
DIT: Students Union

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Recommended Citation
A STUDENT satisfaction survey carried out for DITSU prior to the Christmas holidays highlighted the lack of knowledge (or lack of interest?) that DIT students have in the student's body.

The survey revealed that only 44% of students know the identity of DITSU Overall President, namely Vinny Dooley.

The DIT site Presidents fare slightly better in the survey with 67% being familiar to students, while their deputies only manage an average 54% recognition.

But when students were asked how satisfied they were with their Overall President, the result showed a strange discrepancy.

Nearly three-quarters of those surveyed were happy with Vinny Dooley's performance despite the fact that, as identified earlier, only 44% of students knew who he was, which is an odd finding to say the least.

Most of the students surveyed by DITSU want to see an improvement in the entertainment provided by the Students Union.

This is reflected in the 82% of students who are in favour of an inter-campus DIT Rag Ball.

Students are equally in favour of bands and big name DJs for such events.

Another interesting finding in this survey reveals that most students are relying on financial constraints for their main source of income rather than grants, loans or family sources.

With 63% of students relying on wages from part-time work it is no source of surprise that financial constraints are forcing so many students, on a nation wide basis, to leave college.

A total of four hundred students from the approximate 28,000 students in DIT were covered by a survey, which excluded students attending DIT Rathmines and the Institute's smaller buildings.

What was clear from the survey figures conducted by Foresight Communications, was that there seemed a general decline in the figures which were favourable to the Union in relation to the 1999 survey.

Several attempts were made to contact DITSU President Vinny Dooley in relation to the survey's findings, but none were forthcoming.

By Samantha Rowntree

Childcare course suffers gender imbalance

Only one male student in class

DIT Rathmines plays host to the BA Degree in Early Childhood Care and Education course. This three-year degree was introduced in 1999 to replace the long running certificate and diploma courses. The most remarkable fact about the course is that it has only one male student in a class of 55, demonstrating that there is a long way to go to achieve an equitable gender balance.

The course trains people to work with children from 0-7 years.

It gives a general training for people to work with children in a wide variety of settings including creches, preschools, special needs centres and hospitals.

There are very few men in the course but there are hopes that through career guidance and career days, more males and females will consider childcare as a profession.

Course co-ordinator Anne Fitzgerald said that Irish third level institutes were not alone in terms of the lack of male involvement in childcare courses.

"Gender imbalance in the staffing of early years services is a huge issue not just in Ireland but internationally," she said.

For example in Norway, which has very well developed childcare services, the Government has been trying to correct this but have only 6% male staff despite a pro-active policy to recruit men.

The EU is also addressing the issue with an aim (by 2006) that 20% of staff working in the sector should be men. While the School of Social Sciences aim to have 25% mature students on their courses this has not always been achieved.

The points for the course last year were 350, five points less than the year before.

The course content is a combination of theory and practice. There are placements throughout the course starting from first year where students work one day a week and also undertake two block weeks of practical work.

Continued on page 5
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Budget offers little respite for cash strapped students

UNDER the new 'rent a room' scheme announced in the December Budget, home-owners will be able to earn up to £6,000 of tax-free income per year from renting part of their homes. This makes it an attractive scheme to first-time buyers who need help with inflated mortgages.

This fact means that people have been excited to make excuses to move out of student homes who have no little or no option of affordable rented accommodation.

Homeowners, now more than ever, homeowners will advertise rooms with the aim of attracting students in order to reduce their tax bill. How many students will we find sharing box rooms? How many landlords will become glorified house pets? Will the student become the resident nanny? But the biggest question is how will students afford to move out of student homes to their live-in landlords?

The accommodation crisis has affected every student at some point and the government has yet to walk the walk on the issue as an election promise. The student Sinead Molony, winner of the Today FM Live Room competition unfortunately cannot spend her winnings on rent because it’s impossible for her to find somewhere suitable to rent.

"I live in Drogheda and since my win my mother and a friend have been looking for a place but it’s impossible to find anywhere this time of the year," she said.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) has condemned the Minister for Finance, Charlie McCreevy, for failing to address the issue of inadequate student grants in this years Budget. The USI says that over 30,000 students have been forced out of college since the 1999 Budget. The Union believes that this figure will continue to rise because Finance Minister Charlie McCreevy has so far failed to address the issue of inadequate student grants.

After the Budget, USI President Julian de Spánic did not mince his words with Minister McCreevy. "Today's Budget is being hailed as a Budget to fight inflation. But there has been no attempt to tackle the scourge of student hardship caused by spiralling rent costs. The gap between what the grant provides and what a student needs to survive is growing and the Minister doesn’t seem to care. Minister McCreevy’s cop-out will inevitably lead to an even higher rate of student drop out", he said.

He added: "Students will not forgive a Minister for Finance who squandered an historic opportunity to make access to higher education a reality for everyone. Our campaign will continue until the Government acts on this issue." De Spánic has accused the Minister of having a "tight-fisted" attitude towards students. "There are no excuses for the Minister’s tight-fisted attitude towards students."

The Estimates of Receipts and Expenditure for 2001 show a surplus of revenue over expenditure of almost £3.5 billion. To increase student grants to reasonable levels would cost £285 million. This figure could be used in every pound of the surplus, a small percentage when you consider the enormous benefits such as investments which would have for the future prosperity of the students.

Euro facts as new currency laws come into effect

By Samantha Rowntree

How many times have you seen your bank statement and your heart flutters with joy to see more money than you thought you had?

Unfortunately, for most of us, not just a second untimely refund, but you are actually staring at the amount in euros.

As from 1st January 2002, we will be fiddling around with costs and prices when the euro notes and coins come into circulation.

Few of us students remember when the Government introduced decimalisation in 1971 but we’ve heard our parents reminisce on the days of pounds, shillings, and pence and how confused they were when it changed.

But Ireland has a Euro changeover board in operation to lessen the confusion.

"I think it will be stressful but it’s all for the better," said one student, "I’m not too sure what to make of the euro but I hope they don’t make too many mistakes."
Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the headline article in the most recent edition (Issue 10) entitiled "Students' Union loses £36,000 on ball". Firstly, as an employee of DITSU, I agree with everything the President has said and done in the aftermath of the "Spellbound" cancellation. While the main reasons for the failure of the event were bad timing and bad publicity, arguably due to poor management decisions, I feel the time for finger pointing is past.

As caretakers of students money, the Union has to act on what it feels are the wishes of the students. In this case, it was felt that a Halloween Ball would help to foster a greater sense of identity amongst DIT students, who are decentralised geographically. We are all under the umbrella of DIT, yet often see ourselves as students of Aungier Street, or Mountjoy Square, as a pose to DIT Students. The results of a recent independent survey suggest that, yes, students are interested in becoming more unified socially, with 84% of students surveyed endorsing the idea of more inter DIT events.

Secondly, a "Students' Union source" got it wrong. While the President did the lion's share of the work involved, the exec were consulted on both venue and line-up, and were each given a specific job to do in the run up to the event.

Thirdly, I have to question the reasoning behind Karring Club President, Ray Nangle's comments dominating half of this article. While Mr. Nangle is President of one of DIT's biggest clubs, I feel he lacks the specific knowledge of the Students' Union required to make such sweeping statements as "it's a joke". I don't know where he got his figures regarding advertising, but I do know that they are inaccurate. With no disrespect to Mr. Nangle, he is speculating on what may, or may not have been done. Also, as President of a prominent club, he should realise that DITSU do not fund any clubs or societies, we merely facilitate them. The money comes from DIT, and is disseminated through the clubs and societies as the Social and Cultural Committees or the Sports Council see fit.

To take up another point, DITSU are a non-profit organisation, and it was never our intention to make money off the students. While the price of tickets was higher than previous events, I still feel that it was a reasonable price for what was on offer. While a loss of £36,000 is substantial, the Union is thankfully, and I might add, in a position to absorb the loss without there being any affect on the services we provide to students. Mr. Nangle goes on to say, "If any other managing director lost £36,000 they would be gone", but in the Union is there for the protection of the students, it must be noted that we operate in a business environment, and as such, risks must sometimes be taken. I feel the President has acted very professionally in the aftermath of this event to minimise the loss sustained.

In summation, I would like to say that while the reporting of this loss was certainly negative, it is a position that students had a right to know about it, the way the article was worded was more like an editorial, and appeared to focus on the loss rather than on fact. While printing this letter would certainly go some way alleviating the damage and potential damage your front page headline has caused, I suggest that in future you remember that the Union is not here to rip off students, and all decisions are taken with the best interests of all DIT students in mind.

Yours Sincerely,
Will Nelson
Deputy President
DITSU, Kevin Street

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**Letter to the Editor**

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Childcare course suffers gender imbalance

THE results of a DITSU survey should be making Overall President Vinny Dooley very worried, as indeed it should all involved in the entire operation of the Union in DIT.

The survey, which only covered 400 DIT students from a total nearing 30,000 attending the main sites does, admittedly, leave the findings open for question as it amounts to just less than 1.5 per cent of the total college population.

What was most ironic was that the Rathmines site, the location of DITSU's main office, was not included in the survey.

It hasn't been a good few months for the DITSU President, who scored a massive own goal in relation to the Halloween Bar. However, there can be no disputing that such a position can prove troublesome and even the best captain cannot help a team when stuck in murky waters.

But one of the main drawbacks of standing for high office is to stand up to the dissenting voices and try and fulfill one's obligations.

But it would not be fair to mention the need for improvements within DIT without mentioning the difficulties that students have experienced regarding the provision of adequate facilities, as outlined elsewhere in this issue.

But it is when one examines the absence of cloakrooms, lockers, playing pitches, etc. - amenities that virtually every other third level body which compares with DIT in terms of student numbers possess, that one can see how ill-equipped we are in this institute when it comes to basic requirements.

The Phase Two development at Aungier Street is encouraging, as plans so long spoken of on paper are becoming a reality.

Grangegorman cannot leap quickly enough from the pages of the planning books.

To act, and not to speak of action, would be a useful motto for all of us this year.

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

The Independent
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DIT journalism students returned to Dublin only to learn that a pre-Christmas declaration of an upgrade of facilities at their Aungier Street base had not been carried out. However, the long promised works were finally carried out in the weekend between the first and second week of the new term.

The pre-Christmas situation in the journalism students' headquarters was, as one student described it, "incredibly frustrating."
The four journalism classes were forced to print all projects and other work from one computer in the fourth floor newsroom for the duration of the first term... On December 15, the day that DIT students broke for their Christmas holidays, the small number of students present (a half-dozen at most) in the newsroom were too small to work on the facility would not be available to them until the classes resumed in January.

The necessary upgrading of the network, in part restoration of the printer connections to all machines and the installation of a new desk top publishing project were to be carried out on the computers during the festive season.

Alumni enjoy Christmas bash

Pictured at the recent DIT Alumni Association's Homecoming Reception from left to right: Peter Hillick (Mountjoy Square Class of '89), home from New York, Ursula Kerrigan (Cathal Brugha Street Class of '90) home from London and Ciaran Walsh (Aungier Street Class of '99)

DESPITE the ever-deepening carpet of snow, which might have served to disrupt the less dedicated, DIT Alumni, current or former, and members of staff gathered in the DIT Photography and Digital Imaging Studio in Temple Bar on the frosty night that was the 28th of December.

This was the second Annual Homecoming Reception of DIT Alumni with its aim being to provide a meeting point where former students of DIT can gather, particu larly those returning from abroad, can renew friendships with classmates and DIT staff.

Mulled wine, cocktail sausages and mince pies warmed up the frostbit ten attendees at the post-Christmas reception.

Jazz music provided by the silken sounds of Chatham Row alumni and friends added to the festive atmosphere.

All in attendance spoke of their anticipation of the next such gathering, which cannot come quick enough!
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All-in-one Business Faculty by 2012

By Samantha Rowntree

FROM October 2002, Aungier Street, DIT is expected to house all Business Faculty Programmes to become the largest business school in Ireland.

The first phase of the Aungier Street development was completed in September 1994, which relocated the former College of Commerce in Rathmines to Aungier Street.

The second phase of the DIT masterplan will extend teaching facilities, bringing Accountancy, Business Studies, and Marketing together on the one site.

Autumn 2000 saw the beginning of this second phase of the Aungier Street development.

The new 12,700 square metre building will incorporate extensive Information Technology facilities, lecture theatres, classrooms, staff offices, a new library and a restaurant, as well as extending the student social/recreational area on campus.

At the signing of the Phase Two development, the Minister for Education and Science, Dr Michael Woods TD, by bringing the various Schools of the Faculty together on one site the Institute will benefit from economies of scale in terms of class sizes and avail of the academic synergies and potential for development of existing and new programmes.

In explaining the Government’s commitment to developing third level education across the top class standards, Dr Woods said, “the Government recently announced details of £5.35 billion to be spent on education as part of the National Development Plan (2002-2006), of which approximately £1.6 billion is for education infrastructure.”

DIT’s Faculty of Business director Paul O’Sullivan is delighted with the new development which will bring all business courses under the one roof for the first time: “The new library and IT centre is a tremendous resource for DIT students, right in the heart of Dublin’s business district,” he said.

“Currently, the faculty is spread over several campuses but this expansion will provide for a totally integrated business centre in Aungier Street.” Commenting on the expansion, Peter Durning, President of Aungier Street Student Union spoke of the changing face of the Institute.

“DIT is a constantly growing college and this expansion along with the acquisition of the Grangeorgan site enables the expansion of DIT’s future ambitions. It will make this college one of the largest and most prominent colleges in inner city Dublin.

“It’s definitely a landmark for DIT and especially for the Faculty of Business and the Faculty of Arts”, Mr Sullivan pledged that “all students who join next September will start second year in a brand new part of the art facility”.

This move will be welcomed by the many students in Mountjoy Square who have cope with cramped conditions and have trodden over the city to Aungier Street in search of library books.

The future options for DIT business students appear to be very bright.

Mr Sullivan highlights that “DIT is leading the provision of e-business courses in Ireland and sees e-business becoming a key feature of every course in the Faculty.

“We see ourselves as very close to industry and the professional bodies. Many of our courses carry professional accreditation. We try to listen, and to stay abreast of current trends.”

“This objective is born out of DIT’s commitment to information technology, both as a discipline and as a learning tool. Our graduates are spearheading growth in the e-business sector.”

This means the prospects and opportunities for graduates is numerous. Some graduates are now entering the marketplace with an annual salary of £26,000 to begin their careers with.

“We ensure that our students are armed with employ -ers by maintaining quality and currency in a rapidly changing business environment,” added Mr Sullivan.

Good prospects in research programme

By Samantha Rowntree

A NEW programme called Prospect was recently launched, bringing together DIT and two of the country’s major business bodies.

This six month programme has been initiated with the support from Docklands Innovation and Enterprise Ireland to help researchers in third level institutions commercialise their research.

The programme runs over a six month period from January to June. Interactive workshops are held at weekends to accommodate the regular work schedule.

The workshops deal with commercial issues and are supported by a panel of experienced mentors and consultants.

Under the terms of the scheme, there are several options for commercialising research available: for example you may be interested in setting up a campus company either on your own or with a partner, or you may wish to patent your research.

This will enable students to obtain a license to sell technology research to a startup company.

The programme team, based at Docklands Innovation Park in Dublin city centre, has had extensive experience in supporting the start-up and growth of Irish companies, through practical and innovative programmes.

Sponsored by a number of commercially experienced business counselors and trainers, the team has been successful in launching over 30 businesses annually and supports a network of about 300 companies.

This programme is part of the

Pictured at the first Fast Growth ceremony: from left Patrick Campbell, Chairman Campell Bewley Group and chairperson at the open debate; alongside Rea O’Neill, DIT ILO, Brendan Goldsmith, President DIT and Declan Murphy OECD, Paris.

Project Development Centre (PDC), an effective resource centre for entrepreneurs providing them with support and training through the start-up and growth phases of their business development.

Initiated by the DIT, the Centre’s aim has been to assist entrepreneurs in the areas of innovation, product development and enterprise creation, by providing a wide ranging and expertly staffed resource - the pool of highly skilled graduates.

The Centre operates under the Department of External Affairs of the Dublin Institute of Technology.

The Project Development Centre Director Rea O’Neill has been a full time lecturer with the Dublin Institute of Technology.

He currently holds the position of Industrial Liaison Officer in the Dublin Institute of Technology and is responsible for college-industry cooperation programmes.

He is also chairman of the Bolton Trust and is a Director of Castle Hill Fund Management Ltd which operates the Small Enterprise Seed Fund. He has been extensively involved as an adviser to small business for almost fifteen years.

The PDC method is one of facilitation. Through this process, the entrepreneurs are helped to draw from their collective experiences, focus on priorities and apply their skills in a way that allows them to confidently take key decisions in their businesses.

Since 1991 the Centre has run its renowned Enterprise Development Programme.

This is a one-year support and management development programme which helps graduate entrepreneurs start up and run their own businesses.

The programme offers participants: office space and facilities, advice and counselling, financial support, management development training, access to an enterprise network and access to DIT resources and expertise.

The Fast Growth Programme tends to the very specific needs of Ireland’s small growing businesses. Built on a number of successful company development models including the Centre’s own, the Fast Growth Programme is a three-phased support system.

It includes interactive workshops, individual strategic and investment counselling and assistance, in order to facilitate the company’s safe and successful growth.

The Small Enterprise Seed Fund, a Designated Business Expansion Scheme Fund was initiated in 1995 in order to create a source of equity funding for small companies.

The Project Development Centre Network in conjunction with the Bolton Trust promotes the Fund.

Apart from this new Prospect project, the Bolton Trust and the Project Development Centre is also involved in a number of other activities including student exchanges and work placements programmes.

For further details contact: (01) 2401500 or e-mail:info@pdc.ie

Dockland students awarded scholarships

Under the auspices of the Dublin Docklands Development Authority, students from the Docklands area of Dublin have received 13 scholarships to date to study in DIT, Bolton Trust and NC1. This has increased to 18 this year to take in a variety of course and institutions.

The Minister for Education, Dr Michael Woods, hailed the Dublin Docklands Development Authority (DDDA) as a life-long learning provider, in an area plagued by high unemployment at the Third Level Scholarship Scheme Awards.

He found the DDDA to be “working successfully” to tackle the social and educational disadvantage experienced by young Docklanders. Plans are afoot to introduce a mentoring system for Junior and Leaving Certificate students, where a school pupil from the area is encouraged on a yearly basis to sample life at university.

In addition to this, each year the DDDA, the Bolton Trust and the DIT financial services centre launches the Bolton Trust Scholarship Scheme. The last three summers has seen almost 100 young people from the area attend this programme. The DDDA’s objective is to encourage the establishment of a third level campus for 800 students within the international financial services centre for the academic year starting 2002.
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Bank of Ireland
By Natasha Reid

Forget Paris? the movie was titled - not a chance! I can still smell the fresh chocolate croissants and see the fallen autumn leaves that dotted Champs Elysees last September.

While France's capital is famous for its breathtaking beauty, no photograph or film footage can compare with the real thing. Yours truly went on a three-day trip to the city by the Seine. I didn't think a city could be as beautiful as Paris.

I stayed on for a week, because a weekend just isn't long enough to do justice to the City of Light. It seems a shame to conduct business in this charming town, which began as a village on an island on the Seine many centuries ago. Walking down any boulevard in Paris, a person would imagine that the whole city was designed and built to be admired and adored.

Every amenity is available to tourists, right from complimentary maps on arrival, to cafés and restaurants on every street corner. What more does a holidaymaker want after a long day sightseeing, than an exquisite French meal and a few foreign beverages, all served up by a cute Parisian? As for the myth that only the rich could afford to enjoy Paris - it's just a matter of shopping around and being a student comes in handy. Of course, a cup of coffee could easily cost up to £5 in this romantic city, so the secret is not to drink coffee - drink wine instead.

To get to this haven of culture takes only minutes on the web. A package holiday would cost a student an arm and a leg, while some low fares airlines have unbelievable deals on their websites. When I went, it cost me £90 return. A week later, the same flights were going for a tenner. It's the luck of the draw, but £90 was still a great deal. Finding suitable accommodation was more difficult. There are literally thousands of hotels to choose from, ranging from modest one star, right up to the celebrity studied Hotel Concorde de la Fayette. I stayed at a two-star hotel with no bar, much like an Irish Bed and Breakfast. It cost £30 per person sharing, and breakfast was extra.

Whatever about price, location was the key factor in making my decision. If I had only known that Paris' transport system is what Dublin aspires to possess by the end of this century! One of the many things that amazed me about this cosmopolitan city was Le Métro. Similar to London's tube and New York's subway, the Métro speeds from one side of Paris to the other, with trains running in every direction. Even the stations were entertaining, with shops, restaurants and sometimes orchestras playing.

Once settled, the Arc de Triomphe was my first stop, but I'd advise others to leave it until last. After climbing hundreds of stairs, I was barely able to walk for the rest of the holiday. It was worth the pain. The Arc itself is magnificent, but the view from the top is breathtaking. The sense of being in the centre of Paris is awesome, but no matter where I stood in Paris, it seemed the city had been built around that spot, it is so well planned.

The Champs Elysees and the Tuileries Gardens lead to the Louvre museum. It is impossible to walk down the Champs Elysees without venturing into some massive designer store, where bottles of perfume five feet high can be purchased for thousands of Francs. Of course, it's the pavement cafés that gives this street its famed Paris charm. In the Louvre, don't expect to see every art piece. The huge museum holds 16 kilometres of gallery, and yes, the Mona Lisa is a bit of a disappointment.

Next stop, Tour Eiffel. This 1,000 ft tall structure is visible for miles around, and the entire city can be seen from the top. The second half of a day should be devoted to this monument, that way, it can be seen lit up. Another outing best left until dusk is the Seine cruise in a bateau mouche. Don't go to Paris without indulging. Yet again, it feels like Paris was built along the river for viewing pleasure purposes, where every building is a masterpiece. Elaborately decorated statues grace their roofs and gardens. Even the bridges are exquisite, with a story behind each one. On the island, Ile de la Cité, stands the Gothic Notre Dame Cathedral, which alone, is worth going to Paris to see.

Of course, no trip to France would be complete without a day in Eurodisney! It's about 50 miles away, but is accessible from any Metro station and takes under an hour by train.

Paris is the type of place people visit for a few days, but feel they were destined to live in. With Valentine's Day coming up, the City of Love beckons. There's no excuse not to go, folks - Bon Voyage!
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Star Wars Episode II: 18 months to go

Firstly, an admission: I loved Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace. It may have been the end product of a script with more holes than a block of Edam, but I didn’t go to the film expecting to see Shakespeare, whom George Lucas has sometimes ludicrously compared to.

The second episode of the new trilogy which simply remains entitled Star Wars: Episode II, is in its final months of production, but a sense of anti-climax is increasingly hard to avoid when one trawls through the many websites devoted to the franchise.

With summer 2002 pencilled in by Lucas as a release date, the boffins at Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) have got their hands on the first rough cut of the movie and are slowly applying the meat of special effects to the bones of Episode II acting. Most of the location shooting, in Australia, Italy and Tunisia has been filmed with blue screen backgrounds, awaiting ILM’s explosions, starships and planets that the main action of the SW II promises.

"There’s a lot of work to do," says Jonathan Hales. "There’s a lot of work to do." McCallum added.

"I must keep this brief for obvious reasons," writes the source. "We were recently given a screening of the film. EPISODE 2 (still no title) so far at ILM. 2 1/2 hours of rough effects work / plates and selected takes, etc; will be heavy on CGI. All will say for now is that George and Rick are ‘stressing’ over a major reworking of the storyline. It’s putting deadlines back and makes our work extremely frustrating. There are whispers that Spielberg is coming on board to help with the editing and story. It’s a total shambles! Everyone wants another Empire Strikes Back,—the team is aware of this, but we’re a long way off." — anon

"Can this be believed? I doubt it. Everywhere one looks for info on SW II rarely finds the number of the prequel-sequel written as anything other than a Roman numeral. All official Star Wars documents feature ‘Episode II’ rather than ‘Episode 2’ and anyone working at Industrial Light & Magic would be aware of this."

A small detail it may be, but Lucas is a master of the building of credibility, and anyone involved in the production of the film would be aware of this fact. Secondly, the apparent foundation of Knowles’s posting this ‘exclusive’ report came from comments made by producer Rick McCallum on the official Star Wars website. "There’s a lot of work to do," said McCallum. "You go through various emotional stages when reviewing this footage. At times, you face the truth of what you didn’t get and what you hoped for. The second stage is that you’re amazed by all the things you didn’t even think you got. And then the third stage is that you see certain things are infinitely better than you could have even imagined."

"Maybe it’s just me but I don’t feel a sense of despair from Lucas’s number two (or is it that 2 or II?) from the above excerpt, "ILM is ready to pounce," McCallum added. That’s not what Harry’s mole would have us believe!"

The best Star Wars resource, TheForce.net, greets the AICN posting with some skepticism. "Our insiders and sources (if any can be believed, methinks) are saying this film is going to be good. The pictures we’ve seen so far have been amazing. What we’ve got of the plot sounds dramatic, fast-paced and amazing. There have been many comparisons to Empire Strikes Back from people who are in the know...from what we’ve heard Jar Jar’s role is smaller and more mature which is certain to please many fans." The burning questions for this fan remains: who won’t we know about Episode II (which won’t be called ‘The Rise of the Empire’ and may yet be titled ‘The Clone Wars’) by the time the movie is released, in 18 months. It’s proving difficult to wait for more lightsaber wielding action from the bearded Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman looking like a knockout and the reappearance of Mandalorian battle armour a la Fett. Better start counting stormtroopers in my sleep.

Star Wars: Episode II could become the biggest anti-climax in sci-fi film history. Dermot Keyes surfed the web and wonders what he will not know about the fifth installment when it hits the cinema screens.

The famous Mandalorian battle armour, worn by Boba Fett in the original trilogy, will be donned by Temura Morrison who will play the role of Boba’s father, Jango.
Alternative health for the new year

Along with the New Year resolutions to drink less, eat less sweets, eat more fruit and do 50 sit-ups a night there’s a need at this time of year to account for the Christmas excess and plan to reverse the damage caused, writes Samantha Rowntree

Holistic health is one alternative way to prevent illness and maintain health as well as health restoration and cure. At the heart of holistic health, is the belief in patients’ own power to heal themselves. Practitioners help activate the patient’s own healing powers. Some of the holistic health treatments available include:

Homoeopathy affects cure through small, individually prescribed quantities of specially prepared natural remedies capable of stimulating deep healing responses without the worrying toxicity of conventional medicines.

Acupuncture originated in China more than 3,000 years ago. It is a complex medical system that involves the insertion of fine pre-sterilised needles at predetermined points on the surface of the body, activating the patient’s healing energy.

Acupuncture (right), reflexology (centre) and various forms of alternative medicine is one way to prevent illness and maintain health

Reflexology alleviates or treats a range of conditions by applying pressure to reflex points in the patient’s hands and feet, which correspond to all the glands, organs and parts of the body.

These are only a few options on offer, others include yoga, tai chi, reiki and reflexology to keep fit. The disadvantages are that these are often quite expensive and not easily available. While the advantage is that it’s growing in popularity and you can avoid overusing conventional medicines like antibiotics in these treatments.

If you are thinking of trying out one of these it’s a good idea to check out a few prices and always use a recognised practitioner.

Features January 2001 OIl

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

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The New Year is not slapping up to what it is supposed to be. Things aren’t quite going as planned and this is more than likely down to the entry of that troublesome duo, Mars and Neptune, into your main house of affairs.

The best advice the stars can offer you is to throw away those ridiculous New Year’s resolutions and wing it.

Your natural charm and persuasive personality mean everything will be going your sweet way by the end of the month.

Destiny is a silver car.

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)
The New Year is a great time for taking stock and evaluating your direction, be it for your future or from here in out.

A minor mishap will set you back mid-month but some quick thinking and a dollop or two of the Taurus charm will have you back on your feet in no time.

Destiny begins with the letter E.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
Mercury moves into inspirational Aquarius this month and has you bursting with ideas. This is great news.

The problem now is how are you going to put them into action? With a bit of careful planning and a lot of hard graft, that’s how!

But take heart, as all extra effort will pay off doubly this month as the lucky stars favour Geminis everywhere. Family relations improve greatly around the 24th and disagreements which were bothering you will be resolved.

Destiny is a yellow box.

Cancer (June 22 - July 23)
The Lunar Eclipse earlier this year has affected your mood greatly. All of a sudden everything seems easier than ever before. Difficulties regarding work matters will be resolved thanks to your new positive attitude.

Your good humour is even attracting a potential new romance. If in all, it is shaping up to be a pretty good month.

Good times are on the cards around the 25th but watch you don’t over exert yourself after the 27th.

Destiny wears light blue.

Leo (July 24 - Aug 24)
The New Year opened up a lot in love or money for poor old Leo. Thank to that blasted Libra (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
Libra is the party animal of the Zodiac. But I hate to break this to you, Christmas is over, so get on with it! If you have been dithering about getting down to some serious work, take heed.

There are plenty of people out there waiting for you to trip up so they can muscle in on your patch. Get your act together and show those in high places that you have what it takes to go the distance.

Destiny receives foreign correspondence.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
Lucky Virgo! This month is the time for some serious loving! Single Virgos can expect to get lucky around the 15th.

Those who are already in a relationship can expect a sweet surprise. Issues of health will become the main focus towards the end of the month when Pluto moves into Aquarius. If you have been putting off that visit to the doctor, then now is the time to make that appointment.

Destiny listens to an elder.

Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
Everyone loves a fresh start and what better time to begin one, than the New Year. It is an ideal time to start new projects as Mars, Venus and the recent Lunar Eclipse all shine brightly in Scorpio this month.

Anything started around the 15th has more than a better chance of succeeding, so take full advantage of this lucky time. Matters concerned with the heart also improve greatly. All round it is a profitable and successful few weeks.

Destiny is a forgotten photograph.

Sagittarius (Nov 23 - Dec 21)
Time to take stock. Last year wasn’t such a success all round. But what have you learned? Sagittarians are bursting with originality and 2001 has the potential to be something great.

It just depends on you. Take those hard learned lessons and use them to your advantage. You may be surprised. By the end of the month, you could be calling the shots.

Destiny is an expensive restaurant.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 20)
Relationships are the focus this month. The collision of Mars and Jupiter in your sixth house of communications means there are rough waters ahead.

If you are in a serious relationship, you may want to reconsider your long-term plans. A forgotten misde­meanor rears its ugly head and puts a spanner in the works. Strong-willed Capricorn has the resilience to overcome it. But can your partner?

Destiny is a typed invitation.

Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Lucky arrives in drils and dribbs this month. You will succeed in achieving a long held ambition around the 9th but a manipulative accomplice could claim credit elsewhere. Copyright anything written or produced between now and then, so as to guard against such a possibility. Your intuitive powers will heighten around the 23rd. Go with your instincts at this time, as it will pay off.

Destiny is a legal document.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Last year’s finances weren’t so hot. You constantly found yourself robbing Peter to pay Paul. Well, 2001 sees an end to your money problems, for this month anyway.

Cash flows in from all directions and a welcome bonus sees you living it up around the 17th.

But going on last year’s financial records, it is suggested you put some away for that rainy day. Bills have a tendency to crop up just when you have spent your last penny.

Destiny indicates a small windfall.
Casting Away (Opens January 12th)

Director Robert Zemeckis teams up with Tom Hanks for the first time since Forrest Gump six years ago. Forrest Gump, the simple story of a sweet moron who trundles through 20th-Century America and comes up sniffling, was showered with awards the world over, including Oscars for Best Picture and Best Actor.

As a lot of people liked it. A hell of a lot of people loaded it with an altruistic meaning that left their insides as bitter and twisted as a dried-up lichen in films like Magnolia and Born on the Fourth of July. 

You'd imagine that Mission to Mars was bad enough, and I thought so, until the front row drowned during the last minute in the introduction to the film, character Chuck Norland, a globe-trotting FedEx delivery man. A guy who thrives on punctuality and whose private and professional life is ruled by the clock, Chuck is on the verge of marrying long-term girlfriend Kelly (Helen Hunt).

But no sooner can he say: "I'll be right back," than the company jet plunges spectacularly into the Pacific ocean and the real story kicks in.

When most of your film concerns a single character living alone for four years, with no-one to talk to except himself, you'd better pray you get a good actor.

Hanks brings an astonishing sense of indefatigability that draws you deep into his lonely existence and may well have turned in a career-best performance.

The film works so well in capturing Norland's isolation (there is no musical score until the last act, only sound-effects) that when the time comes for him to return home, the audience is brought back to earth with a jolt.

There are precious few ways that Cast Away might have ended that would satisfy the average audience. And Zemeckis doesn't.

For the last twenty-five minutes you'll be tapping your fingers and checking your watch.

The film returns to civilization, but you're left wondering: Why bother?

If, like me, you take regular medication to ward off the adverse effects of overwrought sentimentalities, you should know that this film contains scenes of nautical, emotional yearning involving Helen Hunt.

Luckily, the worse you'll go away with is a light rash.

BEAUTIFUL CREATURES

(Cert 18, Released January 19th)

It's a sad thing, that every British film released since Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels must run the risk of being laughed off the stage, even if it is one of the following: Hard Ceezers, Guns, A Double (or even Triple) Cross, A Steapy Soundtrack and a Bloody Shoot-out at the End.

When in fact, Beautiful Creatures is - oh, wait a minute. My mistake. Beautiful Creatures contains all of the above.

"But sure that shouldn't count against it?" I hear you cry. And you'd be correct. Beautiful Creatures has two young women as protagonists, rather than the usual London East-End pretty-boys. Dorothy (Susan Lynch - Nora, Waking Ned) is in the process of fleeing from her abusive boyfriend when she intervenes in a violent dispute between Petula (Rachel Weisz - The Mummy, Stealing Beauty) and her boyfriend Brian - also a burly, violence-prone lout. Dorothy bushes the latter head in with a piece of café-folding and, as per the law of instant film-relationships, the two bond.

When it becomes apparent that Brian has shuffled off the mortal coil, the two girls become involved in increasingly desperate measures to avoid being caught. One unlikely lass is involved in severed fingers and a fake kidnapping. All of which brings the unwelcome attention of the feisty boyfriend's scary older brother and a corrupt policeman lasting after Petula.

I should point out that the film just brushes over it all. You have to imagine the claustrophobic atmosphere with a rhythmic intensity.

The two leads are superb, although it tends to dwell a little too often on the sad facade of Hearst's life, rather than expounding on Benet's equality secured past. For a crack lawyer, Hackman's character seems to fold a little too soon.

If a film could owe quality, Under Suspicion would be swimming in it.

Direction: Stephen Hopkins

** UNDER SUSPICION (Cert 16, Opens February)

Under Suspicion could have had two hours of Morgan Freeman and Gene Hackman just staring at each other and it still would have been compelling cinema.

With actors of this calibre, the script could be the most inane, derivative schlock churned out by the lowest of Hollywood hacks and would nonetheless be able to raise the hairs on the back of your neck.

The fact that Messrs Freeman and Hackman are credited as executive producers should be enough to put your mind at ease, though. Based on the French film Garde a Vue which in turn was based on English novel Brainwash, Under Suspicion takes place over the course of one intense night in Porto Rico. Prominent lawyer Henry Heurst (Gene Hackman) drops into the local police station to clarify a statement for Captain Victor Benetze (Morgan Freeman).

The previous day, Heurst had come across the body of a young girl - the second such victim inside of a month.

What starts out as a few routine questions turns into a long hours of questioning, as Heurst's story starts changing under pressure. His car was seen in the same area where the first victim was found.

His private life is in shambles and his much-younger wife doesn't seem interested in defending him. Benetze's private life is in no great shape either and Heurst raises the suspicion that his own reenactment may be the result of the other man trying to jockey a promotion.

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Become a Detective
For
DIT Independent
Give us a call if you have an interesting story or photograph
And Stay Clued Into College
DIT Independent
Ray Nangle is a busy man. As President of the DIT Karting Club, which won the DIT Club of the Year last April, the profile of the club, coupled with impressive financial backing makes 2001 another year to remember. "I don't think we're in the same category as any other club," said Ray Nangle.

Another notable success was the participation, in varying degrees, of all 685 members during the year. "A great club is a club that can win championships and facilitate its ordinary members throughout the year," said current Chairman Simon Clarke.

With over a thousand members this year, the club has seen almost 70% of the signatories participate in the various races that the club has run to date.

Over 100 members turned out for a great day's racing at this year's Sportday, which got the new season off to a great start.

Nangle has secured excellent funding, which has aided the club immeasurably and should see the club's All-Ireland Champion team to compete in the English Grand Prix at the famed Silverstone circuit in April, as well as an event in Wales.

"What this has allowed us to do is to maintain a balance between the ordinary driver and the elite group of drivers," he said. "We still have a decent balance and I'm very happy with that."

The success of the club over the last year has been exceptional by any stretch of the imagination. The DIT team won:

* The Munster Inter-varsities title.
* The Connacht Inter-varsities championship.
* The All Ireland Inter-varsities crown amongst stiff competition during the 1999/2000 season, and
* The DIT Club of the Year.

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**Into the West**

*DIT Mountaineering Club's Ruth Phillips reflects on a December outing to the Burren, which provided as much downing as it did climbing!*

It was late on Friday evening, December 1, as the trusty coach (pay careful attention to the state of coach – it was not to last) ambled out westwards into the setting sun. At least, I am sure it would have been a glorious sunset if it hadn’t been bucketing down in torrents.

At least the canoists were unaffected by the possibility of a very wet weekend.

Kevin Street Mountaineering Club was off down to the Burren for a weekend – and the Canoe Club was coming too just for the ride.

The Caving Club was represented by a jolly fellow called Malcolm, who was determined to coax people underground somehow. His job is by no means an easy one. “Hey why don’t we go caving this morning?” he announced.

“Hey get to crawl down this really cool dark passage on our knees and then turn around and crawl back again – and we might even have to do that thing where we put our heads right under the freezing water and squeeze through a really low tunnel.” You get the picture.

Mr Coach Driver was well in with us by now and joined us in getting basically hammered.

Meanwhile the climbers flexed their raging thirst.

For the next trip there will be no need for Mr Driver, as Brian of the canoe club spent most of the weekend teaching himself to drive the coach. He never did figure out the windscreen wipers.

On Saturday morning the weekend outside one of the trendy new bars only to have the primate of a bouncer (whose ear-piece gives him immediate superiority) telling you your shoes are wrong.

McDermots was packed and the crac was mighty (I know, I just had to put that phrase in!) Mr Coach Driver was well in with us by now and joined us in getting basically hammered.

For the next trip there will be no need for Mr Driver, as Brian of the canoe club spent most of the weekend teaching himself to drive the coach. He never did figure out the windscreen wipers.

Sunday was cold and windy and to the delight of all canoeists and surfers Lahinch was next on the agenda.

Our motley crew take a breather.

For climbing in Ireland because of the variety of routes ranging from easy to Grade E4 (or “What the Hell am I doing Up Here” level).

Doolin was packed and the crac was mighty (I know, I just had to put that phrase in!) Mr Coach Driver was well in with us by now and joined us in getting basically hammered.

Malcolm managed to coax three victims below ground to “Callan II. Meanwhile the climbers flexed cold muscles out on the crags.

Julie climbed up and Wil proceeded to show us the dangers of sharp rock edges by cutting through her rope in a matter of seconds.

This time we caught her – and thanks to such demonstrations there will be no next time. That evening it was back to Dublin in a coach that limped eastwards.

The rain lashed down and Mr Driver only laughed as he was forced to stop every few miles to wipe the windscreen.

Thanks to Brian’s enthusiastic self-driving lessons the wipers were broken. The toilet was also out of use due to its abuse on the journey down.

Now it’s back to climbing our indoor wall until after Christmas when we shall load the ice picks and crampons for a trip to Everest - or failing that, possibly County Wicklow. To the Sugar Loaf and beyond!
DIT Independent

six points to a quali­

Irish.

Belarussian, Moldovan, English and of course

so training sessions can sometimes be like

at the 1988 Summer games in Seoul.

DIT's Judo club is composed of 18 students at

we first began our lectures in September

the language barrier, we all get along fine.

OIT Judo Club Coach

doesn't hurt because we use a

if yourself.

using a sword to hit your

will do well with a little

is a pair of runners/ trainers

by the sports governing body,

fencing, they are minimal.

All the equipment is certified

and advanced fencers.

There are three weapons -

Epee is the next weapon

and advanced fencers.

There are three weapons -

Foil, Epee and Sabre. Foil is

use. It is the lightest to hold

and advanced fencers.

There are three weapons -

Epee is the next weapon

sword to tell you when you

and a pair of tracksuit bot­

is a pair of runners/ trainers

Epee is the next weapon

and give it a go. Its Fun!!!!

on a tour of the club's histo­

and offers a beginner's guide to

the sport

Richard Noonan of DIT Fencing

takes us on a tour of the club's histo­

ry and offers a beginner's guide to

the sport

By Alan Martin,
DIT Judo Club Coach

DIT's Judo club is composed of 18 students at

present, a number which has risen as high as

30 at times. We operate on a lecture basis and

we first began our lectures in September

1997.

The class is made up of more nationalities

than an average Premiership football team (1),

including French, German, Italian, Brazilian,

Hong Kong, Kuwait, Lithuanian, Belarusian, Moldovan, English and of course Irish.

Not all of our members can speak English,

so training sessions can sometimes be like

attending a UN delegates' conference. Despite

the language barrier, we all get along fine.

Judo is an Olympic sport and has been since

1964 Rome games when men competed in

the event. Women first competed for medals

at the 1988 Summer games in Seoul.

Despite not being a widely watched event in

this part of the world, judo is a professional

sport from which a lot of money can be

earned.

I am a full time coach and myself and three

judo coaches teach full time at more than 60

schools and colleges including areas such as

Dundalk, Belevedere, Blackrock, Swords

and, of course, here at DIT. In terms of the

whole DIT club set-up, we are one of the more

successful.

Since we began back in '97, we've gone

from strength to strength, starting with two in

the class and now composing 30 members, so

the interest is growing all the time.

Up to Christmas, we had won 14 medals in

the various events that we had competed in,

including the North West Open in Derry

where we won two gold and four bronze

medals. With several As part of my contract,

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A reluctant hero

Kevin Street caretaker Christy Doyle is man with a rich sporting past. Brian Healy spoke to the former Shelbourne striker about his career.

HE WAS Shelbourne's leading goal scorer for three seasons in a row; he won a FAI cup winner's medal, and gained two 'B' international caps. But to talk to DIT Kevin Street's caretaker, you would think it was all just a kick about in someone's back yard.

Being modest, Christy Doyle takes all the honours and records in his stride. He is proud of his achievements but doesn't feel the need to boast about them. He was only recently made aware of his goalscoring record. "I wasn't aware of that myself," said Christy. "I only saw that recently. I scored the odd goal but it wasn't much real-ly. Nowadays people look at statistics every week but back then you just got on with it."

Christy grew up in Ringsend in the thirties and he can trace his interest in football back to his maternal Uncle Jimmy Dunne, who played for Arsenal. But he didn't feel compelled to emulate his uncle exploits and in school he participated in soccer for the enjoyment of the sport. From this enthusiasm sprang a natural instinct on front of goal. It was when he moved to Donnybrook that one of the biggest clubs in Ireland took note of his tal-ent. "There was a team start-ing up in Donnybrook (that played in the Wicklow league. I played for them for a year or so and eventually I was invited down to Shelbourne."

Shelbourne's top scorer

Christy was 21 when he made his debut for the Tolka Park based club. He played for Shels from 1957 to 1961 and in that short time he made a great impression. In 60 league games he scored 36 goals, and three in 11 FAI Cup matches. He played as an inside forward; a position he admits that doesn't really exist in the modern game. "When I was playing everyone talked about inside forward, left half and right half. Nowadays it's all midfielders and strikers." The terminology may change but the skill required to score a goal doesn't.

One goal that stands out in particular for him is the winning goal he scored against old rivals Shamrock Rovers in the 1960 FAI Cup. It was in the earlier rounds of the cup but Christy feels that giant killing gave the team the impetus to go on and win the trophy at Dalymount Park. But Christy's success was not confined to the domestic league. His prolific goal tally earned him two 'B' international caps against Iceland in Reykjavik and Czechoslovakia at Dalymount Park.

However, Christy is keen enough to put his call up into perspective. "Nowadays in a 'B' international the Irish players who play abroad are picked but back then it was more like an inter league panel and it was the local lads who were selected." He is proud to have represented his country and has fond memo-ries of the trip to Reykjavik where he played against a number of local teams and had the opportunity to see the city.

Career cut short

Unfortunately for Christy his career was cut short at his prime at the age of 25, due to a number of bad injuries. "I had a cartilage operation done. It took me about a year to get over that and the other one started to give me trouble. So I lost a bit of enthusi­asm for the game." He was working as a television aerial fitter throughout his playing days and was not willing to jeopardise his ability to work for the sake of a few more years of football. "I said to myself: If I keep playing, who knows, by 30 I mightn't be able to work anymore."

But Christy is not bitter. He was privileged enough to have played for one of the country's top clubs at a time when the FAI league was at the height of its popularity, and tournaments like the FAI cup were able to capture the imaginations of football fans nation-wide. "There was a terrific atmosphere", he recalls. "There was no cover-age of matches on television and if there was you'd be looking at snowy pictures, so obviously we had huge atten-dances week in week out. That just doesn't happen these days."

Despite the diminishing popularity of domestic foot­ball Christy still keeps a keen eye on his former club, who are currently sitting at the top of the Premier league. He believes that the standard of the football today is very high and is glad to see many of his former team mates still main­taining an active role in the league.

As for Christy, he's busy working as a caretaker at Kevin Street and claims that he doesn't miss the football that much and was just glad to have played alongside so many good players. When asked to name some of his favourites the names just roll of the tongue: Liam Touhy, Paddy Ambrose, Ronnie Nolan, Brendan O'Brien..... No doubt if those former stars were asked to name their favourite play­ers, Christy Doyle would fig­ure high on their list.
Planet Murphy & The Palace Nightclub, Camden St. Open 7 nights 'til late. Come early.