rome we see is a hallucinatory mix of costumes and images from the last two thousand years. Centurion armour is worn alongside WWII uniforms, bows and arrows are used with machine guns, and horses are flown by motorbikes.

The general effect is one of sensory overload. The hallucinatory setting is similar to the beautiful “inner-mind” sequences in *The Cell* but without the claustrophobic tone. Okay, but what is it like? I hear you screams. This is Shakespeare for the Natural Born Killers generation.

This is often incredibly violent with tons of black humour thrown in for good measure. While the story may drag a little in the middle (you can only take so much sexual sadism), it still would have been better than that woeful Brian De Palma film.

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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 brochure and 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.

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 Muckenstreyre.

The event was sponsored by Heincken and all three teams went back to Shells 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 Club of the year, 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 A Finals day. DIT Bolton St and DIT Kevin St were vomiting 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 ECC Grounds in Crumlin where Cork best CBS.

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

The top five from the trials will go to Amsterdam for five days from February 19-24 to represent the Irish Colleges.

**SOCCER**

The Trials for the Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFA) Teams take place on Wednesday 5th of December in Tenerance ECC Grounds. DIT Scoor's Michael Whelan announced that the trials for the ITI team to compete in the 2001 Collingwood Cup take place on February 2 in Tenerance. For further information on all things soccer in DIT, Michael can be contacted on 01 679 3735 or at michael.whelan@d.it.ie.

**MOUNTAINEERING**

"We went down to Doolin 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 "mountaineering" 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!

**Karting club win in Waterford**

The 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.

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