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Karting Club finances under audit

By Jennifer Duggan

In what is believed to be an unprecedented move, the Sports Committee of DIT has frozen the funds of DIT Karting club, one of the biggest clubs in the Institute.

The club's accounts have also been sent to an auditor at the time of going to press, having not yet been returned to the Sports Committee.

Karting Club Chairperson and DITU Overall Presidential candidate Ray Nangle has dismissed the rumours circulating the college recently regarding any financial wrongdoings or irregularities within the club.

"I know our accounts are clean and there is nothing wrong with them," he said. However in a recent statement, the Committee said "Ray Nangle and the Karting Club have broken rules and regulations set out by the DIT Sporting Committee.

Due to this fact the Karting Club monies have been frozen while their accounts are under investigation." When questioned about the circumstances surrounding the freezing of their accounts, Nangle stressed that the accounts have not been audited due to any wrong doing but that it is because of the amount of money they have raised through sponsorship.

"The Sports Committee wanted to see where we got sponsorship money and how we spent it. We didn't have our receipts in account form as we didn't think we needed to so the Sports Committee decided to send the accounts to an auditor to ensure that if there are any questions regarding the accounts, that there is accountability," Declan Glynn, chairperson of the Sports Committee said.

The audit was "a private matter between the sport club and the Sports Committee. We reckon they need some professional help and assistance as they have grown so much but there is nothing to be read into this."
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DITSU Council Briefs

Constitutional Review Group selected

DITSU has selected its provisional membership for its Constitutional Review Group, subject to confirmation by those selected.

Three members of the DITSU Executive, namely Cathy Power, Mark O'Flynn, and Michael Fitzpatrick, were chosen to sit on the provisional group along with Dermot Quinn, Ross O'Dwyer, and Cathal Clancy, who have yet to be confirmed.

The findings of the group will be presented to the new Executive upon their election. The terms of reference of the Group will be established within the next two weeks.

Resignation letter not yet received

DITSU Council members were informed that Overall President Vinny Dooley has yet to submit his letter of resignation to the Executive. Some members spoke of their disappointment at Dooley's failure to submit the letter in the time between the past two DITSU Council meetings, when Dooley had raised the issue of his resignation. It was also said that it signalled he was to resign from the Overall position. "We have yet to receive any reasonable explanation," said Vinny and we apologise to the students,"according to DIT's Catherin Brugha Street President Cathy Power.

Seachtain na Gaeilge plans scaled down

This year's planned Seachtain na Gaeilge in DIT will be scaled down to a 'L Gaeilge' after a vote taken by DITSU Council at Cathal Brugha Street. President Margaret Fitzpatrick explained: "It never came into being as it was dashed with drama week and arts and crafts week. But we hope that it will be a big part of DIT'S activities next year. The best approach to it is to have a day called 'L Gat leach' and have a huge Irish Ball at the Temple Theatre," though this has yet to be confirmed. "The whole idea has been this is ambitious and buried at all. We would still like to see it go ahead in some form.

Rag Week total not yet established

DITSU Councillors were informed by the Executive at March's meeting that no final figure has yet been established by DITSU following cancellation efforts during Rag Week. CUS President Cathy Power later said that a number of bills had yet to be paid following the cancellation of various activities, but the believed that the total was approximately £4,000, subject to final confirmation. However, it was confirmed that they had yet to be collected, she added, to a final figure could not yet be announced.

The meeting of DIT Council has been provisionally scheduled for April 3 at Aungier Street.

President's Award for Kevin Street student

By Dermot Keyes

DIT Kevin Street student Rosita Kelly was recently awarded the Gaisce Award, which was celebrated with a cheese and wine reception at the Kevin Street campus on Friday February 23rd last. The award was presented to Ms Kelly by President Mary McAleese at a ceremony held at Aras an Uachtarain.

A fourth year optometry student, Rosita has been working for the past three years to attain the Gold Medal award, which was a continuation of her Gaisce work in Loreto College, Mullingar, where she had completed both her bronze and silver medal awards.

The Gold Medal was the result of her efforts in several different extra-curricular activities in DIT since she began studies in September 1998.

In her first year, Rosita participated in the Links Programming Project, which was known as the 'Home Work Club'. Each week she acted as a French tutor to a second level student from Warrenpoint Secondary School. The following year she became the President of the Gaisce Society in DIT Kevin St. Rosita was responsible for the organisation and publicising of meetings as well as actively encouraging all bronze and silver medal candidates to attend.

The main achievement of her tenure was her writing a Gaisce Constitution for the Gaisce Society in DIT.

Rosita joined the DIT Choral Society and also undertook the practice and many public performances over two years, singing in venues such as Christchurch Cathedral and the National Concert Hall, an experience that she described as "invaluable."

As her Venture project, Rosita undertook the European Special Olympic Games, for which she organised a number of her classmates to participate in an Eye Testing Programme which was held during the Games in the Netherlands last May.

With sponsorship obtained from local businesses and with DIT covering the cost of the flights, she acted as the link person in the travel party between the group and the businesses involved.

The Visual Screening Programme for the Games was called 'Rosita's Eyes' catered for athletes with learning disabilities.

The games were provided with goggles and spectacles, which helped them to participate in their chosen sports.

All the Kevin St students also greatly enjoyed the experience and Rosita had the particular distinction of presenting a medal to one of the competitors, which was a privilege she will never forget. As a member of the DIT Canoe Club in First and Second Year (when did she)

This primary goal is to put a new emphasis on the agenda of employers.

"As a direct response to the growing trend towards holistic health within the leisure industry and the leisure time available for employee and employee, Cathal Brugha Street Students' Union President Cathy Power was delighted with the group's success.

"A big congratulations to all involved," she told the DIT Independent.

Iturism Survey: still friendly

The Dublin Area Office, off the challenges of if travel on the Union President Eamonn Dolan, but plans and USI's Southern is report, along Richard Hammond to surveys and from councillors.coming.

As for DIT, William's positive with the build a strong relationship rating of third level institutes as respondents to the Government by John as a highly tell per cent felt the report of DITs independent.

DIT Rock Society's battle of the bands gets underway

The DIT Rock Society's Battle of the Bands will be fought out over three nights in Eamonn Doran's in Temple Bar in the forthcoming weeks.

Two heats will take place on March 12 and March 17, with the final being held on March 27.

With tickets priced at £2.50 per night or £4 for the three nights, it looks like being a value for money trio of evenings as the Institute's finest bands pit their wits against each other.

Four to six contestants will be chosen from the heats to compete in the final.

The final number of finalists has yet to be confirmed.

First prize is a day's rehearsal in a state-of-the-art studio and a half-day mixing a hard copy CD of as many songs as the winners will like.

The runners up will win a half-day's rehearsal and a half-day mixing in a state-of-the-art studio.

For tickets and further details on the Battle of the Bands, contact Leonora Colucci of DIT Rock Society at 087 9400652 or email leoncciie@maths.dit.ie.

The report was assembled by the Faculty of Tourism and Food at DIT Dublin's economy, it is vital that visitor attitude and characteristics are evaluated on an annual basis in order to facilitate planning for future city management and development.

The report's authors, Dr. Sheila Flanagan and Germain Danke acknowledged the assistance of their colleagues in the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism. Industry partners Dublin Tourism and a number of Visitor attractions in the city were also praised for their assistance in the project, including the Guinness Hopstore and the Dublin Tourism Information Centre.

The second year B.Sc. Tourism Marketing students were also thanked for their role in the compilation of the report.
NEW Fine Gael leader Michael Noonan has pledged to visit all third level institutes as part of his new tenure of the party. Among his pledges made during the leadership election campaign included a new drive to make students more politically aware and illustrate the importance of their vote.

A few short weeks into his leadership and with the Foot and Mouth crisis currently topping the agenda in Leinster House, it is not clear when Deputy Noonan will honour his promise to visit all the major third level institutions. "He has a lot on at the moment," said a Fine Gael spokesperson. "He is arranging a lot of meetings with a lot of organisations at the moment."

With the Opposition parties pledged to supporting the USI's stance on the grant issue, DIT's mandated candidate for the overall Presidency of the Union will continue to lobby their cause during the next academic year, which looks set to coincide with the general election campaign.

"This is an exciting time to be involved in USI in the run up to the general election," said O'Lionnain. "All opposition parties are supporting USI and I'm anxious to see our role in social partnership increased."

"We need to run massive voter registration campaigns and tell students that your vote is your voice and to use your voice," said O'Lionnain. "We have serious commitments from the Opposition parties and what we have to do is hurt politicians. What hurts them is the ballot box."

The forthcoming USI Congress is certain to see the three candidates re-iterate the need to see the third level electorate act through their voting franchise during the next general election, which seems certain to take place in the next 12 to 15 months.

Dr. Ellen Hazelkorn applauded the efforts of the staff and students of the Certificate in Design (Display) course in the School of Art, Design and Printing following their winning of the International Display Week Design Competition in London recently.

"This was a major coup for all involved and they are to be congratulated for their efforts in scooping such a major price," said Hazelkorn. The staff and students who travelled to London were: Rebecca Higgins, Caroline Hayes, Rowena Doyle, Philip Knott (Course Coordinator), Anne Buckley (Lecturer in Display) and Philip Doyle.

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CBS quartet win enterprise competition

By Dermot Keyes

THE Bolton Trust competition, a monthly enterprise venture held within DIT, has been won by a group of four students from the Leisure Management Course in Cathal Brugha Street.

With an entry titled ‘PHEW (Promoting Healthy Employees’ Welfare)’, the team of Liz Hogan (Marketing Manager), Lisa Keyes (Finance Manager), Lisa Muldowney (Operational Manager) and Orla Waters (Sales Manager) won the £1,000 first prize.

Their effort was praised through their website (www.universityarena.co.uk) and their project “is putting employee wellness on the agenda of employers.”

The site claims to offer employers and employees “to learn about employee wellness, time management and to undertake voluntary changes in their daily lifestyle.”

A number of modules dealing with health decisions, taking part in fitness classes and massage and stretching workshops form the main section of the programme.

The main goal is to put “employee wellness on the agenda of employers.”

“As a direct response to the growing trend towards holistic health within the leisure industry and the loss of time leisure available for employers, PHEW has been developed. Our main aim is to employ more people in the area of employee wellness,” said the team.

The group is clearly on the pulse of modern Irish life, with pressure and commitment stacked on the shoulders of those involved and the group’s success.

“Big congratulations to all involved,” she told the DIT Independent.

DIT tourism survey: Irish still friendly

VIRTUALLY all visitors to Dublin think that Irish people are as welcome and friendly as ever according to a recent report by DIT’s Faculty of Tourism and Food.

The report, which was assembled by the Bolton Trust, states that 94.8 per cent feel “that the people of Dublin are friendly and hospitable.” Some 85 per cent of surveyed visitors thought Dublin was a safe city “and a similar proportion feel it is an easy city to get around,” according to the recently published report.

This was the first-ever formal report on the attitudes of tourists visiting Dublin, but plans are now underway to make this report, along with similar tourist attitude surveys and programmes, an annual undertaking.

The report shows that visitor attitudes towards Dublin are mostly positive with the city receiving an average overall rating of eight out of ten. Nine out of ten respondents said that they would visit Dublin again in the future. Most tourists saw Dublin as a highly cultural destination, and over 85 per cent felt that Dublin was a safe city, the report revealed.

Based on over 1000 visitors surveyed throughout Dublin over a 12-month period, the report highlighted a number of areas of concern for the city’s tourist sector. Almost a quarter of the survey respondents expressed the view that Dublin is a dirty city. One in three stated that it is expensive and one in five felt that Dublin was too crowded.

Speaking at the launch of the report, DIT President Dr Brendan Goldsmith, said that the report is the first of its kind, “which will provide concrete and solid information on how we can move forward and build and refine the tourism industry.”

Referring to the value of the report to the city, Dr. Goldsmith added: “Given the importance of tourism to Dublin’s economy, it is vital that visitor attitude and characteristics are evaluated on an annual basis in order to facilitate planning for future city management and development.”

The report’s authors, Dr Sheila Finanlan and Gerard Dunne acknowledged the assistance of their colleagues in the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism. Industry partners Dublin Tourism and a number of visitor attractions in the city were also praised for their assistance in the project, including the Guinness Hopstore and the Dublin Tourism Information Centre.

The second year BSc, Tourism Marketing students were also thanked for their role in the compilation of the report.

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For tickets and further details on the Battle of the Bands, contact Leonora Colace of DIT Rock Society on 087 9406552 or email kcolum@meath.dit.ie.
Anonymous exam marking: a better approach?

ONLY three colleges in the Republic of Ireland use anonymous marking to rule out the possibility of bias against students. Trinity College and UCD are in various stages of its implementation and DIT are looking into the system.

This year TCD will see anonymous marking extend to include the three junior undergraduate years, before reaching all departments next year. Its implementation came in response to the student charter, stating that students have the right to be informed if they know them.

UCD's Pilot Study stated from the examiners' point of view that anonymous marking was feasible. Some 33% of staff surveyed felt that it should be introduced "as soon as it can be" with 38% holding the same view but feeling that introduction was "not urgent." The remaining 29% had no strong opinions either way; and no staff members were against its introduction. One of the merits of the system is that it avoids victimisation of individual students, and also other more subtle bias, including gender and racial bias, which might creep in, said Frank Bannister with the Department of Statistics and Chairperson of TCD's working group on anonymous marking.

The primary argument against anonymous marking is that it can lead to students getting lower marks, because lecturers tend to give a student the benefit of the doubt if they know them.

The examiner tends to be more detached, so students tend to get slightly lower marks," added Bannister. "If an examiner is marking the script of a student they know and believe is good but having an off day, they're really agonising over what's going on and thinking about the person concerned." This scenario is ruled out by anonymous marking. So just how difficult would it be for a lecturer to get a student's corresponding examination number?

Leaving aside the policy that a student being very ill during the year, their examination number is only disclosed to the exam board meeting, when the results are being logged into the examination broadsheet, to facilitate borderline students," said Mr. Bannister. DIT Academic Affairs' Tom Duff supports this view, pointing out that only people in the examination office have access to these and they would not disclose them under any circumstances. Assuming that a lecturer wanted to discriminate against a student, the simplest way is to keep samples of the student's handwriting beside the scripts being marked. So the only way to guarantee complete anonymity is to get students to type exams on PCs.

Students with personal problems will be unable to informally raise the issue with a lecturer they are friendly with, who could alert the committee to the importance of a borderline case being passed, on account of the pressure of personal problems.

To this end, Mr. Duff believes the guarantee of total anonymity and equality should take precedence over such cases. Then at the very end stage, when all the names are on the broadsheet, certain candidate's extenuating circumstances may be dealt with.DIT is moving toward a more formal approach to students informing the department if they have extenuating circumstances. "If students have a personal problem and want it taken into account, they can request that the issue not be discussed with the entire examination board, and the chairman will deal with the sensitive issue accordingly," said Mr. Duff.

TCD's Mr. Bannister explained that his College's policy differs and in such circumstances a student should write to defer taking the exams. Once anonymous marking is implemented, there is no way the lecturers could make allowances for a student being very ill during the year, or if their parents had died before the exam," he pointed out.

TCD is in the process of overcoming a number of issues with implementing the system. A great deal of course work in Trinity is continuous assessment, such as group work, oral and presentations. In various language courses, there may only be three of four students in the class, so the lecturer knows the identity of the student from handwriting and literary style.

Merging continuous assessment and anonymous exams is likely to prove challenging for colleges, especially in the large departments where students are studying various aspects of two courses, in combinations of their choice. Anonymous marking only really impacts on class sizes between 20 and 50. In larger classes, although the lecturer may know the student by name, they usually cannot identify their writing. Human error is difficult to prevent with this system. "It's easy to cut and paste into the exam and get the wrong columns, and getting the wrong set of marks. Making sure the marks are anonymous is not that difficult to achieve - but making sure that an examiner doesn't make a mistake is extremely difficult to achieve," TCD's Mr. Bannister explained. For that reason, anonymous marking requires stringent re-checking procedures.

For several years now, DIT have been using anonymous marking. One of the main selling points of the system, as seen by Mr. Duff, is that it is "easy to achieve the privacy of the student. When exams are posted on the notice board, the examiner number is given as opposed to their name." A student's name is only disclosed to the exam board meeting, when the results are being logged into the examination broadsheet, to facilitate borderline students," said Mr. Duff. DIT reviewed its exam regulations almost on an annual basis, to ensure that they are as effective as possible. They are currently looking into implementing a protective strip system - where a student writes his or her name on the exam paper, which cannot be opened until the end of the markings.

Figures from a forthcoming Higher Education Authority report show that female students are far less likely than their male classmates to achieve first class honours degrees. Despite outnumbering men by a ratio of three is to two in one university, women account for just a third of the top degrees awarded by that institution. Gender discrimination should be ruled out at all costs, UISF's, Women's Rights Officer, Andrea Leabhy insists, and has called for further research in the area. With the increasing threat of litigation, speakers in DIT and Trinity College believe all colleges will eventually introduce anonymous marking, given the success that the system has enjoyed to date.
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UCD Engineering racing car win

A team of UCD mechanical engineering students who have designed a racing car from scratch will enter the Formula Student competition in July.

This will be the first time that an Irish engineering school participates in the competition.

A team of 24 is working around the clock to make the single seater racing car a reality, ahead of the competition in Birmingham. Macks will be awarded for a presentation on the car given by one of the students, and four students will be chosen to drive the car during tests.

The UCD team is currently finalising the Computer Aided Design (CAD) construction commences. Regulations limit the size of the car engine to 610cc and testing events are designed to assess the performance of the car under several areas such as acceleration and endurance.

With the power output limited to 75 bhp, the design brief is for a lightweight chassis, to achieve a high power-to-weight ratio which should result in a machine with superb acceleration.

The competition provides a fertile breeding ground for Formula One designers and engineers, according Irish Formula One team owner Eddie Jordan who is sponsoring the team.

Eddie Jordan who is sponsoring the team, "Our key objective in sponsoring the team is to assess the best students and recruit them for the future," he explained.

UCD's "omnibus" entry to engineering is being scrapped this year, with students specifying their degree programme preference in their initial CAO application.

The move hopes to address the common problem of students not getting their first option when they broke up into second year, on account of quotas on each course.

This amounted to about one in five students. UCD's Head of Mechanical Engineering, Jerry Burns told campus.ie.

The six degree courses include agricultural and food engineering, chemical engineering; civil engineering; electronic or electrical engineering; mechanical engineering; or civil engineering and mechanical engineering.

However students will still be taking a common first year, but they will be identified as a part of their selected department from the beginning.

Prof Burns maintains that the benefit of students getting the discipline they want outweighs the disadvantage of choosing the discipline on limited knowledge.

"We're trying to give Leaving Certificate students as much information about the courses as possible," he said.

Students wishing to transfer between disciplines will be facilitated by the faculty once they have the original entry requirements such as that for mathematics.

In addition, Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering will offer a common entry course from which students will make a free choice to enter second year Civil Engineering or second year Mechanical Engineering.

In the case of Electronic and Electrical Engineering the first three years are common with free choice in fourth year to either Electronic Engineering or Electrical Engineering.

Prof Burns believes the new changes will reduce drop out rates from the course.

"We feel that people coming into the course will know what they want to do, and so will be more committed - although engineering faculty is know for its exceptionally low dropout rate."

The entry system will probably change in the mix of students, resulting in a much more focused and demanding student body, he maintains.

Students will no longer have to worry which course to choose to enter second year.

This has now been dropped to a free choice at regular intervals (approximately two years) and is now based on the exception of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering.

Prof Bums believes the new programmes in UCD to a wide range of engineering degree subjects.

Typically the cost of eye tests range from €14-€20. Students are now more likely to require frequent eye testing.

USI will be calling for the availability of free eye tests in colleges, as part of their broader health care plan for students, when they meet with the Minister for Health, Michael Martin, later this year.

The most common complaints include eyestrain, tired eyes, dry or irritated eyes, a burning sensation, redness or blurred vision.

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The complete quota for student visas to the States this summer has been issued. For those of you who have decided to explore the West Coast and are thinking of spending the last few days relaxing before your stay has expired, Burning Man Festival is a must.

This year will be the fifteenth year of this cultural survival event. It originated at Baker Beach in San Francisco when Larry Harvey and a friend Jerry James burnt the first man. From a small gathering at a local beach it has proliferated into a festival of 28,000 participants, taking place in Black Rock Desert, Nevada State.

Last year, while living in San Francisco a friend suggested going to the Burning Man Festival during Labour weekend.

The prospect of paying $200 each to spend 5 days in a tent in the middle of the desert did not appear appealing, in fact the word lunacy came to mind. I began asking friends who had visited the festival on previous years about the event. Their responses were all positive but uninformative and vague. ‘Amazing’, ‘Out of this world’, ‘Bring oranges they make the best smoothies’, ‘Best party ever’ were a few of the comments I encountered.

Intrigued by such enthusiastic yet non-descriptive feedback, I decided to surf the ever-useful internet to try and discover what this festival actually involved.

The official Burning Man website described the festival as “an annual experiment in temporary community dedicated to radical self-expression and radical self-reliance”.

Included on the website were practical guidelines, an in-depth survival guide which warned about the dangers of dehydration, recommending a daily quota of two gallons of water.

It emphasised that it was a survival adventure, mentioning how you could be exposed to severe heat.

Due to all of the positive responses we had heard about Burning Man, we decided to go. We drove through the state of Nevada down a two-lane highway unsure and mystified by what lay ahead.

We were excited about seeing the desert as we turned into the last stop off from civilisation, a basic mini market in Black Rock City which has a population of fifty people.

Ironically named ‘The Road To Nowhere’ there were people cluttered around the small store in highly decorative costumes, others half-naked and some dressed conservatively. Inside, we bought necessities need for the next five days. Each road referred to a different part of the body which we discovered was the prevailing theme of the festival. The world’s first giant laser pictogram greeted us as did numerous people waving and some presenting gifts.

We had arrived into a surreal community, a magical place, the biggest fun fair you can imagine, alongside a constant contrasting battle of hot and cold weather.

The days frequently reached a temperature of 105 degrees which were often followed by evenings of endless rain and wind, sand embedding everywhere. It was an introduction to new kinds of performing arts, poetry, sculpture, a rich variety of theme camps and all sorts of music.

The Burning Man Festival is an event that has ‘no commercial vending’, a place ‘of sharing and exchange with a gift economy’. It is an experience which can be compared with no other.

It is an experience of living in an almost idyllic community of imagination, survival and ultimate fun. People of all ages and all walks of life take part in the event.

The festival begins August 27th and the official ending is December 3rd. Many choose to stay longer and help the volunteers clean up.

This year’s theme of the festival The Seven Ages and takes the shape of an enormous board game.

Tickets have been on sale since December 20th.

For more information, visit www.burningman.com, the official website.

Don’t forget to bring oranges, they are a very popular gift!
Karting club claim All-Ireland crown

By Brian Healy

The All Ireland Intervarsities Karting Championships took place at the Pall as Karting track in Tynagh, County Galway on February 23rd, and once again it was DIT that emerged as champions for the third successive year.

It was Mark McIntyre who clinched the title for DIT, finishing first place in the final and therefore defeating nearest rivals Waterford IT by 317 points to 307.

But unlike the two previous years, when DIT recorded relatively easy victories, this year's competition was closely contested, with both WIT and CIT boasting impressive, competitive outfits. UCD, Sligo IT and FJS were also a lot stronger then previous years. The All-Ireland Final consisted of 20 teams, with a driver from each team driving two heats, which were followed by 10 semi-finals and a grand final featuring a driver from each team. Points were awarded throughout with heat positions determining driver positions in the semi-finals.

Sixty drivers from the various colleges around the country made the trip to Galway to race against the defending champions, but their best efforts were not enough to dislodge DIT from the top spot on the podium. Each of the competing colleges entered with the choice of sending either one team of five or two teams to the event. DIT gained the honour of sending the first ladies team to compete in the championship. With some superb driving from Denise in particular and the consistency of Lisa Dunne, the female team finished ahead of the male UCD team and fully justified their inclusion.

This year's championship was filled with drama. During the first set of heats, the biggest crash of the meeting took place. While not quite the ferocity of Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve's recent shunts in Australia, Karl Lewis experienced a nonetheless heart-stopping incident when in fourth position. On the second corner of the circuit, two drivers ahead of Lewis collided. Breaking hard, Karl spun and hit the back of the cars ahead of him, throwing both driver and kart into the air before landing awkwardly on his side and head. In a sporting gesture, DIT Karting leader, Ray Nangle, who was in a great position to win the race, retired to ensure Lewis was not badly hurt. Two other drivers were not as compassionate and passed Ray on his way back. However, he did manage to pass one of them to finish in second place. Thankfully, Lewis emerged with little more than bruising on his arm and a sore head. Despite this, he was back in a replacement kart for the next heat.

The semi-finals were equally dramatic. Waterford IT's Bob Riley crashed on the final corner in the last lap to see victory dashed from his grasp, allowing DIT's Ross Clarke to claim the full compliment of points. This was a major blow to Waterford's efforts, who had been neck and neck with DIT throughout the competition. This incident would prove a major factor in DIT's ultimately regaining the crown. Drivers were pushed to the limit in the semi-final with the winner of each heat qualifying to the final.

The final saw CIT's Robert Lewis holding pole position, with DIT's Mark McIntyre lined up alongside. And it was McIntyre who emerged victorious, with fellow DIT driver Simon Clarke in second place and WIT's Ian O'Brien finishing in third. McIntyre's win clinched the overall title for DIT Karting Club, defeating WIT by 317 points to 307. IT Sligo finished third with a respectable 302 points. The night was spent in joyous revelry in Galway as three hundred free pints from Heineken were duly downed by the DIT drivers.

The full DIT team were: Mark McIntyre, John Hanrahan, Ken Gallagher, Karl Bonar, Ross Clarke, John Reilly, Ray Nangle, Simon Clarke, Noel Renihan and Pissy Goggins.

The Ladies team consisted of Kate McNamara, Denise Drennan, Lisa Dunne, Lisa Holten and Amy Williams.

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Marguerite Fitzpatrick

Marguerite is currently Site President of DIT Bolton Street. She has been involved with the students union for the past five years being a member of various committees and a DITSU council. Through her experience, Marguerite believes she has “gained valuable experience in the mechanics of how the union is actually run”.

If she is elected as overall president, Marguerite intends “to bring the newly elected DITSU executive together as a cohesive unit, forming a strong, focused, enthusiastic team”.

She has a number of aims and policies to implement if elected among these are to “bring a much needed sense of Professionalism and Relevance to the work of DITSU and to improve its communication both internally and externally.”

She intends to start from basics to improve the Union. This includes improved Internet access for all Union officers. She also intends there to be “hard working and efficient Union Officers who have undergone comprehensive and relevant training during the summer months including a module on Basic Office Management.”

“If elected, I intend to improve the professionalism of the Union’s entertainments by introducing a full-time Entertainment’s Manager to the staff of the company.” She believes that such an appointment is important that our part time officers have proper access to an entertainment’s Manager to the staff of the company.”

Dermot Keyes and Jennifer Duggan spoke to the three aspirants to DITSU’s highest office in the run up to the elections, which take place on March 14

Ray Nangle

As head of the DIT Karting Club, Ray Nangle has certainly been one of the more high profile students attending DIT Angier Street during the past two years. His reasons for standing for DITSU’s top position was a logical one, he told the DIT Independent.

“After two years of involvement with clubs and societies and having seen some things right and some things wrong, there are a number of policies I would like to implement should I be elected, I’d like to get the facilities issue sorted out for all DIT students, to establish extensive channels of communication at all levels throughout DIT and to see the Grangegorman issue finally sorted out.”

Nangle believes that his experience with the Karting club in relation to leadership, negotiation skills and dealing with businesses would make him a good choice for election come March 14.

“To organise a team effectively; that’s what I’m good at. I had a year’s sabbatical with Coca Cola and was put in charge of a team of 17. I love business, I love organisation and running in all the colleges and ensure wide spread publicity campaigns.”

Speaking about her campaign Cathy said: “Having been a member of Governing Body this year, I have already laid positive relations with the superior figures within DIT and Dublin City Council.”

Cathy Power currently holds the position of Site President in Cathal Brugha Street. She has four years experience with the Students Union and has believes she has “a long proven track record as a member of the Union.” In 1998/99 she held the position of Equality Officer and the following year she was the CBS Welfare Officer/Deputy President.

Cathy’s main aim for her presidency, if elected is “to make sure that all the students of DIT achieve the very best out of the union.”

Among the issues Cathy will be focusing on are facilities, quality assurance, welfare and education campaigns and part time officer training. She will be looking for answers about the Grangegorman site as two years after the students were told that it would be going ahead nothing yet has been done. Cathy believes “that it is time to get the power of the students back on board and finally get some answers.”

Cathy also wants to examine the Student Quality Assessment of lecturers scheme. An agreement was met whereby assessment forms would be given out to students but as of yet this has not happened. Power told the DIT Independent that “it’s time to get course committees up and running in all the colleges and ensure wide spread student representation.”

Welfare and education campaigns are also an integral part of her manifesto.

“The welfare campaigns are always run very well,” but she believes that “a lot more effort needs to be put into running education campaigns.”

She also sees part time officer training as being a very important issue and one which she would address if she were to be elected.

“It is important that our part time officers have proper training to ensure that they can carry out their jobs to the best of their ability.”

Cathy intends to look after the needs of all DIT students including part time and international students who are often left out of Student Union activities.
DITSU Elections 2001

Election candidates on campaign footing

It's that time of year again, as DIT students get ready to vote for the DITSU that will serve them during 2001/2002. Jennifer Duggan and Dermot Keyes got the lowdown from those who hope to come up trumps come election day.

Aungier Street

Karl Bonar - running for President in Aungier Street

"I want to get a clubs and societies room and two Internet access computers in the Students Union. We've got to make the Union more accessible and more useful to students in Aungier Street. I'd like to put an interactivity event in place for next year; maybe run a Wednesday night in a small pub and then every second week run an interactivity night with UCD and DCU. This would be something I would be confident of seeing put in place next year. Nights out should be more enjoyable and more fun. I'll make a big push for more people to get the grant."

Aungier Street Deputy President/Welfare

Karl Bonar is the only candidate for the top job in Aungier Street, with Noel Renehan the sole nominee for the Deputy President's position, so barring a strange occurrence come election day, it would appear that Peter Durning and Simon Clarke's replacements will be chosen without too much drama.

Cathal Brugha St

John McKenna - running for President in Cathal Brugha Street

"I see a great need for improvements to facilities for Cathal Brugha Street and for Sackville Place and Denmark Street, which have been neglected in this regard for far too long. Part-time students seem to get a raw deal so I would like to get them more involved in the union next year. There are a couple of issues about the canteen that I'd like to see redressed. I'd like to get DIT to serve full breakfasts in the morning and to increase the vegetarian options for meals. We need an upgrading of the facilities in the common room and I'd like to get couches in the pool room."

Cathal Brugha Street Deputy President/Welfare

McKenna is unopposed in his bid to become President; as is the nominee for the number two position in DITSU CBS. The elections of both McKenna and Jennifer O'Connor should not be too problematic come polling day.

Bolton Street

John Hanrahan - running for President in Bolton Street

"Securing accommodation for Bolton Street students would be one of my major goals and to get that accommodation in Grangegorman is one of my top priorities. The need for our own sports fields on the site is a must. I for one am sick and tired of seeing students having to travel to pitches in Terenure and other parts of the city."

"If we could just get three or four acres out of the 65 available in Grangegorman that could be used for the students in time for the start of the next college year is very important. The cleanliness of the toilets in the college needs to be looked at."

"We need to improve the image of the Students' Union also needs to be examined. At Bolton Street, the Students' Union has become a bit of a no-go area for some students. A friendly and more approachable atmosphere must be emphasised. I like the Union myself and I'd like to improve and enhance the profiles of welfare, clubs and societies and entertainment. I myself know the importance of student welfare as I availed of it myself this year and I want the area of student welfare to be looked into."

Bolton Street Deputy President/Welfare

The race for the Deputy Presidency will also be fought out between two candidates, namely Paddy McElligott and Donna Mulligan, so the battle in Bolton Street should make the count a little more interesting here than it will be when the Aungier Street ballots are counted.
Campaigns swing into action

Kevin Street

Keith Magee - running for President in Kevin St

"I am running for the position of President in Kevin Street because I see it as a great challenge and because I believe I have a lot to offer. Among my main policies should be being more approachable and I want to change this through making changes to the class rep system. If I become President, I would hold regular meetings with the class reps so that students could be up front with problems they were having.

I would also like to see improvements in the area of sport, I believe that despite Kevin Street having some of the best sporting facilities within DIT, there are some changes I would like to implement, which would make these better.

I also believe that there should be proper structures in place for clubs and societies and that they should all have a committee and a pro which would advertise their club or society properly. Regarding entertainment, if I become President there would be an overhaul in this area as there is not being done at the moment."

Kevin Street Deputy President/Welfare

Lyndsey Jones finds herself involved in a race to the number two post in DITSU Kevin Street that involves only herself. Again, she is virtually assured to be elected should her campaigning prove successful with potential voters.

Des Alvey - running for President in Kevin St

"I've been involved in the union for three years and I am for Deputy President and Welfare last year and I have been ents officer this year. My three years experience in the Students Union would prove valuable for me were I elected.

There's a feeling in Kevin Street that the Student's Union is not a welcoming place for all students: that it's a bit cliquey and a little intimidating for a number of students who never go down into the Union at all.

I would like to create a greater database of information and communication within both the Union and the entire student body.

There's also a need to resurrect the class rep situation and ensure that each class has a class rep and the appropriate number of class reps is appointed as per the number of students in each class.

The Union must act on problems that our students face. The grants issue, Grangegorman and problems with facilities have to be addressed. Student opinion must be sought. I want to ensure that ents will run more efficiently.

A professional approach to ticket sales and a greater variety for students on nights out is another area I would work on."

Sinead O'Leary - running for President in Mountjoy Square

To instigate a new policy for the Students Union in terms of heightening student awareness in what the Union can do for them would be one of my main policies. The Art and Design students have a number of issues which need to be addressed and I would ensure that their cause would be put to the relevant bodies within DIT.

The facilities issues, such as an upgrading of the library from its current level and to increase the interest in clubs and societies is something I would put a lot of time and energy into. The grants campaign needs to be continued.

I've worked a lot with TD's and the Minister for Education and I have been recently invited to the Dail to meet with a number of deputies to discuss the material grant. General entertainments need to be examined and talks with pubs and clubs would feature highly on my agenda.

We need to broaden the horizons for canoe entertainment in the canteen and try and get a few bands from within the college to play there more often."

Andrew Kavanagh - running for Deputy President/Welfare

"I would increase the push for DIT's University status and would initiate campaigns both with students and lecturing staff. We need to get more students on course committees as well as getting more people involved in the Students Union itself.

We need to make more people aware of the facilities that are currently available to them. I would put in place an easier system for people to get student welfare as well as obtaining student information.

I've decided to stand because I've been involved in the Students Union for the past three years as a class rep. I've been involved with DIT Rugby Club as well as playing a role in the campaign for Grangegorman. I've been a students' councillor and part-time student officer this year. I know that I can do the job; it's not an easy job, but I can do it. I enjoy the challenge and I know that I'm capable of doing my job."

Joe Walsh - running for President in Mountjoy Square

"There's a need to overlook the integration between Aungier Street and Mountjoy Square and ensure that all courses from Mountjoy Square are maintained and properly catered for once the move is made. The social event integration between Aungier Street and Mountjoy Square must be maintained in connection with the move to the new site.

Rag Week was widely criticised and we need to look at the way we run the week and ensure that in the future we all just don't treat it as a party week. We should orientate it back to the raising of money for charity and try and increase the importance of this area of the week.

We need to build up the hype for Rag Week and have the week and the importance of the week emphasised.

A comprehensive look at Rag Week is required but at the same time it's important that students enjoy themselves during those five days as well. I'd like to build on this year's success and increase the grants campaign and keep the pressure up on the government.

Dropping of the third world debt was something I lobbied for as welfare officer this year and I see the cancellation of the debt as vital. We will be sending a petition to the G8 Conference in Tokyo in July in relation to dropping the debt."

Alison Boyle - running for Deputy President/Welfare

"I would like to continue the policy to drop third world debt, continuing the campaign that we began earlier in the year. I would also continue to address the drug and rape awareness campaign and try to get the Art and Design grant increased as they have some major expenses during the academic year.

I would also like to raise the awareness of all students about the services that the Union provides and to treat them all equally in the college."
THE GIFT
(Cert 18/112min)
CONSIDER THE SET-UP.
In the tiny town of Brixton, Georgia, young widow Annie Wilson (Cate Blanchett), supports her three children in the tiny town of Brixton, Georgia through a meagre living as a psychic, reading cards and telling fortunes. When a promiscuous young socialite (Katie Holmes) goes missing, the authorities reluctantly turn to Annie for clues to her whereabouts.

Add to this a supporting cast of sceptical locals, superstitious white-trash hicks (Keanu Reeves is particularly convincing as a menacing wife-beater, making his ludicrous turn in 'The Watcher all the more dreadfully) and the unnatural creepiness of the Georgia swamps and you should have a damn good supernatural thriller.

A great cast, an established director (Sam Raimi, behind the upcoming 'Spider-man') and Oscar-winning screenwriter ('Billy Bob Thornton). So what the hell went wrong?

Thorston and fellow screenwriter Tom Epperson certainly have a knack for the nuances of small-town life in the deep south. The redneck element, in particular, seems to be dead-on, from the John Deere baseball caps to the gits they had for breakfast.

All the more shame the story is so lacklustre. As a who'dunnit it's made redundant by the fact that you can't bring yourself to care either way for any of the supporting characters... not only that, but the eventual culprit seems so blatantly obvious that you'll have figured it out half-an-hour before the film has caught up.

By the end, you're left with the nagging impression that you just paid £4.50 to see a TV movie.

Balancing this is Blanchett's astonishing central performance as Annie. It's the sort of acting that bypasses the part of your brain telling you that you're watching is fiction and has you hanging on her every move. It's a shame that being in such an average film probably harmed her chances of a well-deserved Oscar nomination.

***
STATE AND MAIN
(Cert 18/102min)
STATE AND MAIN is one of the funniest films I have seen in recent years and if it doesn't end up on my Top Ten of 2001 than this will have been the best 12 months for cinema in a long, long time. A Hollywood film crew descend on the small town of Waterford, Vermont - a place where everybody knows each others first names and the local doctor wears a bow-tie.

The film crew have enough of their own problems: Director Walt Price (William H. Macy) has to contend with a leading lady (Sarah Jessica Parker) who won't take her clothes off in a nude scene and a leading man (Alec Baldwin) with a predilection for underage girls.

Not only that, but shooting a film called "The Old Mill" becomes that little bit more difficult when it turns out that the town no longer has an old mill. The responsibility for ironing such problems out of the script falls onto the shoulders of idealistic young playwright and first-timer, screenwriter Joe White (Philip Seymour Hoffman) who finds his loyalties divided between a promising career and small-town life with local theatre director and book-shop owner Ann Black (Rebecca Pidetont).

Renowned wielder/director, David Mamet accepted a commission to write the first draft of 'The Silence Of The Lambs-sequel' Hannibal (also reviewed) just as he was gearing up for pre-production on State And Main. It's possible that Mamet's original script was so poor (Schindler's List-scribe Steven Zaillian was brought in to do a major re-write) that the film crew was so preoccupied with State And Main.

If that was indeed the case, than any of Hannibal's failings can be seen as a worthy sacrifice. State And Main is the finest thing you will see this month.

Eye eye! Here comes the ball

By Deirdre Groarke
FOR too many years, we in DIT have stood on the periphery of college entertainment, being forced to watch our peers enjoy themselves in the company of the staff and affable toasts. But for the last few years, we have started to venture into the world of college entertainment. And for the last two years, we have been the proud owners of a top-class event: "The Night".

This year though, it will be different.

Three brave courses have elected seven courageous individuals who have vowed to chastise the stereotypes and eradicate the image of those in other colleges. The Engineers, Auctioneers and Surveyors have joined forces, dedicated themselves to the cause and relegated their studies to the back of their minds with the EYEBALL..... aptly named, I know.

It is all happening on March 28th in the Burlington Hotel. So lads scrup up well, because the ladies will look as beautiful as ever... hmmm no comment.

Lads as most of you will inevitably have trouble in scruping up well we have arranged in conjunction with Gents Formal Wear (Mary's Slur) to provide tuxes at half price.

There is also no need to worry about the transportation as the enterprising organisers have a bountiful ally in Bori Rocks, who have generously agreed to provide £5000 of FREE drink.

This event will be the biggest event to be staged by DIT to date and the most popular. So much so that we have arranged to sell tickets in St. Pats, a cunning plan to boost the female attendance, so Bolton lads you will not end up snogging lads this time... isn't that right????

THE last word in beer
Not such a gift

Movies by Jamie Hannigan

"The Gift" is a film that should have been much more enjoyable. The cast is great, and the setting is a unique one, but the screenplay is weak and the acting is uneven.

STATE AND MAIN is a much better film. It is a comedy that is both funny and entertaining. The cast is excellent, and the acting is consistently good.

In conclusion, "The Gift" is a film that is not worth seeing, while "STATE AND MAIN" is a film that is definitely worth seeing.
A mixed movie dish

HANNIBAL (Cert 18/135min)

OPINION FOR THOMAS HARRIS' long-awaited sequel to The Silence Of The Lambs was at best, deeply divided. Rumour has it that he refused to watch the hugely successful film-adaptation of his own novel and was determined to give the third book a wholly unflattering ending.

Unsurprisingly, the film of Hannibal - the third to feature gruesomely seductive serial-killer Dr Hannibal Lecter - diverges from the novel's surreal closing pages. Other than that, Ridley Scott's film is admirably faithful to the book, with Anthony Hopkins chewing all available scenery in the role that earned him an Oscar in 1991.

Ten years on from the events in the previous film, FBI Agent Clarice Starling (now played by Julianne Moore) is still slogging away at the FBI. A crashed drug-raid leaves her in the Bureau's bad books, prompting a letter of commiseration from Lecter, now living under an alias in Florence. Starling is only brought back into the search for Lecter - mainly due to the machinations of Mason Verger, (an unrecognisable Gary Oldman) Lecter's only son.

Thomas Harris purists will be interested to know that three different endings were actually shot: one for Ridley Scott, one for Harris, and one for producer Dino de Laurentiis.

With any luck, the other two endings (along with a rumoured hour of unseen footage) will turn up on the DVD later this year.

**1/2

THE LEGEND OF BAGGAR VANCE (Cert PG/127min)

LIKE CHOCOLAT (also reviewed this month) The Legend of Baggar Vance is reminiscent of that kind of old-fashioned film-making that "they just don't make anymore". Whether or not that is a good thing, however, remains to be seen.

Rannulph Junuh (Matt Damon) was the finest young golf-player that Savannah, Georgia had ever seen, until he was traumatised by the horrors of World War I. Now a shell of a man, he is urged to leave his self-imposed retirement of drink and gambling by the one-time love of his life, Adele Invergordon (Charlize Theron), who is desperately trying to keep her late-father's vision - The Keween Island Golf Resort - from being sold.

Junuh wants none of it, until the mysterious Baggie Vance (Will Smith) steps out of the night. Vance is one of those other-worldly angels that "always turn up in things like this.

His main purpose in life seems to consist of dispensing little nuggets of home-brewed wisdom while helping Junuh find his "perfect swing". Despite the Great Depression setting and impending world war, director Robert Redford drapes a rose-tinted charm over every single frame with the sole intention of leaving the audience with a warm glow when they leave the cinema. Against all odds, it works. Like another Redford film (The Sting, in which he starred with Paul Newman) The Legend of Baggar Vance gives you two hours of an unashamedly sentimental world that could never exist outside of the big screen. Just don't forget to leave your cynicism outside.

**

CHOCOLAT (Cert 12/121min)

I HATE it when people eat food in the cinema. You know the kind: they always sit behind and to the left of you, and in the first five minutes, they open a bag of crisps. Not the small newsagent packs, but the big, party-sized ones. They always open them with a quick flourish and shower the back of your neck with little flecks of potato.

And just when you think they've finished, they start shuffling out of those giant Coke containers that you only get in cinemas. And then you kill them.

All that said, I would advise you to bring some quick flourishes and shower the back of your neck with little flecks of potato. And just when you think they've finished, they start shuffling out of those giant Coke containers that you only get in cinemas. And then you kill them.

That is the scariest thing guaranteed to trigger a headache and a script with evidence to the contrary, golf is entertaining in THE LEGEND OF BAGGAR VANCE ... CHOCOLAT leaves a hollow taste in the mouth while STATE AND MAIN proves to be the sweetest dish amongst this month's releases ... by JAMIE HANNIGAN ...

THE WATCHER (Cert 15/97min)

APOLOGIES to anyone expecting a comprehensive critical breakdown of the pros and cons of The Watcher, but I can't do it. Just say of Battlefield: Earth, the average person might balk at casting him as a coldly devious serial-killer.

Maybe we've been spoiled by a rake of villians with above-average intelligence; Hannibal Lecter, Keyser Soze, Patrick "American Psycho" Bateman, Seven's John Doe... The Watcher, on the other hand, boasts a serial-killer who couldn't return an overdue library book without getting arrested for it. The only reason that he seems to be able to get away with generating young women for so long is that the authorities chasing him are even dumber than he is.

With the exception of James Spader, or course. Spader is like the "Anti-Keanu" in that he seems to quietly raise the IQ of any film he appears in. But even he can't fight off the combination of Keenu "Whoa" Reeves, pointlessly-flashy camera angles that leave you with a throbbing headache and a script with presence and an air of "I'm just dumb."

God love Keenu Reeves, but the man can't help but exude a permanent air of bemused naivete, no matter what character he's playing. With this in mind, the only thing about The Watcher that may raise your spirits is the hopelessly misleading trailer, billing it as "The scariest film you'll see this year."

Not even close. Get a six-pack of beer and some friends around. Turn off the lights and stick Battlefield: Earth in the VCR. Take a look at John Travolta's performance. Now ask yourselves: "How much money did he get paid for this?" That is the scariest thing you'll see this year.

THE LAST WORD IN BEER

Whether or not that is a good thing, however, remains to be seen.

I HATE it when people eat food in the cinema. You know the kind: they always sit behind and to the left of you, and in the first five minutes, they open a bag of crisps. Not the small newsagent packs, but the big, party-sized ones. They always open them with a quick flourish and shower the back of your neck with little flecks of potato.

And just when you think they've finished, they start shuffling out of those giant Coke containers that you only get in cinemas. And then you kill them.

All that said, I would advise you to bring some quick flourishes and shower the back of your neck with little flecks of potato.

And just when you think they've finished, they start shuffling out of those giant Coke containers that you only get in cinemas. And then you kill them.

That is the scariest thing guaranteed to trigger a headache and a script with evidence to the contrary, golf is entertaining in THE LEGEND OF BAGGAR VANCE ... CHOCOLAT leaves a hollow taste in the mouth while STATE AND MAIN proves to be the sweetest dish amongst this month's releases ... by JAMIE HANNIGAN ...

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APOLOGIES to anyone expecting a comprehensive critical breakdown of the pros and cons of The Watcher, but I can't do it. Just say of Battlefield: Earth,
Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

This is the month to widen your horizons. Recently you have felt that your life is quite unfulfilling and that there is something more you could be doing. If this is the case, try organizing a short trip to a place that’s always interested you or arrange a big night out with your friends. Afterwards, you will feel refreshed and ready once again to tackle the mundane. Remember life is too precious to waste.

Destiny is a table by the window.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

A small weekend mid-month will be a welcome reward for your help with a family matter. You have been working so hard lately it is about time you treated yourself. Be good to yourself for once and spend this cash on something you have always wanted. A minor blip may be in line for an improvement in a close relationship will be the result.

Destiny is an unopened box.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

You have a great head for remembering names, so use this to your advantage this month. A little sweet talking will win you a long way and you may be in line for an important promotion. Cash has been tight lately but financial drains will ease by the end of the month. Now that you have some extra cash in your pocket, why not splash out on something special? Intensive talks with a family member are predicted mid-month.

Destiny heralds the arrival of a letter.

Cancer (June 21 - July 23)

By performing a good deed in secret for someone special in your life you could have unintended rewards for you. Close relationships have been under a lot of pressure lately. By performing a small kindness, you will help ease this tense situation. Personal disappointments have been getting you down lately. Stop obsessing over the past.

Future happiness can be yours if you allow yourself to move on. Destiny begins with the letter W.

Leo (July 24 - Aug 23)

Love is definitely in the air for Leo’s this month. A good friend of yours has become particularly close and has confided in you a lot lately. Have you thought of pursuing this any further? If so, now is the time to do it as Venus shines brightly in your house of love affairs. By taking the initiative you may be pleasantly surprised with the results.

Destiny is foreign correspondence.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 23)

This is a particularly busy time for you. Friends are likely to invite you to a fun gathering mid-month, and tempting as it may seem, you are overloaded with work.

The stars advise taking care as much of your work responsibilities as possible before letting your hair down. In a few weeks there will be plenty of time to party but until then, buckle down. You will be glad you did so in the long run.

Destiny is a legal document.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 21)

You may be pleasantly surprised when Saturn moves into your seventh house of finance and affairs. Work becomes the focal point this month. Recently, you may have been feeling as if you have been taken for granted.

Now is the time to ask for the raise you deserve. You have to stop associating money with greed.

The fact is, you deserve it and as long as you accept bad pay, nothing will change.

Destiny is a phonecall from abroad.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)

Spend time on yourself this month. The recent chaos at home has led you to neglect the most important person in your life: You!

Go out and buy yourself a new outfit, have your nails done, whatever. But most importantly spend some quiet time alone.

A moment or two of peace gives you time to reflect, making you a nicer, calmer person to be around.

Destiny begins with H.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You haven’t been feeling so good about yourself lately. Improving your wellbeing can be as simple as doing some volunteer work. Helping those less fortunate than yourself can be very rewarding and fulfilling.

It might just be the confidence boost you need. And apart from making a valuable contribution to the world, you will also make a whole new group of friends.

Destiny is an old photograph.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

Your health is the focal point for this month. You have let yourself go lately and now is the time to get in touch with your physical side and go out and get some exercise.

The longer you neglect your body, the harder it will be in the long run. Matters of the heart have always been last causing you some grief recently.

Go to the gym and pound out your frustrations on the treadmill. You’ll be amazed how great you will feel afterwards.

Destiny is a forgotten friend.

Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

This month could be a lucky time for you. As Jupiter moves into your fifth house of career and finance, you may find yourself up for promotion or a very large raise.

All of a sudden, your work colleagues are recognizing the enormous potential you have to offer. Take advantage of this time and talk yourself up to the right people.

You may be surprised by the rewarding outcome at the end of the month.

Destiny is an exotic destination.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You have been feeling a little overwhelmed by personal problems lately. Perhaps it is time you enlisted the help of your family or friends in solving them.

Forget about your pride for once and look for the support you need at the moment.

After all, that is what family and friends are there for to help you in your time of need. You have been there for them often enough.

Destiny is a new property.

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

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Destiny is a new property.

A jolly good sport every monday... on thursday its the business... on saturday, get into the Weekend!

Every day the students paper!

Irish Independent
Ireland’s National Quality Daily.

Student Price only 50p
GAA Development Officer Des O'Donnell reflects on DIT's exits from both the Fitzgibbon and Sigerson Cups

As preparations go, this year's bunch of hurliers gave it everything they could qualification went with it. The fact that MUCED outside the IT the following week by a score of 0-17 to 0-4 emphasizes what a poor result this was for DIT.

The writing was on the wall for our football team, winning only two of their four league games and winning only one challenge game against Dundalk IT. They lost ties with UCD, TCD, Meath under-21's, St Patrick's Drumcondra and Dundalk IT. There were many factors which contributed to a humiliating defeat such as DIT's sporting performance at this level has been hampered by the scare and it has not performed better than this. The fact that a college with some star players finds itself at the bottom of the table is a significant disadvantage when meeting a college like DIT which has a huge student base in comparison.

The management of DIT football has not changed it quite a while and the level of performance has started to improve. One wonders has the time come to look at this area and create an opportunity to obtain some fresh people with some significant experience, let's say at inter-county level, as either players or managers.

It is possible that fresh leadership could enjoy being about a change of attitude, raise morale, boost performance and ultimately lead DIT footballers back on to the winning track.

Has the time come for a change or will DIT footballers have to suffer further humiliation under the present set-up? DIT football deserves better than this year's escapade.

Bolton Bears Pool Club

THIS year has been a great year for the Bolton Bears Pool Club and a very busy one at that too.

Over the past few years the club has put all its strength to with numbers doubling each year. To the club there are approximately 300 odd people constantly participating on a day to day basis.

Chairperson John Murray says "as a member of the club for the past six years I have always seen the potential within it. I am very proud of our club and have always tried to get every member to be involved with the running of the club. And the results so far have been proven!"

This club has always survived on a very low funding from DIT central but this has not stopped the players from organising competitions and participating in outside events such as the inter-varsities.

This year due to a low budget we were only able to send 2 teams consisting of ten players to represent Bolton in the inter-varsities. Both teams played their hearts out with some great victories from the likes of the Howlin Brothers, Alan McDonell, John Murray and many more to mention. In all we managed to secure a semi-finalist position. This year however, the club intends to make a top prize home to Bolton Street for the first time ever. Players are all geared up for the event which takes place in March '01.

The Club kicked off the year with a massive singles competition that ran smoothly with some great names crack. Subscription for the year is only €2.70 so to Rangnall's statement that his club is the only 'college club' to have a subscription fee. Also I'm sure that we are too the only clubs around to do so.

We also had a great night out following the competition in one of the local pubs with a lot of great prizes for all participants.

Our Christmas Singles Competition was also a great success with Andrew Faulkner coming out the overall victor. This competition showed us that we were well capable of taking home the Trophy for the second year in a row.

Rag week too took out to be a winning week with the club raising a lot of money for both the Rape Crisis Centre and the Cancer Research Society. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who helped in making the week a great success.

We have many plans for the Club before the year is out. We also would like to participate in a Blackpool competition this year which would be great experience for all the players. I'm sure that the beds wouldn't let us down.

Until we get the funding for such an event, we can only dream that our current funding will reach it's target and that we can continue this great sport.

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And we hope to be able to compete in the World College's Competition in Minneapolis, U.S. this month.

Finally I would like to say that our club is always welcome to join. We take great pride in our club and we would like to see Bolton Street's Student Union for all their continuous help in facilitating our Club throughout the year.

Adrian Holden, Treasurer, Bolton Bears Pool Club

Sports Awards go ahead despite foot-and-mouth

By Dermot Keyes

THE Foot and Mouth scare looks set to grind the third level sporting year to a premature end. Despite this the DIT Sports Awards will go ahead as planned on April 4 at the Hilton Hotel.

DIT Aungier Street Sports Officer Herbie McClelland told the DIT Independent "that most of the teams were there or thereabouts in finishing their fixtures for the year, so I think it's only right that we go ahead with the awards."

ITE's horse racing analyst Tracy Piggot will be the guest speaker at the gala highlight of DIT's sporting year. Confirming that all sports have been cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth scare, McClelland said that mats will be placed outside the hotel on the night in question.

Restrictions on all sporting fixtures nationwide is expected to be reinforced for at least 20 days after the Department of Agriculture stands down from its current Foot and Mouth alert.

The Intervarsity Cross Country Championship at Belvedere, one of the highlights of the third level athletics year, which were to be run over the second weekend in March, this month, was called off.

The World Cross-Country Championships in Leopardstown, when McClelland was to form part of the stewarding team for the races, look set for a switch to a continental venue as this paper went to press. The selection process for the World Student Games in Beijing this summer have also been hampered by the scare and has not yet been established how the Irish team will now be picked. An introductory sailing course in Carlingford was cancelled, as were planned events for soccer, hockey, mountaineering and canoeing. The National Swimming Intervarsity Championships and the continuation of the golf competitions look to be the only events that have survived the alert, according to DIT Sports Officer Liam O'Callaghan.

"The only sporting activity that has not yet been cancelled is the Inter-DIT four-ball golf league to be played during the month of March with the finals scheduled to take place in City West Golf Club on Thursday 5th April 2001," she said. "The comprehensive sports and recreational activities timetable organised by each of the individual college sites will continue to operate as usual," she added.

In what has been an unprecedented incident for this generation of students, it will be interesting to see what makes the headlines in next month's edition of the DIT 'Indo' as there might not be anything to report!
Indoor football league set to kick off

Soccer

DIT reached the final of the prestigious Collingwood Cup final only to be beaten by the University of Ulster Jordanstown by three goals to nil in the decider. Michael Whealan's charges came through the rounds, beating DCU 3-1 in the opening tie, University of Limerick in the semi-final. Unfortunately, UL proved a little too good for DIT in the final. Despite several efforts by this paper, team manager Michael Whealan was unavailable for comment on the team's superb achievement in reaching the final.

Cathal Brugh Street manager Sean O'Gorman is pleased with his team's efforts this term, but the front and mouth scare looks set to bring their season to a premature end. A 2-0 win over Mountjoy Square, thanks to goals from Conor Smith and Dave Smith, who combined for both goals. A foul tempered tie at Cilenthaugh was nonetheless testament of the good form that CBS have displayed throughout the season.

Ladies Football

Chairperson Karen Ward and coach Pat Byrne have put in sterling service this season in getting their club off the ground. The team competed in the Harvey Cup without success and preparations for the O'Connor Cup were well underway until a combination of Spring snow and the foot and mouth scare put pay to their tie against St Mary's in Belfast. New players should contact Karen Ward at the Students' Union shop at Mountjoy Square or Des O'Donnell at 30 Upper Pembroke Street.

THE Aggressive Pissers, The Roody Poo Crew, The Mighty Mighty Bostoons and The Dimbos Lunchbox. These bizarre team-names can mean only one thing. Yes folks, it's that time of year again where all the budding Beckhams and Henry hopefuls come out of the woodwork and step into the arena that is, the Aungier St Indoor Football League.

The season officially kicked off, for its sixth consecutive year, on Monday, 5th March. The 'Pete & Ail's Indoor Football League', as it is commonly referred to, was originally set up by two Business Studies students, Alan Coleman and Peter Durning. From these humble beginnings the League has grown in stature and is now recognised as one of the largest and most active clubs in the DIT.

Soccer wouldn't be soccer without some drinking from the trophy

This is reflected in the high level of sponsorship from companies such as Red Bull, Guinness and Arnstel. The season lasts eight to nine weeks and matches take place in the YMCA on Aungier St. Participation levels are high, with twenty teams, comprising first, second, third and fourth year students, all competing for the top spot, and the small matter of the £300 prize money for the winning team.

At least twelve matches are played per week and each year, new and enthusiastic teams join in the competition to square up to the more established teams. The first four seasons were dominated by indoor football's answer to Man Utd. The Dimbos Lunchbox, took all the silverware and swept the floor with all who opposed them. However, their reign of terror was dramatically put to a halt last season, when Eat The Lee (don't ask) snatched the title from their grasp, in a closely contested final.

However, The Dimbos contend that the absence of influential team captain, Dave Barry can account for their uncharacteristic lack of success last year (excuses excuses). With The Dimbos seeking to regain their supremacy and the new teams trying to prove their worth, the season is shaping up nicely. So who will it be? Can Eat The Lee regain their title or will one of the newcomers take the league by storm and surprise us all. Or perhaps the trophy will leave the country with one of the Erasmus teams.

But (altogether now, in your best possible David O'Leary accent) at the end of the day, as I say, if's a game of two halves, and only time will tell.
Planet Murphy & The Palace Nightclub, Camden St. Open 7 nights 'til late. Come early.