DIT Student Union

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DIT:Students Union

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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 and at the time of going to press, have not yet been returned to the sports committee.

Karting Club Chairperson and DITSU Overall President 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 members 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 is 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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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 February 23rd last. The award was presented to Ms Kelly by President Mary McAleese at a ceremony held at Aris 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 1997.

In her first year, Rosita participated in the Links Programme, which is known as the 'Homework Club.' Each week she acted as a French tutor to a second level student from Warrenpoint Secondary School. The following year she saw her become 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 writing a Gaisce Constitution for the Gaisce Society in DIT.

Rosita joined the DIT Choral Society and honed her practice and their many public performances over two years, singing in venues such as Christ Church 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 happened 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 travelling party between the group and the businesses involved.

The Visual Screening Programme, "Oceans Eyes" catered for athletes with learning disabilities. Several athletes were provided with goggles and spectacles, which helped them to participate in their chosen sports.

All the Kevin St students generally 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 Canon Club in First and Second Year (when did she think that and friendly to DIT’s od at Dublin that 4.9 per cent of Dublin are 85 per cent safe city and an easy city to the recently)

This year’s planned 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 was taken by DITSU Council at Cathal Brugha Street. President Patricia Fitzpatrick explained: “It never came into being as it clashed with drama week and arts and crafts week. But we hope that it will be a big part of DITSU’s activities next year. The best approach is to have a day called ‘L-Gaeilge’ and have a huge Irish ball at the Theatre, ‘though this has yet to be confirmed. “The whole idea has been liked and buried at all. We would still like to see it go ahead in some form.”

By Dermot Keyes

DUE to the foot-and-mouth scare the Union’s activities were postponed in March 1999 which was due to take place from 20th to the 23rd March in Ennis, Co. Clare.

A new date for the event will be announced as soon as possible.

The March meeting of DITSU saw the various USI candidates stage their campaign in the Union’s Student Union’s Annual Congress which was due to take place from 20th to the 23rd March in Ennis, Co. Clare.

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A new date for the event will be announced as soon as possible.
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'Loinnain. "All opposition parties are supporting USI and I'm anxious to see our role in social partnership increased."

"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 the voting franchise during the next general election, which seems certain to take place in the next 12 to 15 months.

New Fine Gael leader Michael Noonan has pledged to visit all third level institutes.
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 Holistic Employee Wellness)', the winning team of Liz Hogan (Marketing Manager), Lisa Keyes (Financial Manager), Lisa Muldowney (Operational Manager) and Orla Waters (Sales Manager), won the £1000 first prize.

Their effort was penned 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 their health risks and time management and to undertake voluntary changes in their daily activities." A number of modules dealing with health decisions, taking part in fitness classes and massage and stretching workouts form the main section of the programme.

The 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 leisure time available for employees, PHEW has been developed. Our main aim is to get member employers to take action on their personal well-being."

The group is clearly on the pulse of modern Irish life, with pressure and commitment stacked on commitment forming the daily diet of both the Irish employer and employee. Cathal Brugha Street Students' Union President Cathal Power was delighted with the group's success.

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

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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 Institute of Technology, states that 94.8 per cent feel "that the people of Dublin are friendly and hospitable." Some 85 per cent surveyed felt that 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 surveyors expressed the view that Dublin is a dirty city. One in three stated that it is expensive and one in five felt that it was too overcrowded for sightseeing.

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 the attitudes and characteristics are evaluated on the impact of employers."

The report's authors, Dr Sheila Flanagan, of the Hospitality Management and Tourism, 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 B.Sc., Tourism Marketing students were also thanked for their role in the compilation of the report.

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The March 2001 Bolton Trust winners pictured with their prize. Pictured with the cheque from left to right are: Liz Hogan, Lisa Keyes, Lisa Muldowney and Orla Waters.

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The March 2001 Bolton Trust winners pictured with their prize. Pictured with the cheque from left to right are: Liz Hogan, Lisa Keyes, Lisa Muldowney and Orla Waters.
Focus on ... Anonymous marking

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. Only the student's examination number appears on their exam paper, so the examiner does not know who the student is.

DIT introduced the system several years ago, while Trinity College and UCD are in various stages of its implementation and DCU 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 marked anonymously. UCD piloted anonymous marking in 1999, in the first and second year examinations in medicine, and its gradual introduction to all departments is on the cards. The pilot study in the medical faculty included a survey of student attitudes on the issue. It found that the majority believes that without anonymous marking there was a potential for "unfair grading". This opinion was strongest among female and overseas graduates.

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 incidence where a student may know the identity of the examiner, there's no way a lecturer could get at the examination number. It's all part of the system file, according to TCD's Mr Bannister. DIT Academic Affairs' Tom Duff supports this viewpoint, 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 then is to get students to type exams in 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 is advised to defer taking the exams. "Once anonymous marking is implemented, there is no way the system can lead to students knowing the identity of other students," he pointed out.

TCD is in the process of overcoming a number of issues with implementing the system. A great deal of coarse work in Trinity is continuous assessment, such as group work, orals and presentations. In various language courses, there may only be three or 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 or more 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 mark scheme, making the wrong columns, and get 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 Tom Duff, is that it introduces the privacy of the student. When exams are passed on the notice board, their examination 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," he said. DIT review its exam regulations almost on an annual basis, to ensure they are as effective as possible. They are currently looking into implementing a protective shield 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, USF's, Women's Rights Officer, Andrea Leahy insists, and has called for further research in the area. With the increasing threat of litigation, spokespeople in DIT and Trinity College believe all colleges will eventually introduce the privatisation of the 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 race 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.

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

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A team of 24 is working around the clock to make the single-seated racing car a reality, ahead of the competition in Birmingham. Macc is 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 competition brand design and construction commences. Regulations limit the size of the car engine to 610cc and testing events are designed to analyse the performance of the car under several areas such as acceleration, max pad testing 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. "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. This move hopes to address the common problem of students not getting their first option when they broke into university 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, food and environmental, chemical engineering; civil engineering; electronic or electrical engineering; mechanical engineering; or civil engineering for 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.

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Burn baby burn!

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 burned 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 unremittingly vague. 'Amazing', 'Out of this world', 'Bring oranges they make the best gifts', '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, and our friends who had 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 civilization, a basic mini market in Black Rock City which has a population of fifty people.

When feeling sand-ridden and uncomfortable with the heat, a friendly face would offer you water, an ice-cream van would call to your camp bearing gifts of ice pops, if you were inexperienced and not prepared for the freezing nights, people invited you around their fire or into their RV to warm up.

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 plogger greeted us as did some dressed conservatively. Inside, there were so many things to do from getting a new hairstyle or neighbours would insist on presenting gifts.

Our neighbours would insist on making us pancakes with strawberries for breakfast. Later we enjoyed a cool Naked Mississippi cocktail in the hot afternoon.

An impressive opera with a huge orchestra, actors, dancers and performers encouraging the audience participation was enacted. The end of this unique and innovative festival was celebrated until the early hours of Sunday morning.

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.

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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 theme of the year's 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 Pallas 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 FJ's were also a lot stronger than 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 competition 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 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, retreated 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 hammer 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 Lewis on the front row. 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 Renehan 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 needed within the Union.

"DITSU can not afford to remain in the past as students move forward and regrettably further away from their Union. I intend to seriously examine the relevance of the Union in today's student society and implement the much needed changes." If elected, Marguerite proposes to carry out a Strategic Review of the Students Union. Communication, according to Marguerite, is vital to the running of the Students Union.

"That comes straight from the top; the Overall President has to communicate well with his/her executive and staff and ensure that the chain of good communication continues down the line to part-time officers, class reps and lastly but most importantly students."

To ensure communication, Marguerite believes that "class reps are the key to the strength of the Union. I intend to initiate a campaign throughout the sites encouraging students to be class reps."

Another way in which she intends to communicate with the students is through the official DITSU website.

"The potential of our site is huge and should be maximised. I intend to employ a company to deconstruct and rebuild the site; www.ditsu.ie should be the most widely accessed website among DIT students."

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 sabbatical with Coca Cola and was put in charge of a team of 17. I love business, I love organisation and from that point of view, being DITSU President is pretty much the ideal job for me. I get to do what I am being taught in."

As well as being Overall President, there are two company chairmanships assumed by the election winner should he become the holder of the highest office in the Union.

"Pursuing a political future is not on my agenda," said Nangle. "Of course, the political context of the job has to be recognised and it has been used in the past as a step into the political world.

"You have to be political when it comes to negotiations but I feel that it is equally important to get the organisation of an event right and to put in place a number of business organisation structures in DITSU." His ultimate aim, it would appear, is to change the way that DITSU is perceived by the average student.

"The Students Union has fallen to an all-time low, I believe and that's been said a lot in DIT circles. It's time for something fresh, new and different."

Cathy Power

Cathy 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."

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."

"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.
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 Intervarsity events event in place for next year, maybe run a Wednesday night in a small pub and then every second week run an Intervarsity 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

Bonar is the only candidate for the top job in Aungier Street, with Noel Renihan 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.

Your choice . . . Your vote . . . Use it
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 electing into office. I would be working on academic issues to the fore. I believe that currently the Students' Union is currently a major challenge and I want to change this by making changes to the class rep system. If I became President, I would call 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 that we 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 process which would advertise their club or society properly. Regarding entertainment, if I became President there would be an overhaul in this area as there is not being enough done at the moment."

Kevin Street Deputy President/Welfare

Lyndsey Jones finds herself involved in the 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.

**Mountjoy Square**

Des Alvey - running for President in Kevin St

"I've been involved in the union for three years and I have run for Deputy President and Welfare last year and I have been communications 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 Students' 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."

Sinead O'Leary - running for President in Mountjoy Square

"To initiate a new policy for the Students Union in terms of highlighting 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 bit 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 canteen entertainment in the canteen and try and get a few bands from within the college to play there more often."

Andrew Kavanagh Doyle - 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 alcohol awareness campaigns 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."
Not such a gift

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 surprisingly convincing as a menacing wife-beater, making his ludicrous turn in The Watcher all the more dreadful) 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?

Thorat 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 grits they had for breakfast.

All the more shame the story is so lacklustre. As a whole 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 what 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 other 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-time 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 Pidelon).

Renowned writer/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) because he was too 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 Deidre Groarke

FOR too many years, we in DIT have stood on the periphery of college entertainment. For longer than we can remember our students have suffered the insult and indignation of being labelled a boring college.

For too long Trinity, UCD and DCU rather precociously might add, have claimed supremacy in the organisation and presentation of events. They claimed to hold the best events fuelled by the best sponsorship. 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 pretensions of those in other colleges. The Engineers, Auctioneers and Surveyors have joined forces, devoted tremendous time and reaped their studies to present you with the EYEBALL.... aptly named, I know.

Velvet or cotton?

I had my reservations going to Velvet to review their student night Tongue 'n' Cheek. Unfortunately most of them were confirmed.

First, there was the small matter of getting past the bouncer. I truly had never met such an ignorant and conceited one before in my life. Words had no effect on this man, and after a five-minute clarification session, my mates and I eventually got in.

Admission is £4 and after that it is an impressive £1 per pint for the whole night. There were one or two vicious rumours going around on the night, however, that the pints were watered down but I am happy to dispel all such nonsense.

Unfortunately the price of the pint did not make up for the state of the nightclub that night.

The bathrooms were cramped and dirty with no locks on the cubicle doors.

First-year student Deirdre Woods was less than impressed with the cleanliness of the ladies toilets and was insistent that a "bottle of Domestos or two" was urgently needed.

Overall, comfort is lacking in Velvet and there are few areas to relax. In particular, one area by the entrance, seating is sparse and the restroom stands for the whole of the night.

The dance floor was also quite cramped and at times it felt like we were dancing in the cloakroom rather than the club.

To its credit, the music in Velvet was good. It ranged from House to R&B and there was even a selection from the sixties.

This was a refreshing change from some of the hard core dance music that other Dublin clubs pump out.

The lighting over the dance floor was ample but without any dramatic features. Large television screens surrounded the dance floor and in case of boredom, the punters could always watch a bit of a Disney classic such as The Lion King which was played all night.

On the night I visited, Velvet was plump with customers and there was an eclectic mix of people ranging from Erasmus students to natives from Cork.

However, despite the crowd, you were never left long waiting at the bar.

Velvet's Tongue 'n' Cheek night is considered by the management to be the most successful and they believe that students prefer "cheap beer instead of free admission".

However, there are very few surprises and apart from the cheap beer, there are no other real incentives to go.
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 pack of drug­raid led 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 surviving victim, now intent on revenging himself on the good doctor.

Screenwriters Steven Zaillian and David Mamet manage to purge many of the book's flaws (Lecter and Clarice didn't even exchange words until well into the last 100 pages) although the Florence sequence does drag on a little too long. An unfortunate development, however, is the apparent overdose of cannibal puns which border on the embarrassing rather than clever.

Thomas Harris purists will be interested to know that three different endings were actually shot: one for Ridley Scott who cut four of the film's three different endings. Rumour has it that Ridley Scott's film was divided. Whether or not that is a good thing, however, remains to be seen.

Naturally, when the film opens, the audience is awash with milk chocolate, which is then stirred - very, very slowly. (Juliette Binoche) and her odd-looking eyes exude a permanent air of bemusement (which, as everybody knows, is just the sort of kind of confidentiality you need to go to see Chocolat. Every two minutes the cinema screen is awash with milk being poured slowly into a massive tub of liquid chocolate, which is then stirred... very, very slowly.

A mysterious stranger (Juliette Binoche) and her young daughter (Victoire Thivisol) arrive in the strict­but-fair town of Lassagnet, France. The year is 1957 and the town mayor and patriarch of Baggar Vance is

Matt Damon plays Rannulph Junuh in The Legend of Baggar Vance

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 newagent 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 slurping out of those giant Coke containers that you only get in cinema lobbies. And then you kill them.

All that said, I would advise you to bring some unexpected emotions in the unusual world war, where everyone knows their hidden passions and unexpected emotions in the repression of their hidden passions and unexpected emotions in the repressed villagers) the scene is set for a soft­focus, everything­will­turn­our­fine­in­the­end clash of cultures.

Chocolat is a beautifully­made but acutely painful film where all too often, the charm it aspires to feels trite and somewhat forced. One cannot help but be amazed that this can be nominated for a Best Picture Oscar when something as fresh and sharp as State And Main is overlooked.

So, Chocoholics beware and come prepared with an emergency rations box. Just be sure to eat them very, very quietly. You never know where you might be sitting.

**½

The Legend of Baggar Vance is reminiscent of that kind of old­fashioned film­making 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 golf­player 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 self­imposed retirement of drink and gambling by the one­time love of his life, Adevre Invergordon (Charlize Theron), who is desperately trying to keep her father­­vision to - The Krewe Island Golf Resort - from being sold.

Junuh wants none of it, until the mysterious Baggar Vance (Will Smith) steps out of the next­world­­angel­­dispensing little nuggets of home­brewed wisdom while Junuh finds his "Perfect wing".

Despite the Great Depression setting and impending world war, Robert Redford drapes a rose­tinted 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.

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 IQ ladder in HANNIBAL and THE WATCHER... Against all 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....
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 organising 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 venereal 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, a minor blip may be in line for an important promotion. Cash always wanted. A minor blip for once and spend this cash will go a long way and you will feel refreshed and ready for 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.

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 go 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 22 - July 23)
By performing a good deed in secret for someone special in your life you could be bringing yourself good fortune. By performing a small kindness, you will help ease this tense situation. Personal disappointments have been getting you down lately. Stopping and taking a moment or two of peace and quiet will be very beneficial. This will help you regain your focus point this month.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sept 22)
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 of 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.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Love is definitely in the air for those Libra 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. 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.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
This is a lucky time for Scorpio. 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 well-being 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 19)
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 a bit too 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 20 - Feb 18)
This month could be very lucky 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 recognising 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 19 - 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.

 VIRGO (Aug 21)
You haven't been taking the initiative you may need. You could be doing. If this is the case, try organising 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.

Destination is a table by the window.

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 hurlers gave it everything they could.

**Sigerson Cup humiliation**

The second part of the black Wednesday double whammy administered to DIT came in the premier intervarsity football competition. In this case, the dose was delivered by loyal Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick.

DIT seemed to be cruising into the next round of the Sigerson when they scored a point in injury time to go two points up. But a last-minute penalty award by the referee R Walsh to Mice. The penalty was duly dispatched into the net and DIT's hopes for one more year of Sigerson qualification went with it.

The fact that MICEC outscored DIT 4-2 to 1-1 was a major advantage at a crucial time in the game.

**Fitzgibbon Cup exit**

As preparations go, this year's bunch of hurlers gave it everything they could, playing a series of challenges against some of Leinster's top teams leading up to the cup. So when they trotted out onto the pitch at Maynooth they were confident that they were in with a serious chance.

Unfortunately, Maynooth registered three further points before the it's too late to react. 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 intervarsities.

For many due to a low budget we were only able to send 2 teams consisting of 10 players to events, to represent Bolton Street in the intervarsities. Both teams played their hearts out with some great victories from the likes of the Howlin Brothers, Adrian Murray and many more to mention. In all we managed to secure a semi-finalist position. This year however, the club interés showed as we won the top prize home to Bolton Street for the first time ever. The 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 games to crack. Subscription for the year is only €27.20 contrary to Ray Nangle's statement that his club is the only 'college club' to have a subscription fee. Also, it is sure that we are too not 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 capable of taking home the Trophy for the second straight year.

Rag week too turned 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 event 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 later this year which will be great experience for all the players.

I'm sure that the beds would not 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. But a last minute penalty award by the referee Walsh to Mice. The penalty was duly dispatched into the net and DIT's hopes for one more year of Sigerson qualification went with it.

The fact that MICEC outscored DIT 4-2 to 1-1 was a major advantage at a crucial time in the game.

The writing was on the wall for our football team, winning only one 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 humiliation such as this but morale was not high, going into this game and the management was of the view that a defeat was unacceptable and would contribute to a humiliation of DIT in the HEC football.

There is no place for blaming the referee or the pitch or the training facilities which were all in order. DIT should automatically be at 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 slowly, one would have 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 intercounty level, as either players or managers.

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

Has the time come for a change or will DIT football players 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 Bolton Bears Pool Club and a very busy one at that too.

Over the past few years the club has shown a strong growth in strength to strength with numbers doubling each year.

To the tune of 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 intervarsaries.

A lot of work and effort in this year's bunch of hurlers gave it everything they could. Playing a series of challenges against some of Leinster's top teams leading up to the cup. So when they trotted out onto the pitch at Maynooth they were confident that they were in with a serious chance.

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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 intervarsaries.

For many due to a low budget we were only able to send 2 teams consisting of 10 players to events, to represent Bolton Street in the intervarsaries. Both teams played their hearts out with some great victories from the likes of the Howlin Brothers, Alan McDonnell, John Murray and many more to mention. In all we managed to secure a semi-finalist position. This year however, the club interesse showed as we won the top prize home to Bolton Street for the first time ever. The 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 games to crack. Subscription for the year is only €27.20 contrary to Ray Nangle's statement that his club is the only 'college club' to have a subscription fee. Also, it is sure that we are too not 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 capable of taking home the Trophy for the second straight year.

Rag week too turned 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 event 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 later this year which will be great experience for all the players.

I'm sure that the beds would not 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. But a last minute penalty award by the referee Walsh to Mice. The penalty was duly dispatched into the net and DIT's hopes for one more year of Sigerson qualification went with it.

The fact that MICEC outscored DIT 4-2 to 1-1 was a major advantage at a crucial time in the game.

The writing was on the wall for our football team, winning only one 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 humiliation such as this but morale was not high, going into this game and the management was of the view that a defeat was unacceptable and would contribute to a humiliation of DIT in the HEC football.

There is no place for blaming the referee or the pitch or the training facilities which were all in order. DIT should automatically be at 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 slowly, one would have 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 intercounty level, as either players or managers.

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

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

By Dermot Keyes

THE Foot and Mouth scare looks set to grid the third level sporting year to a premature end. Despite the fact that 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."

RTE's horse racing analyst Tracy Piggott 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 30 days after the Department of Agriculture stands down from its current Foot and Mouth alert.

The Intervarsity Cross Country Championships and the continuation of the golf competition look to be the only events that have survived the alert, according to DIT Sports Officer Nianní O'Callaghan.

"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

THE Aggressive Pissers, The Roody Poo Crew, The Mighty Mighty Booshoons 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 & Ali'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.

This is reflected in the high level of sponsorship from companies such as Red Bull, Guinness and Arstel. 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, it's a game of two halves, and only time will tell.

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Planet Murphy & The Palace Nightclub, Camden St. Open 7 nights 'til late. Come early.