DIT Student Union

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DIT: Students Union

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DITSU left to count cost

By Aisling Casey

It is estimated that the DIT Students Union lost €71,000 after failing to attract the desired numbers for this year's RAG Ball, which was recently held at the Point Depot.

The event attracted only 1,000 students to the Point Depot on the 14th February, on a night when DITSU hoped to attract as many as 6,000 partygoers to what was dubbed as their highlight of the year. However, this number included complimentary tickets, which the union had handed out.

Although members of the Students Union were unavailable to the DIT Independent for comment, DITSU's Board of Directors have stated that they are treating the loss seriously and are currently looking at cost cutting measures which can be taken to recoup the money lost. Although an insurance premium of €3,200 was taken out by DITSU for the event it merely covered public and employer liability. It did not cover lack of student support for the event and consequently cancellation. Several students (who wished to remain nameless) said that the holding of the Ball, Valentines Day, with many students choosing to spend the romantic evening with loved ones was a major mistake.

"It was a disaster," said one DIT student. "The event was riddled with incompetence." DITSU clearly hadn't learned anything from the mistakes of last year's Halloween Ball. The ticket price per ticket has also been cited as a deterrent to students at the end of a long and costly week of RAG Week events.

Although an insurance premium of €3,200 was taken out by DITSU for the event it merely covered public and employer liability. It did not cover lack of student support for the event and consequently cancellation. Several students (who wished to remain nameless) said that the holding of the Ball, Valentines Day, with many students choosing to spend the romantic evening with loved ones was a major mistake.

"It was a disaster," said one DIT student. "The event was riddled with incompetence." DITSU clearly hadn't learned anything from the mistakes of last year's Halloween Ball. The ticket price per ticket has also been cited as a deterrent to students at the end of a long and costly week of RAG Week events.
IT is now more than two years since the government established a steering committee to help initiate the creation of an Irish Academy for the Performing Arts (IAPA). The notion of an IAPA emerged as a proposal in a report, commissioned by Michael D. Higgins, when he was Minister for Arts, Culture and Gaeltacht.

Minister De Valera convened a further report, on taking office in 1997; the Renshaw Report. The Gaity School of Acting, the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) and the National College of Dance in Dublin then sponsored the Deloitte and Touche Report, of which Peter Renshaw, from London's Goldsmith School of Music and Drama, took account.

Renshaw's version of the proposed IAPA was adopted by the government. It was to have three centres, the first one in a new purpose-built facility at the Dublin City University (DCU), the University of Limerick (UL), and one at the Firkin Crane Cork.

The DCU node would house the administration of IAPA; music drawn from the DCU, and the Gaity School of Acting would contribute more emphasis, particularly in MA in Dance. The Firkin Crane Centre would become an Institute for Choreographic Studies.

The steering committee has had a difficult history, with high profile defections by RIAM and UL, and uncertainty as to the future of DCU involvement. However, recent reports in the Irish Times suggest that a Governing Body for IAPA will be constituted shortly.

In January 2000, the funds available to develop IAPA since its inception (c. IR£35 million) would have committed to spend that kind of money on music in Ireland. The question as to whether this money might be spent has still not been adequately aired, mainly because a new institution appeared from the outset as the only option, and because so many groups active in the field have not been consulted. Neither has there been any discussion of appropriate models for performing education for the 21st Century.

The Conservatory of Music and Drama (CMD) at DIT is not addressed in Renshaw or Deloitte and Touche. This struck many people, including staff and students at the National College of Arts and Design (NCAD), as odd. The Conservatory is the largest provider of education and tuition in music and music performance in the state. It also attracts almost 800 applications per year to its three year diploma in acting, and will shortly have a 4 year honours degree in the area. The CMD has postgraduate students in both music and drama, and offers a taught MA in Music Technology at Raminnes.

Many outstanding musicians are graduates of CMD, or as it is still known in many, The College of Music. Some of the finest of upcoming professional musicians - including traditional musicians - teach at the Conservatory, such as people and young adults learners are no personal and class tuition across the range of orchestral, keyboard, musicianship, vocal, opera and drama studies. Dr Bernadette Greavy, founder artistic director of the Gaiety School of Music, International Opera Festival, is our artist-in-residence.

The exclusion of the Conservatory from Renshaw's map raises serious questions about its reliability and performance in the State. Many wonderful young people and old students take part in the CMD, which is run by the same people as the college.

The awards will be held on Wednesday, in April, at the National Concert Hall, with an electrifying performance, the performance academy.

The awards are broken into four categories: "Best Society in each category, from the entire Institute; "Best Society," "Best New or Improved Society", "Best Event" and "Best Individual".

The awards will be judged on an application made by the society or individual detailing why they feel they deserve the award, in general. The application should include photographs and details of successful events. A selection committee is set up to choose from the applications for awards which may not always be adequate to their needs. In other words, it is recognised that the education of performers, like the practical education of scientists and engineers, requires dedicated facilities and funds. This is not followed through in Ireland, as students and staff at CMD are all too aware.

There is a need for properly funded and performance based in the capital. The Conservatory of Music and Drama at DIT has played a major role in this field, and has the staff, programmes and vision to support a first class performance academy.

The question of educational models, as well as that of access to form education and training needs to be explored before any decisions are made.

Conservatory's approach to lifelong learning and the rounded education of practitioners of music and drama. It has proven highly effective in enabling graduates to earn the costs of their art form, along European lines, equally effectively as performers and teachers.

There is a need for a debate on, and strategy for, providing high quality education in performance and related fields to all students to seek to develop the arts in the arts and cultural industries.

As the provider of education in music and drama from pre-instrumental to PhD in performance, Conservatory of Music and Drama, DIT, will contribute fully to any national debate on, and strategy for, developing the arts in the arts and cultural industries. This is not followed through in Ireland, as students and staff at CMD are all too aware.

Victor Merrimam is Senior Lecturer in Music Education and Acting Head of the Conservatory of Music and Drama and the Institute of Technology in Dublin.

### Societies - award-winning society

By Anita Conway

The second DIT Societies Awards ceremony will be held in April to highlight societies and individual members who have made an outstanding contribution to the extra-curricular life at DIT.

The awards are broken into four categories: "Best Society in each category, from the entire Institute; "Best Society," "Best New or Improved Society", "Best Event" and "Best Individual".

The awards will be judged on an application made by the society or individual detailing why they feel they deserve the award, in general. The application should include photographs and details of successful events. A selection committee is set up to choose from the applications for awards which may not always be adequate to their needs. In other words, it is recognised that the education of performers, like the practical education of scientists and engineers, requires dedicated facilities and funds. This is not followed through in Ireland, as students and staff at CMD are all too aware.

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Victor Merrimam is Senior Lecturer in Music Education and Acting Head of the Conservatory of Music and Drama and the Institute of Technology in Dublin.

### Choral society raise the roof

By Aisling Casey

The DIT Choral Society "raised the roof" recently at the National Concert Hall with an electrifying performance of operatic favourites.

The National Concert Hall came alive last month to the melodic tones of the DIT Choral Society. The Conservatory of Music and Drama at DIT, have been behind the production of the immense, popular, "Carmina Burana".

Dublin's newly formed orchestra, Dublin Sinfonia also played on the night. The orchestra is due to include players from professional Irish orchestras and a selected list of Conservatory students about to embark on a career in the industry.

Lyric FM presenter Sean Rocks composed the evening to a rapturous reception. The performance, the performance academy.

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The awards will be judged on an application made by the society or individual detailing why they feel they deserve the award, in general. The application should include photographs and details of successful events. A selection committee is set up to choose from the applications for awards which may not always be adequate to their needs. In other words, it is recognised that the education of performers, like the practical education of scientists and engineers, requires dedicated facilities and funds. This is not followed through in Ireland, as students and staff at CMD are all too aware.

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There is a need for a debate on, and strategy for, providing high quality education in performance and related fields to all students to seek to develop the arts in the arts and cultural industries. This is not followed through in Ireland, as students and staff at CMD are all too aware.

Victor Merrimam is Senior Lecturer in Music Education and Acting Head of the Conservatory of Music and Drama and the Institute of Technology in Dublin.
Overall president candidate

**Hugh Patrick O'Reilly: running for overall DITSU president**

Solo presidential nominee says inconsistency is "killing the Student's Union stone dead"

By Aoife Stokes

Hugh O'Reilly is the only candidate running for the position of Overall President of the DIT Student's Union in the DITSU elections on March 13th.

Speaking to the DIT Independent, O'Reilly said that, "I have always contended that the Student's Union can be a great organisation, however it has been let down by inconsistent performances of the sabbatical elect we elect from year to year".

Speaking about the fact that there is only one nominee for the this year, current Overall President, Margueritte Fitzpatrick said that it is a shame but that if the students aren't happy with having just one nominee they should try for the position themselves.

"I'm sure Hugh will still put the same amount of effort into his campaign even though he's the only candidate running."

22 year-old O'Reilly has attended DIT Mountjoy Square for the past four years and is currently in his final year of a degree in Furniture Design. Throughout his college career he has been involved in the Student's Union undertaking a range of responsibilities.

He has been a class representative for the four years and has also been a member of the Student Council.

O'Reilly held the presidency of the DIT Drama Society over the academic year 2000/2001 and was a founding member of the society. Under his presidency the society won 'Best Society', 'Best Event' and 'Best Society Individual' at the first DIT Society Awards in 2001.

The main aims of O'Reilly's campaign are to bring greater levels of professionalism, communication, accountability and planning to DITSU.

"I am not contending that if elected I can immediately transform the union and all will be bright and wonderful this time next year. I am realistic and see that only as a team the union can go forward and improve the facilities and services it provides to students. At the turn of the 21st Century we need to embrace changes and improvements because unprofessional standards and practices are no longer accepted by a demanding student population."

Cathal Brugha St under-represented as nominations announced

By Aisling Casey

The nominations for Student Union sabbatical and part-time officers were announced earlier this week with no sabbatical candidates going forward to represent Cathal Brugha Street.

This wasn't the only surprise for the election candidates, especially those attending Mountjoy Square, Aungier Street and Rathmines, all of whom will be competing against each other for votes.

From September 2002, Mountjoy Square students will no longer attend the Northside campus. Instead business students will move to Aungier Street, while arts students will be accommodated on the Rathmines campus.

It will prove difficult for candidates attending any of these three colleges because canvassing will have to be done on all sites. This also includes sites at Portland Row and Temple Bar. Candidates in this position were given extra materials for attracting voters.

There will be two polling stations in Mountjoy Square, one for students who will be attending Aungier Street in September and another for those who will be attending Rathmines.

Cathal Brugha St were underrepresented at the meeting of election candidates, with no sabbatical candidates going forward. Philip Gannon was the only part-time candidate put forward by Cathal Brugha St. He is hoping "to provide a better standard of social life for the campus".

There is only one nominee for Overall President this year. Hugh O'Reilly is this year's candidate. Hugh, who has been involved in student politics over the last four years and is eager to make the Students Union more approachable for students.

He said, "I have the ambition necessary to do a good job."

Voting will take place on Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th March, with Northside and Southside campuses voting in different shifts. This is being done to eliminate unfairness in cross border voting.

With campaigning well underway, nominees and their canvassing teams are under strict instructions not to deface other candidates' posters, as it will result in immediate disqualification.

The election supervisor's committee will monitor breach of election guidelines over the coming week.

Candidates must now publicise their campaigns as much as possible.

They will be given the chance to state their manifestos at a compulsory session of election hosting early next week. The count venue has been named as 'Planet Murphy' and the count will take place once polling stations have been closed.
Full-time sabbatical candidates

Name: Brian Whitney
Age: 21
DIT Campus: Rathmines
Nomination: President
Rathmines/Mountjoy
Current course of study: Social Care Practice
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Entertainment Officer Rathmines, Councillor, Disciplinary Committee, Social and Cultural Committee Rathmines, and Class Representative.
Major proposals if elected: Fair representation for Rathmines and Applied Arts Students in Mountjoy.
"I'm the only one for the job and I know what it's like to come from a college with poor student facilities and lack of representation, where the larger DIT Sites refuse to recognise Student needs in smaller sites".

Name: Clarin Horan
Age: 21
DIT Campus: Aungier Street
Nomination: Deputy President
Current course of study: Business Studies
Year: Fourth
Previous experience in student politics: Not interested in politics, just working to achieve a better union.
Major proposals if elected: To sort classroom seats out and printers.
"Fresh new ideas for a new college."

Name: Kevin Street
Current course of study: Architectural tech
Year: First
Previous experience in student politics: Experience in debating and took part in a one-year mentoring scheme.
Major proposals if elected: To improve the Student's Union by providing new seating and a more comfortable surrounding for all students.

Name: Eamon Sheridan
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer - Name: Naoimh McNamee
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer
Current course of study: Business Studies
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Outgoing clubs and societies officer
Major proposals if elected: To extend the hours of the welfare office to cater for part-time students, to get students more involved in their Union, to establish a part-time entertainments team.
"I want to run for this position because I feel that I have the experience that the job requires."
"I feel that I have an excellent knowledge of the workings of DITSU and a great deal of valuable experience to offer the students of Bolton Street.

Name: Darren Mc Ardle
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Aungier Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer - Name: Eamon Sheridan
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer -

Name: Naoimh McNamee
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer
Current course of study: Business Studies
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Two years on the election supervisory committee, three years on the ents crew, DITSU councillor, chairperson of SRA, class representative, U8i congress delegate and best virgin speaker award, Eastern area conference delegate.
Major proposals if elected: To extend the hours of the welfare office to cater for part-time students, to get students more involved in their Union, to establish a part-time entertainments team.
"I want to run for this position because I feel that I have the experience that the job requires."
"I feel that I have an excellent knowledge of the workings of DITSU and a great deal of valuable experience to offer the students of Bolton Street.

Name: Marc Murphy
Age: 28
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer
Kevin Street
Current course of study: Diploma in electrical & control systems.
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Class representative for four years (92-96) during apprenticeship, and currently the Participations officer for Kevin Street.
Major proposals if elected: To improve the manner in which money is spent by the Student Union and in particular to reduce the ways in which it is lost by major charity events during the year. Also to reduce the money lost by ineffective day-to-day running of the Union, where sabbatical officers either do not turn to work or turn up late.
"I am a mature student and I feel that I can bring both my maturity and past work experience in both entertainments and management to the Union."
Colin Saunders
Name: Colin Saunders
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Mountjoy Square
Nomination: Clubs and Societies Officer
Current course of study: Applied Science
Year: First
Previous experience in student politics: Currently a member of the DITSU Council.
Major proposals if elected: To set up a debating society and a debate society as well as a student Union and work well with each other.

Gary McDermott
Name: Gary McDermott
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Clubs and Societies Officer
Current course of study: Applied Science
Year: First
Previous experience in student politics: Currently a member of the DITSU Council.
Major proposals if elected: To set up a debating society and a debate society as well as a student Union and work well with each other.

Jenny McGowan
Name: Jenny McGowan
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Mountjoy Square
Nomination: Entertainments Officer
Current course of study: Management & Marketing
Year: First
Major proposals if elected: To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights. I have been a member of the clubs and socs and I'm aware of the problems they face. I believe I can improve clubs and socs within Kevin Street.

Peter Bennett and Amy Cahill
commitment and enthusiasm.
Name: Nicola Cunningham
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Clubs and Societies Officer
Current course of study: Applied sciences
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Class representative for the last two years and student councilor for the last year.
Major proposals if elected: To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights. I have been a member of the clubs and socs and I'm aware of the problems they face. I believe I can improve clubs and socs within Kevin Street.

Nikki Lankford
Name: R6isfn Lankford
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Public Relations Officer
Previous experience: in the work. Two years as a part-time officer and one year as a class representative. I feel I still have a valuable input into the union to make it stronger and more student friendly.

Kim O'Connoly
Name: Martin Ryan
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Aungier Street
Nomination: Public Relations Officer
Current course of study: Management
Year: Second
Major proposals if elected: To have at least six college publications. The introduction of a Rag King and Rag Queen during Rag Week. The creation of a greater number of events.

Gary McDermott, Ciaran Bowe and Alan Mac Stiofáin
people regardless who they are.
Name: Francis Patrick Fox
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Clubs and Societies Officer
Current course of study: Transport engineering
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Irish language officer 00/01
Major proposals if elected: A greater awareness of the clubs and societies available. "I have a good knowledge of the Union and work well with and for other people."

Name: Ciaran Bowe
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Rathmines
Nomination: Equality Officer
Current course of study: Speech and Drama Studies
Year: First
Major proposals if elected: To take action on any incidents of discrimination on the Rathmines site.
"I don't back down when people discriminate against me, not that I'm stubborn, just a tad assertive."

Name: Alan Mac Stiofáin
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Rathmines
Nomination: Participation Officer
Current course of study: Electrical & Control Engineering
Year: First (Repeat)
Major proposals if elected: To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights. I have been a member of the colleges and societies available to students via the publications. The introduction of a Rag King and Rag Queen during Rag Week. The creation of a greater number of events.

Name: Colin Saunders
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Mountjoy Square
Nomination: Clubs and Societies Officer
Current course of study: Applied Science
Year: First
Previous experience in student politics: Currently a member of the DITSU Council.
Major proposals if elected: A greater awareness of the clubs and societies available. "I have a good knowledge of the Union and work well with and for other people."

Name: Georgina Daly
Age: 18
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Equality Officer
Current course of study: Applied Science and Computing
Year: First
Previous experience in student politics: Elected Irish Language Officer 2001. Currently Class Representative.
Major proposals if elected: To make health issues available to students via the SU and stop discrimination in classes.
"I am about the importance of student views. I am not running for a popularity contest."

Name: Fergal Connolly
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Equality Officer
Current course of study: Applied Science and Computers
Year: First
Previous experience in student politics: Elected Irish Language Officer 2001. Currently Class Representative.
Major proposals if elected: To make health issues available to students via the SU and stop discrimination in classes.
"I am about the importance of student views. I am not running for a popularity contest."

Name: Amy Cahill
Nomination: Clubs and Societies Officer
Major proposals if elected: To publicise student events and activities around the college and make students more aware of what happens at council.
"Because I have some experience with what is required from this position and I know I can do a good job."

Name: Bernard Coggins
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Equality officer
Current course of study: Transport engineering
Year: Second
Major proposal if elected: Equality.
"For equal rights."

Name: Ciaran Bowe
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Rathmines
Nomination: Equality Officer
Current course of study: Speech and Drama Studies
Year: First
Major proposals if elected: To take action on any incidents of discrimination on the Rathmines site.
"I don't back down when people discriminate against me, not that I'm stubborn, just a tad assertive."

Name: Alan Keane
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Participation Officer
Current course of study: Electrical & Control Engineering
Year: First (Repeat)
Major proposals if elected: To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights. I have been a member of the colleges and societies available to students via the publications. The introduction of a Rag King and Rag Queen during Rag Week. The creation of a greater number of events.

Name: Francis Patrick Fox
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Clubs and Societies Officer
Current course of study: Transport engineering
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Irish language officer 00/01
Major proposals if elected: A greater awareness of the clubs and societies available. "I have a good knowledge of the Union and work well with and for other people."

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Major proposals if elected: To make health issues available to students via the SU and stop discrimination in classes.
"I am about the importance of student views. I am not running for a popularity contest."

Name: Jenny McGowan
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Mountjoy Square
Nomination: Entertainments Officer
Current course of study: Management & Marketing
Year: First
Major proposals if elected: To improve the entertainment in Aungier Street so that it will appeal to everyone in the college, and they will be encouraged to participate. "I'm the only girl running for elections in Aungier Street, so it will help balance the executive committee. I also have previous experience in the Student Union and I have great plans for the future of Aungier Street."

Name: Martin Ryan
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Aungier Street
Nomination: Public Relations Officer
Current course of study: Management
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Class representative for the last two years and student councilor for the last year.
Major proposals if elected: To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights. I have been a member of the clubs and socs and I'm aware of the problems they face. I believe I can improve clubs and socs within Kevin Street.

Name: Peter Bennett
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Entertainments Officer
Current course of study: Electrical and control engineering
Year: Second
Previous experience in student politics: Class representative for the last two years and student councilor for the last year.
Major proposals if elected: To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights. I have been a member of the clubs and socs and I'm aware of the problems they face. I believe I can improve clubs and socs within Kevin Street.

Name: Tim Enright
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Public Relations Officer
Current course of study: Electrical & Control Engineering
Year: First
Previous experience in student politics: Currently a member of the DITSU council on the course committee for Electrical and Control Systems Engineering.
Major proposals if elected: Awareness of the Irish culture and language in DIT Kevin Street.
"Because I have a fluency in Irish and wish to increase the love of our language at all levels in the college."

Name: William Kinsella
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Mountjoy Square
Nomination: Public Relations Officer
Current course of study: Management and Marketing
Year: First
Previous experience in student politics: Currently a member of the DITSU council on the course committee for Electrical and Control Systems Engineering.
Major proposals if elected: Awareness of the Irish culture and language in DIT Kevin Street.
"Because I have a fluency in Irish and wish to increase the love of our language at all levels in the college."

Name: Ciaran Bowe
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Rathmines
Nomination: Equality Officer
Current course of study: Speech and Drama Studies
Year: First
Major proposals if elected: To take action on any incidents of discrimination on the Rathmines site.
"I don't back down when people discriminate against me, not that I'm stubborn, just a tad assertive."
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**Reads, 24 Nassau Street, Dublin. Phone: 6796011. Fax: 6711684**
Letters to the Editor

Praise for DITSU RAG efforts
Dear Editor,

I would like to discuss the recent RAG event in the Point Depot. I would like to thank the DITSU Executive for running a brilliant show and congratulate them for all their hard work and effort that the two of us put in myself and I have to say that I enjoyed the night thoroughly.

Unfortunately though, the night was not a complete success, insofar as a loss was made. RAG Week this year stood for "Raising And Giving," spent entirely to the Society of the Homeless. As such, it is a loss which will take place in Ireland next year. It seems likely that less than 1,500 DITSU Students held the same conviction to this worthy cause.

Questions will now be asked of the whole venture, which is no bad thing. It could be said of last year’s flac, that it was attributable to someone. However, the same cannot be said of this year. From the beginning, the decision was made by the Sabbaticals (Executive) of the Union to run the event. I’m sure however, that voices of discontent will rear their heads from within the Executive e.g. "I was against it from the beginning" etc.

Such is the nature of democracy however, that when a project is procured with the same name and the same principle, we should not fully agree with it help carry it out- usually with their objections taken into account an incorporated into the same. Therefore the Executive should not entirely split over the issue- as we ALL know what it can lead to...

Therefore, Sabbaticals must take the back on the cliff or try to score points in the upcoming elections. Any attempt that DISTSU make to do so will be seen for what it really is: a pitiable electioneering tactic. Quite rightly we must examine on what pretences the decision was made and how we can set safeguards to ensure it cannot happen again. After the decision was made however, I personally cannot fault the Executive. It is a shame more people didn’t see and witness the hard work that went into the event.

I personally think that the right decision was made to run the Ball and not pull it at the last minute - we could not sustain such a miasma again and it is an effort that we can and are capable of running such an event effectively, even if it was only to 1,500 party goers. Finally, maybe all those who will criticise the event could identify who they were actually at the Ball before launching an attack on the Union.

Regard,

Jarlath Molloy

Part-time student discrimination

Dear Editor,

An EGM of DITSU Council was recently held to discussed the impeding move of the Sabbatical Officers to Aungier Street next year.

This presented a constitutional problem - how would the business students vote? Being the Sabbatical and Part-Time elections? The obvious answer was that the 1,000 students connected should be included in the Aungier Street electorate. In fairness I personally cannot recall such a black and white issue ever being placed before Council before. And yet of course this proved not to be the case.

On the night the motion for Constitutional amendment was comprehended, the DISTSU Sabbatical and Student members present were asked to vote. The figures and Sabbatical representatives alike should be ashamed of the roles they played in the build-up to March 6th.

It’s policy of the DI Independent to correct any inaccuracies as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DI independent to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within.

The DI Independent

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RAG week - will DITSU ever learn?

Dear Editor,

Well, after last year’s episode of the Point, it seems like history has repeated itself. Do these Students’ Union Officers ever learn? Am I correct in saying that the surveys and questionnaires that were conducted, only 2,000 tickets were sold this year.

I don’t think the cost close to 35,000 and we are not even taking into account of the performancers’ fees. I understand an event cancellation insurance policy was put in place, but I also understand that it did not cover lack of ticket sale. We were supposed to raise funds for charity but does that mean that our students have to suffer along with us?

I wonder how much of the students’ money have they lost and how will our Overall President justify her actions?

Yours with great concern,

T. (wished to remain anonymous)

Hyland’s efforts deserve our support

A chara,

I recently read the article, "Chinu Challenge" written by Clara O'Connor and published in the February edition of the DI Independent.

The cause for which Adam Hyland is trying to raise money, is one in which we, the Sinn Fein Cumann of DIT feel very strongly about. It is true that the issue of homelessness in Dublin and other cities, is a serious problem and we in fact believe is not being dealt with in the manner in which it demands. It has been agreed upon that Sinn Fein Cumann engages in will see half the proceeds to help Adam in his expedition. I would appreciate if you would pass the message onto Mr. Hyland, and let him know that we are following him in every other way in which we can help him, we will do our best.

Go raibh maith agat,

Sean MacDarmad
Sinn Fein Cumann, DIT Bolton Street.
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to see the world

Any country that gave birth to Homer Simpson, drive-in wedding chapels and UFO paranoia has got to have a lot going for it. Its not a myth, the USA really can be the land of opportunity. But to get there costs money - and thats where Bank of Ireland can help you. We’re offering a six month interest free, J1 visa loan which includes up to €1000 emergency cash*. In addition you can also avail of a student credit card*, an interest-free ESS Tax Rebate Loan* and even get help dealing with the red tape that is the US tax system.

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Bank of Ireland
Casino royale

Why choose Las Vegas, Monte Carlo or Bray when you can find some hard core gambling on your own door step?

Laurence Mackin savours the highs and lows of a long night in Dublin's answer to the Golden Mile.

Although Las Vegas may be all glitz and glamour, Dublin's equivalent is not so extravagant. Montague Street is home to two of Dublin's private members clubs where the privileged few can spend their life savings on a game of cards. Being the debonair playboy that I am, I decided it was time to get a piece of the action at the Montague Leisure Club.

It's 4AM and everywhere else is deserted. The bouncer shows us in and hands us forms to fill in, to certify us as temporary members. We duly fill in false names and forwarding addresses for the junk mail.

The entrance hall looks like a small hotel lobby. Big desk, security camera, fake cheesy Romanesque statue in the corner, service as an ashtray. Once the formalities are out of the way we make our way into the arena.

My dreams of neon lights, Elvis music, hookers and free alcohol are dashed on the rocks of a room Laura Ashley would be proud of. Seven tables of either blackjack or roulette divide the floor. Each table has a small huddle of gamblers, overseen by a croupier and a supervisor seated on a high chair, like an umpire in tennis.

The atmosphere is at best subdued with the light background music broken only by the quiet murmur of voices and the innocent click of the roulette table.

I am in completely uncharted territory, with virtually no back-up. There is a strict no alcohol rule, and although there are free drinks you will not find a drop of illicit substance for blood or money.

The nearest thing I could find to a season's remuneration has attached itself to a nearby blackjack table, and I follow suit. Quickly tiring of the spectacle sport, in the pure interests of journalism and absolutely nothing to do to get with greed I hand over my 20 euro. The croupier slots it into a hole and hands me a pile of chips. Let the games begin.

Blackjack is a deceptively difficult game to master and I have no idea what I am doing. I look around the table but there is no Mavis Beacon character to show me how to take money off the English girl firing cards at me and unmercilessly asking me questions to which I have no answers.

My lonely 20 Euro rashly thrown into the rabbit hole has come back from the dead, Jesus-like. And it's brought a few apostles.

Half an hour and 20 euro later, things are looking sweet. I save my original stake and set it aside, vowing not to use it. I send it to the side and do the same with another 50 euro chip. I double up to 30 euro, then 40.

The croupier leaves the table and my partner on the blackjack table but there is no Mavis Beacon character to show me how to take money off the English girl firing cards at me and unmercilessly asking me questions to which I have no answers.

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The atmosphere is at best subdued with the light background music broken only by the quiet murmur of voices and the innocent click of the roulette table.

When asked if he sometimes feels guilty, he shrugs. "I'm not forcing anyone to throw their money away," I realise my pony stake is insignificant when my new best friend tells me he once knew a man who lost £100,000. Five nights in a row.

The dealer has obviously been around the blackjack block, so I figure he must be damn good at the game. "No", he replies, a judicious glint in his eye. "I never gamble". I feel like I should have learnt some sort of lesson at this stage.

Things have gone from great to worse. The battlefield bodes ill and my reserves are considerably depleted. I haven't been watching the cards and I'm in dire straits.

All my treacherous blue chips have surrendered and I send in the last of my wad on the eight of diamonds looking girls in the black dress. I'm not just breaking even. "I'm not forcing anyone to throw their money away," I realise my pony stake is insignificant when my new best friend tells me he once knew a man who lost £100,000. Five nights in a row.

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Independent DIT

This test run is the Irish National Games held by Special Olympics Ireland. The Games have been held every four years, but the difference this year is that not alone will Irish athletes be competing, but a further 300 European athletes with learning difficulties will be joining them, as the potential venues and teams for next year's World Games are put through their paces.

If you hadn't heard of the National Games before, you may be amazed at how big the event actually is. 1600 athletes will compete in nine sports, in 11 venues over five days. The total cost of staging the Games is around £750 000, which comes from a number of different sources - the Irish Sports Council, the Department of Health and Children, the youth's primary sponsor, Eircom, and various other sponsors and fundraising activities. Special Olympics Ireland caters for athletes with learning disabilities throughout the country. There is year-round training for the athletes, as well as regular competitions. According to Pat Costello, the Director of Special Olympics Ireland, "there are about 270 Special Olympics clubs around the country. This is a legitimate sporting organisation, and our athletes train as hard as any others". The Irish Special Olympics Team for the 2003 World Games will be selected at this year's National Games, so there's extra pressure on the athletes this year. The fact that the Games will be held in Ireland next year also means that the competition is more accessible for Irish athletes than it had been in previous years. "This is the first year in the history of the Special Olympics that the Games have been held outside the USA. Consequently, there will be more Irish athletes at the games than ever before; partly to the fact that the range of sports has increased. In previous years, the Irish team would have had about 70 athletes, but this year there should be up to 300 competing" , added Mr. Costello.

Although the excitement of hosting the World Special Olympics threatened to overshadow this year's National Games, Mr. Costello believes that "the athletes have refocused on this year's competition, probably due in part to the fact that Team Ireland for 2003 will be selected at it". The forthcoming events are also beginning to receive increased attention from the public and the media. "In general the media coverage has been very positive, there has been great support and interest," said Mr. Costello. He dismissed the infamous Mary Ellen Synon article about Special Olympics athletes as "controversial, but seen by most people as a personal opinion".

The increased attention from the media is important for Special Olympics Ireland. "The increased attention from the public and the media means that the competition is more accessible for Irish athletes than it had been in previous years. "This is the first year in the history of the Special Olympics that the Games have been held outside the USA. Consequently, there will be more Irish athletes at the games than ever before; partly to the fact that the range of sports has increased. In previous years, the Irish team would have had about 70 athletes, but this year there should be up to 300 competing" , added Mr. Costello.

With the increasing interest in the Games, there is a greater need for volunteers, including parking attendants, security and medical attendants. With the exception of the medical attendants, no previous experience is needed. "We will provide full training for any volunteers, and anyone who has any free time can approach us, we will consider any offer of help" said Mr. Costello. Ideas for fundraising are also appreciated.

This year's Games will take place in a number of venues in the Dublin area, including UCD, UCD, St. Patrick's College in Maynooth, Blanchardstown and Ringsend. Events will kick off on June 19th with a ceremony in Parnell Park, and will conclude in the RDS on June 23rd. If you fancy doing something different after the exams, Pat Costello and the team at Special Olympics Ireland would be delighted to hear from you. "We need to get more young people on board, and we will work around their schedules".

If you are interested in helping out at the National Games, contact Special Olympics Ireland on 01-8823972 or e-mail info@specialolympics.ie.

will you have some time to spare this June? If you've got a few extra hours, Special Olympics Ireland needs your help. Janice Gaffey spoke to Pat Costello, the Director of Special Olympics Ireland

The forthcoming Presidential elections in Zimbabwe will be the first in 20 years to present any genuine opposition to the current leader, Robert Mugabe. The election campaigns have been fraught with tension and external observers have been expelled from the country. Deirdre Ni Cheallaigh spoke to Tawanda Gono, a young Zimbabwean living in Ireland, about Mugabe's reign and the upcoming elections.

When Robert Mugabe first came to power in Zimbabwe, the country was one a party state, with no opposition. According to Tawanda Gono, there was a positive attitude to Mugabe at that point in time. "Robert Mugabe was voted into power by the majority of the people, you know, they expected that he would do good for the country. But this is just it, you can never know with anything in the beginning whether something is wrong or right but, by and large, I would say people had faith in him and trusted him with running the country against that particular fashion".

However, while that may have been the case in the beginning, the situation began to decline during Mugabe's rule. "Mugabe was the person in power for the past twenty years. Personally I would say after about five years the people were beginning to notice signs of corruption within the country and noticing that things were not as good as they were in the previous ten years. These were just signs that, you know, something was wrong. Tawanda explained that the first major sign people noticed was economic.

"Yes off, you know, the currency was almost at par with the British pound. And then things began to become more expensive, these were basic commodities. That was just some of the initial signs that people were noticing. That things were not as good as they had been during the previous years."

Although people denounced corruption, that was as far as it went. "People have spoken against it from time to time, yet one rarely, if it can be called this, has actually acted upon it."

One of the major issues in Zimbabwe throughout the past 20 years has been land ownership. "Land distribution has been promised to the people since 1980 and from what I know personally, seeing that my own brother worked for Land and Resettlement, they tried to redistribute land but the whole thing fell apart because eventually most of these farms were given to people in government and never really afforded to the people who were supposed to be settled."

Another issue has been that of compensation of war veterans. Tawanda explained that "its hard to distinguish whether you could call a person a war veteran. But, by and large, I would say that 90% criteria the government was using was people who have fought for the attainment of independence. Corruption has been rife in the awarding of compensation to these veterans. With compensation it was actually a requirement for anyone who was a war veteran that they could not be looked at; see if they had any disabilities either from the war or anything of that nature. But this was again badly misused, you know people were using it in a corrupt fashion. They were going, most probably, to one particular doctor. He would give a person up to sixty, even up to a hundred per cent disabilities and yet these are people who can still do everyday chores you know? The very people who, I would even say, are on the rampage on the streets of Harare at this particular moment."

Tawanda is hopeful of a positive outcome from the elections. "It's not only myself, I'd say the population of the country would actually get to be happy if a new government is voted into power. Zimbabwe is a country that has taken severe battering from financial and political party, being terribly stolen from, plundered from. We even supported wars that we had nothing to do with for many years so, if anything, it has suffered tremendously. The land is not something that is going to come overnight but at least these would be footsteps in the right direction.

Mugabe's democratic deficit

The Irish Special Olympics World Winter Games 2001 in Alaska. Picture courtesy of Special Olympics Ireland

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A

Athletes

Olympic

Opportunity

Irish athletes at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2001 in Alaska. Picture courtesy of Special Olympics Ireland
A Labour of Love

T

can’t remember a time when I wasn’t interested in public issues,” said Joan Burton, former Minister of State and currently representing the constituency of Dublin West in local government. Now in her thirtieth year of Labour party membership, Ms Burton reflected on her reasons for joining the major party of the left when speaking to the DIT Independent. “I joined the Labour party in the context of Ireland joining the E.E.C. which I was very opposed to,” she said. “I saw it as a very big loss of sovereignty.” As a native of the inner city, Joan felt compelled to engage in the political process given that the capital faced an accommodation crisis during that period.

Dublin the really big issue was housing because the housing situation was just appalling and the quality of people’s accommodation was appalling. Acting as an active member of the party as opposed to forwarding herself for elected representation initially, Joan’s role in the party changed some two years into her involvement.

“Noel Browne was having one of his consistent difficulties with the Labour party. He had been meant to represent some branch at the Labour party’s annual conference in Cork, but for various reasons, ended up not being able to do so. I was involved in this branch and a number of people asked me to arrange for him to be delegate of the branch. And of course I was delighted.”

Browne was a man ahead of his time in Irish politics - the instigator of the ill-fated Mother and Child scheme in the first multi-party government led by John A. Costello from 1944-51, a policy which would lead to his resignation as Health Minister after some negative noises from the Catholic hierarchy.

It was through working with the late Dr Browne that Joan met a man called Pat Carroll, who was to become her husband. “At the next election, Pat ended up being nominated as a candidate for me area (Glenties Road, in Cabra) and he got elected. About a year later, we got married.” She added with a grin, “politics is not all about slogging – there are interesting times as well.”

As well as representing Dublin West in Dublin City Council, Joan Burton lectures business and journalism students in DIT Aungier Street, a position that she immensely enjoys.

An excellent Leaving Certificate result saw the young Joan rewarded with a scholarship to University College Dublin, where she studied Commerce and English. “I was the first person from my school to go to university and probably the first person from Oxxmorston Road to do so.”

She noted that while socio-economic constraints have improved the situation for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, the current student population still reflects the difficulties for aspiring students from areas of economic difficulty. “In the 1950’s and 60’s the people who went to college were the better off. There was no systems and it was just a matter of having the money, or for a very small number of people like me, getting scholarships. Though nowadays you look at the statistics and the number of working class kids who go to third level is still quite tiny.”

By the time the obstacle of university education had been successfully cleared, Joan committed herself to Labour and was a noted member of the party’s anti-coalition extreme left. By the advent of the 1980’s, she was honorary secretary of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, “before it became fashionable”. By 1983, following her husband’s resignation from Dublin Corporation, Joan and Pat moved to Tanzania, where both back from Tanzania. It’s a one third Muslim country, where obviously women’s rights are traditionally circumscribed. Women are not terribly advanced, and the country was dirt poor, although it’s a lovely country, but nonetheless they have the right to divorce and remarriage. I strongly thought that more women should be pushed along as candidates,” she said. “I then found myself having to become a candidate in order to supply a quota of women. I wasn’t madly enthusiastic and I had quite a seminal experience, in that as soon as I became a candidate, her father and stepmother living in nearby Dublin West (the country’s most fashionable plot of political land thanks to Prisoner of Mountjoy), Joan decided to preach her political gospel in a new neck of the capital’s woods.

The experience garnered as part of Mary Robinson’s Presidential election team in 1990 enhanced her reputation within the party and locally and in the space of two years became a Dublin City Councillor, a Teachta Dála and a Minister of State (including a stint at Foreign Affairs). “The conduct of the disgraced Liam Lawlor could provide Burton with the votes of many disillusioned Dublin West voters.”

"The Spring tide" of Labour popularity, with the parties in 1997, Joan had lost her Dáil seat. “I was very unfortunate...in that I got about 13 per cent of the vote but still didn’t get a seat. It was really to do with how Fianna Fáil split the vote and the fact that they got PD transfers. A very large PD transfer elected Liam Lawlor and Brian Lenihan in the context of what’s happened, it’s ironic.”

The conduct of the disgraced Deputy Lawlor could provide Joan with the votes of many disillusioned voters in Dublin West. Given that a speech she delivered in 1993 led to her fighting 43 separate libel writs which highlighted several of the major issues which are now the subject of the Flood Tribunal, Joan Burton has a realistic chance of a return to chambers in Leinster House.

DIT’s loss could well be the Dáil’s gain.

As well as representing Dublin West in Dublin City Council, Joan Burton lectures business and journalism students in DIT Aungier Street, a position that she immensely enjoys. An excellent Leaving Certificate result saw the young Joan rewarded with a scholarship to University College Dublin, where she studied Commerce and English. “I was the first person from my school to go to university and probably the first person from Oxxmpton Road to do so.”

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By Debbie Flood

Going on a J1 is the definitive rite of passage for every student. You will find out more about yourself and the people you go with in those short months than you would in a lifetime. All the planning and precautions fly right out the airplane window as soon as you touch down on Yankee soil. Everyone goes on a J1 looking for something, be it fun and adventure or work experience and a holiday.

I had just turned 19 and wanted independence away from the safety net of home. A group of us headed to New York, and organised a house on Staten Island before we left. It was a comfort knowing that I wasn’t homeless when I arrived.

The first two weeks in New York were tough. The heat was unbearable and only five out of the 20 in the house had secured a job.

It was depressing coming home every night after spending hours begging for jobs and returning home with nothing.

After twelve days my boyfriend and I left New York for Cape Cod, a coastal area in Boston. It was a huge difference from the massive skyscrapers and bustling urban jungle we had left behind.

We secured jobs in a small pizzeria in a quiet town on the Cape and our accommodation came with the job. Two friends followed us down and began sharing our cramped one-bedroom cottage.

The cottage was a bedroom, a bathroom, lying room and kitchen rolled into one room, and the shower was outside. The area we were in was very upmarket and the rent was high. After bags, beds and clothes were moved in, there was barely any room left for us.

My boyfriend and I worked together in the pizzeria while the other two lads found jobs nearby. Expect to work long hours, six days a week if you’re on a J1.

Employers prey on J1 students to fill their low-paid jobs. I worked six jobs, six days a week and my boyfriend had three jobs. We were the norm rather than the exception.

The bus service in the town was non-existent and it was a real hassle to get around. The bus service in the town was non-existent and it was a real hassle to get around.

It’s worth noting that Americans go to the pub more than Irish students but you don’t go to getlocked. The only time I saw leaving the pub in a bad state were my friends or the other Irish students.

The weeks and months flew, and by the time I touched down in Dublin Airport, it felt like it was all a dream.

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Prepare for Xmas all over again

By Jamie McCormick

Sony Play Station 2

Microsoft are very well known as a developer of some excellent games in recent years. Names come to mind like Age of Empires or the Flight Simulation series. On the 14th of March, their first foray into console gaming will be launched in Ireland – the Microsoft XBox.

The console has been greeted warmly in the US when it launched in November last year, and quite the opposite to what some people thought, it has shown that Microsoft can pull off quite a lot with a bit of effort (and $50 million) to sell it worldwide.

Having played the console, I can tell you that it is impressive. Physically it is larger and bulkier than the PlayStation 2, and has a controller that takes quite a while to get used to. On paper, it is about twice as powerful as the PlayStation 2, offering gamers plenty of room to manoeuvre in the future.

It also features a built-in hard drive, allowing games to be much larger than before with little if any loading, and is ready for the launch of broadband internet services whenever NTL gets around to it. Don’t be fooled though, the console is a game console, not a computer, and you will not be able to surf the internet through it. When the service gets launched in Ireland you will be able to play in Internet leagues that are being set up for the hit games. Also those of you who are hoping to use the XBox as a DVD player will be disappointed. Although it does allow DVD playback, you will have to buy an additional peripheral to activate the feature.

The console is very much a multiplayer gamers dream. Each console can play four controllers into the front, and on top of that, you can also network up to four machines for multiplayer tournaments.

The launch title Halo supports this, allowing up to sixteen players on four televisions to fight it out to the death in frontmouth mode, or team up for a more tactical game. When the Internet services become available, this will be further extended.

The console launches on Thursday, March 14th around the country. Weighing in at an expected price of €279, it may be a little too hefty for most students.

But for those of you who will be fortunate enough to land yourself one of the consoles within launch, you will be very well looked after. Microsoft has learned from the mistakes of other console launches.

While others and quite notably Nintendo have launched consoles with some great games, there tended to be a drought of titles for a number of months afterwards.

This is not necessarily the case with Xbox. Microsoft have announced an impressive line-up of titles for the launch period. On the day, twenty titles should be available. These will include the much anticipated and excellent first person shooter Halo, graffiti hit Jet Set Radio Future, Project Gotham Racing, Dead or Alive 3 and Tony Hawks Pro Skate 3.

There have also been a host of great titles announced for the first three months of the console’s European life including Samurai title Gemini Onimusha, Crash Bandicoot, Championship Manager, Arch, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Fifa World Cup and Spiderman. These games are expected to set at around €49.99.

The official launch of the console takes place in Virgin Megastores on Aston Quay, and will feature an Xbox theme for those of you who put off Christmas presents to get it. Santa will feature giving free presents to the first hundred to get an XBox, and there will be Game Pubs all over the store to allow gamers to taste what games are on offer.

Only time will tell whether Xbox can establish itself in Ireland against the hugely popular Sony Play Station 2, but with the line-up that the console has going for it, it will be an interesting year!

Life caught on the run

By Debbie Flood

BY taking thirty minutes out of going to the movies, pub or a gig and doing something different, I found something that is both interesting and entertaining. The Gallery of Photography in Temple Bar is holding the Eircell/Vodafone Irish Press Awards.

A collection of over 100 of the best press photographs of the year is on display for the public to view, free of charge.

The exhibition provides the perfect opportunity to view the amazing images that have featured in the national and regional press in the last year. The photographs are broken up into eight categories: news, sport, features, people, the arts, politics and individual study.

There are three prize-winners in each section and an overall winner.

The exhibition features a selection of photographs which made the news in 2001, and encompasses a range of light-hearted lifestyle pieces, images from the year in sport and some of the more disturbing events from the year.

One such photograph is ‘Thin Ice’, a dark and foreboding image of the Garda sub-aqua team stretched across a frozen lake, attempting to recover the bodies of two girls who had fallen through the ice. The bleak colours and disturbing composition convey feelings of desperation and isolation.

Many of the images are quite lightweight emotionally, a humorous and fascinating image of a bird catching its own reflection in the mirror is truly memorable, along with a photograph of two little boys at a pro-life rally. This image is a typical example of photographers playing with people’s perceptions of a controversial issue, and is a heavily loaded image that has been in heavy circulation in the run up to March 6th.

A favourite for many is a photograph of a small boy surprised and bewildered by two drag queens. This image captures the changing nature of Irish society.

The winner of the Eircell/Vodafone Irish Press Photographer of the Year is Brenda Fitzsimons. Ten works from this Irish Times photographer are on display, including ‘Earth Angels’, which features five little girls walking to their navy play, The lighting, colour and tone have an overall magical effect, and convey the aura of innocence and fairy tale ambience associated with such childhood events.
Deafening silence

By Clara O'Connor

Ah, sweet mystery of a seated venue. For some reason, a place like the Project Arts theatre has a soporific effect on what is normally an animated crowd.

The NPB (previously National Prayer Breakfast), Deputy Fuzz, Future Kings of Spain gig was a definite test of the bands' quality, as the excruciating silence only contributed to the widely held perception that these bands are utterly professional, and note-perfect.

The opening act was Lisa O'Neill and John McNeagh from Ballyfermot Rock College. They played two original folk/acoustic songs, which warmed the dance up considerably. Lisa's soulful voice with a strong country twang is complemented well by John's quiet, soft rock style vocals. Their harmonies are exquisite and their timing impeccable.

The Future Kings of Spain were the next act to tread the boards. They are a well-publicised and much discussed group; however, it was the first time I had been subject to their powerful rock. Looking exceptionally stylish in suits (we won't mention the trainers), the FKS bring a new meaning to the word noise. The silence between songs was clearly unnerving for them and I'd safely say their regular crowd does not sit deferentially in their seats and pay full attention.

Next up were Deputy Fuzz... what a weird band. Their consistently outlandish vocal sounds married to a demo on a Casio keyboard (remember Xmas '88?) make for a very bizarre treatment of songs about everything, from sandwiches to pet gofers to a tribute to Samantha Jones from Sex and the City. The whole lot was a mish-mash of 40 second to 2 minute long snippets of what new and old sounds the band had managed to formulate. Pay they didn't spend just a little longer on the musical quality of what they are producing, as, at least, it is really original. Basically they are a crescendo of strangeness.

If that's what you like, and many people did, then their debut album, Music for Toys is out on March 14th.

Finally, the headlining act, ye olde reliable NPB.

"Paranoid Americana country stadium rock," is how the band describe themselves, yet this may be a tad convoluted. Always a slight to behold on stage, NPB's unique clapping, punk and garage rock sounds break the silence and really get the crowd moving (finally).

What with Darragh on his knees playing keyboard and guitar, Patrick falling about the stage and their new and permanent guitarist jumproppy madly about the place, they were never boring, and energetic as always. Their new material is surprisingly heavy, and vocally Patrick gets better every time they play, it seems.

However, their old stuff was still a resolved preference with the crowd as they roar for 'Feeding Frenzy rang out before the encore. As usual, the band's relationship with their audience is what makes their gigs extra special, and their ongoing banter initiated some really crazy dancing.

Playing a mixture of material from 'The Sociables Prefer Pop Music', their debut, and their great new 10 inch 'This is my Happening and it ****** me up', both new and old material was fondly received by a belatedly enthusiastic crowd.

Revs rock Ambassador

By Andrew Rea and Kieran Dineen

"They're thinking of changing their name to Number 3 inspired by their ideal, 1, 2-Unlimited, Five, Six and Club 7 but that is all Hearsay!" or so said the rather jubilant announcer before The Revs took to the stage.

Donegal's finest were here to rock and they did just that.

From the off they engaged with the young audience getting them worked up, moshin' and jumpin', through their own brand of exhilarating, fast pop-punk music. This threesome play simple catchy tunes keeping their music accessible to all ages yet not selling out to the mainstream. Both Rory Gallagher (lead singer) and John McIntyre (bass guitarist) worked the stage as if they have been years on the circuit and Rory's 'scoots-jumps', were a true crowd pleaser. Indeed songs like 'We love America' which was dedicated to the soldiers in the venue, show just how much they have improved since their 'Battle of the Bands' winning days.

Their satirical tribute to Louis Walsh, which has taken on a cult-like status, was one of the high-points of the night. It is testament to the Revs that the lyric 'Louis Walsh said, Rock & Roll's dead' remains only an ironic anachronism. The band has been nominated for the Best Newcomer/Hope for 2002 at the upcoming IBMA awards alongside Louis' trio of pop sensations Six, Reel and Bellefire. They championed their own cause throughout the night as the only credible choice for true music fans.

The unique style with which they blended their own songs almost seamlessly with popular songs is something which sets them apart from other contemporary acts. Also of note was their slant on Kylie's worldwide smash-hit 'Can't get you out of my head' (or bed as the boys' crudely interjected), played a la Travis' rendition of 'Hit me baby one more time', The Revs' singles 'Wired to the Moon' and 'Still alone with you' harbored the most expectation and again failed to disappoint.

We felt obliged to say a few words about the second support act Deputy Fuzz. They are playing in Whelan's on March 16th. Lets just say we will be somewhere else come the 16th. The first-support band Cody were not half bad however, possibly worth another look.

The Revs' cover of Hendrix's 'Foxy Lady' proved a perfect end to a great night even though the security at times seemed a bit over-enthusiastic. Lets just hope that the Revs win the IRMA beating those "bubble gum disposable mass marketed over-hyped Frankenstein creations".

The next single from their debut album Sonic Tonic, "Turning Japanese" has been tipped as an Irish Wold Cup anthem.
Ali
Starring: Will Smith, Jamie Foxx, John Voight
Director: Michael Mann
Depicting the life of the most famous man alive was always going to be a difficult task for director Michael Mann. The retelling of the life of Muhammad Ali is a story whose wholeness, controversy and drama could never truly be justified in a two and a half hour movie. But to Mann's credit, Ali is an interesting if not riveting account of the most turbulent decade of 'The Greatest's' life. The movie kicks off with Cassius Clay's surprise victory over Sonny Liston and ending with his even more sensational knocking out of the human monolith that was George Foreman in the 1974 'Rumble in the Jungle'. Will Smith is a convincing Ali and his beefed up physique and intensive preparation is evident in each of the movie's excellently shot fight scenes. Ali's relationship with TV sports presenter Howard Cosell (Jon Voight) during one of their several altercations in 'Ali' is bungling detective work at its very best and one could only hope for more comedic roles on the big screen for the big man. But the star of the show is Maggie Smith, who dominates every scene with utter pomposity, the finest show of movie snobbery that yours truly can ever recall. As Oscar nomination was the least deserved in a most enjoyable yarn which was deservedly recently rewarded at the BAFTA's.

Still showing....
Monster's Inc is simply brilliant but is just a little short of the unbridled joy of Shrek which should get the nod at the Academy Awards. Don't Say A Word is enjoyable, thriller-type nonsense with the rarefied air of Michael Douglas playing an heroic role. The Fellowship of the Ring remains on the big screen for saddo anoraks such as little old me, and still represents the greatest action fantasy ever committed to celluloid. Yes, that means better than Star Wars...

Dermot Keyes reflects on a good month at the flicks

When George met Julia. The estranged Oceans meet in Ocean's Eleven

Ocean's Eleven
Starring: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia and Julia Roberts
Director: Steven Soderbergh
While this is a movie that will not be winning any gongs of note, Ocean's Eleven is a premier partner in the casino heist of the century. Brad Pitt is excellent and both work off each other brilliantly throughout. Matt Damon does a lot of walking around Las Vegas and delivers a performance which suggests he could make a fine Clark Kent were he ever offered the part. Don Chandlal's cockney bumbler is hilarious as one almost felt some Guy Ritchie influences every time he opened his mouth, while Andy Garcia walks around Vegas like he owns the place; the fact that he does own the place obviously helps. The Could sports an Olympian gut and appalling dress sense and steals the show as a former casino mogul keen for revenge on Garcia, who bought him out. As for Julia Roberts, well, Julia Roberts has never been all that much of an actress in this reviewer's opinion and a bit like Damon, she walks around a lot looking a little confused.

But this movie is just pure popcorn munching fun with a lively script, superb soundtrack courtesy of Belfast's David Holmes and some slapstick dialogue. Ocean's Eleven is a sophisticated high-tech barrel load of laughs. Most of the cast has commented on how good a time they had while making the movie and this party atmosphere is suitably captured by Soderbergh. Great fun and, well, worth checking out. (All movie anoraks look out for a tiny nod to Mr Clooney's former life as Dr Doug)

Gosford Park
Starring: Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, Helen Mirren, Ryan Phillippe, Kristin Scott Thomas
Director: Robert Altman
Robert Altman returns to form with a splendid murder mystery set in a stately English country house in the 1930's, with an acting ensemble even more impressive than the mighty Las Vegas gang that Soderbergh grouped together.

The movie's murder is almost incidental, something of a nod towards Altman's last classic, 'The Player' as the environment surrounding the movie's characters takes precedent to unfolding events. English aristocracy has never been so excellently crafted for moviemakers, as Altman satisfies a personal fascination with the life of the English gent and his own entry into the murder mystery genre. With Michael Gambon putting in a simply stunning performance as the Lord of the manor, married to the materialistic hungry, Kristin Scott Thomas (also brilliant) the incumbrances of Gosford Park host a weekend for their well-to-do relatives and ever so slightly snobby social circle. The upstairs downstairs' philosophy is wonderfully depicted with Helen Mirren, Alan Bates and the shifty eyed Richard E. Grant (something of an Altman favourite at this stage) the best of a stunning acting lot beneath the floorboards of snobbery and class separation. The murder and the moments before and after the crime are straight from the 1930's murder mystery genre that Altman so adores and despite being a little predictable, make for humorous viewing. Stephen Fry's bumbling detective is
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**News in Brief**

• The DIT Annual Sports Awards Night will be held in the Grand Hotel on Wednesday 20th March. All DIT Sports Clubs should submit their nomination forms to Niamh O'Callaghan before Wednesday 13th March. Guest speaker on the night will be veteran RTE commentator Jimmy McGee.

• All DIT students are reminded that the registration deadline is Friday 22nd March.

• Anybody interested in inter-varsity road running or cross country should contact Padraig Marrey, Youth Development Officer with Cycling Ireland, on 01 7828372 or email uc dcc@hotmail.com or call Niamh O’Callaghan on 087 2933442 for further details.

• All DIT students should be aware that all standards are also available in Charleville, Drumcondra. If interested contact Colm O’Dwyer on 087 7938685.

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• Larkin Gym opening hours have changed from the usual 6.30pm to 5.30pm for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. A qualified instructor will be on hand for fitness programmes and fitness testing. Contact the Sports Office at your own football club for further information.

• If interested in playing squash in Phoenix Squash Courts in Clontarf ring Joe Tierney at 853 0156, or email uc dcc@hotmail.com.

• Yoga Classes are currently taking place every Thursday in DIT Mountjoy Square from 6.15pm to 7.15pm. The fee is €12 for the course or €3 for 15 minutes of yoga. Contact the Sports Office at your own club for further information.

• If interested in playing squash in Phoenix Squash Courts in Clontarf ring Joe Tierney at 853 0156, or email uc dcc@hotmail.com.

• The Ladies soccer team train every Thursday evening at 6.30pm on all-weather pitches in the Belvedere College astro-turf pitch and anyone interested should get in touch with the head coach.

• If interested in playing volleyball contact Niamh at 289-2586.

• Any students wishing to join the DIT Football Club can contact Bennie on 087-9621269.

• If you are interested in seeing your team or club featured in the pages of the DIT Independent, or if you have something interesting to share with students about sport in college or in general, please contact Sports Editor Miguel Delaney at 4023071 or e-mail at dmiddlesport@hotmail.com. This is your paper and we'd love to hear from you.

**Caileach gnoideach phoibhsig ag DIT**

By Miguel Delaney

**Fitbogboxing Cup**

Limerick IT 1-14 - DIT 0-10

JUST 24 hours after the football teams were knocked out of the Sigerson Cup, DIT's hurlers came to a similar late in the season preliminary round replay at Limerick IT.

However the hurlers failed to replicate the fight that the football team had given against NUIG. DIT simply couldn't contain Tipperary star Eoin Kelly who turned in a top class performance and so abundant five days earlier.

In the match DIT failed to reproduce the spirit and determination that had been so abundant five days earlier in Terenure, as Galway County star Matthew Clancy ran riot scoring a goal and five points.

Despite going ahead after 11 seconds with a point by Derek McCormack, DIT quickly fell behind as the Galway side took control. Half-time it was 0-8 to 0-3 to the home side and in the 47th minute Clancy put victory beyond doubt with a well struck goal past DIT keeper Eddie Mulvaney.

Though McCormack proved as effective from free kicks as from the field, the game was over after the first match, scoring 4 points. DIT simply couldn't get going in front of a Galway side that ran out easy 1-14 to 0-15 winners.

NUIG: D Morris, D Lyne, D O'Donnell, D Lyne, D McDaid, M Clancy (1-5), R O'Hearn (0-7), Subs: C Considine for O'Heara, C Monahan for Leonard.

DIT: E Fitzgerald, C Giles, D O'Keeffe, K Keane, G Cleere, N Cole, C Monahan (1-8), C Monahan (0-1), Subs: J Murray for O'Donnell, C Considine for O'Heara.

**Sigerson Cup**

Limerick IT 1-14 - DIT 0-10

The DIT Senior Football team were knocked out of the Sigerson Cup this month after a defeat by NUIG. DIT players beat the odds to lose to NUIG in the preliminary round replay at DIT home.

They have been far from enviable. The fact that a home draw in the Sigerson Cup preliminary round replay at only 21 seconds with a point by Derek McCormack, DIT simply couldn't contain Eoin Kelly who turned in a top class performance and so abundant five days earlier.

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DIT crowned ICBA champions

DIT . . . 78
UCC . . . 61

By Ronan Holohan
DIT men's basketball team were crowned college league champions for the first time ever after defeating UCC in the 'A' final.

DIT led the game from start to finish playing with a high up tempo style on both ends of the floor, in what proved a superb all-round team performance.

By the end of the first quarter DIT were in control of the game leading 25 to 9 with big offensive rebounds and great inside play from Jerome Fouquet, John Norris and David Harrison.

In the second quarter DIT upped the pace of the game with some excellent team defence frustrating the UCC team. This defensive work led to a run and gun fastbreak offence with great scores from captain Dermot Kavanagh, Sean Coughlan, and Rob McNulty. With Danny and Barry Bates controlling the play and excellent outside shooting from Yanik Jayet and Ian Barrett, DIT led by 20 points at the half-time break.

The third quarter saw the Cork side try to redeem themselves but DIT continued were they left off in the first half with intense defence. Fast break scores and dominating inside play.

In the fourth quarter UCC returned to the court like a different side, with a full court defensive press which rattled DIT.

Some excellent individual play from Niall O’Rielly and Martin Kennedy brought UCC to within 11 points, but soon DIT managed to break the Cork side’s press and saw them increase their lead again.

Some strange refereeing calls saw David Harrison fouling out with three minutes to go in the game, but the DIT team were never going to let this game slip from their grasp. UCC ended up having to foul to try and get back into the game, and Barry Bates’s free throws and a Jerome Fouquet fast break sealed an impressive and dominating 18 point victory.

DIT top scorers: Jerome Fouquet – 32 points John Norris – 18 points.

Semi-final score:
DIT ............. 70
NUi Galway ........ 50

DIT college team:

DIT basketball manager: Ronan Holohan. Assistant coach: Keith McGee.

Man Celtic claim indoor crown

By Anthony O’Sullivan
RAG Week saw another Indoor soccer league in Kevin Street come to a close.

This year’s matches were just as intense as last year’s, with the same amount of blood and sweat being pulverized out of players as they were checked up against the climbing wall.

The one difference this year was the thankful absence of match fixing, most notably in the final.

There were the usual outrageous team names though, with many sides not living up to them.

“Can we kick it” obviously couldn’t as they finished bottom of their group without securing a single point, while the fabulous ‘Dream team’ actually played like their on-screen counterparts: crap.

And then there was ‘Man Celtic’.

Such a bold name needed a disguise? - Ed).

All opposition in their path were still recovering from the days when footballers could pass the ball with 96. Good show lads! – Man Celtic 2002 Indoor Soccer winners

**Man Celtic 2002 Indoor Soccer winners**

*Man Celtic* made of these days? What happened to the good old professional display of passing football, beating the fancy footie and they didn’t even look like they asked to lose.

‘Man Celtic’ however won through in the end by 11 to 7 up the gallant ‘Smoky Joe’.

'The really good news for all concerned and we're looking forward to some good kitting next year, that the image and fame of Man Celtic has been restored,” said Coggins.

The DIT Sports Council recently looked to have us insured with insurance companies a year ago, but the DIT team were never found on posters around the campus ever after defeating UCC in the Christmas scenario.

The DIT Sports Council has a philosophy of total football into practice with an 11 to 7 victory over the gallant ‘Smoky Joe’.

So to the final, which both group winners competing lived up to expectation. This was true cup football with a last second goal from the not so soft ‘Jelly Tots’ putting it into extra-time. The cooler heads of ‘Man Celtic’ however won through in the end by 11 goals to 8.

On getting their hands on the lustroous On Campus Sports* Trophy the boys assured me that the prize money would indeed be spent towards education.

*On Campus Sports are organizing a 5-Side Soccer World Cup Blitz for March 13th in Astropark.

They hope to see many more Man Celtics competing on the day for the 400 up for grabs. Details can be found on posters around the DIT campuses.

Karting Club finally receives funding

By Dermot Keyes
The DIT Independent has learned that DIT Karting Club 2001 has received insurance, which permits it to press ahead with a list of events previously restricted by its lack of funding and insurance cover. The DIT Sports Council has a policy where all sports are covered, except Mountaineering and Karting as these are considered “dangerous” sports. Despite the policy being in operation for several years, this omission has only recently been discovered.

Recent discussions have seen the club’s financial allocation of €3,000 for 2001 finally granted to the club by the Sports Council, a decision which delighted its chairman Bob Coggins.

“This is good news for all concerned and we’re looking forward to some good kitting next year, that the image and fame of Man Celtic has been restored,” said Coggins.

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unbeatable promotions as always

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