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DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of January, 2000

DIT: Students Union

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**DIT most rejected college**

By Margaret Donnelly

FOUR out of five leaving certificate students rejected offers of diploma and certificate courses from DIT last year.

According to statistics released by the CAO last week, DIT made 10,728 offers of diploma/certificate courses to students but only 1,018 accepted the offer.

Last year DIT was the most popular choice for leaving certificate students with 7,875 listing it as their first degree choice last year. Diploma/certificate courses in DIT were also the most popular choice for students, with 14,175 students listing it as their first preference, it was almost twice as popular as IT Cork, who had the second highest amount of first preferences.

However, as an institute of technology, DIT suffers high drop out rates, with one third of students dropping out of all IT courses last year.

The institute has a take-up rate for its degree courses of 47% against an average of 70% for other universities. Combining DIT's degree, diploma, and certificate courses, the institute made 13,878 offers to students last year of which only 3,427 were accepted - a hit rate of 24%.

According to the DIT Admissions Office, it made more than 10,000 offers of diploma/certificate courses to students last year because working from statistics over the last number of years it has to make this number to fill its places.

Margaret Nicholl works in the admissions office. "We very rarely fill our quota on the first round of offers so we are forced to make a lot of offers in the knowledge that people will not always take the offer."

**Student shot in Mexico**

By Samatha Rowntree

A DIT student has been gunned down while on holiday in Mexico. Eoghan Cranley, a final year environmental design student in Mountjoy Square, who was murdered on a beach on January 11.

The Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed to the DIT Independent that he was shot in an apparent mugging while out walking on a beach in Acapulco on Tuesday evening, January 11th.

Eoghan was invited to stay with family friends in Mexico and had travelled there for a millennium holiday. He had gone bungee jumping last week. His Father, Eugene Cranley, the former president of the Society of the Irish Motor Industry, said he was "devastated" with the news. He loved water sports and skiing and went down to the beach regularly. He was an accomplished artist and big into aesthetics and the environment was right up his alley."

The 24-year-old had previously redesigned the Marx Bros restaurant in Dublin's South Great George's Street. "He was an art type of fell'a", said Mr Cranley.

In a statement to the DIT Independent John O'Connor, Head of the School of Art and Design at Mountjoy Square, said staff and students of the School of Art and Design were deeply shocked by the murder.

"Eoghan was a very creative designer with a distinctive and original approach to his work.

"He had a lively personality and was well known and liked in the school. It is a tragedy that such a promising life has been cut short in this manner," he added.

Sarah McGovern, President of DITSU, said she was saddened with the news. "Eoghan's death is a great loss to the Institute and at this time all our sympathy and thoughts are with his family and friends."

The admissions officer added that for a variety of reasons DIT is a very popular first preference choice for leaving cert students.

"We have a huge variety of courses on offer - 33 degree and 43 dip/cert - and we have the largest student body of any college in the country."

"On top of that we have a good rapport with secondary schools all over the country. If a schools asks us to come and talk to their students about our courses we will send a representative to the school."

"We also pride ourselves on our open day, on January 22 we hold an open day of all campuses in Bolton St where we are expecting to have our usual number of 4,000 prospective students," added Nicholl.

Meanwhile a report in the Irish Independent on Monday, January 10th, said that "DIT has emerged as the most sought after college among Leaving Certificate students."

The report claimed that "confidential CAO figures show that last year it topped the first preference league tables for both degree and diploma/certificate courses."

Last year DIT had the highest number of first preferences for degree courses - a total of 7,873 for 1,500 places.

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Terms and conditions apply
By Dermot Keyes

A NEW POLICY for DIT students with disabilities was launched in Aungier Street, on December 2, and according to the Institute was the result of a web accessibility test, successfully conducted by their Disability Committee.

The policy was formally launched in Aungier Street site by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Mary Freehill. DIT's Disability Officer, Linda Maguire, addressing the gathering of Institute officials, as well as past and present students, sees the new policy as a fresh approach in the Institute's responsibilities towards students with disabilities.

The new document, she said, "aims to give coherent form to the development of policies for students with disabilities and to provide a basis for further improvement to the changing needs of the Disablement Committee." The committee was founded in May 1996, and examined areas such as accessibility of the Institute's sites to disabled students. With more than 90 students with disabilities currently studying in DIT and most of the sites built long before Government regulations required facilities such as wheelchair accessibility, Committee chairperson Susan Lindsay knew that improvements were required.

The Committee's terms of reference from 1996 to 1999 involved "identifying methods of good practice in other third-level institutions", as well as examining the policies and facilities that were currently available within DIT and the development of a policy on disability.

After further examination, the Committee reviewed and extended its terms to include five other areas, the most notable being a development of examination policy as well as an attempt to heighten disability awareness amongst both staff and students. The policy itself stating that "the Institute is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities are not disadvantaged in examinations.

The Committee admits that "the age and design of some of its buildings present accessibility problems for students with disabilities. A recent survey of the DIT sites was undertaken and according to the policy, a programme of work has commenced to adopt the main buildings, of which is blind DIT's disability officer, Linda Maguire, said that the Institute was fully committed to making the Institute accessible to all students with disabilities, and added the disability policy existed in this commitment.

A spokesperson for the Institution said that the policy was drafted in consultation with disabled students and staff, and that the Disability Committee has been set up to ensure the implementation of the policy. The Committee's terms of reference cover a wide range of issues, including education and welfare services, accommodation, and access to the internet. The Committee has the power to make recommendations to the Institute, and the Institute has committed to implementing the recommendations.

The Committee's recommendations include the provision of accessible computer rooms, the provision of sign language interpreters, and the provision of a disability awareness programme. The Committee also recommends the provision of a disability officer, who will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the policy.

The Committee's recommendations are currently being implemented, and the Institute is committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities have equal access to education and training. The Institute is committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities have equal access to education and training.

By Thomas Felle

Both the DIT web site and the Students Union web site have failed the Bobby test, meaning visually impaired or blind students cannot access the sites.

In a test carried out the the DIT Independent, both sites have failed the Bobby test, designed by Internet development leaders to test sites' accessibility to people with visual impairment.

The DIT Independent has also learned that the recently announced DIT Disability policy fails to make any mention of an Internet development policy for people with disabilities.

The site was assessed by the Bobby test at the main site, and the students union site. Both sites failed the test, meaning that visually impaired or blind students cannot access the sites.

The DIT Independent was set up by the Disability Committee to ensure that the Institute is fully accessible to all students with disabilities. The Committee is currently working on a number of initiatives to improve accessibility, including the provision of accessible computer rooms, the provision of sign language interpreters, and the provision of a disability awareness programme.

Funding for projects

The Higher Education Authority has committed a £10 million programme for research in third level institutions for the coming three years.

The second cycle of this programme is expected to end at the end of last term and if OIT are to have any chance of securing funding, it is due to rise before the end of this term.

Proposals from individual departments are currently being drafted and are to be discussed at a special meeting of the OIT Academic Affairs committee on January 28. According to its organisers, the HEA programme is designed to encourage innovative institutional development and co-operation. The HEA also says that the programme is designed to ensure that all students, regardless of their disabilities, have equal access to education and training.

Funding is available for projects that aim to improve accessibility, and proposals will be considered on a competitive basis. The HEA is looking for projects that are innovative, and that have the potential to make a significant difference to the lives of disabled students.

The Disability Liaison Officer to the success of the policy is vital. As the main contact for students and they are advised, the policy states "to contact the disability officer via email in the first term (or commencing studies) to discuss in detail their needs and the services they may need during their course of study."

The Disability Officer's role includes the co-ordination of specific educational supports such as notes in braille, and arranging for the sending of applications to the Department of Education's special fund for students with disabilities. Not to its due, the Students Union is drafting a policy on disability which it hopes will ensure that students may participate fully in all aspects of student life.

With both documents published, the way forward for students with disabilities at DIT is likely to be greatly enhanced. Three years of work by the Disability Committee and others should hopefully result in improved facilities and services for the disabled students in DIT.
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Survey of lecturers

By Margaret Donnelly,
Education Correspondent

DITsu are to conduct a survey on the level of lecturing standards despite TUI objections to the process.

DIT set up a Quality Assurance Committee in 1993 under the DIT Act of 1992, for the purpose of maintaining, and enhancing academic standards, and quality in all courses. This committee was started to assure lecturing standards in the Institute.

The Institute had proposed surveys of this type in the past but the issue was rejected by union leaders. In response to this DITSU are to run a survey themselves.

Dr. Peter Prendergast, Sarah McGovern, explained to the DIT Independent that "the aim of the survey, and its findings to date, is not of a let people fired but to let lecturers know what the students think of them and to get areas improved."

However, Eddie Conlon, Dublin colleges representative on the executive committee of the TUI has said that his union knew nothing about the survey. "We are currently in the advanced stages of negotiations with DIT on the issue of quality assurance," said the union representative.

He added TUI are in favour of a quality assurance procedure and agreement on the issue very close. He was unable to comment on any knock on effects a student union survey would have on these negotiations.

Meanwhile the DIT Independent understands that a similar survey to that of the students’ union may also be carried out by lecturers.

The Q6 form will ask students to rate lecturers on a number of issues, such as punctuality and method of teaching, under the guidelines of unacceptable, good, and, very good. Also under scrutiny will be syllabi, the balance between theory and practical work, time allocation to different course elements, administration of course, integration of course components, integration of subject into overall course and the resources available to students.

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Part time fees may be abolished

By Margaret Donnelly, Education Correspondent

The Government is to consider the abolition of part-time fees following recommendations from its Commission on the Points System.

The Commission’s report recommended the abolition of part-time fees saying that everyone should have access to the same financial support whether on a full-time or part-time basis.

It also recommended that there should be more scope for transfer and progression, particularly to degree level, from national certificate and diploma courses.

The Union of Students in Ireland has welcomed the report, brought out on December 8, and says that such a move is necessary to ensure a highly skilled labour force and the continuation of current economic prosperity.

Philip Madden, President of USI, said “our current prosperity is largely a result of our highly educated work force and its graduates.

However to keep Ireland competitive in the 21st century we have to give people every incentive to continually re-skill to meet challenging needs.”

According to Ian Russell, Education Officer with USI, the issue of abolishing fees for part-time courses is not a new thing.

“It was recommended by the de Butleir Committee on Student Financial Support in 1993 and these recommendations must be implemented now.”

Mountjoy Sq student wins marketing award

FIONNULA Daly, who graduated with a degree in administration marketing in December, has won a top award for her analysis of a market case study.

The award, an engraved Waterford Crystal Bowl, was presented by the National Field Marketing Manager of Lites Marketing Group, Aidan Connolly. “We are delighted to be involved in these awards. The standard of these analyses continues to rise every year and it is great to know that new marketers are entering the work place with such a strong academic understanding of the industry,” said the manager.

The competition, which is in its first year, is open to final year marketing students in Mountjoy Square. According to a Lites spokesperson, the competition was started to recognise the close relationship the company have with both the college and its graduates.

The award is part of our ongoing programme of co-operation with the Marketing Faculty in DIT,” added the spokesperson.

The previous best of the Irish was finishing in sixth place in 1997.

The winners of the two gold medals were John Gallaher for his skills in brickwork and Rita Dempsey for waiting (food and beverage), both from DIT.

The other skills the Irish featured in were fitting, carpentry, industrial electronics, CNC milling, and graphic design.

The performance of the competitors this year is the highest ever achieved, and DITSU Overall President, Sarah Mc Govern, was suitably delighted by the achievements of the DIT representatives.

Expressing her congratulations to the team, Mc Govern said: “I’m very proud that there were so many successful participants from DIT, and it shows how capable the Institute is in producing quality awards and training courses.”

She went on to say that “there is a huge pool of untapped potential in the rest of the Institute.”

Minister for Education & Science Micheal Martin also congratulated the team and praised their ability to compete with the best on other nations to have offer.

On the achievement of the group the Minister said “Ireland can be justifiably proud of this year’s tremendous achievements winning two gold, two silver and three bronze medals and eight diplomas of excellence.”

The final report states: “The Commission on the Points System considers that a person who did not enter third-level education on leaving school should have access to the same financial support as a school leaver, if he wishes to enter third-level education later life, whether that be on a full-time or on a part-time basis.”
A group of journalism students from Aungier St took part in the first ever official visit by the School of Media to the European Parliament.

The group, headed by senior lecturer in journalism and former Irish Times Media Correspondent, Michael Foley, visited the Strasbourg plenary session of the Parliament during December 13 to 16 last.

MEP Mary Banotti hosted the tour and gave oral presentations on the work of the Parliament and her own work on education and child welfare issues in the European Union, as well as her work within the EPP Group.

She also organised briefings on parliamentary operation from Avril Doyle and John Cushnahan, both MEPs, Banotti also hosted an official lunch for the tour.

The DIT group also had briefings on the Europeanisation of Ireland from Jim O’Brien, who heads the European Parliament Office in Dublin as well as Examiner European Editor, Mark Henry.

Hemessy who spoke about the work of a journalist in Europe.

The journalism students also visited the European Court of Human Rights, and were met by the most senior Irish member of the judiciary in Strasbourg, Mr Justice John Hedigan, who sits as Ireland’s representative on the Court.

He spoke about the change in international relations within Europe and the effect of the court has had on the lives of millions of Europeans.

The 15 students represented both undergraduate and post graduate students in journalism.

The group also included lecturer in Journalism at the Institute, David Quinn.

The group of journalism students who took part in the first visit of the school of media to the European Parliament

Who says size doesn't matter?

THE Students’ Union in Aungier Street have moved their by now regular Wednesday night out to Club Mono, formerly the Mean Fiddler.

Alan Coleman, Deputy President at the site said the move was taken because of the results of a student survey conducted by the SU, which overwhelmingly supported a change from the old venue, the Palace nightclub. “Students have become bored of Planet Murphy’s and would rather go somewhere else exclusive to Aungier Street,” added the sabbatical officer.

Coleman said that students could expect free admission to the club on Wednesday nights and also added that special promotions including £2 a pint or shot, £1.50 for Aftershock, £2.25 for Bacardi Breezers and Bacardi Ringo have been introduced to help make the transition a success.

D’Aungier zone moves

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D’Aungier Zone was first started in 1995 by the then site president, Siobhan Weeke. It was originally held in Sorohan’s, which is now under new management. The move to Planet Murphy’s was made by last year’s President, Dan Pender. Kevin Street will continue to hold their night out in Planet Murphy’s.

The group of journalism students who took part in the first visit of the school of media to the European Parliament

Students visit European Parliament

Students need a campus, to call home

Opinion by Thomas Felle

I remember travelling to Belfast for a USI national Council Meeting around Halloween in 1997. It was my first time in the then troubled city, although ceasefire had been called, the gun and the bomb were still decisive parts of Northern Irish politics.

After settling into a hostel on the Lisburn Road, the next port of call was Queens University, a towering period building in the heartland of the city. Off campus, but not far from there lay the Queen’s student centre, a building completely run by the students union in the university.

Modern architecture it was not, and, from the outside at least, it was certainly nothing special. But once inside, you had a feeling there was something special about the place.

Apart from the obvious benefit of two bars, a club and a sizable lounge, the centre also included serviced offices for the students’ union executive, a board room for meetings, general administration and meeting rooms for students who needed a travel save stamp on their student card and just wanted a chat with a officer because their rent was late and they didn’t know what to do about it. The centre also included a launderette, book shop, a small grocery shop and a news agent.

It was nothing special, but it was something special for Queen’s students. It was a place they could go on a Monday evening to do their laundry, a place they could have a drink in at a reasonable price (£1 a pint when there’s a promotion on), a place where they could congregate and not feel like they were alone.

DIT students have never had that luxury. Students’ union officers work hard, and the back up and supports staff also ensure an ongoing basis that the interests of students come first.

But we have never had a ‘student centre’. For those of us old enough to remember the USB bar in Temple Bar, city centre students at least had somewhere to go and meet other students without being charged exorbitant coverages and inflated prices for a drink.

The Furnace was never anything special, but it was a home from home for many students. It was the place students just wanted to be somewhere instead of their dump bed sit on a cold October night in their flat year in college.

With the centralisation of the Institute’s headquarters comes a lot more room, 65 acres of it in fact. A student centre is surely the least students deserve.

Such a student centre will give DIT students a place to go to, where they can do the very least expect to meet some of their class mates, and hopefully meet other people in a student friendly environment, something that the city’s clubs are quietly turning out not to be.

Accommodation burning issue for everybody in Dublin, could also be tackled with the development of an apartment complex, with single rooms built to student needs.

Six foot square beds in Ranelagh will never do well until it starts to rain.

Such accommodation could benefit everybody from little capital investment through public private partnerships to the Comb Village in Galway.

Prices may not decrease substantially from that of the Ranelagh bed sits, but size, security and availability make them ideal. Even on a purely academic point, the DIT library does need to be centralised.

A central location where the majority of published material is available opened in line with student needs will undoubtedly benefit student studies.

Worries about intruders would no longer be an issue on a campus, as it has been in the past when talk of longer opening hours around exam times was mentioned.

But there are far more important reasons why DIT needs a campus.

Last week’s the announcement that the national centre for the performing arts was to be located in Galway City. University of the Arts London was of course good news for DCU, After the successes of Michelle de Brun at the last olympics, calls for an international standard 50m swimming pool were echoed around sports circles and at the Department of Tourism and Sport, again DCU was seen as a possible location for this.

Now that DIT has a modern facility to house a head quarters, there is no reason why it cannot bid for such national amenities. It benefits the body.

Staying on the sporting front, a full sporting complex and facilities for all will be an ongoing battle as weather and ordinary playing pitches are needed, and no doubt from the student centre.

The familiar chant that the city is our campus really doesn’t wash anymore. We need facilities like, and it is not unreasonable to expect same.
Rebecca Kelly reminisces about her summer in the sunny southern German city

The following day, after having sampled a little too much of the local beer, I wobbled off again toward time to my summer job in the Bavarian Alps. With a little regret, I left the picturesque city of Stuttgart and my newfound friends, and took the three-hour train journey to my Heidi-like home for the summer. The trained trundled through breath-taking forests and mountain scenery and I constantly had to suppress the urge to yodel!

Obertsdorf, the village I was to work in, was spectacular. Jagged, snow-capped mountains encased this idyllic town. Cowbells sounded in the surrounding fields and cable cars topped slowly skywards. No traffic. No beeping horns. No noise. But unfortunately, that also meant no people. It looked like it could be a long four months.

Refusing to give in so easily, I found the hotel I was to work in, nested between sloping forests and a rushing river. My boss, a terrifying man in lederhosen, showed me to a cellar room. Dimmed at this darkened place I was to call home. I soothed myself with thoughts of a looking better in the morning.

W ithin three days of my return from Obertsdorf, I had found work in a city centre hotel and a flat nearby. My central location meant I could explore the city on my days off. From the River Neckar to the Schlossgarten (castle gardens), I was mesmerised by this green city. Over half of Stuttgart is covered with orchards, vineyards, meadows and forests and you are never more than a short drive from the beautiful countryside.

The Ferenschloerhorn, or TV Tower, at the southern end of the city stands 450m above Stuttgart and offers amazing views. The tower has an exclusive restaurant one level down from the top, so late diners can watch the sunset over the valley. Dressing up in late August, my group of friends and I decided to treat ourselves to one of these sunsets. Sitting hundreds of metres high, drinking the local wines and sampling the nachos, I thought to myself, life doesn't get any better than this!

One of the highlights of the summer was the Sunshine Festival. Beer tents, bratwurst and bands. The early evening sun gave the city a honeyed glow as we gathered on the steps of the Kingsbau, a magnificent building supported by columns.

The summer crowds wandered dreamily through the fragrant food stalls. We watched street artists perform to lively music and later as the beer flowed we joined in the singing and dancing.

Stuttgart has an exciting nightlife which you can be assured I took part in. The biggest and best known club in town is Perkins Park. With a huge dance floors, it played a good mix from techno to rock 'n' roll. However, my favourite club was 'Klim Bim'.

It lacked the style of Perkins Park and with the ageing DJ sporting a dodgy 'Jonny Haircut', it's not for dedicated clubber. But with my flat across the street and the Irish pub next door, what more could a student have asked for?

Germany is renowned for its efficient transport system and visitors should defiantly use this to their advantage and explore as much of the neighbouring towns and villages as possible. Tübingen and Heidelberg are laid-back university towns. A short twenty-minute train ride will take you there and the wide variety of great pubs and restaurants will keep you entertained. Disney based his fairy-tale castles on the one in Heidelberg and it's a must see.

The great thing about mainland Europe is you can take a day trip to almost any other European country for next to nothing. For £50 return, I flew to Amsterdam and explored the infamous city on the banks of the Amstel.

As impressive as Amsterdam is though, Stuttgart had captivated me. Thoughts of the balmy summer evenings spent among friends, drinking the local beer warms my winters. So for all you travel lovers out there, if you are considering Germany as your travel destination this summer, consider Stuttgart.
AIB on Campus

For all your financial needs, please contact your local student officers.

Julie Martin - DIT Kevin Street and Aungier Street

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

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DIT Mountjoy Square: 3.00pm - 4.00pm (Monday)
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DIT Cathal Brugha Street: 2.15pm - 3.30pm (Thursday)
DIT Bolton Street: 9.30am - 11.45am and 1-2pm (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
                   1.00am - 3.30 (Tuesday)
                   9.30am - 12.45pm (Tuesday)
THE BEACH
I'm really not a fan of Leonardo di Caprio, but you should know that before you read on. He always seemed to me like a guy who was technically brilliant, but who was always just Leonardo di Caprio. You never believed for a second that he was anything other than an actor. In The Beach, the fourth film from the writer/director/producer team behind Train Spotting, Di Caprio plays Richard, an American backwater with a taste for something a little off the tourist trail.

Whilst spending the night in a seedy Bangkok hotel, he meets Daffy, (Robert Carlyle) a paranoid fellow traveller, who gives him a map to an island "a place where he'll find the perfect beach", a place unvisited by tourists, which Richard naturally sets off to find.

On paper, it can't fail: beautiful locations, beautiful people, sex, violence, and for the ladies, a buff (and mostly half-naked) Di Caprio. There are problems and the romantic subplot never really kicks in, and we're never satisfactorily told just why Richard starts going off on assignation. He'll find the perfect beach. A place unvisited by tourists...

End of Days, he was the devil incarnate, in Stigmata, he's a priest-scientist investigating alleged miracles for the Catholic Church, Frankie Paige (Patricia Arquette) is a Pittsburgh hairdresser, a hard-drinking, hard-shagging slacker chick who also happens to be an atheist.

This makes it all the more strange when she starts showing the signs of stigmata and the wounds Christ received on the cross and supposedly limited to the extremely religious.

Byrne is dispatched by the Vatican to investigate, and general wackiness ensues. Whatever the trailers may look like, this is not the next Exorcist. Despite the violent flash-on sequences when Frankie starts experiencing the stigmata, there is little or no tension. Byrne and Arquette are good, but you don't get a chance to know them and the camera jerks about like a demented NYPD Blue wannabe while the editing makes Con Air seem sedate.

BRINGING OUT THE DEAD
If you see one film this year, you really should get out more. But if you are the unsociable type and can only spare cash for one cinema ticket, you could do worse than checking out Bringing Out The Dead, the latest from the writing/directing team of Martin Scorsese and Paul Schrader, who brought us the classic Taxi Driver over twenty years ago.

Like that film, Bringing Out The Dead's central character is a tortured loner whose job involves driving around the main streets of New York city. But whereas Taxi Driver's Travis Bickle ended up killing people, Frank Pierce (Nicholas Cage) is an ambulance driver, haunted by visions of people he failed to save.

Set over three hellish nights and two days, the film follows Frank's increasingly hallucinogenic grip on reality. This doesn't sound like a whole barrel of laughs, but there is humour. It may be black-as-hell gallows humour, but it's funny nonetheless.

If you want mindless fun, try End Of Days. If you want to leave the cinema feeling like Martin Scorsese has dragged you around in an ambulance for two hours (and I mean this in the best possible way) then see Bringing Out The Dead above all else.

STIGMATA
Two things will ring through your head and make a complete clatter as you exit: headache and the SFX of nails being driven into wood. This is Stigmata. The first is a blinding headache. Watch this and try to do the crossword puzzle, you'd end up with a very decent headache and the SFX of nails being driven into wood.

The second is Frankie Paige in Stigmata (and mostly half-naked) Di Caprio. He'll find the perfect beach, a place unvisited by tourists, which Richard naturally sets off to find.

On paper, it can't fail: beautiful locations, beautiful people, sex, violence, and for the ladies, a buff (and mostly half-naked) Di Caprio. There are problems and the romantic subplot never really kicks in, and we're never satisfactorily told just why Richard starts going off on assignation. He'll find the perfect beach, a place unvisited by tourists...

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RUN LOLA RUN
It's not often you hear someone say "I just saw this brilliant German film," but Lola Remnt (Run Lola Run) is poised to change all that. The premise is simple and flame-haired punk Lola (Pamela Potente) has to find 100,000DM (as lot, apparently) and get it to her boyfriend Manni (Moritz Bleibtreu) in twenty minutes. Manni has lost said amount on a subway train and his boss, a violent drug dealer, is not known for his empathy.

With no car and her beloved moped stolen, Lola is left with no choice but to run to save her boyfriend's life.

There is a gripping tension throughout, with each version of the same story and premise being unravelled and re-wound to allow Lola to change all that. The result is an exhilarating homage to the old Group 4000" something of a concept movie, this is a concept movie.

The film is ingeniously split into three versions of the same story and each keeping within the twenty minute deadline set up at the start, resulting in something like Sliding Doors on overdose.

Director Tom Tykwer refuses to let the pace of the film drop for more than thirty seconds at a go, giving us the tiniest sensation of what Lola feels like.

SLEEPY HOLLOW
There's a terrific joke in the end credits of Inspector Gadget, one involving a 'Minor Recovery Group' - something like the AA for recovering evil benchmarks. Richard Kiel, who played who played Jaws in the James Bond films is in it.

There. That's it, the finest, most original part of Inspector Gadget. That ONE scene is responsible for the single star this film got.

If you're a fan of the cartoon series, you'll loathe the film. If you've never heard of Inspector Gadget, you'll be merely irritated by it. It makes Herbie Goes Bananas look like Goodfellas.

Don't pay to see this, don't force it on your kids - remember, it's an 18th New York whose unorthodox scientific methods lead to him being assigned to investigate a number of mysterious deaths in the remote town of Sleepy Hollow. The catch is that the victims were all decapitated, and the locals blame the legendary Headless Horseman.

As the sceptical Crane delves further into a logical motive behind the killings, he finds himself drawn to the mysterious Katrina Van Tassel (Christina Ricci), daughter of one of his chief suspects.

In addition to being an exhilarating homage to the old Hammer horror films, Sleepy Hollow also features a three-way sword fight to rival the climax of The Phantom Menace. And what more could you want than that?"
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The Independent looks at the effects of

When eating is a problem

By Jenni Duggan

IT has been estimated that approximately one in five Irish people between the ages of 15 and 30 will suffer from an eating disorder at some stage in their lives.

Most of those who suffer will make a spontaneous and full recovery, however there are also many sufferers who will be more affected and require intensive treatment programmes. Despite an increase in cases, there is still a stigma surrounding eating disorders. Like depression, and other psychological disorders, people are not keen to admit their disorder and often feel ashamed of their condition.

Eating disorders are only symptoms of something deeper that is going wrong. For those suffering from an eating disorder controlling their bodies and their food intake is a way of feeling in control when they feel there is little else they are in control of in their lives. Often with eating disorders, there is dissatisfaction with their bodies, which is often due to low self-esteem.

In western society only slim figures people are considered to be beautiful. There is a perception that fat people are stupid and ugly. Many jokes are made about fat people and this is evidence of this perception. Everyday we are bombarded with images of thin ‘beautiful’ people in magazines and on television. Teenagers are particularly aware of these images and they can become a large percentage of those who suffer from eating disorders.

There are many of these images aimed at this age group which feature adverts and fashion pages with good looking slim models. It is little wonder with all these images that there are some people who are completely dissatisfied with their body shape and size.

Dieting is widespread in our culture and it is estimated that approximately 70 per cent of women between the ages of 25 and 54 will admit to being on a diet at some stage in their lives. Every time we turn on the television or open a magazine or newspaper there are adverts about new ways of dieting and features about how to keep our weight down. Due to this obsession with dieting and image, it is not always easy to detect when someone has a problem.

Possibly the most well known eating disorder is anorexia nervosa. Sufferers of this disorder will under eat, often to the point of starvation.

The main symptom is an obsession with food and body weight. Losing weight is the number one aim and due to a distorted body image, those suffering from this disorder perceive themselves as being fat even though in reality they are often dangerously thin. This disorder is most likely to occur at times of stress or unhappiness. Those suffering from anorexia are usually very lonely and tend to isolate themselves and withdraw from social contact.

A similar eating disorder is bulimia. The main symptom of this disorder is repeated episodes of compulsive binge eating often with self induced vomiting and laxative abuse.

This disorder can be quite difficult to detect as sufferers can be anorexic half the time. Bulimia is most likely to occur at times of stress or unhappiness. Those suffering from bulimia are usually very lonely and tend to isolate themselves and withdraw from social contact.

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Most of the cases I’ve been involved in depends on the individual being confronted. The way of passing the front of people, to hide the amount In you think you may have, are more likely an eating disorder as there are common signs. Sudden weight loss is one of the early signs. Just think eating family, eaten are after all, paved with good living than not the disorder, but something too with weight. The road to hell, “cutting down,” is an eating disorder,” says Ross. you may have a problem or you know someone who has, get help. With them. A tendency to avoid

Mary O’Neill has some healthy advice

“Batte of the bulge

There is so much food and drink around, and people tend to eat a lot of fast food after parties as well. We try to encourage people to keep up regular exercise except for Christmas, and in that respect, treat it like any other time of the year.”

That sounds easier said than done, as most people view Christmas as a time to splurge and over indulge in sugar and fat, and remembering to keep up daily power-walking is put to one side. But Weight Watchers is, in a way, like a social centre in itself.

“We essentially, a support system,” explained Carmel. “We hold meetings every week, where we encourage people not to think about weight loss. Losing weight is basically about changing what you do, and if you are going to make changes, you have to be happy with them.”

The Weight Watchers policy is based on a fairly

It’s

simple points system. Every food is valued, and members are allotted a certain amount of points everyday. In this way you can still eat your favourite food, as long as you don’t exceed the daily allocation of points. Members are encouraged to read labels, and the purchase of products which don’t display sufficient nutritional information on their labels is not recommended.

Since the points system was introduced, the age profile of members has decreased. The average age of subscribers is now between 18 and 45 years. Olivia Kelly, a 23 year old student in DTU Aungier street, has recently joined Weight Watchers.

“I say every year that I will try and eat more healthily, but I generally never get round to it. But this year I was feeling especially fat so I went along to Weight Watchers to try and feel better about myself.”

Olivia admitted she approached the experience with a sense of dread, but was pleasantly surprised. “I was expecting everyone to be massive, but they weren’t. It’s kind of like AA in a way. I thought a lot of people would be there for a quick fix, but there are people who have been going for years, it just to have it as a sort of support group.”

Initial subscription fees to Weight Watchers are €6, and that covers the cost of the first class as well. Classes after that cost €7.50 a week and last an hour. Members record their weight on a weekly basis. “I think it’s fantastic value”, Olivia said, “how much you’d have to spend to join a gym for a year. At least with this you have a group to encourage you.”

Weight Watchers is not the way to go for everybody though. Some people prefer to devise their own methods of weight loss, and find the whole support group idea a little disconcerting. Others believe that weight loss is not so much about eating less than it is about keeping fit. Elaine, another DT student from Mountjoy Square decided to count er her Christmas indulgences by joining her local gym.

“I really think the only way to get slim is to keep fit, and then you can eat and drink as much as you like”, she said. Elaine attends the gym everyday. It cost her €45 to join and is €34 a month after that. With that kind of cost, on top of all the other bills and expenses with which students are bombarded, it is probably wise to attend as often as possible in order to get value for money. She joined with her friends and sees it as a good way of making friends.

“There’s always people to chat to down there, and most people join along with someone else. It’s strenuous at the start but you get used to it. The hidden expense is getting there and all the special clothes you have to wear.” So maybe it’s not so difficult after all, once you can summon a little bit of motivation.

Mountjoy Square’s Welfare Officer, Yvonne Ross talks to Margaret Donnelly and gives some advice for students worried about eating disorders

Mary O’Neill has some healthy advice

The causes of eating disorders are hard to pin down. Lack of self-esteem, family problems, emotional problems, personal insecurity, and abuse are the most common reasons someone leaves their path of life.

But even harder to pin down are the sufferers, says Yvonne Ross. Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa are the two eating disorders that affect many people, especially teenage girls. No one ever wants to admit that they’ve got a problem and because Anorexia and Bulimia sufferers are often secretive about the problem, it’s very difficult to see anyone else to become aware of it.

Everyone who has an eating disorder has a problem, not the disorder, but something which has triggered off the disorder such as depression, a personal problem, or lack of self esteem. It is not slimming gone wrong.

“People with anorexia and Bulimia, especially Bulimia is that people are often in self denial that they have a problem. At the end of the day I’ve been involved in many cases where people are in secure within themselves.

"It is often very difficult to recognise someone with an eating disorder as there are no clear cut signs. Sudden weight loss is one of the more obvious signs but people should be aware that any kind of sudden behaviour, such as a sudden obsession with exercise, is also suggestive that someone could be developing an eating disorder," says Ross.

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The moral support of peers is probably the best way to get ahead in the dietary process and this is Why Weight Watchers have adopted this approach. It’s easier to tackle the delicate topic of weight if other people seem to be in the same boat too.

Mary O’Neill has some healthy advice

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AFTER all the predictions of planes falling from the sky, impending nuclear disasters and all the other Millennium palaver, we're all still alive and returned to college life.

As DIT students (in their dozens) declined to say anything or proved too dumbstruck at the sight of a camera lens, a number of victims, sorry volunteers bravely stepped into the fray to tell the DIT Independent what their New Year's resolutions were. An ancient, if not always upheld tradition, resolutions usually last for about the length of time that you think about making one! Here's how some students hope to make 2000 different to how they spent the past twelve months.

Robert Laird is a student in DIT Kevin Street. Here's what he had to say about New Year's Resolutions: "I never keep them. When I was really young, I told myself I'd give up sweets and I didn't keep that either." He thinks the tradition is dying out especially among students. He supposes that it's too much too soon after such a period of indulgence during Christmas, "especially when you're a musician".

Another resolution he has is to 'to get some decent blokes in the band'. "We play all over the place. To get a record deal wouldn't be bad now, you know - to be famous." They've already made a demo. "The name of the band is 'Desh'. We're the best band in the world. I hope you get that down. We play Thin Lizzy, a bit of Crowded House, a bit of U2, a bit of our own, usually in Slatterys up on Caple Street."" 

Kevin Walsh is in 2nd year Physics and Physics Technology in Kevin Street. "My New Year's Resolution is to party more because I'm not doing it enough," he jokes. A Dublin native, he admits to knowing most of the pubs and clubs in Dublin but "I only seem to go out about one or twice a week. Everyone else I know seems to be going out three or four times a week, which is not fair. I need more money." When asked if he had a resolution to get a part time job to get money, he replied, "That sounds like work. I'd like it to be given to me, but that's not going to happen."

He added that he'd like to win a ticket to the football test. To get a ticket he says, "I smoked pretty much after Christmas after eating and drinking so much. People feel guilty because people feel guilty after Christmas after eating and drinking so much. People overdauge at Christmas and then try to feel good about themselves."

Imelda Moynahan, a 4th year Biomedical Science student in Kevin Street made a resolution to give up cigarettes, but like so many other students interviewed, Imelda lasted only a few days. "I smoked pretty much into the New Year so it wasn't a very good resolution. I can't keep rules. That's why it's a stupid idea."" 

Conor Clooney studies Electronic Engineering. He was adamant about his resolution. "To get the best results I can possibly this year, I've already started studying." 

David Lynch studies International Business and French. "To quit smoking and swearing" was his promise. "I was swearing in front of my children one time and I just thought it was bad." He only kept his promise to himself for a week. "I gave up smoking loads of times. He thinks it's a good time to try to give up such habits "because people feel guilty after Christmas after eating and drinking so much. People overdauge at Christmas and then try to feel good about themselves." 

Jin Conway is studying for a Phd in Experimental Physics in UCD and lectures in DIT. "My New Year's resolution was to cut out smoking completely. I'm only a very casual smoker when I'd be drinking. That's about it. So far it's been a resounding failure, but I'm hoping to remedy that. I'm just putting it down to having no will power because I'm run down after Christmas, but when I get my health and my strength back, I will certainly apply myself to it." 

Jamie Hannigan, a Communications Student in Asmiger Street had put a lot of thought into what he wanted to do differently in and beyond 2000. "I got a new phone and whenever I use someone else's phone, I make really long calls so this year I'll be making very short phone calls, nothing to it - Hello and that's it."

"I got my first bill yesterday. It was £12 and £3 VAT. That's how careful I am." Jamie also has some more dangerous habits that he thinks he should give up. "I'm going to give up skateboarding because of all the trouble I had last year. I did a lot of that and I just got so many injuries. We used to do it at the Central Bank but we can't do it anymore because they cordoned it all off. And roller-blading too, because you should see the state of my legs. I can't afford shinguards so I just wear ribsots." He mentioned that he had already given up wearing underwear due to a few embarrassing moments caught undoing velcro's.

Laura Foley who is in the 3rd year Film and Broadcasting class wants to stop spending so much money and to try to cut back a bit. "I'm spending too much at once and then have to struggle for the rest of the week. I'd go to the cinema, spend it on clothes, you know - impuse buying and that kind of stuff." She'd rather spend it on more important items such as books or as she says herself, "instead of buying a pair of shoes with heels of six inches or something like that, buy a pair of decent boots that are going to last me."
DIT has cycling cream

By Margaret Donnelly
ONE of Ireland's top cyclists, Gary McQuaid, is currently training in Lanzarote to qualify for the Irish cycling team.

Gary, who is a first year business student at Aungier Street, is training with members of the olympic team who are on endurance and heat training exercises in the Canary Islands.

If he succeeds he will be in one of the smallest clubs in Ireland. There are only two professional cyclists in Ireland, Morgan Fox and Kieran Power both turned professional last year and are the first professional cyclists in this country since Sean Kelly.

The DIT Independent spoke to McQuaid's father, Kieron, who represented Ireland in '72 Olympics about his son's chosen sport.

"Gary is currently in Lanzarote where the weather and road conditions are more suitable for cycling. He's gone for two weeks on the recommendation of cyclists who travelled last year and hopes that it will improve his chances of becoming a full Irish International."

"Gary will have to go abroad to further his career. There are no professional cycling teams in Ireland and to cycle in something like the Tour de France you have to be part of a professional cycling team.

"He will currently cycle 200K races and at the moment is aiming to gain as much experience as possible, because cycling is all about tactics, and you have to have experience to have tactics."

McQuaid, from Rathfarnham, cycles for the Emerald Cyclists Club that started cycle racing as a school boy. The 19 year-old has an impressive, yet virtually unknown, list of successes under his belt already. In 1997 he won the Eagle Grand Prix, the again McGinness Memorial, both junior level, and the M.C.P. Summer League.

1998 was his most successful year to date when he qualified for a place at the Leinster cycling team, took the M.E.R. Autumn League, the M.E.R. Batterstown race. Second in the Newbridge Grand Prix, came third in the Mayo Grand Prix, and finished fourth in the Kelly/Roche Classic and the Meath Grand Prix.

Tony Allen, Executive Officer with the Federation of Irish cyclists, says that it is a great future ahead of him in cycling, but added it was very difficult for a young cyclist to get away with study and training, considering DIT offer no financial support to the athlete.

"Educational institutions should offer more support to all sports people. Athletes are often much more rounded individuals, as they are able to get away from the mental strain of study and develop more adults through sport," added the FIC representative.

"Gary is still young, and unbelievably Olympic games four years away, but if he keeps going we would hope he could be in contention for a place on the Irish squad," concluded Allen.

Aungier Street show the way in indoor soccer blitz

Brendan Owen and Niall Creavy in action in the final

Jarchester and second years Mighty Bostoons. The first few minutes pointed the way for the rest of the match, with only a couple of tackles flying in from both sides. Jarchester physical and tightly controlled defence had the upper hand for the opening period and they indeed struck first through Jarlath Flynn.

Flynn, the fulcrum of all Jarchester advancing moves, looked to have his work cut out as McQuaid kept to the midfield against the impressive Alan Maher, and it was Maher who started the run of play for the Bostoons.

Over the next few minutes the heat and tension continued to rise, Jarchester went ahead through a fantastic pass from Faughan only for Brendan Owen to equalise. By now the large crowd of spectators present were turning up the noise and the game became more heated with several late tackles.

Jarchester went ahead again, this triggered more vocalising from the crowd. The contest was now beginning to close, until an unexpected challenge by Jarchester's keeper Paul Mollahan caused a brief scuffle ensued between Brendan Owen and Mollahan. These shenanigans were quickly dealt with by referee and co tournament organiser Peter Durning.

The impressive Alan Maher then kept his cool and equalised, to tie the game at three each. The scoring continued when Flynn, with an accurate pass, put Jarchester ahead with a thunderous volley, only for the more fit Bostoons to score two quick goals, to take the lead ahead for the first time in the encounter.

With just over a minute on the clock Jarlath Flynn scored again against the hanging Bostoons defence. At five goals apiece and only seconds left, Brendan Owen again looked to his head and only for referee reftiting would have been sent off for his illegal challenge. Man of the Match, Alan Maher poked in the winner after a frenzied goal mouth scramble.

This month's DIT Independent / Heineken Sports Star for the Month is cyclist and 19 year-old business student Niall Crequaid.

Maher's last second goal set up a repeat of the last two finals, in which The Mighty Bostoons had lost out to Dimbos Lunchbox. This was to be an epic encounter between two footballing sides, it was to be third time lucky for Bostoons or would Dimbos Lunchbox be able to secure their domination of the four aside League?

After a lengthy break and witnessing their final line up come through after a tough slog Dimbos Lunchbox were favourites for the win. With £2000 in the winners and half that amount for the runners up there was plenty to play for.

The tension showed in the opening few minutes as neither teams touch pausing, the game was quite long to scratch. Both keepers were repeatedly forced into fire saves.

It was left to Niall Creavey, the smallest player on the pitch to open the scoring for Dimbos Lunchbox, after a save by Gareth Keogh. Creavey added another when he finished a move he started with a super cross court pass to Ciaran Horan.

Dave Barry in the Lunchbox goal continued to make important saves and also managing to make an advancing impetus to score the third. It seemed only Alan Maher believed that the now weary looking Mighty Bostoons could win and he proved this by scoring the games fourth goal. At 3-1, the game was still up for grabs until the closely marked Glenn Dalton showed some impressive close control and then released the free flowing Ciaran Horan to make it 4-1. Niall Creavey continued to prove the most industrious player in the game forcing save after save from Keogh. The nippy Creavey scored his Hat- Trick goal and the teams fifth after a superb solo effort.

At this stage it appeared that Dimbos Lunchbox were comfortably in control but Maher was to the rescue when he scored two goals in quick succession. With the score now 5-3 Brendan Owen really ratted the champions with his first to leave only a goal in it with a minute left.

 Maher then rounded Barry to bring the house down and unbelievably Olympic games four years away, but if he keeps going we would hope he could be in contention for a place on the Irish squad," concluded Allen.

Bostoons were able to pass to their right winger for the final, but if he keeps going we would hope he could be in contention for a place on the Irish squad," concluded Allen.

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

The one with the atmosphere