2002-2

DIT Independent, 1st.-29th of February, 2002

DIT: Students Union

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Grangegorman
‘on long finger’

By Aiding Casey

Senator Joe Costello has criticised Fianna Fáil for failing to reach a definitive decision on DIT’s proposed campus at Grangegorman.

Senator Costello (Labour) said that despite an interdepartmental committee’s recommendation that DIT be given the go-ahead for its scheme, a final decision may not come as soon as expected.

“Two of the last five years has put the issue of the long finger,” he said. Senator Costello added that Labour party leader, Ruairí Quinn has promised that if they get into government, they will ensure that DIT receives a portion of the site.

He said that it is expected that 60 to 70 acres of the land will be given to DIT, with the remaining 20 acres to be retained by the Eastern Regional Health Authority.

The site at Grangegorman, which was valued at €125 million in 1992, today has an estimated value of €127 million, possibly resulting in a delay in the decision.

Contacted by the Independent, the Department of the Taoiseach was unavailable for comment on the issue. DIT’s President Marguerite Fitzpatrick has been in close consultation with the Taoiseach since assuming office and recently received a letter from Mr Ahern promising action on Grangegorman sooner rather than later.

Since its establishment in 1991, DIT has sought to have its immediate decision on plans for the site. Its examined how the site could be best developed to achieve desired education and social service needs, with particular interest in how it would serve the local area. DIT received a major setback in November 2011, when the Government said that the funding position for the site’s acquisition had deteriorated over 2011 and the original proposal would acquire a suitable site to initiate a number of the campuses.

A Government committee established in May 2001, was reluctant to make an immediate decision on plans for the site. Its examined how the site could be best developed to achieve desired education and social service needs, with particular interest in how it would serve the local area. DIT received a major setback in November 2011, when the Government said that the funding position for the site’s acquisition had deteriorated over 2011 and the original proposal would have been reviewed in a budgetary context.

DIT’s President Marguerite Fitzpatrick and her executive have exerted continued pressure on the Government to make a final decision. Following discussions with the Taoiseach, Ms Fitzpatrick was assured that an affirmative decision would be made early this year. The first step now for the government is to make a final decision and to transfer the land from the Department of Health to the Department of Education.

Senator Costello said that DIT has promised that they will be good neighbors towards the residents in the community, which forms part of Mr Ahern’s Dublin Central constituency. DIT have also assured residents that they will have access to the college’s proposed auditorium, while the planned sports and recreational facilities will also be at their disposal.

The ultimate acquisition of the site will mark a significant step in DIT’s overall strategy to provide modern facilities, which reflect its self-proclaimed role as a university-level technological institute. It has long been hoped by DIT management that a new campus can provide an opportunity to develop and enhance DIT’s commitment to building on its position as a leading technological institute and ultimately as a university.

Labour’s Joe Costello, whose party has promised immediate action on Grangegorman if elected to government.

Embrace foreign colleagues

The recent killing of a Chinese student in Dublin was truly a shocking event, but sadly not one which was of immense surprise given increased hostilities faced by foreigners residing in Ireland in the past number of years.

The number of non-Irish students attending third level institutes is set to increase in the future and the Department’s top official, as reported inside this month’s issue.

To walk through any of the main thoroughfares of the principal towns and cities illustrates the increasing ethnic diversity of Irish society, largely a development which we as young Irish citizens should embrace. However the ignorant and occasionally violent minority have sadly sullied the notion of the ‘friendly Irish’.

One would hope that our major political parties should make greater racial inclusion a key policy during their general election campaigning.

Each and every one of us owes it to those who have decided to settle within our shores to make this country feel as much a home to them as it is to those native to her.
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Further safety scrutiny for arts building

AS HIGHLIGHTED in the December issue of the DIT Independent, the Institute's Fine Arts building at Portland Row has long been a source of several structural and other problems. Afoire Stokes returned to see how the situation had changed, for better or worse. The Portland Row Campus of DIT will undergo a further inspection by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) following the submission of the DIT Buildings Office of a safety statement.

The inspection is on foot of an improvement notice which was served on the college in September last year following a visit by a HSA inspector. DIT was then given three months to comply with a safety statement for the building, the notice for which expired on the 16th December. The Institute was served with the improvement notice by the HSA after the authority noted a lack of a safety plan and a lack of maintenance in the Portland Row building.

The building, which is used by Fine Arts students, had been closed for three weeks in September after toilets on the first floor of the building were found to be leaking through to the rooms below. The HSA visited the building last September and a week later, was again notified of the building by the authorities. Speaking to the DIT Independent a representative of the HSA said that they would be returning to the site as they had received the safety statement from DIT in the required time.

Ms Groener, Course Co-ordinator and health and safety representative of Portland Row says that there are still major problems at DIT's fine arts campus. Highlighting an ongoing lack of canteen facilities which she says is "just not good enough", Ms Groener described a number of recent problems which illustrate the severity of the problems at Portland Row. "This morning we had a ceiling collapse on us, we had to evacuate two students who were in the area prior to the collapse and that particular area has had to be cleaned up as obviously there was loose plaster lying around which has now been removed," she said. Ms Groener is also concerned about a loose beam in the chapel of the college, an area which has since been sealed off. "The problems that we had last September haven't been addressed at all."

She also states that the staff of Portland Row were not given copies of DIT's safety statement on the building but that they received copies of the statement from the HSA. Since the resumption of classes after the Christmas break Ms Groener asserts there have also been a number of leaks in both the canteen and the entrance hall.

In reply, DIT Co-ordination and Services Officer, Michael Marnane said that there had only been one incidence of flooding which related to a tap being left on in an upstairs storey of the building not rented by DIT. In relation to the incident of the collapsed ceiling in the studio, Mr Marnane said that it was as a result of accumulated dampness. "We regret that this happened and we would hope that there would be no chance of injury to people on the premises," said Mr Marnane.

Speaking about the unsuitability of the premises, Mr Marnane said that in light of the imminent probability of the long-awaited north campus at Grangegorman going ahead, "we would see it as an interim solution."

Instead management has installed a confectionery dispenser and drinks machine. In relation to these canteen facilities Mr Marnane asserted that DIT Mountjoy Square is within six minutes walking distance from Portland Row and that there were adequate catering services in Mountjoy Square for the Fine Arts students.

The building was closed for three weeks in September after toilets on the first floor of the building were found to be leaking through to the rooms below. Ms Groener said that staff and students had been instructed by their perspective unions not to enter the building once this leakage was reported.

Opotometry students left without lecturers

By Fiona Hynes

FAILING to secure two new members of staff for the fourth year Optometry course in DIT Kevin Street has resulted in all classes for final year students being postponed until February 18th. The class has been on work placement since September and the students had anticipated resuming studies on January 14th. On January 10th they were informed by post that due to an unregrettable change of plans "I am afraid that our posts could not be filled and as a result all classes had been postponed."

According to temporary course director Paul Horan, contracts were offered for new staff began in September 2001, yet it wasn't until November that the positions were successfully filled. Mr Horan added that a position steemmed from DIT's failure to offer a salary equivalent to what an optician could earn working in a practice. "We wanted the candidates to have at least three years experience," said Mr Horan. "Opticians can be earning up to $50,000 a year. At the beginning we were not offering anything near that figure."

When the recruitment process began in September DIT were advertising assistant lecturer positions, with the average such salary worth $30,000 and $40,000 annually. "We didn't receive enough applications as a result interviews were delayed," Mr Horan added. It wasn't until late January that two lecturing positions were eventually secured. According to Mr Horan, this was only achieved after DIT changed the position to full-time lecturer grade whose salary structure is similar to that of a practicing optician.

"The reason students were not informed of the delay in starting classes until January 10th was because we were not sure when the positions would be filled" said he. "We needed permission from the Department of Education to allocate more money to the lecturing posts, which took a lot of time and we needed to change the job description and advertise again" he added. According to Mr Horan the course was "precariously at a standstill for a long time", "we did not know whether we would be able to go on with the Optometry class as it was," he continued.

This is not the first time the course has experienced such difficulties as on January 1st 2001 the then third year class had one of their most important classes, Abnormal Ocular Conditions, cancelled until March; again the problem was a lack of a suitable staff. Students from the class marched to the Cumberland Street offices of DIT President Brendan Goldsmith in protest to voice their concerns over the course and its continued funding.

As that time was 15 months ago the court is go to the students that changes and developments in the structure of the course would be initiated.

Paul Horan re-iterated that classes will re-commence on February 18th. "The basic line is that students will have lost six weeks by this day so we intend to extend the time of the classes by two weeks and this obviously means their exams will be extended by two weeks," he said. However, Mr Horan stressed that students will definitely be finished exams by June 20th at the very latest, but that there will be some small changes and cuts made so that we can still conclude in time. In the event that this does not happen Mr Horan added that students will have lost six weeks by this day so we intend to extend the time of the classes by two weeks and this obviously means their exams will be extended by two weeks," he said. However,
Apprentice exploitation uncovered

By Aisling Casey

A DIT survey has revealed that several Irish construction firms are denying apprentices their statutory entitlements.

Construction firms countrywide have come under criticism following revelations that they are leaving their employees without their legal entitlements to pay and allowances. The survey, which was conducted by DIT lecturer Eddie Conlon also revealed that less than a third of apprentices have been registered in pension schemes.

The findings based on a survey of 298 apprentices attending courses in DIT, found that such abuses are widespread in smaller firms and those not associated to IBEC or the Construction Industry Federation. The assessment shows that apprentices on unionised sites are seven times more likely to receive their entitlements, however this only covers just a fifth of all apprentices in the construction sector.

The social sciences lecturer recommends that apprentices receive written contracts, detailing their entitlements and greater monitoring by statutory bodies such as FAS and the Health and Safety Authority.

Conlon revealed that not only are 47 per cent of apprentices not receiving the exact take-home pay, they were also losing out on over €3.50 a week.

Mr Peter McCabe, Director of the Construction Industry Federation said that the survey's findings were not valid today as they were based on findings on apprenticeship conditions in 1999.

Although acknowledging that several of the issues raised required following up, he added that the survey's figures only covered two per cent of the workforce.

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Civil Service recruitment drive

The Civil Service are looking for talented final year undergraduates to join their winning team. The Civil Service Undergraduate Development Programme 2002 aimed at students expecting a first or second class honour as their final degree result offers students the chance to join the Civil Service at Administrative Officer Economics or Third Secretary level. In order to raise the profile of these careers, Civil Servants will be travelling to many colleges around Ireland and holding tests nationwide over a three day period in February (18-20 February 2002). The Civil Service is directly involved in helping to shape Ireland's future. Students entering at these levels will have an opportunity to contribute to this - through for example conducting critical analysis and research, drafting briefing material for Ministers and Government or drafting legislation for social, health and economic policy. The role of Administrative Officer is the highest entry level to the Civil Service, and is a fast track to senior management within the Civil Service. The role of Administrative Officer Economics involves initial specialised work in the area of economics before broadening into other management areas. Third Secretary is the first step into a career in the diplomatic corps - working in the Department of Foreign Affairs initially; new recruits will then be posted to an Irish Embassy or consulate in one of over sixty locations around the world. These career opportunities are initially based in the Dublin area.

All career opportunities offer benefits such as training and development, a scheme for further study, possibilities for career breaks after being made permanent and a structured career path. Interested students can register their interest on our new on-line application facility: www.publicjobs.ie, where details of locations and examples of test questions are available on Traline is also available: 01 8587483.

For further information please contact: Aoife O'Sullivan at 01 8587438, Pat O'Dowd at 01 8587481 or Cathy Harris at 01 8587483

* With thanks to Karen Creed
Taoiseach opens window to technology

By Aisling Casey

AN TAOISEACH, Bertie Ahern TD, recently introduced a new, city schools to a new world of technology at the launch of the State’s new Dublin Inner City Schools Computerisation Project (DISCP). The Project, which is co-ordinated by DIT aims to reduce educational disadvantage faced by inner city school children due to a lack of computer facilities. Speaking at the launch in Scoil Plas Mhuire, Dorset Street, Mr Ahern said that the DISCP project “will make an enormous difference to young people and their future.” He added that he would continue to invest in a national drive to make sure every boy and girl in Ireland has access to appropriate educational software.

It is generally acknowledged that Dublin’s inner city has one of the State’s highest levels of educational disadvantage, which requires a targeted response in such a way as to support our communities directly affected.

To reduce the potential limitations faced by the children in school area, DISC has set out to achieve its goal by upgrading the computer facilities and educational software in a further, 20 designated schools. It is hoped that the second phase will be as successful as the first where 20 inner city schools were upgraded to full multimedia and networking capacity over a three-year period.

DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldenhill, commented, “Not all children are fortunate enough to be so computer literate. Lack of computer availability in some schools has caused many of our children to grow up without exposure to current technology.

As a result, benefits in both verbal and non-verbal skills, long-term memory, mutual dexterity and problem solving are lost.”

He added: “By drawing upon expertise of the project, numerous schools around Dublin will enjoy a multitude of benefits and opportunities. Consequently, their educational and skill development, along with their future employment prospects will be improved.”

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FOCUS ON... The Abortion Referendum

Referendum 2002: The Facts

IT IS expected that the Government's proposed abortion referendum will be held in the next eight weeks. The latest proposed amendment to Bunreacht na hÉireann is a complex proposal with a variety of implications, Aoife Stokes highlights the statutory and constitutional measures put forward in the Bill.

The latest referendum on abortion contains a number of provisions which have not been made abundantly clear in the run-up to the latest national poll on this most contentious of topics.

The main thrust of the referendum is an attempt to revert the 1992 judgement in the X case.

A confused electorate may not flock to ballot boxes in high numbers
This judgement ruled that an abortion in Ireland would be lawful if there is a real and substantial risk to the life as distinct from health of the mother, and that a threat of suicide would be included in this definition.

2. Requiring that any subsequent legislative amendment will require to be approved by the People in a referendum before it is signed into law by the President.

The legislation that is being proposed by the government in the Bill sets out a number of important issues.

It proposed to redefine abortion in terms of medical and existing penalty of life imprisonment to 12 years.

The current legal prohibition on abortion contained in sections 58 & 59 of the Offences against the Person Act of 1861 is repealed.

The Bill will also exclude from the definition of any medical procedure in the course of which the unborn human life is ended where it is necessary to do so in order to prevent a real and substantial risk of loss of the woman's life other than suicide.

The amendment is an attempt to revert the 1992 judgement in the X case, which permits abortion when there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the mother.

The Bill will not in any way inhibit the current freedom to travel or the right to information.

By Aoife Stokes

The constitutional challenge

Government’s forthcoming abortion referendum has been dismissed by the High Court clearing the way for the referendum on abortion.

The latest proposed amendment to Bunreacht na hÉireann is a complex proposal with a variety of implications, Aoife Stokes highlights the statutory and constitutional measures put forward in the Bill.

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The referendum will ask the people to disagree or approve two new subsections in Article 40.3 of the Constitution.

The proposed new subsection 4 would provide that the life of the unborn in the womb will be protected in accordance with the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Act.

The other proposed subsection 5 would provide that any future proposal to amend or repeal the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Act will have to be approved by the people in a referendum.

It is undoubtedly a complex referendum, arguably the most complicated such proposal to be put to the Irish voter in the history of the State, but this much is clear.

Ultimately a yes vote would approve the proposal to exclude legal abortion in Ireland for women who are suicidal.

Should one choose to vote no, one will be voting against the right of eight million people who are suicidal to procure legal abortions in Ireland.

IF FURTHER proof was required to illustrate the political acrimony that has spread across Ireland in the past decade, there is no better place to start than your own third-level campus. Over the years, politicians have employed a lot of energy attempting to capture the youth vote, with Irish students e studio's 8 per cent of the total national workforce. In contrast to the DIT, the whole idea of performing the requisite flesh pressing of prospective voters has been completely underutilised.

Sim Fén is currently the only active political party in DIT. No Ogra Fáil, no Young Fine Gael, Labour Young and No Young Fine Gael. Why is there only one active political party in the college? Sim Fén could certainly do with some extra funding. The student body has only approximately 6,000 students and is not receiving any funding from the Student Union.

With an election less than four months away, there remains only one active political party in DIT, writes Lisa Deeney

It is worrying that there are few political parties active in DIT. The problem is the hierarchy nature of DIT's policy of funding. I don't think you can say it is supporting a political apathy," says Anita Conway, DITU Societies and Clubs Officer.

If a DIT Club or Society plans to attend an event, Ms Conway explains, where there is an admission, the money given to that society by the Student Union could be seen as going straight to that political party. i.e. indirect funding of a political party. Also, added Ms Conway, there is no payment made by DITU to political speakers. As a result of this, it is difficult to fund political societies but these are carefully monitored. The Student Union does not fund political parties itself but a student society," she stated.

Meanwhile, the Cultural and Social Committee of DIT is meeting this month to discuss funding for political parties who set up as student societies within DIT. It is proposed that only registered students in political vacuum

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Baltic Bliss

After barely eleven years of independence the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have undergone massive fundamental changes as they struggle to manage this new found freedom. Aoife Stokes took a trek through the diverse Baltic capitals.

As the train pulled into Tallinn in Estonia it was cold and wet. We had booked a hostel seven kilometres outside the city centre and so we set off in a taxi to an area in the suburbs where the skyline was dominated with a mass of grey high-rise buildings as opposed to the modern and attractive new area the hostel’s website had promised.

However once inside, the Maitri hostel had clean and comfortable rooms and for only three pounds a night we couldn’t really go wrong.

When we finally roused ourselves into action we couldn’t really go wrong. After barely eleven years of independence the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have undergone massive fundamental changes as they struggle to manage this new found freedom. Aoife Stokes took a trek through the diverse Baltic capitals.

When we finally roused ourselves into action we headed for the city centre on the ancient city walls.

On this particular afternoon the square was very crowded and the weather vane at its top has been present in Tallinn since 1530.

In the early 1600s functioned a cheapish hotel which served the usual cliche of awful hotel food. Riga is the biggest and busiest of all the Baltic capitals and houses a vast amount of historical interest. St Peter’s Church, originally a 15th century structure was bombed ferociously during the Second World War but has since been restored.

There is a fantastic view from the 72 metre high spire but it can be extremely windy so be sure to hang on to the rusty railings.

There are a range of museums in the city from the Motor Museum to the Museum of Jews in Latvia. A humungous informative choice is the Museum of Latvian Occupation. Documenting the treatment of Jews in Riga and Latvia during WWII it has a chilling collection of letters and other items which highlight the personal stories of the many Latvians sent to camps in Siberia.

After a couple of nights in Riga it was onwards to Vilinus, Lithuania’s leafy capital. With a history of occupation, famine and plague what exists today is a pretty city with examples of stunning baroque architecture and the added attraction of the relaxed feel of a university town.

Abandoning the comparative luxury of Riga we booked into the nearest hostel once we had stumbled off the bus in the dark. It’s safe to say that the area around the bus station, which happens to be a red light zone, is far from pleasant.

It’s wise to avoid the Smiley Face hostel where you don’t get allocated a particular bed and people fall in drunk at any time looking for somewhere to collapse.

However as an alternative to this don’t even consider the hotel opposite McDonald’s right beside the bus station. Whilst the lobby is cleverly renovated the rest of the building hails from the 1950s or thereabouts and doesn’t appear to have seen a lick of paint or a spray of air freshener since then.

The area around the President’s palace and Vilinus University is the most pleasant.

The Gedimino Tower on top of Gedimino Hill is a good hike but in the red brick tower on the hill is a museum of old Vilinus, the roof of which serves as a viewing point some 48 metres above the city.

There are a range of interesting restaurants in this part of the town and the University pub serves fantastic food and of course drink for a very reasonable price.

Dedicating to treat ourselves to a cheapish hotel we made use of the luxury to scrub up and then hit the cobbles in search of some grub. Whilst it did take some time we managed to find a great restaurant which was part of a hotel but surprisingly managed to avoid the usual cliché of awful hotel food.

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In close proximity is the large St Kazimieras Church dominating a wide plaza which has long been and still is a hub of local activity. St Kazimieras Church which was built by the Jesuits in the early 1600s functioned as a museum of atheism under Soviet rule.

Leaving Vilinus was the easiest departure of all, not because it lacks any of the cultural attractions of Tallin or Riga, but because of a real difficulty in booking accommodation which you should make sure you do in advance.

Tallin in Estonia probably stands out as the noisiest and easiest to navigates of all three cities but this is possibly only by virtue of the fact that it is the smallest.

And there’s nothing to detract from Riga as a potential destination.

It’s impossible to chose but each and every one of the Baltic capitals is steeped in history and rich in architecture, not to mention the great pubs and definitely worth a visit.
RAG week revelries

MOUNTJOY SQUARE

"Monday Night sees DIT Mountjoy Square return to the Big Tree Tavern for a traffic light night with DIT Cathal Brugha Street. Tuesday will introduce to many first years the now infamous Mystery RAG Trip. Tickets are priced at €15. Buses will leave the college at 11.30am and will return sometime the next morning. To find out what happens in between, you'll just buy a ticket and find out for yourself.

"All this and a lot more should hopefully see this RAG Week, the last RAG Week in the Square for many of you, be a blast for us and hugely beneficial for the charities we will be raising money for."

Joe Murphy

CATHAL BRUGHA STREET

"Each DIT site has chosen to take their own charity to support with the class representatives here in Cathal Brugha Street chose homeless charity Focus.

The week will kick off with a pizza eating competition, which is guaranteed to be hilarious - remember to get your seats towards the back for the best viewing. Because we have learned already that when it comes to pizza eating, the front row is not the place to be!"

Lyndsey Jones

BOLTON STREET

DIT Bolton St. has opted to support two local charities from mission and sport during RAG Week, namely The Friends of the Elderly and the Market Area Community Resource Organisation (MACRO).

We have a Pot Noodle POSTSTARS' promotion kicking off the week on Monday, a casino afternoon on Wednesday, and 'Babyfish' to play in the college on the Thursday! Along with the usual events, we here in Bolton St. are running a week long competition, 'El Mission,' which involves teams of four taking on different challenges with the winning team receiving a keg of beer for themselves. El Mission requires skill determination, a touch of insanity and a hell of a lot of energy.

The challenges for the week include speed eating, running around Dublin City, not to mention RAG Trip challenges. Tuesday's RAG Trip sees buses leaving at 12pm tight after our second day of challenges for the El Mission teams.

It's a mystery trip, so stop asking where we're going! Tickets are priced €15 and are available along with all other tickets in the Students Union shop.

As always the trip will be a long, difficult journey with too much to drink, not enough toilet stops and for some reason very few complaints.

Drinking games during RAG Week? - who'd have thought it!

Dr. Neal Crowther

KEVIN STREET

"RAG Week 2002 is here and it promises to be the biggest and best yet (S.U.N.M.A.). The main event in the Point will be phenomenal and those of you who have set to get tickets hurry cos they are going fast. With a fantastic line up and plenty of terrific acts (see flyers and posters) it really will be a memorable occasion.

Of course RAG Week would not be the same without all the regular RAG Trip anyone?"

Try your best to get involved in some event and enjoy while we the students raise funds for two very worthwhile causes in the local Vincent de Paul homeless shelter and the Special Olympics 2003.

Des Aheey

With the months passing like days it's hard to imagine that RAG week has come upon us so quick.

This year line up is guaranteed to leave you knackered after the week and begging for mercy.

As I'm sure you have seen the posters around for the RAG Ball, and with a jam packed line up, lots of prizes and carnie entertainment, there will definitely be no sign of boredom on the Night of Love.

I would like to remind everyone that Raising and Giving (RAG) is all in aid of charity. With S.V.D.P and the 2003 Special Olympics World Games the named charities your donations will be much appreciated.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support on the 10k Walk and the students that help with the setup that happened before Xmas.

Finally, if you do find yourself vertically challenged over the week make sure you've got a good bar propping you up. Have a good one!

Karl Bonar

Enjoy the week but stay safe

By Andrew Kavanagh

Doyle (Mountjoy Square DITSU Deputy President)

"It's that time of year again when everything goes a bit blurry, as RAG Week with all its charms loom on the DIT horizon.

This year it's set to be a great one keeping with tradition of Mountjoy Square.

As Welfare officer there is just a few things I have to remind you such as play safe, remember to practice safe sex in other words don't be silly put a condom on your...Remorrell - Ed.

Look after each other, on occasion people may overdose indulge themselves, so just make sure they get home safely and are looked after. Watch your drinks, don't leave them down, always keep your drink with you and buy your own - don't let a stranger buy a drink for you - the threat posed by date rape is a real one. DITSU just wants everyone to enjoy the week and stay safe.

For some, RAG Week is a once in a lifetime thing it's a way of meeting new people in your college and having new and exciting experiences.

It's a steep learning curve with lots of highs and the only lows are the hangovers the morning after.

So to finish off I hope to see you out on as many of the nights as possible, particularly the RAG Ball and, as someone who has never forgotten his, I know this is a week you'll never forget!"

Bolton Street
BLAGGERS GUIDE TO RAG WEEK

MONDAY
So it begins... the week when students partake in their favourite pastimes for a great cause. Rag week is all about raising and giving. This year Kevin Street will be donating money to the homeless people of the immediate area. The week begins with charity leg-waxing and the "Beer crate stand-off" where you can win enough beer to tie you over for the week.

The night kicks off with Karaoke and a silent disco on an evening once again in aid of charity. See details around the college for who you can purchase the services of!!

TUESDAY
The Kevin st tradition!!!! You haven't lived until you've tried a Rag Trip. 500 students pile onto a bus early in the morning not knowing what to expect but sure of a fantastic experience. Stopping at nightclubs and pubs throughout the day in venues unknown.

Partying through till the early morning somewhere in the sticks before returning to Dublin early on Wednesday. Tickets are only €13 Great Value!!

WEDNESDAY
Still alive? Stumble into college for more fun and games. The popular Madame Brown will also be reading palms & the like. A hypnotist will be revealing your darkest secrets on the Wednesday evening. Meeting with the students of Rathmines in Tramore Planet Murphys will be the final resting place with all your favourite party games & drinks just €2. No queues for Kevin Street students and cheap admissions guarantees the deal.

THURSDAY
Ah, Valentine's Day, with love in the air and all that, this biggest DIT student event ever takes place in the Point.

Things are looking up for all those lonely hearts with the possibility of meeting their Romeo/Sweetheart among 6,000 people, if that's not love I don't know what is!! With a cracking line up such as Mark McCabe, Al Gibb, Elvis 'The way it was', Zoo 2, Boogie Wonderland, Johnny Massacre, the Huxtables. A concert to mention but a few. A total carnival atmosphere will be achieved with the jugglers, stilts walkers, fire eaters, magicians, tarot card readers. All been broadcasted live by the FM104 'Road Hog' and www.redthefm.com on the web. You just might achieve that 15 minutes of fame sooner than you think.

Tickets should be purchased well in advance for this amazing one off night. Tickets are only €20 on the door or €18 in advance. The p.m. with a late bar ID required.

Just remember it's all for charity and the money from this will be going to the 2003 Special Olympic World Summer Games.
Just got a special J1 loan for the states.

Sort out your finance before you travel, talk to us or visit www.aib.ie/students

Get the most out of college. Be with AIB.
Food for thought

For many students breakfast has become a thing of the past, a distant memory of soggy Cornflakes and even sogger toast lovingly prepared by adoring parents before we grabbed our lunchbox and skipped off to school. Cut to student life. For most of us, who have figured out the latest time possible to get up so that we can arrive at our first lecture on time, breakfast just doesn’t come into the equation. Unless of course, a bag of crisps consumed along the way counts for anything.

So when the lunchtime break rolls around and the hunger pains become almost unbearable, a quick and filling lunch is the only thing on a student’s mind. Taking into account that students are one of the most impoverished species walking the earth and budgeting for each week’s food is a foreign concept, the burning question is, when a student goes to a food outlet does a student get the best deal for lunch for the least possible money?

Being the ever-conscientious student I decided to venture to a few of the more expensive places to buy a lunch. A roll with three or five fillings and a bottle of coke comes to about €5, the most expensive I have found so far. Thing like crisps of drink come to about 50 cents.

My advice would be to shop around when looking for a good lunch deal, many smaller outlets offer student incentives. Remember, students, there is life beyond Spar and Centra.

Fiona Hynes investigates the lunchtime options for cash-strapped student around the city

Spar on Camden Street is one of the more expensive places to buy a lunch. A roll with three or five fillings in a bottle of drink come to about €5, the most expensive I have found so far.

Joanne, a first year Management and Marketing student, told me that she has never ventured to Fitz’s Deli and would normally get a sandwich in the canteen. But she added that after a few months of eating the pre-made delights on offer her taste buds are becoming bored and seeing as they cost her €2.50 she may make the trip down to sample tastes anew.

The canteen in Murney Square canteen will set you back around €3.80 for a meat dish and €2.20 for a vegetarian option. Not bad, but if you’re like me, the idea of spending your lunch break queuing in the stuffy canteen is not exactly enticing. So, with that in mind I set off to Hill 16 on Gardiner Street, a favourite spot for many a Murney student. Hill 16 on a weekday lunchtime is full of hungry students, willing to pay the extra euro for a comfortable cushioned seat and the availability of a pin.

One of the more popular options here is the renowned ‘toastie’, which will set you back €2.20 for a single filling and €2.80 for a combination. If the hunger requires something a little more filling then sausage and chips is on the menu for €3.80 and a meal from the carvery costs between €4.50 and €5. Hill 16 serves lunch between 12 o’clock and 3 o’clock. Londis, Gardiner Street, is also an option for students looking for a quick lunch. Here a standard roll will cost you €2.50. If you fancy some chicken or turkey stuffed in that roll, the price jumps to €3.00.

Next it’s off to Bolton Street where students have a lot more variety on offer when it comes to choosing one’s lunch. Once you walk through the four doors of the college you are bombarded with an array of delis running the length of the street across the road. Dessie’s, a small newcomer’s with a limited deli seems to specialize in breakfast roll and I am met with the sight of limp sausages swimming in grease when I enter. Such a roll will cost you €2.50 and if it’s a cardiac arrest wrapped in tin foil you’re looking for, Dessie’s is the place to be,

Debi Baby, a few doors up, is a cafe set-up and seems to be with Dessie’s in the grease is the word option. Lorraine, manager at the cafe, assures that a full breakfast will only cost you €3.60, and that’s with chips! A roll is cheap at €1.90 for one filling and €3.20 if you want to cram four or five fillings in. Declan’s Newagent and Deli on Bolton Street completes the gruasy spoon experience, a breakfast roll is again a popular option here. Peter, a fourth year Construction and Engineering student, tells me that a roll here with all the frills will set you back around €3.00.

Centra, North King Street, is another popular lunchtime spot for students from Bolton Street. I met a few students outside who inform me that the queues at Debi’s like Dessie’s are the norm down to Centra. "I really could not eat food from those places; they’re really grossy" said one.

Prices are generally more expensive here, the exact breakfast roll with a small carton of milk will cost you €4 and a roll with three fillings registers at €3. However, the opinion among these students, is that you pay for quality. (A quality breakfast roll is available here - my gut is testament to its yuminess! – Ed)

Across the Lifefy students from Aungier Street and Kevin Street have many of the same options when it comes to choosing lunch. Anne Doyle from Mc Donnells on Aungier Street says 90% of their customers each day are students. ‘On any given day the queue for food is likely to spill out onto the street’ she said. The menu is extensive and customers can choose from various filling for rolls and sandwiches. Some hot food is also available. A salad sandwich will cost you €1.90, a BLT 2.70 and extras will cost you 45 cent per item.

Café Sora on Kevin Street, boasts an impressive array of foods in its deli, from poached chicken to sun dried tomatoes. ‘It makes a change from chicken tikka’, customer tells me. Available on this menu are ciabattas for €3.75 with three fillings. Wraps will cost you €3.62 and a panini will set you back €4.57. A point to note here is that eat in prices are subject to vat and service charge.

PJ’s Newagent next door boasts a student lunch deal where a chicken fillet roll with a bottle of coke will only cost the ravenous student €3.80. A roll with three fillings costs €2.54.

Londis on Camden Street is one of my last ports of call where I find a roll with three fillings costs €2.80, a sandwich with one meat is €2.20 and a panini with three fillings registers at €2.99.

When the lunchtime break rolls around and the hunger pains become almost unbearable, a quick and filling lunch is the only thing on a student’s mind.
How far would you go to help the homeless? One DIT student is going a few steps further than a few coppers in a cup. Adam Hyland, MA student at DIT Aungier St is setting off to hike along the Great Wall of China, as part of the Simon Community's "China Challenge" campaign.

Along with 70 other volunteers, Adam has to raise 4,440 single handedly to finance the expedition. It runs over five days, and by the end, Adam and the group will have covered 100 miles on foot. The trip involves walking through areas of China rarely seen by westerners due to the inaccessible nature of the terrain. However, the group will be accompanied by a guide from "Across the Divide", a company who specialise in excursions that run off the beaten track.

Walking an average of 20 miles a day they will trek along the wall, which hangs perilously on the Yanshan Mountains, down to the low-lying rural villages of China.

A DIT student will undertake a sponsored hike in the Orient later this year in aid of charity. Ciara O'Connor reports.

Walking the Wall

The Shape of Things

By Adam Hyland

"Atrocities is the new black," was Neil LaBute's introduction to his staging of Basic Lattency Plays when it played Dublin's Gate Theatre in March of last year. The American playwright and film director develops this notion further with his latest play, The Shape of Things, which will be previewed on January 31, (opening February 5) at The Gate. It promises, to be just as provocative and shocking.

Harold Pinter walked out of the premiere in London's Almeida Theatre last year in disgust, before the show even started. As rock music blared out over the audience, the famous English playwright exclaimed at his wife, "I hope it's not all like this," before deciding he'd rather not take the chance, and promptly left just as the curtain came up.

LaBute, described as "The best new playwright to emerge in the past decade" by The New Yorker, and The Shape of Things, heralded for "this faint-hearted. The Gate, who must be applauded for bringing the play to Dublin, described The Shape of Things as "a contemporary look at our obsession with image and what happens when the lines between art and life are blurred." True to form, the author digs deep into the characters in his chance to reveal a typically immoral tale of manipulation and artificiality.

The play deconstructs the idea of relationships, between two couples and between art and reality, in a world where people are moulded like pieces of clay by cruel and sadistic others for the purposes of self-progression.

This is cold and ruthless, but genuinely thrilling. Like the tagline to his second film, Your Friends and Neighbours, it is a "modern immaturity tale". The simplistic characterisation and names of the two leads, Adam and Evelyn, suggest as much. Their interaction leads to a superb twist that will leave you both shocked and delighted. It will almost certainly provoke serious thought, if not a few arguments with your partner.

The cast of The Shape of Things, which opened at the Gate on February 5.

Theatre Reviews

There are more homeless people sleeping rough in Dublin alone than in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Nottingham and Oxford put together.
Game Title: Wipeout Fusion
Format: Playstation 2
Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment Europe

It's been a hit. Wipeout series has finally arrived on the Playstation 2 despite an agonizing wait of a number of delays. Prepare yourself for a non-stop adrenaline rush as you speed through the game twisting and turning your craft at over a thousand kph, slipping between other racers and exploding missiles and gun fire. The game is an anti-gravity racer and is set in the year 2160. The Anti- Gravity league has been established with the only objective being winning at all costs. Pick your team from one of the teams on offer and race against fifteen other racers in Arcade or Championship mode, or seven others in the two-player mode.

The game features brilliant graphics with highly detailed craft and excellently depicted tracks. The game offers a range of locations to race ranging from dust-filted canyons right the way to futuristic cities.

All the while you will have to avoid gun fire from the other racers and use them to make sure you win. There are plenty on offer and include your usual missiles, grenades and proton cannons. As you progress through the game you get to unlock new weapons, including the gun that sends a shockwave ahead of you disabling your opponents temporarily.

The sound in the game has always been a strong feature. The series and nothing has changed. There is a great mix of dance tracks in the game including some big names such as Orbital. The sound effects are also excellent in their logic and support. While the controls take a while to get used to, once mastered one will be flying around with the best.

Fans of racing games will enjoy this title, and it comes highly recommended.

Game Title: Rez
Format: Playstation 2
Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment Europe

Rez is a game that cannot be described simply by words. Instead, you need to immerse yourself within the game itself to experience what it calls 'synchronicity'. Look up the game and you will be hit by a barrage of lights and sounds that you will not have ever seen on a console before.

The title is a kind of third person shooter. You control a being with six evolutionary levels. As you blast your way through the various enemies you will encounter within the game's system you will gain points which allow you to evolve from a simple wire-frame globe through to a blinding flash of light.

The visuals in the game are closely linked to the experience of the sound. While the sound is a mix of trance music, it starts off as a song with very few beats, but as you progress through each stage ten players the beats will increase until the song is counten and overwhelming. The visuals themselves are very interesting. Some stages are based in what seem to be wire-frame cities, while others are underwater or within a computer system.

If you're probably lost at this point, the game is hard to describe, and if you try the game out you will hopefully understand what I'm talking about. It's very good if you want something very abstract or different, while fans of music will also like it. For the rest of you, there is always the option of renting it first to see if you like it. 

BabelFish to play Rag Week gigs

By Dermot Keeyes

Dublin group BabelFish will pay both DIT Bolton Street and Cathal Brugha Street during Rag Week. The group, composed of Gerry Horan, Babs O'Connell and Catherine Dowling promise to provide top class live music at CBS on the 11th of February and at Bolton Street on Valentine’s Day.

Catherine Dowling, previously involved with Cassa, has been writing songs for several years and offers a vocal delivery style, as individual as her melodies and off-the-cuff style.

Bassist Karl Odlum has recently moved more and more into the field of music production and recently collaborated with Gemma Haye and Pina Collins amongst others. On guitar, Gerry Horan has contributed lots of noise to numerous underground garage bands in his teenage ‘angst-ridden’ years.

Combine the lazy throaty vocal styles of Dowling, the ambient guitar-playing styles of Horan with the polished production skills and bass playing of Odlum and you get BabelFish, who formed in March of last year.

Despite their relatively short time together, the group has moved faster than most with some of their tracks appearing on a number of leftfield compilations as well as on film soundtracks for both Irish and international productions.

Their debut EP, ‘Sometimes’ is an upbeat fusion of electronica, ambient sounds and leftfield pop, according to a group press release and reflects the lighter side of their collection with their live show featuring heavier grooves and tripper moods.

‘Sometimes’ has been making a considerable mark on both press and radio since its release. As well as being voted onto Tom Dunne’s (Powersound) weekly charts on Today FM, it was also recently awarded a ‘single of the week’ on 2FM.

BabelFish play DIT Cathal Brugha Street on Monday February 14th at 8.30 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. as part of the Rag Week festivities. They also have a lunchtime gig at DIT Bolton Street on Thursday February 14th.

BabelFish also play Whelans on Tuesday, February 19th. Doors 8.30pm.

* For more information contact babelfish@eircom.net or call 087 9480770

Dublin stores: Blanchardstown Centre, Grattan Street, Henry Street, The Pavilions Shopping Centre, Swords & Tallaght

HMV offers a 10% student discount*
There's Hal to pay at the movies

Shallow Hal
It's been a busy season at the box office with wave after wave of American war films being churned out. It was refreshing to go and review something that didn't comprise of America defending the moral and social lines of an endangered nation. Mind you the other side of the coin was a comedy from the men that make inbreeding in southside Dublin a regular and normal practice. I am of course talking about the Farrelly brothers and their latest creation, Shallow Hal.

Hal, played by Jack Black, is an emotionally retarded twenty-something who has incredibly high standards when it comes to women. He spends his nights plaguing gorgeous women in clubs and across the hall with little success. No way to go through life I agree. Of course something has to give and when Hal gets trapped in an elevator with positive thinking guru Tony Robbins, his perception and outlook on life are changed forever.

Hal now sees only the inner beauty in women turning a Picasso into a Rembrandt. In turn he turns himself into a caring guy and falls for the Rosie, played by the always stunning Gweneth Paltrow, the rather overweight daughter of his boss. Thanks to Tony Robbins he looks like a model to Hal, and they fall in love. It is only when Hal returns to his original state of mind that he is forced to choose between his head and his heart.

Of course this is a Farrelly Brothers movie and there are plenty of slapstick moments to keep you entertained. It's at times a little trashy and different on theuggested in 'From Hell'--may

Hot on the heels of the mysteriously megalolous murderer is the unorthodox Inspector Abberline (Depp) Via a combination of some mind blowing narcotics and all the instincts one would expect from a crafty cockey cop, Abberline opens a horriest nest during his investigation, which brings him into contact with Irish-born prostitute Mary Kelly (Heather Graham). As the Ripper sets about avenging a disease inflicted on one of Her Majesty's finest, Abberline's hunches about who and what is behind the ghastly murders of several prostitutes become more and more plausible.

The ensuing nightmare that envelopes the Whitechapel area in the August to November 1888 period is excellently reenacted and the murders are quite gory, without being graphic, leaving the true manner of each badass hideous to the imagination. The movie is incredibly dark, both in plot development and in its direction, with about 80% of the action performed under darkness. The suspense is well maintained, the supporting acts of Robbie Coltrane, Ian Holm and the brilliant Ian Richardson more than adequately support the always excellent Depp while Graham proves the weakest star on show with a less than spot-on Cockney dialect. This is very much a scary movie in the classic sense of moviemaking - much of the horror is created in the mind of the viewer while the directors still provide enough harrowing moments to witness on screen.

Definitely worth a viewing, though you may never consider your inside in the same light again.

Inspector Abberline (Johnny Depp) ponders the imponderable in 'From Hell'

Dermot Keyes

No fencing for Swordfish

Video Review
By Eoin Murphy

Swordfish is a sharp, fast paced, glitzy, action adventure that bears more than a little resemblance to the Matrix and boasts an all-star cast.

As part of his acting renaissance, John Travolta heads up this impressive line up that includes Halle Berry and Hugh Jackman, both from X-Men. The two always tough and menacing Vinne Jones. Directed by Dominic Sena, this highly acclaimed action adventure tells the story of a very powerful and well connected gunman named Gabriel (Travolta), who enlists the services of a down and out computer hacker, who is fighting desperately to get his daughter back from his porn-star wife, to attempt to steal ten billion dollars from a corrupt government agency.

This is a good flick with more twists and turns than the road to Loughrea. Travolta and Jackman give good accounts of themselves while Berry steals the show with a complete performance and a small bit of toplessness.

While there is a classic moral dilemma running through out the movie, in order for Jackman to save his daughter he must help Travolta completes the perfect crime, it generally gets a little too preachy.

It is definitely one of the better movies out for rent at the moment, and appeals to both male and female audiences.

While there are fast cars gorgeous women and slick computers, there is also a good story, interesting plots and sub plots, separating Swordfish from the mindless trash that is circulating Xtra vision shelves at the moment.

If you are thinking of a good night in with a vid, then Swordfish is my recommendation.

Enjoy.

Gabriel (John Travolta) phones a friend with a cunning plan in the super slick Swordfish.

Gooding Jr., Whoopie Goldberg, Seth Green and a great cameo by Cathy Bates. Rat Race is brought to the big screen by David Zucker, creator of Airplane and the Naked Gun movies, yet it lacks their wit and style.

There are a few very funny incidents in the film as it meanders through this unlikely event. Of course the participants ultimately see out the magnitude of their task and that they are the worlds longest horse race and decide to do something about it.

It is a little disappointing given the director and becomes a little tacky in the end. Personally I would wait till it came out on video.

Eoin Murphy
City Sounds

By Laurence Mackin

There are many different things in this world that I enjoy, many forms of entertainment that I indulge in, and I am perfectly willing to try pretty much everything, if only the once, and damn the consequences, be they judicial or medical. But seriously, lad, modern dance: what's the story with all that? Now I know my culturally sheltered rural upbringing may have stunted my appreciation of all things arty a little, and granted, it is extremely difficult. I think, Well, I know the whole ballet thing is pretty much beyond the realms of my physical comprehension. I think it's a Russian thing, self-punishment, living in freezing temperatures, communism. But modern dance, really and truly, is there a point? Answers on a postcard.

I have attempted to defend most art forms, be they high or low, but sometimes I find myself speechless and dumb with wonder at the sheer pointlessness of some of the stuff that occupies our galleries and theatres. The annual Turner Prize is always good for a laugh, and this year was no exception. Did you know that the fruits of your labour when you hit 17 is all served, not sure if this summer of my physical like it is made with, for Godspeed You Black Emperor? This could be a night of gargantuan defence of indie music's Crone. And by the way, did you know that there is a gig-something on the 8th of February as well. They haven't played here in two years and this will be a welcome return for one of indie music's long suffering soldiers. This could be the time to cash in though, their lead singer is called Euro Child. Stick that in your marketing pipe and smoke it. Project strikes again with the Jimmy Cake on the 28th of February and some of the nicest buzzs in Dublin. Wonder how many times that pun get used.

There is a gig or something on in The Shelter on 2nd February called Dark Funeral and Occult, I haven't a notion what this is about but it sounds brilliant.

On your to do list: get tickets for Godspeed You Black Emperor, The last time they played was in the TBMC with Sugar Bee and Fly Pan Am and it was a night of gargantuan proportions. I'm not sure if this night will live up to the precedent though. Avowed anti-kits of lots of things, GBYM have come in for some serious criticism for turning to the dark side and playing at an MCD venue, which goes against their previous refusal to involve themselves with the corporate side of the industry. Check out their website and you will know what I mean. The OR interview in particular smells like the sweat of a poorly read writer in over his head. I can relate to that. Apparently, ticket sales for the gig are slow, but I think most people will get over their disgust and go anyway. Promises to be an epic night, so make like Stonesy and go, go, go.

If anybody has anything they want to let me know (how little) I know about music comments are the norm) or any answers to my questions above then bang in an email to city_sounds@hotmail.com especially in relation to that whole modern dance thing because I can't figure it out.

By Fiachra Rocco-Gourney

What with all that life has given me I do feel like giving a little back sometimes. Writing this column is practically charity-work anyway. Every year we hold the annual black tie soiree in aid of charity. Basically it's a '300' plate, which is for nothing when you think that its Jean Michael on the stove. Basically it's in aid of inner city children. Seeing as the DIT campuses are all in the city centre we thought we would get together to raise some money for them. I mean, hopefully it will stop the little knackers keying my Neemr every week, it's practically protection money to stop them from begging off me. I think it's to open up some methadone clinics or tanning booths or something. Whatever keeps them off the streets is fine by me.

Several people have asked me how I manage to do so much with such a packed schedule so FYI, I thought I would reveal some of my favourite time-saving techniques. But don't tell everyone, they are strictly on the g & t. Firstly, I have a car but it's practically a Beemer every week, it's practically how they socialise and get you a low fat frappucino and never go to the bar. Oh, and never tip until a few drinks in, because that way they will know you mean business and will serve you quicker. It's all about respect.

Plus, who even stays in the one bar for more than two drinks these days anyway. Lastly, mornings are a real problem, I mean by the time you get yourself ready for the day its practically time for your lunchtime appointment so in order to save time skip breakfast and get the flunky in the office to go out and get you a love fat frappucino sans nutmeg and a bagel. I mean, this stuff is really choosy, but hey we should start with the basics, just like Delia.

Anywho, ce tout pour le mo. Until next time, ciao.

FRG

Irish Independent
Ireland's National Quality Daily.
McManus keeps the Dun in Sigerson hunt

DIT 0-16 1-13 NUIG (after extra time)

Match Report

By Miguel Delaney

A dramatic last minute point from DIT's goalkeeper McManus secured a replay for DIT after a pulsating Sigerson Cup first round game against NUIG in VEC..terminate on Thursday 31st January.

Galway got off to a flying start with Risteard O'Hea's claiming both a point and a goal to put the visitors ahead.

The game came after good weather while O'Hea promised to put the ball under the bar after McManus had his save by McManus as a great save.

Indeed before half-time, only a superb piece of defending from Galway's Conor Darcy prevented DIT from going a goal ahead. A high ball put Mulvaney through, but just as he shaped to shoot, Darcy dived in from the flank.

In the first 15 minutes of the second half, NUIG took the lead twice only for DIT to equalise on both occasions. In the 16th minute of the half, the home side were ahead for the first time in the match. However, NUIG panicked and put the ball high when they had time to do better.

This miss seemed to provide the spark the side needed (as they began to control the play just as NUIG had done 15 minutes previously. The unerring McCormack scored twice more from free kicks to bring DIT to within a point of the Galway side.

But after some desperate defending from NUIG and a close miss from Stephen Braly as the game entered stoppage time, it seemed an equaliser would whole Joe Moras's side. Due to McManus.

DIT were awarded another 45, but instead of shooting, McCormack this time played it wide, out to Cleary. Cleary skipped around two Galway backs before firing a long shot against the bar, and in the resulting melee, McManus caught it and put the ball over the bar and secure the replay.

DIT GAA Development Officer, Des O'Dowda, was delighted with the result. "A marvellous performance. We lifted well above our league form and that was a great result. The kicking of Darran McCormack to keep us in touch and again was crucial. That result was too a tribute to the management of Joe Moras. He got it right today."

The replay was due to take place in Galway on Tuesday 6th February.

Subs: D. Walsh for McOwen, D. Lowery for Carlmore, G. McGarra for Mulvaney, B. Kelly for McGrath, D. McGarra for Braly.

Subs: C. Monahan for McFadden, B. Celleron for O'Hea

Note on February Sport

This month's DIT Independent was due to cover the DIT Hurling team's first match in the Fitzgibbon Cup away to University College Cork on Saturday 2nd February, but because of the adverse weather, the match was called off.

The game was moved to Wednesday 6th February, but unfortunately the game was too late to be reported in this month's issue.

Meanwhile, the replay of the First round Sigerson Cup game between DIT and NUIG was held on Tuesday 5th February, but as the adverse weather continued, the game was called off.

All sports fans of DIT and NUIG are advised to keep an eye on the DIT Hurling counterparts, DIT's forthcoming efforts came just too late due to our deadline. Results for both will appear in next month's issue.

Any queries, sporting tidbits and the like can be mailed to me at ditsport@hotmail.com, so feeling clipboard, or going to get something sporting off our pages, please feel free to do so. We are always looking.

If interested sports club co-ordinators could mail us short reports on events competitions or socials that are happening. We can also be found on Twitter, keep an eye.

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Sporting anoraks everywhere have been raving about an Irish soccer website devoted to the world of the football commentator.

Dermot Keyes spoke to its Editor Larry Ryan about the simply brilliant DangerHere.com.

"And here comes a newspaper editor with a deadline to meet, danger here....."

The DangerHere team meet the legend: (from left to right) Jody, Larry, George Hamilton, Gareth with Phil 'Pub ref' Murray at the front ruining the shot by acting the clown

**Online footie lunacy**

Dermot Keyes: Larry, where did the idea for DangerHere.com come from?

Larry Ryan: Hi Dermot. The DangerHere thing actually started nearly two years ago. Myself and a few of the lads were watching Real Madrid give Man U aashing in the Champions League Quarter Final and heard George Hamilton come out with his legendary rabbit in a suit of armour quote. Fantastic stuff. Certainly the best quote ever. I just thought it deserved to be recorded for posterity and decided to stick it up on a web page. Gareth, my flatmate, kindly provided a delightful drawing of a rabbit in a suit of armour being oblivious to some headshots. "DangerHere" has always been the title the most associated with George. So DangerHere.com was born.

To the uneducated, that incredible quote reads: "Real Madrid are like rabbits in the glare of the headlights in the face of Manchester United's attacks. But this rabbit comes with a suit of armour in the shape of two precious away goals. What can one say? Magic."

DK: When exactly did the site come online and what kind of a reaction has there been since it was launched?

LR: We didn't really do anything else with the site for another year. But then in March 2001, myself and a few friends decided to add some more of George's quotes and some other stuff we had written. I doubt if it would have ever really become anything more than a one off except for the kind intervention of Mary Hanahan of The Irish Times, who gave the site a big plug in her Planet Football column. Suddenly, there were loads of people logging on so we all became glory-crazed and hungry for world-domination.

DK: Do you feel DangerHere.com has 'cashed in' so to speak on the 'Apero Mitte, Ron Manager style humour that has become so popular over the past few years?

And was this a factor in setting up the site?

LR: Unfortunately, the whole delirious lark has ensured that 'cashing in' might not be the most accurate description. But, yeah, we all like the Apero Mitte stuff although I reckon the real Big Ron is much funnier that Ron Manager.

As I say there's the first bit of footie peak for me, we didn't really have any ambitions at the beginning and it just began as a bit of fun.

This season, though, it's really taken off and thanks to a few mentions in the UK media (Football 365, Simon Mayo's BBC radio show, Daily Mirror) we now get a lot of English football fans. I think George is becoming a bit of a cult figure in English football circles.

We now get between 15-20,000 readers of George Hamilton every week. The numbers are growing every week. So we are hoping to perhaps make a bit of cash to redecorate DangerHere Towers. We're urgently looking for a sponsor at the moment and are hopefully hoping to bring out a range of t-shirts so the likes of Davy Keough will have something nice to wear in Korea.

DK: I presume that you and your colleagues on the site have professions other than managing and updating the website.

LR: Sadly, we do have to leave the site alone until time to tidy up some proper work. There's seven of us in all who contribute stuff regularly, plus a few more friends who send articles in occasionally. We're all actually professional writers, working, for the same company in Dublin.

The Towers itself is a palatial structure in a prestigious Dublin city location, although much like FortyCoats' trickshop, it's inner splendour is masked by an exterior which looks something like a small bedroom. Er, yeah, Gareth and me update the site from the flat.

DK: The site is of course named after George Hamilton's famous catchphrase. You met the man himself before Christmas - what does he make of the venture?

LR: George is a gent. We bumped into him in the Barres after one of the Ireland games.

He'd already seen the site because you can also get it through our email and he'd obviously been checking himself out. He thought it was all a good laugh and didn't mind in the least. He told us loads of stories about all the commentator greats (apparently, Martin Tyler is most generous with his notes) and he does a fantastic Jimmy Magee impression.

**Suddenly, there were loads of people logging on so we all became glory-crazed and hungry for world-domination**

DK: Who is your favourite football pundit and why?

LR: Tell you what, I've seen a lot of good pundits in my time, but Big Ron might just be the best in European football ever. Early doors, I fancied the boy, Dunphy. But I must have been watching cartoons if I thought he always gave it the full pan. For me, I wouldn't be in the Wide Awake Club if I didn't give Ron a sponsor's badge for being the best amusement arcade on the box.

DK: Live sports broadcasting is a font of unintentional moments of comedic genius. Have you ever considered going behind the mike and becoming a commentator yourself?

LR: Early doors, I was billed as Tipp's answer to Marty Morrissey, but a fledging commenting career was destroyed when I was struck in the larynx by a stray 21 yard free during a National Hurling League Division 2 game between Meath and Wicklow in Dunshaughlin.

However, I know our serious football journalist, Paul /Large/ Little, would love a go in the gantry. So, if there's anyone out there short a commentator for the World Cup...

DK: Which brings me on to my next question - what would be your idea of the perfect football pundit: line-up if given one presenter's lot, two analysts, a commentator and a co-commentator?

LR: Well, I've always felt that a Hamilton-Ron link-up would make a fascinating double-tandem and would it be fair to say, gentlemen, that Billo would be in with a good shout of making the reclining presenter's chair? Although, there's something quite fantastic about the way Bjo Wilson seems completely oblivious to the fact that he's on television at all. A genius.

However, the presenter's got to be commenting's own James Bond, Jeff Stelling. As for the pundits, get Dunphy and Brady in the seats, remind Liam what Eamon said about him when he was at Javers and get Jeff to ask Dunphy who was better; Brady or Gies. Game on.

DK: This will be of interest to Waterford readers. Any thoughts on where Jim Beglin got that accent from, because there's no-one in the city or country that sounds like him?

LR: Can't help you there, Dermot. Though, having once exchanged pleasantries with Jim from an adjacent urinal, I can assure you the accent doesn't slip for a second even when his mind is on weightier matters.

DK: What kind of reaction has the site received from the Irish "meja"?

LR: The Times and the Indio have given us a lot of coverage and one of the lads, Ed, went on TV3's breakfast show last summer to talk about the site.

The boys at TV3 have all got a bit of a slanging but they've all taken it very well, especially Aidan Cooney, who's good craic. Paul Collins on Today FM has also given us a few mentions. And, so I mentioned, the UK has taken to the Ronglish and we've had good reviews in FourFourTwo and When Saturday Comes magazine. I think the best reaction so far though has been an email we got from some guy called Ian who simply wrote: "Please could you advise how I can contact Neil Webb? Someone seriously over-rating our contacts in the circles of pretty ex-England internationals or a comic genius. Either way, it made it all worthwhile.

DK: Thanks for the chat.

LR: No problem Dermot, cheers.

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Rag week central for DIT Students

Unbeatable promotions as always

planet murphy & the palace nightclub, camden st.