1999-12

DIT Independent, 1st.-30th. of December, 1999

DIT:Students Union

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By Thomas Felle

The long awaited purchase of a home for DIT at the Grangegorman site has almost come to an end. However, because DIT is not an autonomous institution, the situation on whether or not students are to get long overdue facilities is now up in the Cabinet to decide.

Late last year a request for approximately £150m was put to the Department of Education and Science for a master plan for the future of DIT. This plan was to include the purchase of the disused Grangegorman site from the Eastern Health Board, along with the building of a number of administration, sporting and accommodation units at the site, as well as extensions to other existing sites to allow for a faculty structure to be put in place.

The Department of Education then passed this proposal on to the Department of Finance, however, the DIT Independent has learned that within the last two weeks, this proposal has not been accepted by financiers.

Joe Cullen, Assistant Principal Officer with the Department of Finance said that because of the scale of the development and the money involved, it would need Cabinet approval. "We have put the matter back to the Department of Education and it is now up to the Minister for Education to put it to Cabinet."

Meanwhile, in an effort to ensure facilities for DIT students, the students' union have embarked on their own campaign, which they hope may persuade Government and Department Officials to make a decision on the purchase of the Grangegorman site for the Institute in the near future.

Earlier this month at a DITSU Council meeting, a motion was passed giving students' union executives a mandate to go ahead with a facilities campaign. However, President Sarah O'Neill, ESS are notified by BOI that the money has reached the student's account. The student would have access to their money. The money was put to the Department of Finance to say, 'If we receive a receipt of lodgement from the BOI for tax refunds that I was due from a few different amounts so I did not pay a lot of attention to what was coming in and going out of my account.'

She claims to have received a receipt of lodgement from the BOI to say that money had been lodged into her account. - I assumed this was the natural flow of things so that my overdraft would be paid off! I do not remember any second cheque being issued by the ESS to me! According to ESS only 3 or 4 cases happen out of the 7 or 8,000 individuals dealt with every year.

Continued on page 8

ESS looks for money back

By Elaine Larlcin

The European Student Services, who arrange tax refunds for students have recently had to ask a number of students, some who have just graduated from DIT, to return hundreds of pounds of overpaid tax refunds to them.

One former DIT student contacted the DIT Independent to air her dis­pleasure at the situation.

"I have written a letter to the Taoiseach highlighting the problem and have requested a meeting with him. We are also sending letters to the editors of all national newspapers and are currently writing to all public representatives to highlight the problem. We are hopeful we can create enough media attention to win our case."

Continued on page 8

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Julie Martin - DIT Kevin Street and Aungier Street

Ciara Toomey - DIT Mountjoy Square, Cathal Brugha Street and Bolton Street

Opening Hours

DIT Kevin Street: 10am - 12.30am daily
DIT Aungier Street: 1.30pm - 3.30pm daily
DIT Mountjoy Square: 3.00pm - 4.00pm (Monday)
   10.30am - 11.30 am (Tuesday)

DIT Cathal Brugha Street: 2.15pm - 3.30pm (Thursday)

DIT Bolton Street: 9.30am - 11.45am and 1-2pm
(Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
   1.00am - 3.30 (Tuesday)
   9.30am - 12.45pm (Tuesday)
Mountjoy Square to move south

By Samantha Rowntree

THE NEW YEAR will herald the start of multi-million pound phase two extension to Aungier Street.

There is full planning permission for the site and the college is currently seeking tender through the Department of Education for work to commence. Robert Lawlor, Secretary of DIT expects the work to last between 18 months to 2 years.

However Keith Loohan, President of Mountjoy Square’s students’ union is angry at the delay in getting work started. “It’s typical of how DIT is running. They are great for planning but find it hard to actually get them to work.”

As a business student he himself has no problems with how the business courses are run but is aware of the problems with which students shouldn’t have to contend with. Marketing students spend their third year in Aungier Street before transferring to Mountjoy Square to complete their degree.

“When students get into a course at college they usually expect to stay in that college for the duration of the course. The DIT are not taking into account that students may have to change their accommodation and travel routes to make this possible,” added the students’ union officer.

Accessibility to resources is also posing a problem. Often Mountjoy Square students have to make a long trek across the city to Aungier Street to get library books. Leonard believes it would be “fantastic” to see the new facilities in operation especially since DIT has the biggest business faculty in the country.

The plans, constructed by Burke-Kennedy Doyle and partners in 1998 are on display on the foyer walls of Aungier Street.

The Faculty of Business will be concentrated there once construction has been completed. All the new facilities are clearly shown, with main entrances from the street.

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The plans include providing a new restaurant, student’s union, a library with audiovisual amenities, computer rooms and large lecture theatres. Each floor will house different schools of the business faculty.

Michael Marnane, DIT’s co-ordinating services officer says there will be economies of scale for a bigger Faculty rather than sub-division.

Challenging Times returns

THREE DIT students have qualified for the revised stages of the last Challenging Times of the millennium.

Roy Walsh, who is studying Construction Economics in Bolton Street, is the team captain.

Philip Pound from Cathal Brugha Street and Bernard Quinn from Aungier Street and substitute Brendan Durnan are also on the DIT team.

DIT will join 15 teams in the battle for academic prestige. The other qualifying teams are: the Royal College of Surgeons; NUI Maynooth; the National College of Ireland; Griffith College Dublin; King’s Inn; NUI Galway; Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology; Mary Immaculate College, University of Ulster; UCC; Waterford IT; Galway-Mayo IT; and Trinity College Dublin.

The DIT team competed in the knockout round on Tuesday November 26 and were knocked out of the competition.

The televised stages of Challenging Times 2000 will be recorded in early December and aired in January.

Are you MAD for it?

Bernadette McGarvey-an evening with DIT students on a drama course

Spring production.

The Workshops will include exploring the art of observation and improvisation Activities such as miming and mirroring are planned.

The idea of mimicking movement, according to drama teacher Linda Jackson, is to display the importance of ignoring everything while on stage except the other characters.

At the first workshop on November 16th, two girls closely mirrored each other under the subject of “the getting ready to go out ritual”, spot-squeezing, nail-brushing and make-up application were included in their mime.

Dialogue was another aspect of the first workshop, with Linda Jackson showing the students a group of lines or sentences to improvise on. Subjects were improvised greatly with one conversation swaying from meal woes to mobile phones.

Everyone present took part in the action, losing all inhibitions and nervousness by the completion of the workshop. And of course the “winding down” was the final activity.

The society was set up by its President, Orla Snyh who is a first year Applied Science student. Orla and her committee of six enthusiasts took it upon themselves to advertise the society, completing budgets forms and posters with a view to bringing all possible forms of music and dramatic talent together.

“I, like loads of other students, really wanted a society for music and drama here in Kevin Street. Bolton Street and other sites all have Drama societies so why shouldn’t we?” she added.

Organisers Linda Jackson and Leonard said “they were impressed with the enthusiasm and the turnout. We were delighted with the fact that the society was open to suggestions and we enjoyed ourselves immensely,” they added.

Workshops run every Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm in room B30 in the basement floor in Kevin Street.

Apprentice week

By Coimhe Lane

DIT APPRENTICE week took place from November 22 to 26 in Bolton Street.

According to its organisers, the week, which is the first of its kind, aimed to integrate trade and degree/diploma students.

“We hope to show the apprentices the range of opportunities available to them in Bolton Street”, says Kate Melaney, the Apprentice Officer in Bolton Street.

The officer added that previously trade students have missed out on organised college events such as societies, sports and balls.

Melaney admits that there is some resentment about this, but hopefully, the Apprentice Week will help to rectify the situation.

There are 6,000 apprentices in DIT studying a range of trades such as plumbing, electronic mechanics and carpentry. SU President in Bolton Street, Graham O'Sullivan, said “it is time that the students’ union showed the trade students what we can do for them.

“There is absolutely no reason why they shouldn’t play an equal part in the college social life.”

Events during the week included an iron stomach competition, traditional Irish music night, a “Missing in Action” quiz in Temple Theatre, the Apprentice Ball, piled dive and with a three-legged pub crawl.
Love to explain the "a joke, an absolute joke!" Fraser's saying "never trust a journalist".

The aim is to give students a newspaper directed specifically at them. Eight phones, never mind the mobiles, are hopping off the desks with unremitting wannee hacks tracking every word on the front page. All in all, at the time of writing we answered under with a wide range of hard hitting news stories coming in from all sorts of DIT students are snowed under with a wide range of DIT students scattered across the city. So you think that's the day light and be printed in our worthy publication. The e-mail account usually exceeds its memory limit early in the month and was sold that their employers sending copy, with busy boxers across all the DIT gathering news tidbits to fill their very own newspaper.

Sports are extremely popular at DIT, though the DI has no sports grounds, a problem that causes constant headaches for organisers.

The council hopes to promote the centralisation of the DIT sports teams, but will local clubs suffer?

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Dooley added that, "as yet DIT teams have emerged."

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Do It Tomorrow attitude must go

For most of our academic years, we have been told by the powers that be in DIT that facilities are "a problem". That won't wash anymore. In the past few weeks, the students’ union and indeed many ordinary students in the college have decided enough is enough and have started a campaign to highlight the gross lack of any facility for the vast majority of the 23,000 students in the Institute.

As Ireland’s biggest academic institute, we have long since boasted of abilities and strengths. At a professional level, graduates of the many courses have excelled beyond imagined potential. Indeed the institute is regarded in many professions, especially in the skilled trade industry, as the forerunner in innovative educational training. Time after time the accoutrements of success are echoed by former students.

But success is not resigned solely to academia. The sports fields of Ireland have felt may a DIT team’s wrath, with a host of achievements at all levels, though mainly in the more traditional sports like hurling, Gaelic football and rugby.

Yet, time and time again a cry for facilities is heard but nothing is ever done about it. Why?

DIT management are not an autonomous body. The sponsoring bodies, such as DIT, are not in a position to purchase the Grangegorman site, for developing the other sites, and for building a headquarters, halls of residence and a sports complex, which is estimated at €150 million, approved by the students’ union president, Colm Jordan.

The time for waiting is over. The decision by DITSU to run a campaign to highlight the chronic problem is to be welcomed, but it is long overdue. Past presidents must share some of the blame for not insisting that this issue be a constant pain in the head for the Minister for Education.

DIT management must also accept some criticism for not doing all they could to ensure the Institute had a place to call home. The quest for university status was an important one, but so is a central library, a sports complex, on campus student accommodation, and adequate and up to date central lecturing facilities.

To be fair, management have applied pressure on Government officials, and were directly responsible for structuring the plan for the future of the Institute to 2007.

It is now time for the Taoiseach and the cabinet to see sense. As a graduate of the institute and an Alumni, An Taoiseach is in the unique position to understand exactly what the Institute requires to continue producing the excellent calibre of graduates in business, science, arts, building and technology among others, many of whom are currently employed in top Irish companies.

The vocational nature of the institute’s training is what makes graduates in the various disciplines so employable. But as technology changes, so do the needs of industry. As the extra lads become, so too does the cost of accommodation, making it now almost impossible for any students to find affordable student accommodation which would provide access to a study area.

As students we must now apply on all public representatives to lobby the Government to accept DIT’s proposals. We must now get involved at a grass roots level in the DITSU campaign, before yet another site slips through our fingers.

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to accept any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications are published in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students’ Union.

Who says size doesn't matter?

December 1999

DIT Independent

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‘Full Monty’ for Cathal Brugha girls

Samantha Rowntree on a night of big willies and small underpants

FIT MEN in uniforms are always an attraction to women and when they go a strip further and take their trousers off it’s a real crowd puller.

Fifty feisty ladies from Cathal Brugha Street slipped into Fibbers night-club and waited patiently for the spectacular show. The build up was electric, the Cathal Brugha Street girls all sat sedately in their seats, whipping pliers and chatting calmly. As the waiting grew, patience grew thin. Boys were hassled with questions of when and with what suggestions that they should start to undress. They were not asked to do it, but it was long overdue. Past presidents must share some of the blame for not insisting that this issue be a constant pain in the head for the Minister for Education.

The nineties dance tunes mixed with the classic Full Monty album started a whole reshuffle of seating arrangements.

Everyone suddenly became aware of the best seating points, like myself most people concluded that the seats were there to be stood on.

Ten minutes till lift off and we were now ruthlessly devising action plans. The moment rapidly arrived and the Celtic Knights bounded onto the floor in their Rocky style capes. The crowd surged forward and clam­bered into position to watch the three lads shake their born boots. The guys sedately removed their clothes to reveal their whiter than white g-strings on their perfectly tanned, toned bodies.

The music couldn’t be heard for shouts of, “more” and “get your kit off”. The screaming heightened as one of the brave knights removed his g-string and in all his glory skipped off stage.

The grand finale brought all the guys on wearing only their briefs except for their pants. A selection of “bigger is better” was shown. According to one spectator of the show it was “pretty disappointing”.

It’s believed there was some crowd participation but unlike their male counterparts they were unable to whip the crowd into an excited screaming frenzy.

Pool tables robbed

By Shane McDemetr

SOL tables in the Students’ Union in Angler Street were robbed of an undisclosed sum of money, and Frashers’ Week. The incident, which took place on October 12th, has cost the DITSU more than £200 in repairs. That figure is likely to rise however as the final bill has not yet been settled.

The time of the robbery is unknown, however students union President, Colm Jordan, closed the office at 5:30 pm that evening. The damage was “extensive and disheartened” when he exited to be handcuffed to a chair by Killian in his sol­diers uniform. She had to draw the line when he produced a blind fold and started to bring on his special toys.

It could be said that no one really noticed if they had pretty faces or not. This top front show tried to cater for all fantasies, the James Bond man in a white tuxedo, the soldier, the boxer, the police­man, and the top gun pilot.

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Lisa Marie Deeney, Eve Irvine and Olivia Kelly look at the grants system

Eve Irvine reports on the recent attempt to publish the names of those getting grants

In an effort to cut out fraudulence in the grant system, Meath County Councillor Jimmy Feegan last month called for the publication of the list of recipients of grants.

He said that this motion was not specifically to name people but to deter people committing fraudulence.

"The reason for the motion was to cut out fraud or to limit fraud so that finite resources can be spread out to as many as possible." At present the means of preventing fraudulence is quite restrictive.

If Feegan’s proposal if to go ahead the lists of names would be of successful applicants only and availability of them would be restricted to County Councils and VECs.

The legality of his proposal is in question, however. If it is legal, Feegan hopes to return to the Meath County Council or the Department of Finance and ask that the documentation of applicants whose parents do not have to pay PAYE, be sent to the Revenue Commissioners for inspection.

"If they knew the Revenue Commissioners could check they might not even try," added Feegan.

However, the Union of Students in Ireland have reacted angrily to the proposal. Speaking on Morning Ireland last month, Union President Philip Madden said it would be unfair of the Councillor to expect students to allow their privacy be invaded. "Grants are an emotive issue, and some students may feel embarrassed about receiving one. "They should not have to worry about added embarrassment by having their names made public," added the union leader.

Eve Irvine and Lisa Marie Deeney compare the dates Co councilS, corporations and VECs sent out cheques

The Quickest
- Laois: September 20
- Co Dublin: September 21
- Donegal: September 24
- City of Galway: October 5
- Sligo: October 7
- Carlow: October 8

The Slowest
- Kildare: October 28
- Dun Laoghaire: October 29
- Longford: October 30
- City of Dublin: November 1
- Co Galway: November 2
- South Tipperary: November 11
- County Councils

Worst
- Louth: October 11th
- Limerick Corporation: October 19th
- Tipperary North: October 22nd
- Wexford: October 28th
- Dublin Corporation: November 17th

Best
- Meath: September 9
- Tipperary South: September 10
- Monaghan: September 13
- Sligo: September 22
- Co Galway: September 29

Five double passes to be won

Experience the mind-blowing world of 3D cinema at "Encounter in the Third Dimension," now showing at the Sheridan IMAX Cinema, Parrell St Dublin.

A rather eccentric professor (Stuart Parkin) and Max his flying robot assistant guide the audience through developments in 3D photography.

For a chance to win a pair of tickets to see Encounter in the Third Dimension at the Sheridan IMAX Cinema, simply answer the following questions.

Where is the Sheridan IMAX Cinema Located?
- O'Connell Street
- Parliament Street
- St. Stephen's Green

What is the name of the professor's flying robot assistant?

Entries should be sent on a postcard only, and should reach the DIT Independent offices, Kevin Street, Dublin 8 before 5pm on December 17th.
Dublin Corporation worst in long list of offenders for delaying grant payments

By Olivia Kelly

Between 2,000 and 2,500 third level students finally received their Higher Education Grants from Dublin Corporation during the week beginning November 15, more than six weeks since the start of college terms.

The majority of the country's 66 grant awarding bodies annually distribute their first term's cheques to universities and colleges by the second week in October. While many corporations and county councils did manage to get this year's grants out on time, there were considerable delays from a number of authorities, including Dublin Corporation.

A spokesperson for University College Dublin said that last year they received grant cheques from Dublin Corporation on October 8.

This year, neither UCD nor any other institution has had any Dublin Corporation cheques since the start of term. All of the Dublin Universities and Institutes say they have received no explanation for the delay and that the Corporation is not prepared to furnish them with such.

John Freecy of Dublin Corporation said there are now 1,000 grant cheques ready to go out to third level institutions and should be available to students from this week.

Freecy said the Corporation had 1,250 first term applications to process this year and that had proved very time consuming.

He could offer no definite reason for the delay but said, "the Department of Education issued their grant scheme forms a month later than last year, they subsequently extended the return date until August 8. This has caused difficulties in processing the applications on time."

He added the Corporation would prefer if the forms were issued during term time.

The Department of Education admits there was a delay in issuing the scheme this year so students could get help from teachers in completing them.

"An earlier issue date would also help us to get the cheques out to the colleges by the start of term," he concluded.

The Department of Education admitted there was a delay in issuing the scheme this year and that the forms were available from July instead of June.

However they say this is because the scheme itself was being restructured to make the forms easier to complete.

According to their spokesperson this should not have resulted in a delay for the Corporation in distributing its grant cheques.

"Dates of issue (of the scheme forms) were slightly later this year, but as other awarding bodies were able to cope, there is no reason why Dublin Corporation should have had a problem."

USI's Education Officer, Ian Russell, says renewal applicants (i.e. those students who have already held a grant for one year) should still have got their cheques in the first week of term as change from June to July in the issuing of scheme forms would not have affected their claims.

"First time applicants do usually have to wait a week or two longer, but he says, "at the end of the day people have to live on this money, a delay of this length is unacceptable, for any student."

Grants have always been a major headache for students, especially those in the halls not only of students' union offices but also in the halls of successive Government departments.

It is not so long ago that the Rainbow Government introduced free third level fees for the first time. This has undoubtedly helped create in Ireland's current economic success. At the time, there were calls by some not to introduce a free fees system and instead to increase maintenance grants and make it more accessible to students whose parents are in the PAYE sector, and who may be earning an income marginally above that required to obtain a grant. This was a call which got ignored.

The grant should be increased in line with social welfare payments. It is unreasonable for students to expect to live below a different poverty line to that of other students, who may be entitled to rent and fuel allowance, and in many cases have a medical card which means that prescriptions are available free under the general medical services scheme.

However, the call not to introduce free fees was short lived and never at best.

Grants are a help in funding an education, but they go nowhere near paying for rental accommodation, that is if you are lucky enough to find some. It is not unreasonable, therefore, that student leaders last month called for an increase in maintenance grants to reflect the massive hike in the cost of living for students. It is not unreasonable either for students to expect that grants be paid on the same time, and with some degree of predictability.

The current system where each of the 66 public bodies, be they county councils, corporations or VECs throughout the country, is absolutely ridiculous. Some awarding bodies, including Dublin Corporation, require students to fill out a grant renewal form each year in order to continue receiving a grant payment. Other awarding bodies do not. There is also a huge discrepancy in when these awarding bodies send out grant cheques. The argument that bigger bodies take longer because they have more applications to process is absurd; they have more staff.

A central grants authority is needed to police institutional awarding bodies and ensure that they are operating in line with the law, they should be punished. It is, however, the minority of students who engage in such behaviour.

Students cannot expect to be treated differently to any other section of society. In an open and transparent democracy, we must accept that if a Government Minister is expected to bring before Dail Committees, public money should be accounted for. Sadly, a small minority of students who are cheating the system, whether it be by claiming both social welfare assistance and a maintenance grant, or by getting away with illegal behaviour. We as students have no right to oppose this.

Not because the system cannot be used to its full advantage. But because the USI have vehemently opposed the idea that they should be able to use it as a political bargaining tool. (Indeed USI have vehemently opposed the idea). It is unlikely that even if the idea proves to be legal under the Freedom of Information Act, it is unlikely that even that Messy Corporation would have the nerve to be the mover of the motion. However, in fact the question of whether or not grant holders could be published was answered once and for all by legislation, we as students have no right to oppose this.

Now that you've got used to your new timetable...take a look at ours.

www.buseireann.ie

Government should increase grants, but awardees should be named

Opinion by Thomas Felle

Grants have always been a topic for debate in the halls not only of students' union offices but also in the halls of successive Government departments.

It is not so long ago that the Rainbow Government introduced free third level fees for the first time. This has undoubtedly helped create in Ireland's current economic success. At the time, there were calls by some not to introduce a free fees system and instead to increase maintenance grants and make it more accessible to students whose parents are in the PAYE sector, and who may be earning an income marginally above that required to obtain a grant. This was a call which got ignored.

However, it is very unlikely that a society with a commitment to education would stand idly by and let it happen. However, if in the name of the current Government to centralise the grants system and to heed calls by students leaders to increase mainte­nance grants are not all that removed an ideology from that in the UK.

As students, we too must face up to some harsh reali­ties. The calls by one Meath County Councillor to make the names of students in receipt of maintenance grants publicly available has met with a wholesome reaction from universities and students' union executive committees. Indeed, even if the idea proves to be legal under the Freedom of Information Act, it is unlikely that even that Messy Corporation would have the nerve to be the mover of the motion. However, in fact the question of whether or not grant holders could be published was answered once and for all by legislation, we as students have no right to oppose this.

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Students to collect blankets for homeless

A NUMBER of second year Business Information System students, Aungier Street, have arranged a Homelessness Awareness week from December 6th - 10th. The main priority is getting a load of blankets and to raise as much money as possible for the homeless.

During that week there will be a stall in the foyer of Aungier Street for collection of blankets.

The students hope to raise enough money as possible through a raffle. According to one of the organisers, Lisa Daly, they have been inspired by the Simon Community to whom they will donate the proceeds of the week.

The brainchild or kind heart behind the operation is student Carol Kiegan who persuaded her classmates to help when she saw a homeless person on the street one cold morning on her way to college.

Student journalists win awards

TWO DIT journalism students recently achieved first and third places in top writing competitions. 

Máthlachl Clerkin, a third year student won the Peter Ball Memorial Young Sports Writer of the Year. The competition, in association with the Sunday Tribune, was to write a 1,000 word essay on any sports topic. Clerkin wrote about the Irish soccer team’s current lack of belief in themselves. He said those that were particularly annoyed were the ones who frequent the SU to play pool and to have a cigarette.

His essay is titled ‘a great stunt’ or ‘a great stunt’ and focuses on the team’s problems here (Adelaide Road) and the team’s new manager.”

Cleryn is an Irish soccer team’s current lack of belief in themselves.

The article was published in the Sunday Tribune and Clerkin won a two week work placement with the paper and £500. Clerkin has always been interested in sports and hopes to pursue a career as a sports writer. He is the current editor of the Liberty, a newspaper published by journalism students covering local news in the south Dublin area.

Meanwhile, Anthony Quinn, a final year journalism student has obtained a copy of the letter. In the letter, Lawlor said that the architectural firm, Sack Towton Walker were employed by the Institute to draw up plans for the Institute’s structure. Following this report, a plan was submitted in August 1998 to the Department of Education and Science.

“The institute has quite inadequate indoor sporting facilities and is completely lacking in outdoor sports facilities,” added the letter.

According to Lawlor, the report identified the clear need for a further centre of education and research in the planned campus. The Minister for Education is now likely to put a proposal to Government within the coming weeks proposing the sanctioning of the 60 acre site by DIT,” concluded Lawlor.

However, all is not settled, as the decision still rests with DIT’s Director. The DIT Independent has also learned that it is still possible a scaled down version of the development, as drawn up by the Institute may be what the Government will propose. The DIT Independent has obtained a copy of the letter.

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A few weeks ago DIT students were asked to fill out a student attitude survey. Elaine Larkin analyses the results.

**Student Accommodation**

- **UCP**: 1400 student beds
- **POU**: 700 student beds
- **Trinity**: 950 student beds

**DIT**: 0 student beds

**Students’ Union posters highlighting the lack of facilities**

- as good as opposed to average, with 42 percent voting yes and 29 percent voting no.

The last question on the survey, by no means the least asked students whether they were proud to be a student of DIT. An astounding 25 percent voted yes, with 23 percent voting no. The overall verdict? The SU is working on a campaign at this very minute! Your problems may not be solved, but every effort is being made to tackle them.

## Depression: a real reality in DIT

W
t Christmas on your doorstep there is nothing but song blaring out of shops and cars and bedsheets of windows. You know the ones: "Tis the season to be happy, tis la la la la la la", and then there is the other one, "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas".

Reality however, is quite different.

Many people experience a black Christmas, depression hits, and even the most warm, cherry and authentic looking Santa Clauses can't promise a present of a Happy Christmas.

Kevin Street Welfare Officer. Nicky Lawlor is well aware of the dreaded D-word that hits more people than you'd think. Nicky is currently running a campaign to make people aware of depression.

"Depression is something that affects some students throughout college life, especially in run up to Christmas", he says.

And the reason behind the campaign? A lot of people have asked that Nicky run a depression awareness campaign, and he is not alone in that it is high up on the list for all DIT student welfare officers.

"Basically every case I’ve had in with me can be brought back to depression”. Depression is a condition of which can take many forms, from the shortened feelings of sadness that most of us suffer in response to the disappointment of everyday life, right up to severe depressive disorders which require medical or psychiatric treatment.

And for those who are still not convinced that they have mild dose of depression, reactive depression is an extension of the normal upset feeling following an unhappy event in a person’s life such as a death, marriage break up or loss of employment. Typically a sufferer will feel low, often and often angry or irritable.

Aware is a voluntary organisation formed in 1985 by a group of interested patients, relatives and mental health professionals, whose aims are to assist that section of the population whose lives are directly affected by depression.

The Aware helpline is 01 676166 for those feeling depressed, needing a listening ear or just looking for information.
STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

UCD = 1400 student beds

DCU = 700 student beds

Trinity = 950 student beds

DIT = 0 student beds

Support your Students' Union facilities campaign

DIT Students' Union are running a campaign on the lack of facilities. They have written to the Taoiseach requesting a meeting and to all TDs asking them to raise questions in the Dail. If anyone has ideas or an interest in getting involved in the campaign please call into your local S.U.
With the festive season comes the inevitable binges of turkey, drink and for some... sex. Dermot Keyes examines the taboo that is the morning after pill.

A spokesperson for the IFPA said that the festive season "is usually a busy time" at their clinics "with worried girls coming in wanting to know what to do when it's too late. But we can assure them that it is not too late but we are expecting an even busier time this year."

The IFPA clinic on Cathal Brugha Street will be open every 60 hours or so over the festive season, which will give worried women in the Dublin area some leeway and a chance to get the MAP within the 72-hour limit.

On the other side of the pill debate, anti-abortion groups have lashed the approach taken by clinics in the run-up to Christmas, claiming their approach to be "incredibly sad."

A representative of one such group said that the pill "should not be handed out like a smartie after a party." The representative added that "the morning after pill is not a contraceptive. It aborts human life in its earliest stages.

Facts of Life

Why should I take the morning after pill? Starting with the most obvious question, preventing pregnancy is the ultimate thought in a woman's mind when taking this medication. The pill itself is taken orally, and the first should be taken as soon after intercourse as possible, with the second dose taken 12 hours later. The MAP contains hormones which may prevent pregnancy by temporarily preventing egg production, by stopping fertilisation or by preventing the implantation of a fertilised egg into the wall of the womb.

Where can I get the MAP? If your local doctor's practice is closed as it will probably be the case in most parts of the country come New Year's Day, then a trip to the nearest hospital will probably be the case in most parts of the country come New Year's Day, then a trip to the nearest hospital will be required. Unprotected sex on the evening of Christmas Day, then a trip to the nearest hospital will be required as soon as possible. The MAP must be taken within 72 hours of intercourse.

How reliable is the MAP? The pill greatly reduces the risk of becoming pregnant but it cannot completely eliminate that risk. Unprotected sex greatly enhances the chance of becoming pregnant, depending on what stage the menstrual cycle of a woman is at.

On the day of ovulation (day 14 traditionally) a woman has unprotected sex at that stage increases the risk of pregnancy by 30%, according to the 'Healthy Devil Online' website (h-devil-www.mc.duke.edu). By taking the MAP, the risk is reduced by 75% (i.e. the risk is reduced to 8%).

When will I get my period? The pill is not as a contraceptive. It aborts human life in its earliest stages. Approximately half of all women will have a period within a week of taking the pill. The remaining 50% will almost all menstruate within three weeks. However, your next menstrual period might be irregular, e.g. occurring sooner or later than expected.

Any side effects? Unfortunately, yes. Nausea and vomiting are widely experienced amongst MAP takers; less common effects include fluid retention, breast tenderness and headaches. In theory, the MAP can prove fatal to women with a medical history of persistently poor health. In the event of chest pains or gall-bladder disease can be induced by the pill, but there is only a minute risk to the average woman in terms of long-term health. The MAP is the safest option for the majority of women after unprotected intercourse.

When will I get my period? Approximately half of all women will have a period within a week of taking the pill. The remaining 50% will almost all menstruate within three weeks. However, your next menstrual period might be irregular, e.g. occurring sooner or later than expected.

Condoms or other methods of contraception should be used until your period starts. If you do not get your period after 21 days, a visit to your GP's or local clinic will be required. Unprotected sex at that stage increases the risk of pregnancy by 30%, according to the 'Healthy Devil Online' website (h-devil-www.mc.duke.edu). By taking the MAP, the risk is reduced by 75% (i.e. the risk is reduced to 8%).

When should I start using contraception? Immediately. The Morning After Pill is meant for one-time protection. Morning After Pill treatment does not guard against sexually transmitted disease, so your partner should wear a condom during intercourse.

The message for all of us students is: "If you're going to have it off, do it on." We should all enjoy the taboos as much as we can. But let's keep it safe, folks!
**Movie madness**

To celebrate the last Christmas of the millennium, Jenni Duggan reviews five of the best and most-loved festive films of all time

### Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

Year after year, this tops the list of everyone's favourite feel-good Christmas films. Made in 1947 and starring Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood and Edmund Gwenn, this classic is far superior to the schmaltzy 1994 remake.

It tells the story of lovable character Kris Kingle (Gwenn), a department store Santa who claims to be the real thing as Santa. Despite her mother's misgivings, Susan befriends the old man and Kris helps her to believe in the spirit of Christmas.

Due to his increasingly eccentric actions, Kris is declared insane and put on trial to prove he is the real McCoy.

Doris has brought her daughter, Susan, up to believe there is no such thing as Santa. Despite her mother's misgivings, Susan befriends the old man and Kris helps her to believe in the spirit of Christmas.

Despite being rather eccentric, Kingle looks the part and soon fills everyone with sceptical.

**It's a Wonderful Life (1946)**

This heart-warming tale tells the story of George Bailey, everyone's friend and general nice guy.

George has spent most of his life helping people in his home town of Bedford, sacrificing his own prospects and dreams of going to college and travelling the world to do so.

However things begin to fall apart and George contemplates taking his own life.

Help comes in the form of Clarence, a guardian angel, who gives George a view of what the world if he was never born.

Needless to say, it's a pretty grim picture and Bailey's faith in himself is renewed.

The film chronicles the rebuilding of Bailey's ego but also restores our faith in human goodness. It is one for kids and adults alike, containing as it does philosophical undertones.

### Santa Claus: The Movie (1985)

From top: Charlie, Grandpa Joe and Willy Wonka, star in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Gene Wilder gives a wonderfully eerie performance as the madcap Wonka and the film is accompanied by an unforgettable score.

### BAC TO THE FUTURE

Since 1862 Cubans have had their own way of drinking Bacardi Rum - lots of ice and pure lime. Building on this classic combination comes Bacardi Rigo.

This new product is a blend of Bacardi Rum cut with pure limes and made with refreshing soda. It has a unique refreshing flavour which is both tangy and subtle.

To celebrate the launch of this exciting new product onto the Irish Market, The DIT Independent has three Bacardi Rigo packs to give away. To enter, all you need to do is fill in the form below.

**To win just answer the following question:** What fruit is mixed with Bacardi Rum to make Bacardi Rigo? Send your answer on a postcard to The DIT Independent, Kevin Street, D8.

Please include your name, address and phone number. Closing date is December 20th.

### The Snowman (1982)

Based on the book illustrated by Raymond Briggs, this silent animated film is the tale of a young boy and his snowman that comes to life on Christmas Eve.

The snowman takes the boy on an enchanted trip, flying above the rooftops to the North Pole.

There, they spend a magical evening with Santa Claus and are invited to a huge party, attended by hundreds of dancing snowmen.

It is a tale of childhood fantasy and along with an enchanting sound track, including the well-known song by Alad Jones, "Walking in the Air", it has a quality of timeless beauty.
DIT athletes win top places

By Colin McGann
FOURTEEN DIT athletes won top five placings at the Irish Universities Athletic Association (IUAA) Road Relays held in Maynooth College on Saturday 13 November.

The course was a lap of the college grounds and weather conditions had made the tarmac surface slippery and although a flat course was conducive to fast running care was also necessary.

The women's race, which consisted of two 1 mile legs and two 2 mile legs, got underway shortly after 2.30pm.

Francine Meehan was first to run for DIT and she handed over to Lisa Dowling in a strong position. Lisa made the tarmac surface slippery and although a flat course was conducive to fast running care was also necessary.

Maria Lynch ran the second of the two mile legs and moved from ninth to fourth place on her first lap and then into third, overtaking UCD, handing to Gillian Clyne for the final mile. However Gillian struggled to keep in touch with the pace of the leaders but finished for DIT in a creditable fifth place. University of Limerick won the race in a time of 32.39 minutes with Trinity second in 33.13 minutes.

The men's race had two entrants from DIT and was run in a format of 1, 2, 3, 2, and 1 mile legs.

The race was very competitive from the start with UCC and UCD battling for the lead after the first leg. Brian Byrne had given DIT a good opening and handed over in fifth place to Paul Campbell.

Meanwhile Mark Reid, of DIT's second team, was handed over to Lisa McGann in twelfth. Mark Reid was crucial in deciding the title. The next two legs proved crucial in deciding the title. Campbell gained three places and Eugene O'Neill, running against David Matthews (UCD), coped with the fast pace and slippery surface brilliantly.

With two legs left DIT were in third and Humphrey Twomey ran a consistent two mile section and held third for Alan Fox the final runner. His mile time of 4.49 minutes was enough to hold third place for DIT.

Aiden Doyle and Colin Farrell held thirteenth place, and Fintan McGee a guest runner, finished the final leg for DIT in twelfth place.

The race was won by UCC in 43.12 minutes, UCD took second place with 43.23 minutes, and DIT third with 43.56 minutes.

The colleges cross country will be held in Athlone on November 30 and the DIT Independent will have a full report in the next edition.

Kevin Street Kings still unbeaten

By Glenn Howard

Kevin Street Kings 32
Mountjoy Square Pirates 8

IN A REPEAT of last year's DIT rugby final, the Kevin Street Kings were once again victorious against a committed Mountjoy Square side.

Kevin Street Kings were once again victorious against a committed Mountjoy Square side.

Featuring some new faces as well as the old reliables 'Kings' comfortably dealt with the 'Pirates' challenge to win 32 - 8 in the Gleeson Cup match.

After some early pressure, in which the 'Pirates' scored 3 points from a penalty, good scrumming from a front five resulted in a flowing 'Kings' break.

A quick release from Simon Byrne and elusive running from captain Jamie O'Brien saw Glenn Howard touchdown in the corner.

Howard narrowly failed with a difficult conversion attempt. Despite great work from hooker Paddy Doyle, the Pirates were not able to counter attack.

The 'Kings' then stretched their lead when Howard kicked a penalty from the 22 metre line.

Good work from their forwards, especially Don Lehane, led to a quick release which saw Nicky Lawlor send Jamie O'Brien through a gap.

He broke several tackles before off-loading to flanker Des Alvery who charged over for a second try of the match.

At this stage 'Kings' were well on top in the scrums and were dominating the lineouts. Just before the break Howard broke through the 'Pirates' cover again, to score his second try of the games under the posts, with winger Karl Quinn slotting home the conversion.

The 'Pirates' had a wind advantage for the second half and put the 'Kings' defence under severe pressure but the latter's halfback O'Brien made a 60 yard break and with the support of Johnny Kane scored.

For the Square, the front row were good, with Keith Lenahan and Brian Rush giving great performances in the scrum.

Kings final try came after good movement between Lawlor and Howard.

The 'Pirates' however had not given up, an example of their spirit was Fergus Gammon who despite receiving injuries during the match continued to play brilliantly, and with a last ditched attempt to save face they scored a try on the final whistle.
**By Eve Irvine**

**BASKETBALL** is a vicious sport. In this no contact sport, one woman's tooth was almost ripped from her gums. Blood dripped from her mouth as she ran towards court as Niarngh Griffin made her way across to the side line. Before half time had come she had left her team for the Mater Hospital.

The game was between DIT North and DIT South women's teams. It was the first fixture in the Irish College Basketball Association League. The home team had too many players the South too few, being reduced from a starting six to four by half time.

Niarngh Griffin retired with the injured tooth and Trisha O'Sullivan had to be carried off the field of battle because of pulled muscles in her side line. The score lay at 29-15 to the North.

In the second half the North Team continued their display of extremely accurate passing while the South stayed focused and determined.

The South managed to score the North in the second half and reduce the deficit from 12 points to four, with two minutes to play.

Both teams squared chances in the closing seconds as the scores remained the same: 33-26 to the North.

It was the North Team's first together this season and as a result they were quite rigid in their play. However team coach Vinne Homan said that "their approach was very professional indicating a bright future."

Their tactics centred around their inside players with Sinead O'Rourke and Deirdre Bloomer working well in this area. DIT South changed tactics to a two-two approach just before half time.

Vinne Homan said he was happy with the individual play from Bolton Street's Cathy Molloy and Deirdre Bloomer and Cathal Brugha Street's Claire Groarke, who will be announced as official Captain of the DIT North Team at the next training session.

Keith Mc Aodh who in the absence of head coach Ronan Horohan, who was attending the injured, coached the South Team through the match said he was "rather impressed" and "by the four girls performance."

The Most Valuable Player Award was given by unanimous decision to Ruth Whelan from DIT South for her outstanding play and her contribution of ten points towards the final score.

DIT North will now face UCD, Queens, Galway and Cork in the competitive ICBA league.

Most of the DIT North Team players have played or play for a league team and so their experience should help. Vinne Homan said that his realistic ambition for the team is for a top four placing. The semi-finals will take place in February.

**By Sean Fay**

DIT OVERALL manager Michael Whelan is still on the lookout for new players ahead of this February's Collingwood Cup.

Whelan has identified the "training and preparation of the players" for this year's cup, due to take place in the University of Ulster Coleraine, as his main objective for the forthcoming season.

Players who are interested in playing for the overall DIT soccer team should contact their respective campus who will have their own teams in their own respective leagues.

Individual campuses play in the Irish Technical Colleges Football Association League in the form of groups.

Each group will consist of about six teams. Aungier Street, Kevin Street, and Mountjoy Square have all been paired in the same group with Cork's, Tralee's, and Limerick's IT's.

Players who wish to play soccer for their campus should contact either Seams Byrne (4024634) or Michael Whelan (4024009) or attend the soccer clubs AGM details of which will be posted around the various campuses.

**DIT loose out to superior WIT team**

**By Tony Kinsella**

Waterford 48 - 40 DIT

THE DIT Freshers hurling team were beaten by a better Waterford side this month in the first round of the League.

Despite the final scoreline both DIT playing groups expressed satisfaction at the performance of the DIT Freshers team in their first competitive game.

The visitors held the powerful WIT team scoreless for fifteen minutes and put up two fine points in that period.

That was the margin of a lead by half pass by half forward John O'Loughlin to midfielder Paddy Julian who converted the second following a bad clearance. Julian's midfield partner, Phillip Doyle added a third DIT point under pressure on the fifteen minute mark.

Aided by a strong wind the WIT forwards began their comeback with a string of points and a goal which followed a great save by the QUB custodian whose subsequent clearing shot from Finnerty and Canning gave the DIT North team a much needed two point lead.

Canning's second score of the day was a superb point which he made against the wind. Canning then pointed in quick succession to put this game beyond the reach of QUB before half time.

While QUB came back with three points in reply, it was the experienced line-up from DIT who increased their lead to five points and carried it into the second half.

Clare Groarke, who will be announced a member of the OIT, has been paired in the same group with Cork's, Tralee's, and Limerick's IT's.

The DIT North Team players have played or play for a league team and so their experience should help. Vinne Homan said that his realistic ambition for the team is for a top four placing. The semi-finals will take place in February.

**Soccer clubs hunt for players**

**By Sean Fay**

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However the season has got off to a slow start with the club's AGM yet to take place. The AGM gives the various campuses a chance to get together and have an open meeting with the new and lost players.

Whelan said it would not be possible to judge the standard of this year's team until after the clubs AGM when he will have a better idea of the players available to him.

However he will be able to start assessing the strengths and weaknesses of DIT's opponents in the Cup as the draw has already taken place.

DIT will be hoping to improve on last year's performance in getting to the Plate final which they lost narrowly to Trinity.

To compete for the Cup itself they must first however win their group.

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**DIT hammers Trinity**

**DIT 3-15 QUE 0-9**

ULLIE Canning found the back of the Queen's net in the first minute of this Higher Education Hurling League match which was played at Terenure. Full forward Paul Roche added a point when stung the visitors to reply with two points in quick succession.

Top of the left, Edwin Finnerty, added another DIT point before centre forward, Dave Clohessy, burst through to raise the white flag.

Canning's second score of the day was a superb point which he made against the wind. Canning then pointed in quick succession to put this game beyond the reach of QUB before half time.

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**Giles Barrett, 4th year Business student in Aungier Street meets President McAleese at the launch of the AIESEC New Members Conference in Croke Park last month. Giles is a member of the DIT AIESEC and is on the national organising committee.**

**Canning does it in Higher Education League**

strength especially at mid field where Mick O'Brien and Joe Cullen were dominant. Two minutes into the second half a Trevor McGrath clearance found Canning who increased his point tally. Centre half Dave Clohessy spanned a side line cut from Clohessy and delivered the goods in the form of another point for DIT.

A Clohessy point was followed by a Canning goal. Clohessy and Canning then scored points in quick succession to put this game beyond the reach of QUB at the halfway stage of the second half.

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Kart Krazy

Thomas Felle spent a day with DIT Karting Club

FORMULA One it is not, but there is something uniquely erotic about putting your life in the hands of a lawnmower engine and wheel barrow tires.

Karting is by all accounts a dangerous sport, or so the signs, the disclaimer and the instructors said, but all in all the chances of you coming away with anything more than bruises ego having been beaten by a friend, or even worse a GIRL are quite slim.

It is a fun sport, and the rush of euphoria through the body as you speed hastily around a well engineered track, with speeds of up to 40 miles per hour (it may not sound like much but it's quite impressive when you're sitting three inches from the ground) make for an enjoyable days racing.

However for some, it was no game. To be fair, the handful of women who were there took it all in their stride, but some of the male competitors were really taking the whole thing too seriously.

They brought their own helmets, they did little but discuss tactics all through the day, some had even come out the previous evening to get a head start on the course layout. But, at the end of the day, it was all a bit of fun.

And that's just what the members of one of DIT's biggest clubs had on November 25 when the first inter DIT Karting competition was held in Kart City, Santry.

Some 72 drivers from across the five main campuses took part in the first round of the event, which is to be staged over two days: November 25 and December 15.

Each driver competed in warm-up rounds and then had the chance to test his or her skill in one competition round with 12 drivers in each.

The top six in each group went on to the knock out stages, and the seventh and eighth qualifiers went into a losers' group.

“We are aiming to put together the best DIT team possible to compete in intervarsities later in the year,” says DIT Karting Chairperson Ray Nangle.

“These two days will give each college a chance to compete against the other on a team level. There are prizes for the best college and best individual performances. Based on individual performances, we will then pick a team to represent DIT,” explains the Chairperson.

The event on November 25 was not completed, and so the quarter, semi-final and finals will be held at the start of the next day's racing, as will round two of the competition.

Ballyboden too good for DIT

The DIT team that took on Ballyboden St Enda’s in the Dublin Under 21 Hurling Final

Dublin Under 21 Hurling Final
DIT 0 - 10 Ballyboden St. Endas 1 - 16

By Tony Kinsella

A SERIES of unanswered scores early in the second half put the Ballyboden team into a commanding lead which a valiant DIT side were unable to haul back.

In the first half points by Mark Murphy and Dave Lyng cancelled the Ballyboden lead after ten minutes of play.

Lyng then collected a fluffed clearance and Cillin Buggy added two converted frees.

A strong finish by Ballyboden saw them pull back the DIT lead and go in at half time with a two point advantage.

A blistering restart resulted in the scoreline reading 1-11 to 0-5 after ten minutes of the second half. Murphy sent over a magnificent point from eighty metres and substitute Edwin Finnerty pointed a 20 metre free.

Half forward, Thomas Reilly, who was switched into the forward line, scored from play as did Murphy while the final DIT score can be credited to Finnerty.

The DIT line out was Cuddy, A. McKeogh, P. Finnerty, G. Durman, B. McGee, T. Reilly, G. Curley, M. Murphy, C. Buggy, A. McKeogh, P. Finnerty for L. Cleary.

Heineken sports star of the month

DIT may be represented at next year's Olympics as James Moore fights for his place on the Irish Olympic boxing team.

Moore a 4th year apprentice electrician in Kevin St will set his qualifying fight for the Irish welterweight team takes place in February.

Moore is confident of qualifying for the Olympics as he has beaten February's opponent before.

He currently fights for Arklow Boxing Club and trains weekly with Michael Curruth but said I would love to represent DIT but because there is no boxing club here I can't.

Moore started boxing at eight years of age and has won the All Ireland Intermediate Championship and is the current Leinster senior champion. He is this month's sports star of the the month after his winning fight against Welsh opponents earlier in the month while fighting on the Irish team.

Freshers Hurling League

DIT 5 - 13 IT Carlow 1 - 7

WHILE the visitors were three points to one ahead after nine minutes John Glessen's first goal, which buried Ger Behan's block, opened the floodgates.

At the end of the first half the scoreboard read DIT 3 - 5 to 0-6 for IT Carlow. DIT's total domination in all sectors of play gave them an easy win.


All right, go if you must, but don't come back here pissed.