Shorthand lecturer honoured

Students to hit streets for election

DIT President Dr Brendan Goldsmith has described criticism made by the Dail Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in relation to a Labour Relations Commission (LRC) report on industrial relations strife in the Institute as outrageous and unfair.

In an interview with the DIT Independent, Dr Goldsmith said he was overwhelmed by the levels of anger and frustration that the LRC report had generated among the Institute's staff and students.

"The LRC report was a complete whitewash," Dr Goldsmith said. "It was a complete whitewash of the problems that we have been facing for a number of years."
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Bank of Ireland
Hello all. As the 1st term draws to a close and we approach festive season edges nearer and nearer a lot of you will have deadlines to meet. If I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best of luck and I hope that the Students Union will continue to be a lot for people it can be a stressful time, so if you do need any help at all please, call into your Students Union offices.

To help you recover once you've left the exams and assignments behind, we at the S.U have organised a few fun things for a night out “a comprehensive review of every aspect of the work that the project team had carried out over a year ago.” He announced that the project team would then carry out a detailed assessment for entitlement of all students to a medical card by virtue of their doctor's diagnosis. Students, but rather on the basis of them being adults of very low income.

USI estimates that the cost of securing a medical card for students not entitled to one would reach €21m or more per cent in annual general medical service expenditure. USDU’s, the umbrella body for DITSU, Swane, said the primary barrier to students effectively responding to their health care needs is finance. With the average cost of a GP visit at €30 nationwide, and 60 per cent of students receiving no financial maintenance from their families, this is an even more apparent, he said.

A recent MORI/MRCI survey found that almost one in five students did not see their doctor during the last six months because of financial reasons. “Any doctor will confirm that neglect of minor medical difficulties eventually leads to more severe medical problems,” added Swane. “When students graduate at present, they continue to bring into the workplace health care neglect with them into their working life. If a positive attitude towards personal healthcare was repeatedly engendered among young people, in the general health of the working population will continue to increase,” he added.

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Dr Brendan Goldsmith became the President of DIT in 1993 to serve a ten-year term. Eight years on, Aoife Stokes spoke to him about his achievements as president and about the current issues facing DIT.

Aoife Stokes: How challenging or not have you found the presidency of the state’s third largest level institution at date?

Brendan Goldsmith: I’ve found it exciting, challenging, certainly very rewarding but it has been a lot of hard work.

AS: How difficult is it to co-ordinate the six campuses of DIT under the one umbrella?

BG: It’s a hard task to bring previously independent colleges together, to bring different cultures together. They all have their own strengths but they want others to change to suit them, not to be the ones to have to make changes. Prior to 1993, there was a loose federal arrangement with a co-ordinated non-executive body, this is now executive.

AS: What gain do you believe university status would bring to the college?

BG: I have said all along that there are two dimensions to this. Firstly, the question of autonomy in the university situation, you can do things that are needed, make the changes required. Whereas if I need two technicians instead of one lecturer, I need to get permission from the Department of Education despite the fact that it doesn’t cost any more money. There is also a status issue involved. The DIT needs a full degree of autonomy.

AS: Do you think that there is any way in which the power structure of DIT could be de-politicised?

BG: The Human Resources Director will be taking up post in the college in December which will help things but DIT is undergoing one of the largest changeover management processes ever in higher education. All organisations are political, we’re in the process of massive change.

AS: What about the findings of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

BG: The comments of the PAC were outrageous. DIT’s financial systems are the tightest I know. There was one individual engaging in criminal activities. We may not have been in a position to prove so in a court of law but we stopped him and he resigned. It was very unfair to our financial people.

AS: Do you see any solution to the massive drop out rate in DIT?

BG: The drop out rate varies from faculty to faculty but it’s not something unique to DIT. We’ve been bringing in different people but it’s a long, slow process and at the end of the day most third level institutions have the same problem. Irish students tend to be very young coming into higher education and the CAO system is very rigid so if you make the wrong choice you have little choice but to drop out an reapply.

AS: Are you aware of the issue at the Portland Row campus?

BG: Certainly, it’s a major problem but it’s a landlord problem and not ours. It’s not a very satisfactory location but this is typical of the problems DIT has. There are no other suitable locations, we don’t put students there just because we’re being bloody minded about it.

Just any office environment wouldn’t be suitable for Art and Design studies, it needs to be a suitable environment. Certainly we’ll do our best to improve the situation.

We’re not putting people in an unsafe or unhealthy environment. Basically the whole buildings situation depends on Grangegorman. The whole future will depend on Grangegorman, it will be a critical factor in deciding what we do.

Certainly we expect some movement on the Grangegorman issue before the end of the year.

AS: At the start of your presidency, what did you hope to achieve during your term?

BG: In broad terms, one of my objectives was to get DIT up to the stage where it could award it’s own PHDs. Secondly I wanted to get a campus worthy of an institution like DIT. I feel I have succeeded totally in the first. If Grangegorman were to come into effect, I would have achieved in my two primary objectives. But more than that I wanted to incorporate research into the activities of DIT. There is still a long way to go on the research front. Education has changed and we live in a much more knowledge based society. DIT needs not necessarily be research led but to be research informed.

AS: What plans do you have when you finish up your presidency?

BG: I have managed over the last eight years to stay involved in mathematics, two PHD students graduated this year under me. I am also still publishing research papers, not as much as before. So at heart I’m still a mathematician.
DIT furthers Science Week cause

By Aisling Casey

Despite the distraction of the World Cup play-off in Tehran, DIT’s interest in the forthcoming aspiring young scientists attended DIT Exploring Chemistry competition is part of Ireland’s annual Science Week.

DIT lecturer Dr John Fox presented a lecture entitled ‘Science in action: the packed audience of second level students. This lecture was part of Ireland Science week programme, which included an interactive demonstration lecture entitled ‘The Magic in Chemistry’ presented by Randol Hay and John Daly in DIT Kevin Street.

Dr Fox gave an illustrated lecture on the applications of chemistry in the detection of crime. He discussed the detection and analysis of various drugs, such as cannabis, heroin and LSD. He also explained how car parking tickets are traced in road traffic accidents. As a former Garda now working in a forensic laboratory, Dr Fox is no stranger to detecting trace evidence. He showed the group how trace evidence is removed from the crime scene and subsequently examined. Dr Fox spoke also about the judicial process and the role of the expert witness in a criminal case.

The lecture was designed to appeal to Leaving Certificate students with an interest in forensic analysis. This lecture was highly important to DIT because DIT is currently developing a four-year degree in Forensic and Environmental Analysis, which should be available from September 2002. Dr Patricia Ernis of the DIT School of Chemistry DIT, said, ‘we had over 200 school kids who wanted to attend these events.’ She added, ‘I maintain that chemistry is a life skill. This is true of science in general. The idea behind the project was to promote a positive image of chemistry and the important role it plays in our lives.’

Several events took place throughout colleges in Ireland. In Waterford, Dr Rob Jones entertained his audience with Hot Air while in Cork, an audience treated to a colourful Chemical Magic Show. (More details on Science Week can be found in Tales on page 8) Science Week Ireland is described by its organiser as ‘a dynamic, up to date experiment and invent their way to a better understanding of the concept and the relevance to Ireland’s economic prosperity through lectures, workshops and exhibitions nation-wide. Speaking at the launch of this year’s Science Week, Mr Noel Treacy TD said, ‘Our Campus Strategy Plan provides for an Investment of almost €2 billion by Science and Technology, including infrastructure, research and education. ‘However, while Science and Technology play key roles in today’s economy, our young people are avoiding lessons away from science studies in colleges and schools. We therefore need to continue to build up our educational infrastructure in science and technology. This is especially important because too often science is seen as dull and boring, with no indication of the skill and excitement of discovery. ‘I believe Science Week Ireland will be a way to a better understanding of people’s perception of science, through the many wonderful challenging and fun events that take place throughout this country’, he said.

Open letter to DIT students

Dear Reader

Some of you are, undoubtedly, well aware of the recent efforts by the DIT Students Union in its present standing, and the current implementation of a new process underway, which we hope will help steer this organisation in the correct direction.

You may have read, in the previous issue of this paper, a request for feedback and ideas regarding your views towards the running, structure and organisation of the Students Union. If we had to, we could think of a reason why students in each DIT site have not received a request to submit an idea or proposal, e.g. most obvious being Faculty of Business.

However, we have to report, that following our last request, the total amount of submissions was zero.

Apathy is nothing new in DIT, however, was it being too optimistic to think we would receive some form of response? We thought not, and if no submissions say more than 100 ever was it being too optimistic to think we could consider the importance of the Students Union? Following our last request, the total amount of submissions was zero. We have to report, that following our last request, the total amount of submissions was zero.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Rathmines students who composed the largest number of DITSU student's songs participating in the recent Chemnobil 10 kilometre walk.

Several of the students are members of the Social Care Society, which was launched in conjunction with the walk, on Thursday October 15. Some members raised over £100. Professor Alan Bailey and Katie Savage of the Social Care Society.

The radio enthusiast now runs a radio show on the National Safety Council website, www.nsc.ie.

He is currently involved in a documentary, covering the harm caused by drink driving, and the ordinary punter's view of the effects of drink and drug driving. "There has to be a culture of zero tolerance of drink driving as an accident. A person knows that something is wrong when drinking and driving, and his or her life is scarred. The ordinary punter knows that it's not worth it."

The committee would like to thank all its members and fellow DITSU students for getting involved. Next month's issue will carry the final total raised by DITSU students for the Chernobil Walk.
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Third level tales

Campus.ie takes the DIT Independent on a trip around Ireland's colleges for a look at what's making inter-varsity news

www.campus.ie

Search for loudest child a roaring success

SLIGO's Science Week was a roaring success - and that's official! As part of the popular Science Fair of lectures and demonstrations, Dr. Margaret Savage, lecturer in environmental science and acoustic consultant, conducted a test to see who was the loudest child in Sligo.

The loudest child tested at the top of his voice, clocked up 106 decibels.

"That's like a truck passing in front of you," Dr. Savage said. The 10-year-old boy winner remains anonymous but many parents will have their suspicions, as parents were reported to be just as loud as boys and 10 per cent of children tested scored over 100 decibels.

A number of children reached 105, one set of twins each scored 103, and the loudest of all was 106.

"That is only a momentary peak, at the highest level of their voices," said Dr. Savage. They would not be as loud as all that the time.

The sound level metre was set to go from 100 to 140 as that all the time. The sound level metre goes up to 140 would be a huge jump.

"They were very competitive and each one wanted to be the loudest. The kids really enjoyed it. They were shouting at the top of their voices. Some of them would bring a sister or a brother and say 'he or she is the loudest in the family' and the mother would be surprised when they didn't score the highest. It was great fun." Science Week was a 'huge success' according to Margaret O'Dwyer, a member of the Institute committee that organised the week. "We had our biggest lecture theatre full to capacity twice each night for lectures, over 200 secondary students attended master classes in chemistry, physics and biology and kids loved exploring the Ferrari Formula 1 car."

Over 2,000 attended the Starlab Planetarium in the Rockwood Centre. the Explorium staff reported it was their best attendance anywhere and over 150 people made electronic gadgets at the MadLab. It was great, people really enjoyed it," she said.

Science Week Ireland took place from November 11 to 18, and saw college scientists letting their hair down, getting up to all sorts of wacky tricks and experiments to enthuse and educate the public on science concepts. Five years since its inception, Science Week continues to play an important role, in fostering the enjoyment and promotion of science and technology in Ireland.

People of all ages are given the opportunity to explore, experiment and invent their way to a better understanding of Irish innovation.

Activities around the colleges varied from tinkering with robots, staring at tamarinus, preventing sports injuries to curing hangovers. (Ah, useful advice! - Ed)

Third level sets up centre for Deaf Studies

Trinity College has had a long history of co-operation with the Irish Deaf Society. In 1995, the College participated in the EU-funded HORIZON programme and made professional sign language interpreter and tutor training available in this country for the first time.

"The Centre runs two full-time undergraduate Diploma programmes: a Diploma in ISL, Teaching and a Diploma in ISL/English Interpreting. Next year it will launch a third undergraduate Diploma programme in general Deaf Studies. ISL is the primary language of communication at the Centre with English as the second language.

There will be a 300 per cent increase in the number of homegrown sign language interpreters in the next five years, thanks to the establishment of the Centre for Deaf Studies in Trinity College Dublin.

There are currently fewer than 20 professional interpreters who serve a deaf community of about 4,500 in Ireland.

The fact that Sweden has a similar deaf population in number and yet has 550 professional interpreters highlights the severity of the problem here.

Deaf students are the most under-represented group of disadvantaged students accessing third level education in Ireland. A HEA commissioned survey found that there were only 34 deaf students attending any form of third level education in this country in 1998/99.

"The new centre will offer deaf students an opportunity to confidently experience third level education using ISL as their primary language of communication in the classroom," Lorraine Lenon, Director of the Centre for Deaf Studies said.

Funding has now been provided to the Centre for Deaf Studies through the Higher Education Authority for a five-year period. Trinity College has had a
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I t's hard to imagine a more
harrowing and terrifying introduction to one's first visit
to Ireland than Bloody
Sunday in Derry on January
30 1972. Peter Taylor, a young
English reporter, who had never
previously visited Ireland and
did not even know what Bloody
Sunday was prior to his assigning,
began work for the BBC in Northern
Ireland on that tragic day.

"I was a typically ignorant Brit," he
told journalism students at the
Anne Maguire Journalism
Conference, which was held
at Dublin Castle on November 22. "To
be honest, like most people in
Britain, I didn't really care too much
about it. I walked through the streets
of Derry with the pools of blood still
fresh on the ground. I began
knocking on doors in the Bospide
to try and find out what exactly had
gone on that day. And that's when I
met a retired soldier called Jack
Chapman, who provided me with a
vivid eyewitness account of what
had happened." Chapman told
Taylor that British paratroopers
appeared to have shot dead innocent
civilians and was adamant that there
had been no shots fired from within
the crowd that day. "The Saville
Inquiry is all part of conflict
resolution," Taylor added.

"Tony Blair embarked on a
process through the IRA that may
help bring about a final
solution to the conflict. That day has
always lingered with me; what
time that a visit to the story, change it." Taylor added.

His work has provided some of
the most stunning and fascinating
accounts of the conflict in the
region, including a documentary
that marked the 20th anniversary
of the tragedy in Derry. "I interviewed
Derek Wilford, who had been in
service in Derry that day and he has
been haunted by the memory of
Bloody Sunday to this day. I also
interviewed a sergeant major, who
made an equally remarkable
admission, saying he was sorry for
what had happened.

This was the first time that a
soldier had admitted any such
repose publicly. The reaction in
Derry was remarkable and I
received many letters which I
passed onto the soldier from
residents who were so grateful to
hear those words been said by a
member of the British Army."

The inquiry asked Taylor to hand
over his notebook relating to
Bloody Sunday in an effort
to further their investigation.

"They demanded that I hand
over all of my notes, which included
the whole range of names, be
they soldiers, provisionalists, etc., several of whom I had
been able to get detailed
interviews in the strictest of
confidences. So I photocopied all
my notes, but took out all the names
and addresses of those that I had
spoken to in confidence. Had I not
done so I would have been
undermining the fundamentals
of the job; people simply will not trust
you if you did otherwise."

Taylor, now exposed to the brutal
realities of the Northern problem,
one which he called both "the Irish
question and the British question",
set about making programmes
which helped provide a greater
understanding of the conflict for a
British audience.

"The stereotyping of figures
during this conflict was always
prevalent and what I have tried to
do over the years is to show that
this simply wasn't the case." One such
interviewee was then IRA member
Tony Miller, who had planted a
bomb in the middle of Derry in the
mid-70's, which caused massive
dAMAGE to the city's economic
heartland.

As he spoke, it was clear that this
was a man who rarely switches off
from his vocation, which is perhaps
the biggest drawback of deciding
dedication to a career in the media. During a
session after his main speech, he
spoke of the new challenges that
face journalists in the new
Northern Ireland. These included
an addressing of the major social issues
such as the state of the health
service and the housing issue,
stories that have formed the staple
pages of the Northern dailies. While
reporting on the Troubles profoundly altered the course
of Peter Taylor's life, a humorous
moment in the wake of the incidents remains a standout
moment in his journalistic career.

"Now here was a man from
Creggan, who came from a good,
respectable(idiom), hard working family,
who had joined the IRA because of
Bloody Sunday," he said. "It
legitimised the IRA's violence and
that was the real significance of
Bloody Sunday."

The documentaries, 'Provo' and 'Loyalists' are remarkable stories
told by the men who had behind
balalavas and had engaged in their
war against each other. His
interview with John White, now
a member of the Progressive Unionist
Party, who was imprisoned for
the murders of Senator Paddy Wilson
and Irene Andrews, remains a vivid
memory for Taylor.

"I remember as I sat there
interviewing him thinking this was
the man who had stabbed Paddy
Wilson 30 times. The truth is that
you should never forget what they
did and that's always in the back of
my mind. All interviews contain a
confrontational attitude and
when we were showing the
Loyalists series we were doing three
interviews a day and it was
absolutely exhausting. As
journalists we should never
sympathise with those we are
interviewing but we can empathise."

The Maze prison of all places
provided Taylor with one of the
greatest stories of his career.

"In 1990 we were given
permission to shoot a
documentary about life in the Maze
and myself and the rest of the crew
lived in the prison for about three,
four weeks. This for me helped play
a part in conflict resolution. The
inmates were very ordinary people
and the prison was not a hellhole;
the prisoners ran the wings and
wore their own clothes, it was
remarkable.

"We were there during the three
hundredth anniversary of the Battle
of the Boyne and the loyalist
inmates told me that they had
their band ready for the 12th of July.
We just couldn't believe this."

"The Governor of the prison
was gobsmacked, he had no idea that the
band existed and it was a wonderful
piece to film, the band with its paper
uniforms and drum, marching up a
prison corridor. The loyalists loved
it and the republicans thought that it
was hysterically funny."

Even in the darkest days, a little
light managed to peek through and
for journalists such as Peter Taylor,
life would have been near impossible to bear without them.

One such dark moment, the recent
murder of Sunday World reporter
Martin O'Hagan, left Taylor "feeling
sick in the stomach. He was the
bravest of the brave and he was
incredibly skilled and he had the
courage to do what I couldn't do. He
put his own neck on the line and lost
him his life because of his work. A
journalist should bear that in
mind in the work that you'll be
doing in the future." Peter Taylor
said that while it is not the job
of journalists to resolve conflict,"(that
is the job of politicians,)" he did
state, "our job is to report. It is
our obligation and duty to see what
we report what we see, what we learn
and what we find out."

Arguably the best piece of advice that he offered
the next generation of journalists
that day was, "you must make your
story fit the facts and not make the
facts fit the story... if the facts don't
fit the story, change it."

Peter Taylor is a prime example of a
professional who has never
taken his eye off the ball. In the
midst of the Troubles, he has
continued from being a self-confessed
ignorant Brit to one of the greatest
sources of information on the
conflict in the North. He recalled
a question that the venerable Richard
Dembly once put to Basil Brooke
in an interview and I quote "who
exactly is the IRA.""

Thanks to Peter Taylor and
several other journalists, the British
public and indeed many south of the
border, such questions have become
redundant. We can only hope that
the bomb and the bullet will become
as equally irrelevant to life in
Northern Ireland as that famous
Dembly question.
The thought of trawling through Grafton Street or Henry Street in the run-up to Christmas sound as appealing as the Billie Barrie Kids Yuletide Extravaganza? If so, you’ve come to the right place. Janice Gaffey takes the hassle-free option in present shopping.

“Between battling through the aisles and queuing for half an hour to pay, it’s enough to drive you to drink.”

Claudio’s Wine in George’s Street Arcade: wine is an obvious choice.

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Eat, drink and be merry

Drinking sessions with your mates has no real novelty value - you have at least one a week. But Christmas is a bit different.

For some reason, people start thinking that during the month of December, there should be at least one civilised gathering involving a sit-down meal as well as the usual quantities of alcohol, and so, eating a donner kebab on a park bench doesn't count.

It's a strange animal, the Christmas dinner - it always seems like a good idea at the time, but after you've cleared room for (former) best friend 'looking at' your boy/girlfriend and been sick on your shoes, you wonder why you bothered.

Still, trying to dislodge large groups from having the Christmas 'do' is like trying to persuade an 18-year-old couple that a day trip to the zoo is not a recipe for a good time.

By being in this mind, we've had a look around to see where parties are catered for without the bill requiring the entire assembled company to donate a vital organ.

Hangover the mistletoe

By Bryan Collins

They say everything has its price. Cruelly enough, alcohol is no exception - and no I'm not about to murmur about the price of drink. Hangovers are something most of us are horrendously familiar with. Headaches, muscle cramps, and even vomiting in the college toilet - these are the things 'hangovers' fail to feed us about. With Christmas coming up, the chances are some of you are going to get dangerously re-aquatinted with the halogen.

Alcohol, in its purest form, is toxic for the body. It kills brain cells and damages your liver.

It can ruin a potential good night's sleep or a hard day's work. It'll wreck your bank balance and kill off your appetite. Yes, the 'tricks of drink' your mother warned you about are still alive and well today. The stronger the drink, the stronger the hangover - that's news for all you bourbon fans.

Another major abundant factor is the amount of congeners (or flavours) found in a drink - that's bad news for cocktail lovers. Cheap drink can also be pretty toxic for the body.

Of course they say it's what you do with it that counts and drink is no exception. Mixing your drinks can prove pretty detrimental.

If you double, remember certain combinations are more lethal than others. Beer and wine are the chalk and cheese of the drinker's world.

Similarly, if you're drinking various spirits try to keep to the same colour. A hefty night of gin backed up by some strong whiskies can make the next morning feel worse than Armageddon. Vodka and Red Bull can prove another particularly potent concoction.

This is all water off a duck's back for alcohol fans though. So, after your boozy night on the beer, and if you are of sound mind, consume a pint or two of water along with a multi-vitamin before bedtime.

I'll make all the difference the next day.

If the alarm clock does go off and you feel like you've just caught the Ebola virus, there are a few tricks that can help.

Vitamin C is a painkiller for headaches. Amadin should be avoided as it usually results in nausea later on in the day. Paracetamol can prove toxic for the liver if taken after a serious binge. Alka Seltzer is good product for volatile stomachs.

Anything with Vitamin C should be indulged in. Bananas and oranges are especially effective. If you can stomach it, try to consume some food the day progress - stay away from anything acidic though.

As far as drinks go, you can't go wrong with Lusoziade, Gatorade or plain old water. Stay away from caffeinated drinks, like tea or coffee, as they have diuretic properties (which will only dehydrate your body more.) Milk is another no-no.

If you're brave enough consider the hair of the dog option. If all fails, go to sleep - chances are you're good to no one.

At the end of the day alcohol is like work, study or even Britney Spears - too much of it is sickening (literally.) But follow these tips with a healthy shot of moderation and your hangover blues should be avoided.

Now all you have to worry about is the previous night's events such as having a go at your boss, being barred from the night club, spending your rent money...

Janice Gaffey presents The DIT Independent guide to getting drunk, spending way more than necessary, and putting yourself out of action for at least a whole day.

The Bangkok Cafe, Parnell Street.

Although finding the restaurant may involve a little effort, it's well worth it once you get there. It looks quite dingy from the outside, but don't be fooled - the drink is great and reasonably priced. The menu is a mixture of the usual Thai dishes but all are well executed, and vegetarians are catered for. The wine list is limited to say the least, and we recommend that you stick to beer in this particular establishment. Desserts are also limited, so after main courses, it's probably a good idea to vacate the table and head for the Wellcome Inn.

Bond, Beresford Place (Beside Busaras)

The set-up in Bond is a wee bit unusual because there's no wine list. Instead there's a wine cellar, with around 190 wines available, and the procedure is that you wander around and pick out a wine, which you then pay off-licence prices for, plus £5 corkage. They also serve beer. The food is a little bit pricier, but if you stick to the less expensive dishes, it should be quite reasonable. The interior of the restaurant is stylish and modern, and the staff are lovely. The only problem is that there's a bit of a shortage of pubs for a post-restaurant pint.

Il Bacaro, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar

To be brutally honest, the food and service here are inconsistent, but if your main objective is to get plastered, then you've come to the right place.

The staff are predominantly Italian, and are suitably grumpy, and you can wait about an hour for your food. Speaking of which, the food is sort of rustic Italian, and can be either good or a mess of tomato sauce, depending on the night.

Wine is sold by the litre for about £12 a throw. You could do worse.

Yamamori, George's Street: This is probably the best option for a reasonable group dinner of good quality

This is probably the best option for a reasonable group dinner of good quality, with the emphasis on in-and-out and straight to the pub. The menu is Japanese, with noodles, rice, tempura, sushi and so on, and most people will find something to suit. Wine goes from about £12 upwards, and beer is also served.

The restaurant is big and functional, and there's a huge number of bars and clubs on the doorstep for when the staff throw you out. So enjoy your Christmas dinner party, and remember to be nice to the wait-staff, and leave a decent tip.

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December 2001 DIT Independent | 13
Five Days To Christmas By Flachra Rococo-Gavanney

On that night of time against another long will I feel guilty about going out on my shopping spree, because it is all in the sense giving and charity. When it comes to buying presents for the dear ones, you can do it all the time, and Christmas provides me with the opportunity to shine that little bit more.

Because my V8 list comes in volume format, unfortunately I have had to restrict my browsing of gifts to nearest and dearest. Strictly family only, and I'm afraid you won't be seeing any of these here.

Firstly for my best bro, a three minute rechargeable electric champagne cooler. I can't believe everyone doesn't have one, it's way more convenient than popping down to the wine store and having to wrap it up, and Christmas provides me with the opportunity to shine that little bit more.

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The movie which may blow both Harry Potter and Star Wars out of the water is just around the corner. Eoin Murphy looks ahead to 'The Fellowship of the Ring,' the first installment of the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

"One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness find them." (in bold and italicised)

Arguably the greatest fantasy novel (non-sexual) ever written, J.R.R. Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' has finally made its way to the big screen and is due for release on December 19th 2001. The film is part of this potentially breathtaking trilogy. The Fellowship of the Ring was directed by Peter Jackson and boasts an all-star cast including Liv Tyler (In The Lord of The Rings), Sean Bean and the always mercurial Ian McKellen.

The Fellowship of the Ring is the starting point of the journey of a young hobbit called Frodo who inherits a ring from his Uncle Bilbo and is turn inherits the mantle of the Ring of the Hobbit. Big deal you might say, it's just a ring. But this is no ordinary Ring (hence the capital 'R'), this is the most powerful Ring in the world. When time began rings of power were forged for the leaders of Middle Earth. There were nine rings for mortal men, seven rings for Dwarves and three rings for the race of Elves.

The Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins (Elijah Woods), the Hobbit who inherits the One Ring from his cousin Bilbo in 'The Fellowship of the Ring,' has a very interesting role. Hobbithood is the Ring of the Hobbit.

The dark Lord Sauron (basically the Osama Bin Laden of middle earth) learned how to forge and made one Ring of ultimate power, the 20th Ring, the Ring to bind and rule them all.

He proceeded to acquire all the rings and take over middle earth until one man, the father of Aragon cut the Ring from Sauron's finger and the Ring was lost to him. He was defeated and pushed back to Morocon to wait until both his power and ring returned to him. He changed the nine mortal men who carried the nine rings into Raith riders and sent them out to search Middle Earth for the Ring.

So how did the ring end up in Frodo's possession?

Tolkien also wrote an equally famous book called 'The Hobbit,' the prequel to the trilogy. Hobbits are small hairy creatures who live in a part of Middle Earth called the Shire. They are a peaceful and almost lazy race that enjoys drinking mead, telling stories and smoking pipes. They are the most unlikely individuals to take on the garb of hero but then this is a fantasy novel and anything is possible. They live in comfortable dry holes in the ground and love warming their hairy toes in front of a roaring fire.

It explains how a Hobbit, named Bilbo Baggins embarked on a journey as a companion to the wizard Gandalf (McKellen) and is suspected from the outset.

In 'The Fellowship' he realises exactly what the Ring is and informs Frodo of the magnitude of his inheritance. Beyond doubt, Gandalf is the most glamorous character in the story.

It is better to read than to explain. As Gandalf says, "I will not be taken lightly, my friend."

When Sauron sends his dark wizard Saruman and his army of Orcs to retrieve the Ring, Harry Potter, the wizard who commands respect from all, good and evil and has a relationship with all living creatures. His courage is unwavalled. Throughout the books and the much awaited three films he will become one of the most revered characters since Alec Guinness dressed the robes of Obi Wan Kenobi in another rather exciting trilogy.

If the Ring is so powerless then why don't they use it against Sauron, you might ponder.

THE EVIL OF THE RING

Well the Ring is inherently evil and all contact with it will eventually turn bad. None of the Fellowship wants to be corrupted and that is why no one of power will touch. Only someone whose spirit is pure may carry it and try to destroy it for that is the only true way to defeat Sauron. For his protection Frodo is issued with a fellowship consisting of Elves, Dwarves, Men, Wizards and friends from his home in the Shire.

The journey is an arduous one, one full of many deadly obstacles. Travelling orcs and goblins and even the great of apparent friends can be potentially fatal but all are small perils compared to the prospect of Sauron单元ing the rings. Private battles hinder the group further; Gandalf is forced to barbe his master and teacher Saruman, who desires the power of the Ring for himself. Boromir, who wants the Ring to protect his town of Minas Tirith challenges Frodo.

To say the least this film is an epic and yet it will only open the door to one of the greatest and complete stories ever. The book contains every element necessary for success. Whether the film will be able to convey this, time will tell but I'm banking on something special.

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By Jon Lee and Cian O'Sullivan

The 51st State

If anybody is wondering what to do as opposed to checking out the openings of the Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings franchises, The 51st State, has been labelled as this year's season's action-film offering.

The story, for what it's worth, deals with Eoin McElroy plants a bomb for his employer and then heads for Liverpool, where he plans to sell the formula for his drug, P.O.S. 51, to crime-boss Leopold. Durant, played by the Royce Family's Ricky Tomlinson.

When transferred to the

Merseyside setting, traditional scouser Felix De Souza (Carlyle) accompanies McElroy to his meeting with Durant, for his first, and last, big sale. This film has all the hilarity of a buddy movie where the two characters have no chemistry, and hate each other.

According to the press notes, one's all talk - the other's all action - so we're treated to witty remarks such as De Souza welcoming the American to Britain, saying 'you're about as welcome as a dose of the clap.'

Action sequences are what films like this get judged on, but even here the examples are poor.

Where the action occurs it staggers onward without energy, surprising given director Ronny Yu's background as a Hong Kong action director.

This lack of energy runs through every part of the film, with too many characters and not enough characteristics, leaving no time for a back-story, or proper plot development. The 51st State chases it's own tale (fall?) with the flawed belief that it's plot will keep you interested. After five minutes it's unlikely that you'll care greatly why Jackson spends the majority of the film wearing a kilt, and carrying golf clubs. After an hour and a half you still may not know.

The plot twists and turns involve drug dealers and corrupt police officers, football fans and skinhead neo-Nazis. All while the white is an international drug-dealing chemist (or is he?), aided by a stupid foul-mouthed thug who wants his old, gun-toting, literal girlfriend back.

At times it seems like the script was written in the same way Radiosteady have taken to writing their songs, by random words drawn from a hat. Not even Samuel L. Jackson, here also as an executive producer, can put a sheen on this film. With no quotable lines of dialogue, no clever editing or direction, this is a mediocre production that really does want to be drowned by the publicity given to Harry Potter. (no stars, or whatever).

Video/DVD reviews

By Dermot Keyes

Shrek

One of the year's biggest hits and a massive unit shifter in the DVD chart since its release, Shrek marks another triumph for Dreamworks in the highly competitive animation market.

With the inaugural Academy Award for best animated feature up for grabs come next March, it's likely this film will battle it out with new release Monsters Inc for the coveted statuette.

Featuring the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy and John Lithgow, Shrek offers a twist to the Beauty and the Beast story as the eponymous ogre and the beautiful Princess Fiona (eventually) fall in love.

Shrek befriends Donkey, voiced brilliantly by Eddie Murphy and together their heroes set off on an adventure to rescue Princess Fiona (Diaz) from the clutches of a fire breathing dragon and into the clutches of the dimwitted villain, Lord Farquaad (Lithgow).

Alas, such stories are never so straightforward as Shrek overcomes his Sillmaril Marerrisons to befriended Donkey and fall in love with a woman he feels is well beyond his big green mits. But little does he know!

Featuring cameo roles from some of the most famous fairy tale characters of all, such as the three blind mice, the gingerbread man (hilariously tortured by Fugquard) as well as Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Shrek is a delight from start to finish. From a cinematic summer that was virtually empty of anything remotely inspiring, Shrek emerged as the best movie by a country mile and is sure to prove a stockinge filler for kids and kids at heart this Christmas.

The DVD features a 'making of' documentary as well as interviews with the movie's characters, featuring Fiona speaking of her admiration for the cast and the best work on 'Charlie's Angels,' which inspired some of her own high octane action sequences during the movie. With the usual mix of trailers as well as a humorous music video included, Shrek's an excellent package, which makes a worthy inclusion in anyone's DVD library.

Series Seven: The Contenders

This movie opened to wide acclaim in the United States earlier this year and after sitting through the poor drive-in one can only ask how on earth that happened.

The concept of the movie involves a group of people in a small average American town who are picked at random through a national lottery to compete in a game show called The Contenders. Once picked, contestants have to compete in the show and obtain as many firearms as possible in order to protect one's self from the other contenders. The major drawback to the show is that you have to kill everybody else in order to become champion so as to progress to the next series and claim the cash prize.

The movie was shot as if it was a tv show, adding that reality dimension to proceedings.

If only a good plot and non-vomit inducing dialogue had been added, it may not have been as painful a viewing experience as it was. The DVD extras? I was so drained and numbed by the end of this movie I didn't even check any features out. Avoid like an envelope marked anthrax.

Pearl Harbor

We all know the gist of this movie. Boy (Ben Affleck) meets girl (Kate Beckinsale), they fall in love, boy goes to England to fight in Battle of Britain, girl is heart broken for all of 10 minutes.

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The movie was shot as if it was a tv show, adding that reality dimension to proceedings.

If only a good plot and non-vomit inducing dialogue had been added, it may not have been as painful a viewing experience as it was. The DVD extras? I was so drained and numbed by the end of this movie I didn't even check any features out. Avoid like an envelope marked anthrax.

* Why are cooks in American war movies always black? Just a point to ponder on should readers find themselves with nothing else to ponder on.
beginning just before Christmas they are coming into form at just the right time. A favourable draw in the Cup could yet see them qualify for the play-offs. The Inter Team just failed to qualify for the semi-finals of their Leinster Higher Education Colleges Blitz going down narrowly to Trinity in Santry Avenue.

The Freshers' team had similar luck this month as a defeat to Queens means they now need a win against Jordanstown to make the play-offs. After a promising victory away to Dundalk, the side went to Belfast full of confidence and was leading going into the final stages of the second half. A spell of pressure from Queens however put the Belfast team ahead. Needing a goal to win, DIT's Declan O'Mahony broke through in the final minute only to put his shot over the bar and give Queens a 1-0 to 0-1 victory. The team will now play Jordanstown on December 10th. The Ladies Football team meanwhile, having lost several key players from the previous year's team, and having dropped down a division, are working hard under new coach Kieran O'Reilly and Chairperson Suzanne Ledwith to improve their performances. The team performed well in the All Ireland Seven-a-side but ultimately failed to make it into the finals. In the League, the side lost to Carlow while the final game against Athlone was called off due to an unplayable pitch at Whitehall.

Anybody interested in DIT GAA can contact DIT's GAA Development Officer at 0862245508.

Aungier Street Hockey A great month for the side as their successful run continued with victory in the plate (and the pub quiz later on) at the Frenchie Grounds in Cramlin. After defeating neighbouring Kevin Street in the semi-finals they beat Carlow IT in the final. The team would like to thank Simon Clarke for his hard work on their behalf.

DIT Soccer Trials for the Collingwood Cup are due to take place on 12th December at the Royal College of Surgeons and anyone interested should contact their Sports Officer. The competition is due to start after Christmas. Meanwhile the Aungier Street side had a bad month, losing 2-2 to the Garda College and 4-0 to Tallaght IT (see match report).

Shotokan Karate Anybody interested should e-mail club captain Andrew Farrell at dit.shotokan@yahoo.co.uk, while the club's website address is http://clubsoc.dit.ie/karate. The club trains at Kevin Street Gym three times a week:

- Monday 6:30 to 8:00
- Wednesday 2:00 to 3:00
- Thursday 5:00 to 6:30

Ireland's largest college club is back albeit under a new alias. This year Bob Coggins, Brian Sinnott, and Ken Gallagher are at the helm of DIT Karting. The club is trying to bring karting to as many students as possible as well as bringing together a team capable of winning the All-Ireland Intervarsity for a record fourth time in a row.

The following day saw the Karting Club get into gear at the sports day when 125 brave souls came out in the deteriorating weather to get the experience of karting at first hand at Kcarticy in Santry.

A range of people showed up from the semi-professionals to those who couldn't figure out which pedal made you go and which pedal made you stop!

Over the following weeks everyone did get their chance to pretend to be Michael Schumacher as 260 karters took part in nine Grands Prix in Ireland in March.

The competition is due to start after Christmas. Meanwhile the Aungier Street side had a bad month, losing 2-2 to the Garda College and 4-0 to Tallaght IT (see match report).

If you wish to submit articles for the sports section, you can e-mail Sports Editor Miguel Delaney at ditsport@hotmail.com.

Wishing all D.I.T. Students a Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year!
The year drawing to its end was one of the most successful years yet for DIT Handball Club. An amazing haul of awards at the DIT sports night was only surpassed by a victorious trip to America along with wins in the Dublin Leagues and Intervarsity competitions. Indeed, no one would deny that DIT currently boasts the strongest college handball club in Ireland.

The team for the new campaign were good for another title for the team, beginning with victories in the Dublin Leagues. Coaching nights in UCD paid dividends as a large number of beginners put in superb performances at the Intervarsity Championships in Galway and the World Collegiate Championships in Minnesota. New talent, coupled with the superb performances of the established team, saw DIT handball dominate the league.

The year’s highlight was the team’s victory in the Worthington Cup, FA CuP. UEFA Cup and the treble. 2001 truly was one of the greatest sporting years in a long time.

In snooker, Ronnie O’Sullivan finally secured the World Championship beating World number one John Higgins 18-14 in the final. Our own Ken Doherty was knocked out by a brilliant display of Ronnie’s. In tennis, Wimbledon saw an emotional Goran Ivanisevic beat Pat Rafter in over 4 hours of the most thrilling Men’s final of all time. He then went on to win the US Open and Australian Open while the footballers, under the tenure of John O’Mahony, remedied that a fortnight later with a comprehensive nine point victory over Leinster. The year was unfortunately ended by the disappointing 3-0 reverse in the final of the World Cup. The Irish were ultimately overshadowed by the experienced Argentina, winning the European Championship.

In snooker, Ronnine O’Sullivan finally secured the Worthington Cup, FA CuP. UEFA Cup and the treble. 2001 truly was one of the greatest sporting years in a long time; let’s hope there are many more to come.

**December has arrived and yes, its time for another review of the sporting year. But for once, we can look back and be proud of Irish sport as 2001 saw many great performances.**

Starters: The GAA saw Galway mincing out on the senior All-Ireland dublin. Ricky English’s Tipperary saw off Noel Lane’s charges by three points in the Dublin final whilst the footballers, under the tenure of John O’Mahony remedied that a fortnight later with a comprehensive nine point victory over Leinster. The year was unfortunately ended by the disappointing 3-0 reverse in the final of the World Cup. The Irish were ultimately overshadowed by the experienced Argentina, winning the European Championship.

Close to home, Lansdowne Road meanwhile hosted one of Irish rugby’s most memorable matches as a Keith Wood inspired Ireland ground out a superb 20-14 win over England, preserving their invincibility. The Selkirk Cup was unfortunately ended by losing the championship to Wales. Meanwhile, Ireland were unfortunately ended by theShoppping 3-0 reverse in the final of the World Cup. The Irish were ultimately overshadowed by the experienced Argentina, winning the European Championship.

Back in July, the British and Irish Lions lost the 1st Test by 33-18 in Cape Town, but the British Lions proved too strong in the final Test to take the series. The Lions for the first time ever went back-to-back title victories in both Wales and Thailand and Ireland avenged their 2000 World Cup Final loss.

After seven second-place finishes on the European Tour, Padraig Harrington finally broke his duck with victory in the Volvo Masters. The €30,000 'lovely ladies' prize was won by Padraig Harrington. In snooker, Ronnie O’Sullivan finally secured the Worthington Cup, FA CuP. UEFA Cup and the treble. 2001 truly was one of the greatest sporting years in a long time; let’s hope there are many more to come.
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas

Paula McIntyre
Mon/Wed/Fri
AIB Campus Bank
10 am – 12 noon
Bolton Street
1 pm – 4 pm
Tue/Thur
10 am – 1 pm
(Telephone: 8740409)

Liz Moore
10 am – 12.30 pm Daily
AIB Campus Bank
Kevin Street
(Telephone: 4759680)
AIB Campus Bank
1.30 pm – 3.30 pm Daily
Aungier Street
(Telephone: 4759654)

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