President set to leave office

By Dermot Keyes

DITSU Overall President Vinny Dooley looks set to step down from office in the next few weeks following consultations between both Dooley and the Union's Executive.

Speaking to the DIT Independent, Dooley said that, at the moment, he is currently considering tendering his resignation

"The job has been affecting my health and because of that, at the moment, I'm considering my resignation."

Though Dooley remains as President for the time being, the next meeting of DITSU Council will determine what happens in the interim between his resignation and the forthcoming DITSU Election.

As statement by Dooley read out at this month's DITSU Council meeting in Bolton Street stated: "It is with great regret that I am currently considering tendering my resignation. A full statement on the matter will be prepared for the next meeting of Council.

The DITSU Executive has compiled a contingency plan, under which the senior body in the union will carry out the duties of President.

New chairpersons of DITSU Trading and DITSU Ltd will also be decided in the near future, since Dooley occupied both posts automatically upon election last year.

While the upheaval of DITSU has only begun, the outgoing President said the experiences of the past few months, notably the Halloween Ball issue, had been difficult to deal with.

"I was heartbroken by the whole thing," he said. "As Overall President and as managing director of the company, I took the complete blame. A lot of people thought I was wrong to do this. There was an awful lot of factors and a lot of people who had to share the blame." Looking back on the failure of the Ball to lift off as one of the social events of the college year, did Dooley wish he had devoted his energies to something other than the Point Idea? "I don't regret doing it," he said.

"Some people disagree, that it killed me, that it destroyed me. I'm still fairly proud of the fact that I took it all on my own shoulders when I could have blamed others. But there were legitimate factors as to why it didn't work," Dooley said that criticism was difficult to take, but was to be expected.

"You always hear the bad things. You have to accept that." The position of President had proven problematic, but he did not regret his standing for the post in the first place. "I have no regrets at all," he added.

"I wish people would actually sit in the Students' Union for a week and see how hard it is to work everything out.

"A lot of people just don't like the position as opposed to the person that occupies it. When you walk into the job as a stranger or whatever, you're bound to have enemies, sometimes for no good reason."

Rag Week: can anyone remember it?

By Dermot Keyes

BEFORE anyone thinks the headline suggests that this is yet another "attack" on the activities of DITSU, I cry "lighten up!" Can the success of a Rag Week be truly only gauged by those among us who went insane for the week and woke up every day asking the question, 'who are you' to the grunting beast in bed alongside them?

If this was you, well done, or depending on the shape of the beast in question, what were you thinking of?

There were bungee jumps, there were drinking competitions, there was the Rag Trip, there were more drinking competitions, there were hangovers and finally, there were drinking competitions.

The haze of booze, the occasional need to soak up all the unpromising drinks that you'll never drink again, as well as the wise misadventures that your tongue doesn't normally get up to, are what makes Rag Week all that it truly is.

Kevin Street Students' Union president caught by surprise in Tramco during Rag week

achieved in the madstream of liver destruction, so all is not lost.

There were a couple of hiccups, such as the falling in of colleges for their Rag Balls when individual projects fell through. But the bottom line was to have a good time, let the hair down (or your trousers) and get through the week alive.

It seems that no-one suffered too much this time around with no reports of court cases and car jumping coming in on the newswires around the country.

As the dust settles on the party crackers and all the guzzled beer seems to be refermenting in the gut, remember that Rag Week 2002 is less than 52 weeks away again.

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Dermot Keyes looks set to step down from office

The Africa experience: page 12

Movie reviews: page 16

RAG week reviews: pages 10,11

Win

Dido's CD: page 15
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DIT may spread to Greystones

New development proposed

By Dermot Keyes

DIT could be spreading its wings to Greystones following a proposal made by the Institute to open a new centre in the county Wicklow.

In its detailed proposal to the Minister of Education, DIT outlined the establishment of an "Outreach Centre" in Greystones, with the Institute acting "as the mother institution." The centre would focus on Information Technology and Business Applications and "should positively accommodate the socially disadvantaged."

The choosing of Greystones as a location was influenced by a vacant space in IDA-owned land following the breakdown of an industrial site at Industrial Authority and AMD, which were previously expected to occupy the 65-acre site.

"Plans for the Park are presently with the architects, this makes the timing for the proposed "Centre very opportune," read the proposal.

DIT Greystones is an idea that Minister Woods seems enthusiastic about, in the background of a recent speech when he announced his intention to establish outreach centres in various locations around the country, effectively acting as branches of third-level institutions.

The expansion south of the county border is also seen as an inevitable by-product of the demographic changes expected to affect the area in the next 15 years.

The population of County Wicklow is expected to rise from its 1996 figure of 102,000 to 128,000 in 2016 with the north of the county expected to see most of the increase. Indeed, the population increase of north Wicklow is envisaged in the proposal as rising by 50 per cent of the entire rise, accounting for 184,000 of the total 128,000.

The proposal states: "It is considered that the location of a Third-Level institution in Co Wicklow will provide a much needed boost to the economy and to the level of education in the County. Currently, it would take four years' running of a student in Kilcoole or Newtownmountkennedy to travel by public transport to any DIT college."

Under the 1999 Greystones Development Plan and the Wicklow County Development Plan, the use of IDA lands for an Outreach Centre is acceptable, as the land is zoned for data processing, software and development, training, and enterprise.

The "old model" of an Institute... will be replaced by a "new model."

This new model will be characterised by diverse learners, year-long activity, stronger links with industry and those in employment, multi-mode delivery and a much greater range of courses.

The author of the report, Dr Brendan O'Shea has emphasised to the DIT that this is "a proposal to Dr Woods. He will decide whether this proceeds or not."
A GROUP of 500 students gathered outside DIT Aungier Street on February 6th.

The crowd was gathered for the annual Rag Trip. The trip is designed to explore for any political reasons, as well as reminding students that no alcohol was allowed on the trip. The students walked round outside the Institute. Huge numbers of cards and bottles were confiscated from the luggage compartments of passes, and the 500 and students were carted off on the "Magical Mystery Rag Trip".

Despite this discouraging beginning, it became more fun after the first stop. The bus was parked for a while, and a large pub near Smurph. A great band, a male stripper, and a female magician ensured a party atmosphere. Everyone was pretty drunk by the end of the night, and most continued to there and back into the buses at the next. The craic on the way back was fantastic, as everyone danced all night into Navan town. The beer was free all night long.

The College hosts Public Lecture Series

Other lectures include:
March 2001- Kelly: Research as a Visual Art Practice

Waste paper a problem in colleges

By Darragh Clifford

PAPER wastage has become a huge problem for many of the DIT colleges. The problem stems from colleges where paper is provided free of charge to students for printing purposes. The issue was highlighted in Mountjoy Square, where an estimated 90% of paper is being wasted. Siobhán O’Leary, from DIT Mountjoy Square says, “there is a huge problem with paper being wasted, especially among business students. At class rep meetings, paper shredders were suggested, but subsequently this was dismissed as too expensive.” Mark Carpehn, Environmental Officer with USI, is currently contacting colleges with regards to recycling. At the moment, there is a recycling point in Mountjoy Square.

"This campaign is about making students aware of this threat and about not partying without putting yourself at risk,'"

Over the last fortnight, representatives from the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre attended DIT colleges to inform students of safety measures they should adhere to. The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is one of two charities to benefit from this year’s RAG week activities.

"DIT’s advice to you"

* Don’t accept a drink from anyone you don’t trust.
* Don’t share or exchange drinks.
* Don’t leave your drink unattended, even when going to the toilet - get a person you trust to watch your drink.
* Don’t take drinks from large open containers, such as punch bowls.

If you are engaged in conversation where your attention might be distracted, put your hand over your drink.

"Remember these drugs dissolve in non-alcoholic drinks as well. If you face a drunk after only a few drinks, seek help from a trusted friend or pub/club management.

* Consider carefully whether to leave a pub, club or party with somebody you don’t know. Never leave your drink unattended, even when going to the toilet - get a person you trust to watch your drink.

* Be a friend by watching out for others and be aware of any changes in their behavior.

Students refused Sellefield visit

A group of third-level students from University College Dublin, University of Limerick, University College Cork and Mary Immaculate College refused to accept their invitation to visit the Sellefield Nuclear Plant turned down, writes Dermot kyes. Their request was turned down due to the grounds that they were deemed security risks.

The group of students, who are members of "Guiltearch for Social Justice" were left disappointed following the withdrawal of the invitation. Sellefield’s Head of Site Services Mr. Paul Conlon, Eoin O’Brion of UL’s Environment Society said that the incident "reinforces the view that there is a strong political will to small the work being undertaken at Sellefield.

The incident is also of particular concern to students at UCD. The Government has recently announced the introduction of education and awareness classes into many third-level courses in England, and has hoped the refusal by Crofton to allow the students in "will not be repeated in the future."

US President Julian de Spenser, speaking to his group refused entry to the plant, "I believe that nuclear reprocessing is hugely dangerous and environmentally disastrous."

Day Trippers

By Cian O’Sullivan

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US President Julian de Spenser, speaking to his group refused entry to the plant, "I believe that nuclear reprocessing is hugely dangerous and environmentally disastrous."
Quality assured for the DIT course

By Samantha Rowntree

Three DIT lecturers have recently released a new book on quality assurance in higher education. Written by Joseph Hegarty, Thomas Duff and Matthew Butler, "Academic Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Elements of a Handbook" looks at the whole history and development of quality assurance internationally and recommends some new guidelines and procedures.

Mr Hegarty said that the timing of the book was apt. "The book is very timely as it's just ahead of the Qualifications Act being implemented," he told the DIT Independent. "It will be a tremendous guide to help people react to situations that arise with informed understanding.

A USI Conference in January on quality assurance focused on the developments in assessing the standard of courses offered in Irish universities and colleges. USI President Julian de Spainn called for the implementation of the 1998 European recommendation on quality assurance in higher education.

"The recommendation called for external and internal quality assurance procedures and their outcome to be published and made available to the general public," said de Spainn. "All Irish third-level institutions should implement this recommendation."

Matt Hussey, Director of the DIT Faculty of Science, attended the USI Conference to discuss the experiences that DIT has had with quality assurance and said that the Institute has bucked up in acts in recent years in respect of this issue.

"When DIT courses received Trinity degrees we had inter-college committees and reviews. We had a fair amount of quality assurance in relation to degree courses," Hussey said. "When we took this issue seriously and put a priority on implementing uniform quality assurance to all courses. This means we have a fairly uniform method of implementing our courses for internal and external examination. We have annual reporting on quality assurance."

Was this all Vinny Dooley's fault? Yes and no. Yes, when he assumed office last year.

This has not been the case between DITSU and the Union. The motion to review the DITSU procedures and their outcome from the DIT Faculty of Science, the first accredited Design Study course at DIT Bolton Street. The part-time course co-ordinator. "The student profile of the new course is very broad in terms of age and background. The male/female ratio is about 50/50. The course is aimed at three different groups - students who have completed the Leaving Certificate, managers and others involved in design companies or currently studying in some aspect of design work.

Citizen, who are sponsoring the launch of the new course, have supported the course development and particularly the Transponte Design module. The course will be delivered jointly by the School of Architecture, the Department of Engineering, Galway City, and the Irish Citroen importers.

The annual Union of Students in Ireland Congress will take place between the 19th and the 23rd of March in the West County Hotel, Ennis, Co Clare. DITSU Students have already met to discuss the proceedings ahead of their gathering. Those matters were discussed at the recent DITSU meeting in Bolton Street.

Bolton Street President Marguerite Fitzpatrick suggested that a module on quality assurance be introduced into education officer training. Her Kevin Street colleague Nicky Lawlor has called for more representation for students abroad. It is believed that this would be particularly useful for students regarding work placement/accommodation abroad. A motion was put forward to insert a motion to put the issue of university status for DIT forward on every agenda. A similar motion at the recent Congress was put forward by President Peter Durning put forward his motion to review the position of women's rights officer in USI. The motion proposes a change the position man's/women's rights officer to human rights officer. In DIT for example there are equality officers.

Other motions include accreditation for clubs and societies within colleges, that all student welfare officers should get together more often to organise campaigns, and a motion on the proposed move to Grangegeen. DIT will have 26 votes at Congress and another two places for observers. It was proposed that the incoming and outgoing executive would attend Congress as the elections would have taken place by then.
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Focus on . . . DIT Greystones

Independent Focus: Greystones move would be welcome

By Dermot Keyes

WHILE there may be a number of students who benefited from the idea of DIT having a centre in another county as a step backwards rather than a productive development, the recent proposal demonstrates a positive step forward.

The Institute's mandarins have been rather quite of late, after the splurge of information that dotted these pages about the Grangegorman move in the past few years.

There have been a couple of ventures, such as the LEAP scheme and the Peer Mentoring Programme, which have shown the Institute to be pro-active these past few months.

When it has come to developments within the walls of the DIT sites, with the exception of a supplement in a national newspaper, there has been little in the way of in-house projects and plans to be reported on.

The submission of the proposal by Dr Brendan O'Shea to the Department of Education must be welcomed, for it shows that DIT is adapting a forward-thinking agenda.

With a new city population of 40,000 people expected to be constructed in south-west Dublin, coupled with the projected 50 per cent increase in the number of residents in north county Wicklow over the next 15 years, now seems the opportune time to make the move.

Not only would the move be in line with the Wicklow County Development Plan, it would also illustrate DIT's acting on Michael Woods' recent vision for 'Outreach Centres' to be established by Universities and Institutes of Technology around the country.

The purpose of this exercise is to encourage people to avail of the opportunity to upgrade their skills and attain third level qualifications without the necessity of travelling to the existing third level centre for all the course, reads the DIT proposal to the Minister.

"A more general and more socially embracing view of Outreach Centres would be a Reaching-Out centre, which would encourage the more socially disadvantaged to avail of the opportunity to attain a marketable skill and enhance their educational qualifications; they would be more likely to act in this manner if the educational centre was located in their own locality.,"

Should DIT get the go-ahead for this Information Technology/Business Applications centre, it would be a major plus on the DIT list of achievements were it to succeed.

While the Institute has made significant moves in recent time to 'centralise' the major centres, as is represented by the move of the entire Mountjoy Square campus to a new building in Aungier Street, there is nothing wrong with the idea of an outreach centre.

As was clarified in another report in this month's issue, this is nothing more than a proposal that has been put before Minister Woods and will only be executed upon getting the go-ahead from Dr Woods.

This would also be the first significant impact by DIT to engage socially disadvantaged students in the third level system. IT and Business are major industries which are currently crying out for workers, as we are reminded almost daily by the mainstream media.

The push to get more and more young people from across the socio-economic divide into higher education is one of the integral factors in the National Development Plan 2000-2006, the national wage agreement, as well as the De Buitleir Review of Post Secondary Places and the Government White Paper on Adult Education.

The report states: "The disadvantaged have, by definition, not shared adequately in Ireland's newly found prosperity. We now have the opportunity of embracing this very large segment of our population and of emancipating them from deprivation; it can only be done when they have the dignity of employment with worthwhile remuneration.

The only way for this to be realised is through education." Mini-qualifications would be a feature of the Greystones unit, leading on to further education and further opportunities for students.

As for how those less well off could afford to attend this new centre, DIT has not suggested any single idea along the lines of special grants, which would be the responsibility of the NCVA.

This is one of the weaker elements of the proposal as it is all very well to advocate the participation of disadvantaged people in third level studies without providing a formula by which this could be achieved.

But this is surely an area that will be closely monitored in the immediate future so that a working idea can be put to both the Department of Education and the NCVA.

The American cultural ethos that only the rich should be educated cannot be allowed to become symptomatic of our newly found prosperity and there must be genuine moves made to help those in the poverty traps in all areas, including education.

Though the report states that "Education is the critical key to be freed from the scourge" of social disadvantage, the reality is that money is the first key. Once monetary strings are ironed out, then that can open the door to education.

Make no mistake, Brendan O'Shea is to be applauded for a detailed and well-thought out approach to the Greystones idea. But there are many pressing times ahead for all third level institutes and for the Government if 'outreach centres' are to truly help those who are currently out of reach.
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College Course Standards under Scrutiny

THE standard of third-level courses came under scrutiny at a recent conference on academic quality assurance in higher education.

The conference, organised by the Union of Students in Ireland, focused on new developments in assessing the standard of courses offered in Irish universities and institutes of technology.

The University Act 1997 sets down that all universities establish how quality of education, can access information in the standard of third-level courses is maintained.

University of Students in Ireland, focused on 'DIT College Course Standards under Scrutiny'.

To this end, USI's Education Officer Colm Jordan called on all third-level institutions to publish evaluation reports, so the public, as the principal funder of higher education, can access information on the quality of higher education.

The importance of student input in the overall course, is widely acknowledged in educational circles, and can be obtained by such means as student surveys, questionnaires and staff student meetings, he explained.

With only two European countries having students sitting on external committees, the issue needs further debate, Mr Vroegenstijn said.

UCD documents experience of Young Mothers

Some young women have difficulty in linking sexual activity with the possibility of becoming pregnant, and have a casual attitude to contraception, a recent report reveals.

The report conducted by Dr Valerie Richardson of the Social Science Research Centre, University College Dublin, and commissioned by the Vincentian Partnership for Justice, recommended a matter of urgency a review of sex education in schools, with emphasis placed on obtaining the views of students. Discussion on contraception as well as practical advice on sexually transmitted diseases should form part of this.

The report was based on 800 questionnaires and 31 interviews with mothers in Cork and Dublin under the age of 25 who had their first baby when unmarried and under the age of 18. The women reported that they had initial support from the fathers of their children, but contact tended to decrease with time.

While almost 40 per cent of women interviewed had daily contact with the father, the same proportion had no contact at all.

Support should be given to fathers to keep up contact with their children, the recommendations. "The development of groups for young fathers would be one way of supporting them.

While many of the women had harboured negative attitudes to school during their time there, the majority now regretted leaving school without a qualification and wished to return to education in the future, the study found.

It went on to recommend that any initiative to encourage young women to return to employment or education will only be successful if combined with the provision of locally based, freely available affordable child care provision.

Third level tales

In the first of a new series, Campus.ie looks at the stories making the headlines in the colleges, universities and IT's around the country.

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or Sinead Costello, tel: 402 7860
Rag Week 2001

Bolton Street

RAG week started early on Monday with our first ents taking place in our common area. We started with the Perfect Partners Couple Challenge; the winning couple being the only two who had ever actually gone out together! Next was El Minion. The object of this game was to complete a task in the fastest time in order to compete during the week for a prize. Lovely Heineken. 9 teams of 4 entered and the quickest 4 back with a bona fide builder won a place.

Monday continued with a few giveaways including crates and tickets and willing students legging it for breakfast rolls and pints just to win a prize. MARS came in with the Mission For Mars and gave away T-shirts and mars bars a plenty. The fun continued in Bodkins with music from Jilted (cheers to Sean and the lads). The first club was Club Soda and out to TramCo and enjoyed the cheap cocktails. Aannerys, then The Portobello, followed by Planet Murphys and quickly moved to Bastard. Incidentally, it was the lads who wanted to be a drunken bastard, and was unfortunately didn't get much use thanks to the rain and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music.

Tuesday was the Rag Trip to Drogheda and Castleblayney and it was a sobering sight to see 9 buses carrying 500 people, heading off from Kevin Street at 12 o’clock. Maybe the sobering was the wrong word, because by the time we got to Drogheda, even the buses were swaying. The first club was Club Soda and despite a few problems at the bar, everyone had a great time and were well up for it getting back on the buses at half five. A quick journey to Castleblayney and we were ready for a serious night. Three local pubs had great promotions and DJs on for us and the club (The Comet) was rocking by 11 o’clock. DJ Al Gibbs kept everyone going for the night and it was only the hardcore Rag Trippers who kept the session going on the buses home.

Wednesday

Wednesday got off to a slow start with most people opting to stay at home and lick their wounds. Anyone who did come in was treated to a fine display of karaoke from the Bolton Street Rag Ball, the best ones! Also pints of bud! Later that night we were all treated to the sight of many students legging it for free Bud! Many thanks to all our sponsors, Heineken (Mary Katherine), IBF, Irish Times, Killiney Cinema, Shooters, McDonalds and Mars. A word of thanks to all the Bolton St. students who lost everything, the best performing sexual position, just to burst a balloon. The fine people who had all by all, and everyone seemed to be getting on top of things! We then had the Bungee Run later that afternoon. The lads and lasses would run up this rubber contraption for a pint of Bud! Everyone was well oiled by the time it came to going home! Later that evening we all had the Band Ball in Francis’s where there were Barcadil Breezers promotion on all night. You wouldn’t believe the shenanigans student’s actually get up to just for a free t-shirt.

Thursday: Rag Trip

The RAG Trip took in Kells, Navan and Athboy and apart from a few bus problems another trip went down in history as being the highlight of many peoples week. The RAG Trip took in Kells, Navan and Athboy and apart from a few bus problems another trip went down in history as being the highlight of many peoples week.

Bolton Street

The week kicked off with a bang on Monday with plenty happening in the afternoon around the college. There was a Tarot Card reader in which was very popular, a bouncing castle in the courtyard (which unfortunately didn’t get much use thanks to the rain) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music. A bouncing castle in the courtyard (which was actually done near the Student Union) and a DJ in the Snackery playing party music.

Kevin Street

Monday

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Downing a yard of ale during Rag week

Cathal Brugha Street

The feeling of pressure

Monday

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Getting in the swing of it during Rag week at Aungier Street

Mount joy Square

Monday

Dj Slobby kicks Rag week off at lunchtime in the canteen with Blind Date where Mary McGinty our very own Ents officer Clionadh O’Leary

Later on in The Buy a Batchelor in Planet Murphy’s jumps. Later that night it was off to the Temple St. Peter Durning.

Getting in the swing of it during Rag week at Mountjoy Square in extraordinary style.Aidan Kane, Magician extraordinaire, fascinated students in the canteen, while Richey, The Limbo-Dancer contorted his body in un-natural fashion. Tradition prevailed, and The Iron Stomach saw 4 insane students, eat and drink, the most vile concoctions ever seen. In Planet Murphy’s on Monday evening, a brand new event was set in motion. The Buy a Batchelor/Day a Bachelorette was a roaring success. The highlight of the event, was the sale of the 2 Handcuffed Playboy Bunnies, who were sold for £15. Then it was upstairs to The Palace for Tony Baloney to impress us all with his hypnotism.

Sprits were high on Day 2, which was The Magical Mystery Rag Trip. Drinking began at 11am and continued into the early hours of Wednesday morning. We out-did ourselves with 3 quality stops this year, finishing, in Club Salar in Navan. Almost 500 hundred students thoroughly enjoyed this exasperating experience, which saw one poor stripper reveal an exceptionally small asset. Heads were clearly hypnotised all day Wednesday, with a very quiet atmosphere in the college. The hardened drinkers made it to Flannerys that evening for The Karaoke Night.

Entertainment was provided by our very own students, yet some of the crowd voiced their disatisfaction at the Karving Club’s rendition of their “so-called” Anthem. Thursday was aptly named “I” Day. We pulled out all the stops, to provide a day of extreme unadulterated fun. Almost one hundred of the bravest students in Aungier Street & Mountjoy Square, Bungee jumped for the The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and The Irish Cancer Research Organisation. The “Mars Dome” and The Bouncy Castle added to a day, that even the media could not ignore. TV3 filmed the day, which appeared on the evening news. The week was wound up off in the best style possible, with Prats & Small headlining in the Temple Theatre. This thumping night saw hundreds of students dance their bodies to extreme levels, of which, I for one have never seen before. Enormous thanks must be extended to the entire Rag Crew, who were the Lifeline of Rag Week in Aungier Street.
Africa Experiences

Aoife Stokes takes a trip to South Africa and finds there is tourism outside of Cape Town

The townships are divided into official and unofficial residences. The government and private schemes are building large amounts of housing for those in temporary shacks and these homes are awarded on a first in, first out basis. For those in search of a more immediate solution, a ready-to-occupy corrugated iron hut can be bought for about R30 and set up in the place of your choice.

Outside Vicky's B&B, flocks of children stare in fascination through the streets at 11:00clock in the morning, a time when most populated suburbs are deserted. However, the people filling these streets are not idle. Staffs and barbecues line the streets selling a variety of food, clothing and hardware.

The townships have fairly rough drug-ridden areas, Vicky explains that security in her area is privately organised. Representatives from each street meet to patrol the area and investigate any reported crimes. So, she explains, if someone came into her home and robbed her television, her neighbours would help.

They would find the person who did it and impose their own punishment. If this sounds like a system of Kangaroo Courts, that's because it is, but it is only in place because of a lack of trust for the government police, and indeed a distinctly low police presence in the area. Crime in the township of Khayelitsha is estimated at 9 per cent, a figure that is considered extremely low.

There are 1000 square kilometres of townships in Cape Town divided into five districts populated by black people, in, first out basis. For those in temporary shacks and these homes are awarded on a first in, first out basis. For those in search of a more immediate solution, a ready-to-occupy corrugated iron hut can be bought for about R30 and set up in the place of your choice.

People in South Africa of all backgrounds use the term black, coloured and white. Black people are natives of Africa; coloured people are those from places such as Pakistan or India.

According to a recent independent survey, there are 70 per cent of people of working age who are looking for employment. This is a country of high unemployment and both the good sense financially and the good spirit personally to try to cultivate the faltering tourism economy.

Lounging on the stunning beaches of Camps Bay, shopping at the Waterfront or city centre, or visiting South Africa's world famous Kruger National Park to get close to wild animals is all unique experiences that South Africa offers. But visitors who want a more rounded view of this beautiful country, so rich in history, should also be sure to take a trip 30 kilometres outside the city centre to the vibrant experience in the incredible urban sprawl that is Cape Town's townships.

From left: a cheetah, a leopard, a Lion with cub, a lioness and a spotted Hyena at Kruger National Park, South Africa

Vicky Ntozini is a mother of three who runs a B&B business in her home. But she is not your average working mother - Vicky's B&B, located in the Khayelitsha township in Cape Town, South Africa, is indicative of the optimism and willingness to move on from the past that so many people in Cape Town display.

Born from the notion that foreign visitors to Cape Town are not getting a complete picture of life in South Africa. Vicky's B&B aims to get tourists away from the predominantly white tourist orientated areas. In conjunction with local tour operators she is trying to counter the curious misperception that these controlled environments paint about life in this increasingly popular holiday destination.

Tours that encompass the townships and areas such as District Six and Bo-Kaap, the former area, on the increase. In 1966, over 60,000 black and coloured people were evicted from District Six to make way for a white-only area. The experience, once done through a proper tour operator, is necessary for any visitor to appreciate just what a diverse place Cape Town really is.

There had been fears within the area that tourists were being driven through the area in air-conditioned buses without stopping to talk to locals and see what the area is really all about.

Visitors and local people like Vicky co-operate to bring tourists an inside look at life in the townships. Grass Routes tours is one such tour operator that carries out imaginative tours run by people who are directly involved with or affected by the areas they bring tourists to.

Vicky runs her two-bedroom B&B from her own "shack" and for approximately £16, visitors can get a night's accommodation, a homemade dinner and breakfast, and an introduction to and chance to mingle with local people. Carrying out a brief introduction to guests and explaining her own background, Vicky humorously adds they are especially proud of their local pub, the real waterfront as they call it.

This is in reference to the Waterfront area of the city centre, a popular tourist shopping and entertainment venue. The Khayelitsha waterfront was so named as it was the only source of water for locals until running water was supplied to homes in the area recently.

Inviting people to take a look around her home, Vicky explains that it not only benefit her and her family but also the wider community. She now employs nine people and is pleased to report that local businesses are already profiting from her success.

Vicky’s B&B can be found at http://www.journey.digitalspace.net/vicky.html which provides in-depth information about her background, her family, what she hopes to achieve through her business and information about the Khayelitsha township. She was also a recent finalist in the Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year competition in South Africa.

Quick to challenge the widespread belief that the townships are dangerous drug-ridden areas, Vicky explains that security in her area is privately organised. Representatives from each street meet to patrol the area and investigate any reported crimes. So, she explains, if someone came into her home and robbed her television, her neighbours would help.

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God is supposed to have one, Roy Keane had one and female circus freaks are required to have one. Since he found one growing on his face, Dermot Keyes decided to examine the follicled phenomenon.

"There was a woman on from Clontarf complaining about the size of her next door neighbour's cat flap," is something that the parodied Joe Duffy on the Apen Match series would want to get to the bottom of. But what is it that makes Joe Duffy the nation's favourite lunchtime radio companion?

Could it be his endearing motto ("Go on"), his immaculate taste in bland menswear? Of course not, folks, it's his beard.

Can one imagine the public outrage if Joe, Ronnie Drew or Santa Claus decided to dispense of the facial frizz and adapt to that clean-cut look that all 'real' men are supposed to aspire to?

The Liveline lothario would have more than women from Clontarf ringing him to lacerate him on such a truly ground breaking event. Of course, it's just not the odd Paddy radio celeb that decides to go with the whole beard-wearing gig.

There's the odd Paddy who captains Manchester United who has gone from having the well-groomed goatee of early 1990 to the almost apostatic "I don't wash myself" effort that he sported by the end of that same year.

The greatest beard to ever fall into that category was Sir Bob Geldof's complete hardened snot precision shaving to match his champers, cigars and sex-filled lifestyle got the better of him. Sounds a pretty good way to let a career go down the tubes! Other heroic soccer bears included the majestic Southampton Sources, Tony Greashall, Alexei Lalas and of course, Diego Maradona. Although when Diego took the football fields of Italy with a little white powder on his chin, it could well have proven a deciding factor in the downfall of his career. (Okay, I made that last bit up).

The only hair that Fabien 'I'll psyche out Di Canio, I will' Barthez has on his skull, eyebrows apart, is his designer meggle.

And what true footie fan can ever forget the werewolfed German Paul Breitner? Enough of footballers, I hear some whining women cry as they cast their eyes upon this waste of space (or filling of space event!)

The movies have boasted many fine bearded heroes, most recently the sword and shield wielding Maximus, 'husband to a murdered wife, father to a murdered son, wearer of beards fantasticus' played by Russell Crowe in Gladiator, directed by another bearded bloke, Ridley Scott.

For a long time that the whole beard-wearing gig.

Has there ever been an effort of shaving to match Geldof's goat? Perhaps, although worn with a lot more style, came a man from the opposite end of the style spectrum, Italian soccer star Alessandro Del Piero was making Italians with facial hair look the part before Beppe De Marco had moved to Albert Square. Indeed, soccer players have played a major role in the recent history of bearded brilliance and brutality.

"El Bebile' himself, George Best, found his mug and Manchester United career get increasingly hairy at the same time.

As he avoided the wild hanges of 'styles' such as Chopper Harris and the entire Leeds United squad (they were all dirty bastards), he also gave razors the run around as his chimps, cigars and sex-filled lifestyle got the better of him.

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**The Panting of the Opera**

Dermot Keyes casts his mind back to a night at the theatre when high notes were aided by tight trousers!

It had been almost four years since I had "graced" a stage with my presence. Last September I nervously stepped out from behind the masses of the Theatre Royal in Waterford and hoped that the noise that wrangled up my lungs, through my sinuses and out my nose could actually get out of my mouth resembling a sound.

I had been the ubiquitous mother-in-law in a couple of local competitions in our secondary school days and had the pleasure of seeing my spotty mug pasted on the noticeboard and in Cape cross in CBS after our novelty act team won the County Final.

I had played the part of Jesus (that explains my "I am God" complex) in a CBS/Mercy Convend production Godspell in 1996 and followed it up with a gold-bender-short-wearing, belly-exposing, Elvis-inspiring performance as Pharaoh in Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Huh, huh, baby! Thankfully I didn’t suffer a coronary in the Little Egyptian Ruler’s Room when I relieved myself after the show.

They mustn’t have heard of Colonel Mustard or Captain EO (or looked at the Men in Black) because there were no explanations for the outlandish, plastic surgeon-induced, makeup and undergarment that was put on to present the story. A real mad dash for a quick trip to a plastic surgeon.

I had actually been cast as the narrator in the Little Theatre Society’s production of Evita but was assigned to sing two solo numbers. Though I wasn’t actually a member of the Society, I was more than happy to join in the fun, which was all it was and all in all an amateur play or a musical should ever be.

After a "practice run" performance in Clonmel the previous night, we were as ready as we were ever going to be.

Having been handed a tuxedo just before the Clonmel show, I took a deep breath, pulled on the pants and said to myself, "not bad, not bad at all." But then I exhaled.

Cue the title music form Psycho. I looked down. Maybe my fat Elvis phase had arrived. Over three years after my initial impersonation of the King! But, being an artiste (yeah, right!), I had to put my lipstick had been painfully and brutally applied to the mug as only the average make-up-wearing man can manage. (It’s hell, darlings, utter hell!)

After a couple of chorus numbers, I was next up with my first solo song and by golly, were the butterflies only hopping like mad butterflies in my belly!

I was introduced and walked onto the stage to sing "Oh What A Circus from Evita. A spotlight that would have broken a B-22 at 10,000 feet was directed straight onto my person.

With the exception of the first few rows, the audience was, without fault, front row centre, which suited me just fine.

As soon as I started singing, the hands were flying and my face was filled with the falseness that the stage requires. Except I’m not that used to doing it and it feels funny when you have to force an expression on your face.

You know the feeling. An exam is just finished and the usual post-mortem takes place between you and your peers. The question you thought you had answered well has turned into a festering dungheap stinking of failure, but you don’t let anyone in on the truth as you try to be cool and "with it".

The Phantom of the Opera stalked me throughout the night at the Theatre Royal, but a bottle of cake and a bag of Tayto was enough to convince him to spare my life and see a plastic surgeon.

"Ah, yeah, that's what I had," you reply as you crank up a smile that is as wooden and painful as a George W. Bush anecdote on world history. Anyway, back to the show.

The song ends, the spotlight fades and exit stage Royal. I am suddenly aware of the position and sound pounding like a jackhammer. What a relief! But what was to come was even more grim.

Solo number two was a ball-squeeaker if ever there was one. "Gentleman from Jesus Christ Superstar" includes a high note of nut-crunching quality and for the first time in my macho existence, I realised that wearing a pair of trousers a size too small for me was actually going to work to my advantage.

Thankfully (or should that be "Thanks be to God") the song, as well as the show, went down well with the audience.

After a box office night on the boards, it took some time for a few jars before clambering onto the bus to Waterford – an exhausting but self-congratulatory, although I am reliably informed that I don’t need to be rat-assed to do that!

Dermot Keyes is the Ember barman, a PJ’s on and teeth brushed. I fell asleep, happy with my forny into the world of song. I wonder there is a market for a young, overweight Elvis impersonator who can sing Bee Gees songs when aided by badly fitting pants? Somehow, and this is one tribute singer the world can do without!
Romance on a budget

You're a student, you're in love but your also skint as a mink in a fur factory and its Valentine's Day. What do you do? In an effort to save you the embarrassment of a fluorescent McDonald's dinner for two, here is a quick guide to some of the restaurants around Dublin, within the price-range of the humble student.

One of the more popular student venues is Captain America's Steakhouse and Grill on Grafton Street. Here you can impress your date with the finest America has to offer without actually going there.

The menu is relatively affordable. Most main courses start from £4 with the top price averaging £13. If it is a first date, you'll find a wide selection of cocktails to help ease the conversation.

However - be warned. Some of the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality and also I am a little unsure whether a giant mural of Captain America fighting the staff lack personality 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**REMEMBER THE TITANS**

How much interest do I have in American football? Hard to tell… Take a teacup and fill it with water. No, better yet, turn it upside-down and dab the water on the bottom of the cup. No, that’s too much.

It’s safe to say I didn’t have any burning emotions when I sat down to watch Remember the Titans. Set during the desegregation of schools in America, as played out through one of the first racially-integrated football teams. Remember the Titans is produced by that noted purveyor of genre fare Jerry Bruckheimer (Top Gun, Flashdance, Bad Boys and more recently, Armageddon, Coyote Ugly and Gone in 60 Seconds).

Denzel Washington plays Herman Boone, hired to be head coach of the T.C. Williams High Titans football team over Bill Yoast (Will Patton), the former coach of many years.

The newly-integrated Titans (complete with such diverse characters as the Jock, the Hippie, the Funny, the Softer, the Hippy, the Hippy, the Jock, the Purveyor of Genteel Taste, and finally, the T.C. Williams High Titans football team over Bill Yoast (Will Patton), the former coach of many years), the two films on the varying subjects share a number of distinct similarities. To be perfectly honest, I wasn’t paying a great deal of attention. There have been many fine films on the varying subjects of racism and even American football, and this is not one of them. There have been a number of fine films, period. Remember the Titans is not one of them.

**FINDING FORRESTER**

By the time you read this, you will know whether or not Finding Forrester’s bid to earn Sean Connery his second Oscar nomination (he was Best Supporting Actor for The Untouchables in 1987) was successful or not. It seemed like a sure thing: Director Gus Van Sant was also at the helm of the award-winner Good Will Hunting and on the surface, the two films share a number of distinct similarities. A gifted youth in a working-class area of a large American city overcomes numerous obstacles and institutionalised prejudice with the aid of a crochety mentor.

In this case, Matt Damon and Robin Williams are replaced by newcomer Rob Brown and the aforementioned Connery - playing against type as a graft, yet oddly lovable Scot. Jamal Wallace (Brown) is a 16-year-old black youth with an equal passion for basketball and literature. A chance break-in leads to him meeting reclusive writer William Forrester (a sort of tarty, gruff, yet oddly loveable Scot. Jamal Wallace (Brown) is a 16-year-old black youth with an equal passion for basketball and literature. A chance break-in leads to him meeting reclusive writer William Forrester (a sort of tarty, gruff, yet oddly loveable Scot. Jamal Wallace (Brown) is a 16-year-old black youth with an equal passion for basketball and literature. A chance break-in leads to him meeting reclusive writer William Forrester (a sort of tarty, gruff, yet oddly loveable Scot. Jamal Wallace (Brown) is a 16-year-old black youth with an equal passion for basketball and literature. 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Horoscopes

Our DIT astrologer predicts what the month ahead holds in store for students everywhere

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
You have been a bit distracted lately. Dramatic changes are predicted in the next few months but rather than running away, embrace the new direction your life will be taking. Romantic affairs have been relegated to the sidelines recently. Make that someone special in your life feel desired again with some sweet talking. Geminis are notorious for their ability to flirt, so use it to your advantage and win back the heart of your partner.

Destiny is an unopened box.

Cancer (June 22 - July 23)
Previous relationships have left you emotionally scared but don’t fall into the trap of dwelling on the past. To forgive is to forget. Mid-month a stranger enters your life, causing trouble on the romantic front. But a bit of reassurance goes a long way. Lady Luck is shining on you at the moment and a piece of unexpected news by the end of the month will be the answer to a problem that has given you a lot of grief recently.

Destiny wears a red coat.

Leo (July 24 - Aug 24)
You have been overly preoccupied with your career in last few of months. So much so, that you have failed to notice a promising romance just waiting to happen. Someone thinks you are fantastic. Open your eyes and you will be surprised to find you are interested too. Mars enters your sign towards the end of the month causing some heat in the bedroom. Enjoy. It is about time!

Destiny heralds the arrival of a long awaited parcel.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
A competitor steps onto the romantic stage mid-month but you are ready for the challenge. Virgo is the sophisticated cynic of the Zodiac so with a few carefully chosen words, you can cut the competition down to size. Hang on to what is yours. Family relationships have been poor recently.

If an apology is long overdue, don’t let pride stand in the way of passion. You will be glad you finally sorted out your differences.

Destiny begins with the letter S.

Libra (Sept 24 - Oct 23)
Jupiter enters your sign this month, throwing you into a whirl of social activity. Invites pour in from every direction all demanding you attend their party. But which to choose?

You have been neglecting your work lately but a night out on the town seems so much more tempting than being stuck behind a desk. Go out and enjoy yourself but remember to make time for your responsibilities.

Destiny is a silver envelope.

Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
There’s a heavy emphasis on your intimate affairs this month. Expect a passion-packed few weeks. Actions will speak louder than words, so shower your partner with tokens of your love. They have been feeling somewhat taken for granted lately but a few well-chosen gifts will get your relation back on track. However, be careful about who you are seen to be friends with as jealousy and confrontation rear their ugly heads towards the end of the month.

Destiny is sealed in purple.

Sagittarius (Nov 23 - Dec 21)
You’re destined to travel this month. While it may not be an adventure in the sun, it will be a welcome break from the norm. Sparks of passion set off romantic fireworks mid-month as you run into an old flame. But loyal friends will have to step in to remind you why you finished with them in the first place. Take off those rose-tinted spectacles and you will see what everyone has known all along.

Destiny is a bus station.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 20)
You can be too self-critical at times. Stop being so harsh on yourself and forget past disappointments. Make the most of what you have in the present. Jupiter brings good luck mid-month when a project you have been working on for the last few months bears fruit. Seize any opportunities that come your way as this is the time when your talents will be recognised and rewarded.

Destiny is a forgotten photograph.

Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Finally, you are seeing results with a personal ambition. You were almost ready to throw in the towel. But while you have been moping about thinking you will never amount to much, others have noticed what an asset you would be on their team. Family matters are also the focus this month as an old disagreement crops up again. A bit of tact and a lot of talking will go a long way in solving this age-old dilemma.

Destiny is a new property.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Emotions are intense this month. From passionate highs to angst-ridden lows, it will be a rollercoaster of a time for you. You adore your freedom and recent feeling confined. But a certain someone has been putting the ball and chain on you, demanding all of your attention. Although you may not want to upset them, you have to set the record straight and push for your independence. Don’t let restrictions dampen your spirit.

Destiny is a ticket to an exotic location.
By Brian Healy

LIKE it's intrepid members, the DIT Mountaineering Club has reached new heights. This year it has gone from being a local campus based society to a northside and southside club with an overseeing committee.

The committee is responsible for training, safety, competitions, equipment and expeditions. The club has also recognised the need for outside training.

This was initially introduced within the South Mountaineering Club but due to its success the same training structure will be implemented within the entire club.

The aim of the restructuring is to improve co-ordination between the northside and southside clubs, therefore increasing the profile of mountaineering in the college.

But despite the upheaval, it has been an eventful year so far with the club entering a number of competitions.

In December three members of the club, Geoff Devitt, Susan Long and Kevin Marnier, represented DIT at the IBL Competition in DUC.

In October six members completed an advanced course in Rescue Emergency Care in Wicklow. There is also a number of important competitions left on the calendar including a climbing intervarsity and an annual college climbing meet in Co. Clare.

But it's not all about competitions. The South Mountaineering Club have gone on various trips to experience the enjoyment of mountaineering.

In December, the club joined forces with the caving and canoeing societies on a trip to Doonlin, Co. Clare. According to the President of the south club, Sandra Hennessy, it was a great success and the members benefited greatly from the professional training of William Rock.

“He joined us on this trip, and with the weather being good, he got a chance to show everyone the set up, belays, place climbing equipment, and many of the general safety guidelines involved in climbing. These included rope care, and abseil safety,” she said.

This training will be put to good use on the forthcoming trip to the Mourne Mountains on the 16th February. “This location is ideal for members at this time of year since the hiking in the Mournes is a little more challenging,” Sandra said. “Climbing in the Mournes is fantastic due to the dry nature of the rock, which makes it easier to climb.”

Not to be outdone, the North Mountaineering Club has also had an active year. The beginning of the term saw the members concentrate on the training with weekly sessions at the wall in UCD. After weeks of preparation the group decided it was time to tackle the Donegal Mountains, or the “mountaineer’s centre of the universe” as club PRO, Eoin O’Dowd described it.

Despite the harsh weather conditions everyone enjoyed the trip. Two months after their jaunt to the “centre of the universe”, the club headed to Glendalough for some hiking and climbing and as usual a great time was had by all. With half a year to go the club has lots more planned including a trip to the “haunted house” of the Mournes. For both clubs it has been an eventful and exciting year and with the restructuring of the club set to increase the status of mountaineering, it is clear that the society is going from strength to strength.

Mountaineering Club scales new heights

By Brian Healy

SUB-AQUA diving conjures up images of swimmers gliding through the warm and tranquil waters of the Caribbean watching exotic fish drift past. But the reality for the members of the DIT Sub-Aqua Club, is not quite as relaxing.

Every Sunday, the trainees head to Sandycove for open water snorkelling. Each member must be capable of completing a number of tasks to see if they have what it takes to complete their first open water dive.

That dive is set to take place in Wexford, over the St. Patrick’s weekend.

The tasks consist of five, thirty-minute, open water snorkels and a six metre snorkel dive. It sounds tough, but the treasurer of the club, Des Hayes, says the training is going extremely well.

“They love the snorkelling, despite the cold water, which is about four degrees centigrade at the moment. We thought the numbers might fall off after the initial interest, but this was not the case. We have almost 15-18 trainees who are very keen.

It is that level of dedication that saw the club win the Annual Gala last year. This year’s event will take the various heats consisting of technical events and more conventional races.

DIT has a good reputation in this area but Des insists that the event is as much social as it is competitive.

“It’s an opportunity to get the various clubs together once a year in a competitive spirit. Diving can be a solitary sport, so this event gives all the clubs a chance to work together.”

Later in the year, the competitive element of scuba diving takes second place to the sheer enjoyment of the sport.

As Easter the club will go on a week long diving trip to Caherdaniel in Kerry. As well as being a great opportunity to do some serious diving, the group will get to visit a number of remote islands, by using the two newly acquired boats.

“The trip is always a great success,” Des enthuses. “The scenery is beautiful, with so much to do like walking, diving and sightseeing.”

Plenty more trips are planned throughout the year, but nothing is too official as the weather can often determine where and when they go away.

The most popular venues are The Hook, Kilmore Quay and Greystones in Galway, Mountaineering Club has gone from being a local campus based society to a northside and southside club with an overseeing committee.

Some diving and sightseeing.”

Development

Later in the year, the competitive element of scuba diving takes second place to the sheer enjoyment of the sport.
indoor soccer

By Anthony O Sullivan

THE Kevin Street Indoor football tournament came to a close on January the 18th. It was D-Day for the four remaining teams that had reached the final stages - Snap Crackle Pop, Fred West Ham, The Mods and The Little Jukkas.

After many weeks of hard fought league matches were there more blood then sweat exerted from the players and were some matches resembled more a game of rugby then a soccer match, trust me, I was the poor referee.

It came down to the final round robin phase to decide who would walk away (if they still could) with the ready cash on offer. The breakfast crew of Snap Crackle Pop got to an early start with a nine-seven win over the laid back Mods.

The hard-hitting Fred West Ham, who had a habit of wallpapering their opponents to the Gwells wall, won five-two against Little Jukkas.

The Little Jukkas put some hard hits in the dishes with a dash of flare to get a four all draw with Snap Crackle Pop in their next match. Fred West Ham stomped their ambitions of winning the cash by destroying the Mods ten-five.

But the Mods did a bit of destroying of their own by injuring one of Fred West Ham's hard hitting players, who was stretchered off.

The other type of soccer pitch

The Mods tried to salvage some pride in their last match but The Little Jukkas who still had a chance of coming second held out to win six-five.

Therefore, it was to come down to the last match to decide who would stumble away with the cash.

The Little Jukkas cheered on Fred West Ham because if they won by more then four goals they would come second.

But they were soon to be disappointed, as both teams put on the piece of match fixing ever seen, that it would put Bruce Groblebaar to shame.

They both realised if they kept the scoring close that both teams could share the winners and runners up prizes. The game finished nine-seven in Snap Crackle Pops favour, winning the glorious Kevin St indoor football title and Fred West Ham winning Oscars for their portrayal of disappointment in losing, but not losing the cash. The money was presented at the DIT Handball Race night in the Kings Inn.

Olympic handball club update

By Colin Bronsan (DIT Olympic Handball Club)

AT THE beginning of January the DIT Olympic Handball Club's website went online. The site includes sections for news, results and fixtures among others.

It is also possible to find the rules of the game and a number of links to other sites if you are interested in finding out about Olympic Handball itself.

The club has been actively involved in the league, playing five matches to date. Our first match, out in UCD, brought with it a number of new players to attempt the Doolin river cave. While the men's side had a good run in the last stages of the race night in the Kings Inn.

Our frrst match, out in DCN, was a good weekend and was against the UCD Olympic handball club.

The club has been actively involved in the league, playing five matches to date. Our first match, out in UCD, brought with it a number of new players to attempt the Doolin river cave. While the men's side had a good run in the last stages of the race night in the Kings Inn.

In the women's side we were just two goals down at half time, but managed to get back in the game to win six-five.

The Olympic handball club is accepting applications for the J-1 Visa program NOW! Availability on flights to NYC, Chicago & L.A. in May & early June!

Call for a free Info Pack:
01 679 3735
41 Wellington Quay, D2
dlreland@workexperienceusa.com
www.workexperienceusa.com

DIT, UCD join to tackle Clare caves

On the 26th January the DIT Caving Club teamed up with UCD on a trip to Co. Clare. Malcolm MacDonnall describes the weekends' activities.

On Friday I met with Shane, Stephen, Paul and Des out in UCD to catch the bus to Clare, it is a long journey, so when hunger finally got the better of us we stopped off for dinner at Supermacs in Ballinasloe. Overall it was an enjoyable trip down with the UCD cavers, we arrived in Doonilla at 11:20 and after some rapid unpacking we hit the local pub, McGarres for some much needed liquid refreshment.

A full Irish breakfast got the following morning off to the perfect start, followed by a chat with cavers about conservation, Weil's disease and a general description of what to expect in the cave. We then allocated the equipment (light, helmet, belt, and over-suit) to our intrepid voyagers and departed for Polnagotes. An enjoyable 4-hour trip underground was had by all and after a chilly change of clothes on the side of the road we returned to the house for some well- deserved sustenance (soup and sandwiches).

After the gear was washed we enjoyed a good game of football with UCD. When it got dark we retired to our abode for some telly and cards. After dinner we frequented the local to discuss the days exploring.

On Sunday, although slightly hungover, Des, Paul and I joined a number of other hungover members to attempt the Doolin river cave. While the men's side had a good run in the last stages of the race night in the Kings Inn.

But that's what happens when you send out beginners against most of the Irish national team.

Tomás O Brannagain (the from Telly Bingo), plays with the club, and was subjected to cruel taunts from members of the Badminton club who hung around to watch the game. 'Don't worry,' they said, 'he's a professional he can take it.'

A number of new players joined the ranks in January and played in our second match against UCD. One of them, Hugh Quigley decided to try a rugby tackle on a member of the opposition.

Hugh took him down. Hard. The guy from UCD didn't look like he was getting up again. Fortunately he didn't suffer any injury.

Hugh was nearly sent off after being on for less than a minute.

One of the other guys told him the game was exactly like rugby and for some reason he believed it.

The members went for a club night out at the end of January, and were well taken care of by our sponsors Budweiser, who also contributed to our new kit. Everybody enjoyed the night and there were a number of calls for more of the same.

Club training times Tuesday 8pm to 10pm and some Mondays 6pm to 7pm.

For further information on the club, you can contact the following: Colin Bronsan 087 2960106; Ricardo Gorman 086 3102455; Brian Keegan 087 9693878.