DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of March, 2003

DIT: Students Union

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Jones ordered to address SRA for non-attendance

By Aisling Casey

IN RESPONSE to complaints by the Kevin St Student Representative Assembly, Deputy President/Welfare Officer, Kevin St, Lyndsey Jones has been ordered to attend meetings for the remainder of the academic year. Lyndsey Jones was summoned by the students union’s Disciplinary Committee to a hearing to discuss the case.

Ms Jones was summoned by the students union’s Disciplinary Committee to a hearing. The Disciplinary Committee member, Graham O’Sullivan, chaired the hearing. The case took place on February 24 in Aungier St. Both the prosecution and the defence were heard in camera by the committee. Three, Bolton St Welfare Officer, Naomih McNamee, supported Ms Jones. Speaking for the prosecution were SRA members, Fergal Connolly and Jarlath Molloy, both of whom were elected by the SRA to attend the hearing.

At the hearing, the SRA representatives voiced their displeasure with Ms Jones for failing to attend any of the SRA meetings for this academic year.

When the report was returned, the Disciplinary Committee said that all that was wrong with the situation was a lack of communication between Ms Jones and the SRA. The reasons for non-attendance, Ms Jones explained, was for health reasons and pre-arranged DITSU meetings, all of which were backed up by documentation. However, over the year, the SRA had not been told of her circumstances.

The Disciplinary Committee has instructed Ms Jones to stand up in front of the SRA at the next meeting and explain her situation.

She must also complete a training module on the SRA, understanding what an SRA should be and what role a class representative should play in DITSU.

Speaking to the DIT Independent, Jones said, “At no time did I mean to show disrespect to the SRA. During the last two years in office I have had the students and SRA’s interests at heart but due to ongoing health problems I have had to put my health first. I hope this is not seen as selfish.”

Documentation received from Ms Jones highlights her reasons for not attending. At the first SRA meeting back in October 16, Jones attended a secondary school in Waterford to give a presentation on the 10k walk. On November 6, she attended the Aungier St Health Centre with Deputy President/Welfare Officer of Aungier St, Joe Savage to discuss staffing and facilities with Health Centre Staff. For the following three SRA meetings Jones was absent due to Illness which was backed up by medical certs which were all shown to the Disciplinary Committee at the hearing.

Final year J1’s face the axe

By Aisling Casey

THIS will potentially be the last year final year students will be allowed to travel on J1 visas because of the impending amendments in the US State Department regulations.

Heightened security measures in the US since September 11th have forced the US State Department to propose changes to the J1 Summer Work & Travel Programme.

The most sweeping change is that potentially the summer of 2003 will be the last year that final year students will be allowed to travel on J1 visas. In addition, second time applicants or applicants will also be prevented from travelling.

SAYIT are now encouraging anyone who falls under these categories to travel on a J1 visa this year as changes to the US regulations will more than likely take effect from next year.

If you will be a final year student for the academic year 2003/04 and wanted to travel on a J1 in 2004, then the opportunity may not be obtainable.

However, other proposed changes will affect all students hoping to travel to the US on a J1 visa. All students may be obliged to submit details of a legitimate US job offer before receipt of their visa documentation for completion.

In this instance, the Self-Financing Declaration will no longer be offered.

The US Embassy may also require all J1 applicants to attend an interview at their Dublin office before the visa is issued. An additional processing fee of €35 may also be required.

SAYIT Travel has been offering a J1 visa service for the over 5 years and currently holds over 1/3 of the J1 market.

The J1 USA visa programme has been a core part of college life for over 30 years. Between 8,000 and 12,000 third level students visit the US on summer working visas.

At the moment, the changes are still under review.

SAYIT is advising all students to check out the US jobs section of their website or use any contacts you have in the US to help you secure a job.
OVERALL PRESIDENT

Name: Hugh O’Reilly
Position: Overall President
Age: 22
Course: Furniture Design
Previous Position: Overall President, 2002/2003

If you succeed, what will your main aims be?
- To further improve the professionalism, communication, accountability and planning of the students’ union.
- To increase the level of training provided for student union officers and staff.
- To work on the recommendations of the strategic review
- To put in place a strategic plan for the union
- To improve the representation services provided by the union
- Increase staff levels to support the work of the union officers

OVERALL WELFARE OFFICER

Name: Alan Keane
Position: Overall Welfare Officer

Manifesto: Taking on the challenges and responsibility of becoming a full time Welfare Officer is something, which I am ready and willing to do...

Given the chance one of my main aims next year will be to bring about the structural changes required in the Union as smoothly and efficiently as possible while at the same time maintaining the standard of services we always strive to provide.

OVERALL EDUCATION OFFICER

Name: Marc Murphy
Position: Overall Education Officer
Age: 29
Campus: Kevin St

If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?
A Chara; At a most basic level, I want to be there as a friend and ally to you in times of trouble.
Whether you’re having trouble on your course or if you need to launch an exam appeal.

The job of Education Officer is brand new. If elected, I will have to establish the position as well as doing it at the same time.

It is a huge challenge but with seven years behind me in the college and nearly five years involvement in the SU, I believe I have the ability and maturity to take that challenge on. We are losing our friends in college, enrolment is falling and more and more students are dropping out every year and this is before you even start to take into account the fact that if the Government gets its way more of us will not be able to afford to come back next term.

Students are not being represented on course committees, class reps are not attending SRA’s, and councillors are not going to council. This is a spiraling problem. If I get elected these are just some of the issues I want to work on.

BOLTON STREET PRESIDENT

Name: Francis Fox
Position: Site President, Bolton St
Age: 20
Course: Transport engineering/motor industry management
Previous Position: Clubs & Societies Officer 02/03 and Irish language officer 00/01

Aungier Street President

Name: Joe Savage
Position: Site President, Aungier St
Age: 23
Course: Retail and Services Management
Previous Position: Deputy President/Welfare Officer Aungier St, 2002/2003

If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?
A continuation of the immense work and effort put in by this years sabbatical team both in Aungier St and overall.
DITSU ELECTIONS

DITSU elections - not much contest

By Aisling Casey

CAMPAIGNING for DITSU Elections 2003 are underway. However, contention for positions is certainly not the highlight this year.

This year's Overall President, Hugh O'Reilly is hoping to retain his position. It should be a straight run for Mr O'Reilly as no one has decided to run against him.

Two of the new positions, Overall Deputy President/Campaigns Officer and Education Officer, each only have one candidate willing to take on the challenge.

By Aisling Casey

Every candidate had the right to publish a picture and candidate details. Forms were available from the returning officers on each site.
Jordan calls for review of extended pub opening hours

In response to a decision to extend pub opening hours, USI President Colm Jordan has called for a full review to rethink their strategy.

Speaking at a forum on "Alcohol in Irish Society" in Dublin last week, Mr Jordan said this was just one of a number of strategies which should be looked at in the battle of curbing alcohol consumption. He called on the Government to consider without delay taking licenses from publicans who sold alcohol to under-age people under the legal age.

Mr Jordan referred to a report by a Government task force, published last year.

The report attributed increased consumption of alcohol to rising wealth, increased availability and a failure to considerably increase taxes on alcohol.

While the Government has increased the convenience of drinking by extending pub hours, it had failed to adequately increase taxes on alcohol.

However, the Government has instead decided to move towards banning alcohol advertising, which the task force had discovered would have a lesser effect on curbing drinking habits.

The chief executive of the Vintners' Federation of Ireland, Mr. Tadhg O'Sullivan, said it was naive to imply that increased consumption was linked to extended opening hours. He explained that following extended opening hours in 2000, there was no increase in beer and consumption in 2001 and a decline in 2002.

However, he accepted that the drinks industry has its faults such as advertising, happy hours and cheap promotions, which he said only serve to disgrace the industry.

Although the Minister for Health does not work, he said that some progress had been made in tackling the problem of increased alcohol consumption, he admitted much remained unresolved.

Happy hours and cheap promotions are attracting students to drink as much as they can, a report to blame OIT is not a valid argument.

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didel@diteditor@hotmail.com

And printed by The Meath Chronicle, Navan, Co Meath

letters to the Editor

Deborah Madam,

In the age of accountability, student's interests have been left behind.

Two obvious areas in the DIT where students have little or no real impact are student's views & opinions can be justified anyone teaching students for over forty years without any kind of experience that lecturers band together to justify their competence and existence.

DIT is the largest provider of tuition in the visual, performing and media arts in Ireland. It boasts of its impressiveness. If we have a claim that it is not good enough, we can always get better. It would not allow for it. Students using parentus university status as an excuse to blame DIT is not a valid argument.

DIT has rejected claims that its aims of achieving university status were contrary with the provision of junior tuition. The college has a very proud tradition in music provision. Recently, the President, Professor John Goldsmith, called for music education to be fully integrated into the broader curriculum and asked that the Minister responsibly agreed a move out to Grangegonnan. It is unhappy as he remains under the burden of a heavy debt without the benefit of working in his chosen field.

DIT committed to music education

DIT has been accused by parents for deliberately degrading its Conservatory of Music and Drama because it does not fit in with a campaign for university status. The conservatory, formerly known as the College of Music, has been teaching music to generations of children from all over Ireland since 1890. Parents of the children now attending the college are charging DIT with elitism and egotism at its very worst.

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destined for the fees campaign but other issues are bear the brunt from publicans who sold alcohol to under-age people under the legal age. What we need is an overhaul of the system, where by graduates pay back their college fees when they earn over a certain amount of money will make college education more feasible than a grant alone is not enough for a student to complete her degree. Because of her parent's income, she works as a secretary in the same school. Under the Loan Assurance, which the task force had discovered would have a lesser effect on curbing drinking habits.

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THE Minister for Education and Science has praised DIT's commitment to the transport industry through the provision of a new degree programme.

Mr Noel Dempsey, the Minister for Education and Science, attended the launch of DIT's Honours Degree in Transport Technology, which was attended by representatives of the transport industry.

DIT's transport technology degree is the first of its kind in Ireland solely dedicated to the transport industry.

THE programme, designed to meet needs of the transport and logistics industry, has been warmly welcomed by those in the field.

Speaking at the breakfast launch, Mr Dempsey said, "Our modern dynamic economy demands easy access to markets, efficient and effective movement of goods and safe and convenient travel for people". Addressing the future of the transport industry, he added, "Our legacy to future generations must be a modern state of the art road and rail transport system."

DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith reiterated DIT's commitment to industry. He said, "The Transport Technology programme is truly inter-disciplinary and embraces the fundamental principles and applications of technology, business and the management sciences in order to provide a solid foundation for the management of transport systems".

Wishing the students well in the completion of their degree, Dr Goldsmith thanked them for playing such an important part in taking part in the new programme.

Student loan scheme to replace fees

By Darragh Clifford

AN Taoiseach Bertie Ahern has entered the debate on third-level fees for the first time by saying that "pouring more money" into education is not the solution.

Speaking at Ogra Fianna Fail in Portlaoise on March 1st, Mr Ahern stated: "We need now to step up activity. I do not believe this can be achieved through simply pouring more money into the education system."

Students attending the breakfast launch, Mr Dempsey said, "Our modern dynamic economy demands easy access to markets, efficient and effective movement of goods and safe and convenient travel for people". Addressing the future of the transport industry, he added, "Our legacy to future generations must be a modern state of the art road and rail transport system."

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By Aedín Donnelly

DIT's ongoing budgetary crisis threatens yet more students this week, but this time it is the youngest amongst us who will have to face the music.

The Institute of Education has been instructing children since 1890. Now it plans to increase fees, reduce numbers and will re-admit students for their places every year.

Some classes for younger students will even be discontinued.

Fees could jump 25pc for part-time students in comparison to just 10 per cent for others in the college.

Outraged parents who have formed a 'Parents for Music' lobby group described the situation as a 'nacional crisis'.

Spokeswoman Ms Caroline Elbay has called on the Minister for Education, Mr Dempsey to turn down DIT's budget for the conservatory unless it is amended.

And parents have accused DIT of deliberately downgrading the Conservatory because it does not fit in with a campaign for university status.

Press Officers for the Institute claim that this is "absolutely not the case".

Ms Imelda Slattery went on to reiterate that cuts are coming even for those in the college.

"Wishing the students well in the completion of their degree, Dr Goldsmith thanked them for playing such an important part in the new programme."

"We have no doubt that these cutbacks are part of DIT's campaign to get university status."

"What university has young children running around? It's elitism and egotism at its very worst," said Ms Elbay of Parents for Music.

The City of Dublin VEC is awaiting amendments to DIT's proposed budget for 2003-2004 before granting approval for funding.
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Anger over decision to abolish student summer scheme

In reaction to the Government's decision to remove the Student Summer Jobs Scheme, USI has asked for a meeting to discuss its abolition.

The scheme allowed students to earn up to EUR700 over the summer months, and was seen as vital to local community projects.

USI has said that the Government needed to upgrade the scheme to provide the poorest students with the chance of earning their registration fee.

With the increased competitiveness in the workplace, employers are now unwilling to employ students on short-term contracts.

USI believes that this latest development will force many students to defer or drop out of college altogether. This is another setback from students who have been burdened by the brunt of several cutbacks this year.

The Government's third level strategy will deter many families from allowing their children to further their education.

Health Minister slammed over anti-suicide campaign

Minister for Health, Mr Michael Martin, has been criticised for USI failing to support the union's suicide prevention campaign on the grounds that it was not run by students.

Recent research by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has found that young Irish people are more likely to commit suicide than other Europeans. The tragic deaths of two Cork students have amplified the need for awareness of the campaign.

Speaking at the opening of the US Emotional Health Awareness campaign, President, Colm Jordan said, "We are working on this campaign with other members of the emotional health community, such as the Samaritans and AWARE, but unfortunately the Minister and the Department of Health haven't taken part in it. Mr Martin told us he was too busy!"

For instance, an OECD survey placed Ireland second, after New Zealand, as the international league of people under 25 who commit suicide.

According to figures released, 10.3 per 100,000 young people in Ireland take their own lives. This compares to an average of 5.6 in other OECD countries.

USI has launched a poster campaign, in conjunction with care and the Samaritans, to heighten awareness.

The poster encourages students to ask for help for emotional problems.

Jordan has called on the Government to initiate its own campaign of depression awareness.

'Positive Options' for crisis pregnancies

In an effort to make students more aware of their options when facing an unplanned pregnancy, the Crisis Pregnancy Agency has launched a new campaign.

The Positive Options Campaign offers a comprehensive list of help services for unplanned pregnancies when they are in a relationship.

The decision by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to discontinue the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) has come under strong criticism from both the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU). The Crisis Pregnancy Agency was set up by the Government to devise and implement a plan to tackle the crisis of pregnancy in Ireland.

Back to Education allowance to be downsized

The upcoming Back to Education summer payments of the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) has come under strong criticism from both the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU). BTEA is a scheme designed to encourage and facilitate social welfare recipients to improve their skills and qualifications and their prospects of returning to the active workforce.

The decision by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to discontinue the BTEA has come under strong criticism from both the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU).

The USI Welfare Officer, Maureen Woods, is in full support of the campaign. She said, "There is a lot of ignorance and stigma in society around the issue of crisis pregnancy. This campaign aims to change the current feelings of many young women in Irish society who are made to feel ashamed and very isolated. I feel that raising awareness of the support network that exists out there for women is of paramount importance." The Crisis Pregnancy Agency was set up by the Government to devise and implement a plan to tackle the crisis of pregnancy in Ireland.

Unplanned student pregnancies increasing

Up to a thousand female students per year are contacting campus Student Welfare Officers for help with an unplanned pregnancy.

Figures released by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency reveal that nearly half (50%) of all births outside of marriage in 2001 were to women aged 24 and under. In addition, 5,328 (50%) of abortions reported by females, who gave Irish addresses over the clinics were also within this age range.

The research also reveals that as many as one-third of third level students only used contraception "infrequently". Contraception remains a serious issue among students with 60% of students finding it difficult to talk about contraception when they are in a relationship.

WHERE TO GET HELP

www.positiveoptions.ie

The Positive Options Campaign offers a comprehensive list of help services for females worried about being pregnant.

The USI Welfare Officer, Maureen Woods, is in full support of the campaign. She said, "There is a lot of ignorance and stigma in society around the issue of crisis pregnancy. This campaign aims to change the current feelings of many young women in Irish society who are made to feel ashamed and very isolated. I feel that raising awareness of the support network that exists out there for women is of paramount importance." The Crisis Pregnancy Agency was set up by the Government to devise and implement a plan to tackle the crisis of pregnancy in Ireland.

The decision by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to discontinue the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) has come under strong criticism from both the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU). BTEA is a scheme designed to encourage and facilitate social welfare recipients to improve their skills and qualifications and their prospects of returning to the active workforce.

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Furry handcuffs, vibrators, sexy lingerie and orgasm. You know what I'm talking about ... it's the Ann Summers experience. Ciara Moran took on the challenge

I had the pleasure of attending an Ann Summers party not too long ago and I must say it was quite a surreal experience. All too quickly my friend's family room turned into a place of utter disrepute and I think it liked it! Wine flowed, lingerie was passed around the room as if it was wine on the day Jamie died in Eastenders, and then the vibrators!

It all started out quite innocently enough, a bit of wine poured as each new participant entered the room with I have to say an ounce of trepidation spread across their face as they contemplated the evening ahead.

There were about twenty of us gals waiting to take a look at the goods, mainly in our early twenties with a few more mature ladies taking part in the night's costly festivities. Our hostess for the evening, an incredibly bubbly girl but not too bubbly as to make you want to throttle her, gently started off the evening as the place filled.

The room was getting excited. All of a sudden stickers were passed around with our new names for the evening upon them, cue giggles and a few more raised glasses searching for wine.

I was Titanic Tits (if only!). Then we went on to a game of bingo.

We went about creating our bingo cards thinking what innocent fun. Then our hostess explained that if we got a number we had to scream out as if we were having an orgasm (chance would be a fine thing, but you know use your imagination).

She then proceeded to go round the room and listen to what our orgasms sounds would be.

At this point I had not enough wine and one of the mature ladies in the room was my best friend's mother, who I still get embarrassed to be drunk in front of, although I've had a lot of practice, let alone scream out as if in fits of passion. One pathetic groan later.

Oddly enough though, my competitive streak surpassed my more Catholic guilt embarrassed side by a mile and I was mounting and groaning with the best of them as my numbers were called.

Obviously no amount of mortification comes between a gal and her game of bingo. Gran would be so proud! At this stage we were all lively enough, and when I say lively of course I mean drunk, to bring on the hard sell.

Magazines were passed around the room, which was now thoroughly trililated, and sample pieces of some of the lingerie also floated across the room.

The lingerie, which is definitely not cheap in price, whatever about looking, ranged from beautiful, intricate purple and pink lacy affairs to see-through black, slutty, split down the middle for easy access tasteless affairs. The tasteless affairs won by a mile. It was surprising how many women were looking for easy access! As the lingerie sales halted, we moved on to vibrators and more adventurous bedroom material. The room was overcrowted with enthusiasm at this stage.

Our hostess didn't have as many samples to pass around in this regard so we giggled and reddened (but I'm not sure if that was from embarrassment or rather sheer drunkenness), as we flicked through the pages and saw a multitude of vibrators, liquid latex, handcuffs, a loving couple enjoying the wonder that is bondage and the rest.

Furry pink handcuffs hopped across our tables as well as bottles of latex. Unfortunately the infamous rabbit vibrator was not attending our party for this evening, so instead another treat was in store.

A flatish star-shaped vibrator with obviously a hole through the middle, for his and her pleasure, was introduced into the night's festivities.

Each woman had to sit on it for a second or two to see some of its benefits, should I say. Yeah, I sat on it for two seconds, felt no benefits, and sobered up! As the party drew to an end, and many a drunken lady stumbled when leaving the house, the room was in definite need of a cold shower. All in all it was a successful evening. Ms Summers had made her commission and each lady went home content in the knowledge that their peek-a-boo lingerie, handcuffs and Rabbit would be eagerly waiting for them.
Just another vote to be wasted?

By Barry J Whyte

Twenty-four years ago the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution was passed. It provided for the extension of Seanad voting rights to all institutes of higher education. It has never been implemented.

Currently only the old guard of Irish universities can vote in Seanad elections. Only graduates of Trinity College and the colleges of the NUI can decide to get into the upper house of the Oireachtas.

The Minister needs to focus on patterns of drinking and problems of excess drinking rather than party the Progressive Democrats' favour. However, it seems the Minister may have an underlying reason for his new plans. It appears that Mr McDowell is simply recognising that there is no possibility of controlling the consumption of alcohol by under-age drinkers.

If a member of An Garda Síochána enters a pub, I have a suspicion it may be quite hard to work out who's drinking the coke and who has a splash of vodka in it. However, in a bizarre twist to Mr McDowell's intended reforms, the Minister has said he is considering extending pub opening hours.

The Government believes that they are preparing to address what has become a chronic alcohol problem in our society. After years of neglect, this is the Government's answer to an ever-growing social problem. But there is nothing to worry about just yet. In typical fashion the Dáil will be debating the bill for at least another 6 months.
What dreams may come?

By Rachel Healy.

As the controversy of Roy Keane's departure from international football still lingers and while the majority of Ireland's media outlets eagerly await the Irish Open held in Dublin this summer, people tend to forget that the largest sporting event that has ever to be staged in Ireland is coming this June.

The Special Olympics, staged in Ireland this summer, will be the biggest international sports event this year. It will be the first time since its origin in 1968 that the Special Olympics will be hosted outside the United States.

While the sporting world has been tarnished by allegations of drug abuse, corruption, commercialism and greed, the Special Olympics continues to stay purely ideal, which is mirrored by the athlete's oath, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

Through their involvement, athletes enhance their social and adaptive skills, build positive self-esteem, demonstrate courage and experience joy.

Originally a summer camp, the Special Olympics were initially a dream of Eunice Shriver Kennedy and became a reality in 1968.

Born into the famous Kennedy clan, Eunice's sister Rosemary was born with a mild learning disability. Eunice remained very close to her sister and was aware of her capabilities which resulted in a summer camp for those with special needs in 1963, which has now become an international sporting event involving thousands of athletes.

While Special Olympic volunteers and many hosts families are making the final preparations to welcome the 7,000 athletes and their families, it allows many Irish people the opportunity to start afresh, to realise the futility of categorising people in a specific group for looking different to the accepted norm and the prodigious thoughtlessness of overlooking people with learning disabilities.

Although there are fears that in the event of war with Iraq, athletes from the United States and some parts of the Middle East would not travel, the World Games are still scheduled to take place.

With over 160 countries competing, comprising of 7,000 athletes, along with 30,000 volunteers, 3,000 coaches and officials, a further 28,000 people are expected as family members and supporters.

The Games will be located in the greater Dublin area, however the entire island of Ireland will play a vital role in the organisation of the games.

A major part of the World Games is the Host Town Programme. The host towns will welcome athletes and coaches four days prior to the Games, from the 16th June to the 20th June.

To date, about 650 homes have been visited, considered and found appropriate for the task of hosting a family. The host town phase represents a wider, community level of the Games.

Over 170 communities will welcome delegations world-wide with open arms and give them the opportunity to delight in the pleasures of Irish culture prior to the Games.

From the host towns they will move to the Dublin region for the Games. The Opening Ceremony takes place on 21st June in Croke Park, where the "Flame of Hope" will arrive for the ceremony to mark the final stage in a journey begun in Greece three weeks earlier.

The Special Olympic World Games gives the athletes the opportunity to show the world their strength and talent, to show those who are sceptical that people with learning disabilities can achieve anything when given encouragement and the opportunity to shine.

The Special Olympic movement began in Ireland in 1978. There are now an estimated 12,000 athletes participating in the programme in Ireland alone.

The athletes compete in Ireland in local, regional, national and international level, like all competitive sporting events, the competitors experience success and failure as only a lucky few make it to the Olympics.

The Special Olympics sporting body have a set of regulations similar to other sports organisations, which the athletes abide by, if they fail to do so, they are disqualified.

The Special Olympics is similar to other athletic sporting events where participants are judged on their performance times, however their performance is rated differently.

Athletes are divided into levels based on gender, age and fitness levels. In this manner the Special Olympics allows athletic events be judged with their contemporaries rather than those at an elite level.

Although Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are awarded like most competitive sports to those who come in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, those who achieve fourth through to eight place are awarded a ribbon to acknowledge their achievement, reflecting the principles of the Special Olympics.

In terms of costs the World Games needs €34 million and a further €23 million in-kind products and services to be staged. Most of this has been raised through sponsorship. Now the countdown is on.

The Special Olympics World Games are to be held in Ireland this year, 2003. Indeed it looks certain that we will all benefit directly or indirectly from the 2003 Special Olympic World Games and so people should adopt the motto and "Share the Feeling".
Iraq: The French Connection

It draws close. Saddam Hussein has defied the UN weapons inspectors who demand he destroys the Al-Souad-2 missile system. The US troops wait in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for that order which can only be weeks away.

Meanwhile, Jacques Chirac and the French government, desperate to avoid a war, are stretching diplomacy to its very limit. The anti-war camp, ie the majority of the world's population, finally has a leader in Chirac and his government. Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the French Prime Minister, rallied the February 15 protesters with an anti-war cry of 'France is giving hope to the world, France is giving peace a chance'.

This much is certainly true but why has France suddenly sprung to the fore of the anti-war lobby? A glance through history reveals a murky agenda revolving around that magic word: oil.

In 1976, as part of an official State visit, Chirac, then the Prime Minister, visited a young Saddam Hussein who had almost consolidated all power in Iraq. Like most Western leaders, Chirac was impressed with this moustached figure, lured out in full military regalia. Like Milosevic in Yugoslavia, Pinochet in Chile and Batista in Cuba, Saddam was a man in a volatile region with whom business could be done. And business was, of course, the oil business.

The US has long been the enemy of the French in the Middle East. A prickly but profitable relationship has long existed between Saudi Arabia, most of the Emirate states (UAE, Oman, Yemen, Kuwait) and the US. When Chirac visited Saddam, he went to establish a similar relationship, ie you sell us your oil and we’ll allow you to do unto your people whatever you wish.

The unending persecution of the Kurdish people in Northern Iraq and the Shiite Muslims in the South was forgotten. When Saddam had outlived his usefulness to the United States in 1989, the French government remained close.

In 1991, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait and the Gulf War began. French troops took part in the war but the relationship between the two states remained. As soon as the war ended, the French government set about establishing itself as the main powerbroker in Iraq.

The post-war UN sanctions were killing thousands of Iraqis and the French lobbied to establish an ‘oil for food’ trade programme. The relationship between the two was strengthened as the French government had almost unlimited access to Iraqi oil-fields while Peugeot became one of the main automotive companies in the region. In 1995, the French Embassy was rebuilt in Baghdad.

Around this time, Saddam decided a special reward was in order. The French state-owned oil company, TotalElfFina, was granted exclusive rights to two Iraqi oil-fields. Majnoon, on the Iranian border, is worth an estimated 10 billion barrels of oil while Bin Umar can produce approximately 440,000 barrels a day.

This brings us to the present day. Chirac has what he envisioned all these years ago: a powerful trading relationship with a country second only to Saudi Arabia in terms of oil reserves.

George W Bush is absolutely sick of having to rely on the ballyhooed Saudis for oil. Those Iraqi oil-fields would reduce this reliance. And if this war goes ahead, the US will win. And Chirac knows what approach a US-friendly Iraqi government will take to promises made by Saddam to a French government which supported his tyranny for over twenty years: ‘sorry Jacques, all bets are off’.

This is why the Chirac administration is throwing all of its diplomatic weight around to prevent this war from taking place. At this stage, the anti-war camp will take any leader anyone who is willing to exert all influence to stop military action but one can only worry that the future of Iraq is a depressing one. If Bush emerges the victor and invades without the UN, Iraq will be another American ally with little concern for democracy or human life. If Chirac’s diplomacy wins the day and war is prevented, history seems to dictate that France will continue to trade with, and prop up, a murderous despot.

Jacques Chirac’s administration is throwing all of its diplomatic weight around to prevent this war from taking place.

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FASHION

victims off the rails

By Clara O Donovan

"Off the Rails live" is the brainchild of Catherine Condell the shows producer and stylist. Her aim was to capture trends from the world's catwalks and re-create them with merchandise from the cream of the Irish fashion industry.

Combine this with top Irish models, presenters, a talented team of make-up artists, and technology crew along with a decently priced ticket and you have yourself an even you'll want to remember. The RDS was the chosen venue and proved excellent in terms of commuting, size and facilities.

Teetering to the fashion show in our stillettos, Andrew and I arrived fashionably late.

Thankfully, the fashion show had not commenced. Nesting in the seat, placed favourably beside the catwalk, I observed the style conscious audience. The evening was a black tie event in fishnets teamed with jeans and a lace top when compared to the girls wearing tight combats and trouser-holed tops.

Military chic was undoubtedly the order of the day. Fashion victims one might think, but these women could pull off the military look shockingly, without taking the look to extremes. Like Christina Aquilina in the "Dirty" video.

Finally, after a thirty-minute wait, music began to pour from the speakers, and in cohesion with the music, the two savvy presenters Caroline Morahan and Pamela Flood strutted their stuff down the catwalk.

Both women were stylishly dressed; Caroline in an Indian inspired red top and tight jeans and Pamela in a sophisticated and military look. The fashion show had already begun.

From a cinema screen came clips from the musical "Chicago." This theme was sure to be illuminant throughout the show.

Next two male tap dancers exploded onto the stage, lifting the spirits of the female contingent.

The first garment was a black and crimson dress draping gown that carried with it all the connotations of 20s seductiveness.

Each outfit had bounding and fringing, recreating the daze and allure of the 20's epoque. Fishnets, sexy suspenders, and feisty lingerie further erotised the outfits.

The male models sauntered down the ramp in dapper pinstripes suits and held an air of arrogance as they absorbed the wolf whistles from the female audience. The towering twenties was instantly reiterated. The clothes were mainly from Debenhams, with jewellery by Carrona Hanly and suits by Louis Copeland.

Next, the audience was transported to the orient to a land of beautiful design and soothing music.

A visually enchanting journey of fine textured coats, kimono shapes and blossom prints entwined as Traditional headdresses, delicate Chinese slippers, and flashes of bright colours adorned the models that carried off the outfits with their elegant features. The ob belts by Rocco were my favourite.

However, the most dominant theme was "Army Dreamers" and boasted an array of trendy mini skirts, tailored jackets, combats, and mesh tops.

This look reflected the audiences' style and the impending war. Several of the garments were from Julien designs and footwear was by Faith at Top Shop.

Other themes were "The Sopranos" which was a melange of sharp tailoring and bouffant chic.

Killer heels and an assortment of accessories made this quite a lucrative look.

It's a style for men with gangster attitude and women with Bling Bling! There were also collections for kids, sports enthusiasm, and mothers to be. Bridal wear by Vera Wang was the final showcase and how dramatic it was.

Simple swan like dresses and kilts conjured up images of medieval Scotland.

The music as well as the entrances were powerful and created a mystical atmosphere.

The stands were a disappointment after such an array of fabulous clothes.

The only impressive stall was Peter Marks because they had interesting demonstrations. It was more fulfilling, to sit, and watch the fashion pack mingle with the crowd of style conscious people.

"Off the Rails live" was an enjoyable event but not an exceptional one.

DUBLIN BAND LEAD NME REVOLUTION

The Datsuns, The Thrills & The Beatings
The Ambassador

By Claire Mc Keown

Tonight the NME took over the Ambassador to showcase the darlings of their self styled "New Rock Revolution" scene.

The cynical amongst you may only see this hype as a way to shift more magazines but there is no denying the current music scene is very exciting and diverse, at least more so than in recent years due to which we've had to endure the draught of Oasis, Stereophonics, Travis et al.

First on stage tonight were London based band The Beatings. I've heard a lot about this band, and they didn't disappoint.

They were exciting, energetic and seemed to have a very Jarvis Cocker-esque guitarist who, by the look of him, was definitely suited for e's and whizz.

I would definitely recommend looking out for this four-piece in the future.

Next up were Dublins The Thrills. Looking at the bill initially, I wasn't sure how such a mellow band would fare with the large groups of punky/AC/DC speedbreaks, but I was pleasantly surprised.

Their blend of countryish Neil Young, Beach Boys and jangley Smiths-style guitars with the vocal style of Mercury Rev or Granddaddy really touched the crowd.

Recent single "Santa Cruz. (You're Not That Far)" was stunning, and it was obvious why everyone from Morrissey to Hotpress to NME are applauding them.

They had a lot of hope to live up to but it didn't seem to faze them and they definitely won a few more fans on the night.

Headliners The Datsuns' however, I was not so sure about. I liked their recent single "In Love" but I wasn't so taken in by the album that just seemed too immersed in 70's AC/DC/ston, (see song "MF From Hell"). But I was looking forward to seeing them live probably because of the way they have been hyped up in the press. Unlike The Thrills, however, they didn't quite live up to all the praise for me.

Although there is no denying that lead singer Dolf de Datsun is sex on legs of elastic, or that they really go for it live, a lot of the rock posing was a bit over the top for me, and a little embarrassing. (Phil, the guitarist in the white trousers, constant back bending was verging on a Spinal Tap piss take).

They wanted to be AC/DC a little bit too much for my liking.

In saying that though, they did entertain me, if not impress me, and if cheap hard rock thrills and rock posturing is what you're after, The Datsun's are the band for you.

At last year's NME bash, the Coral and Black Rebel Motorcycle Club were bottom and second from bottom on the bill, respectively.

Considering that they are the one's who have hit the big time out of the last bunch, perhaps the same fame awaits The Thrills, who were definitely my surprise favourites. You never know, it could be a case of number one, you're not that far...
The Good Thief looks and feels similar to Ronin, yet it lacks the pace provided by the unique car chase.

By Eoin Murphy

Neil Jordan has brought us many classic genre movies that range from Interview with a Vampire to Michael Collins. Now he sets his mind to another classic genre piece, the caper movie.

It looks and feels similar to Ronin, yet it lacks the pace provided by the unique car chase. It is slick yet lacks consistency as we follow the antics of a luckless criminal/junkie striving for a slice of life. Charismatic as always, Nick Nolte leads an ensemble cast.

The Good Thief: looks similar to Ronin, yet it lacks the pace provided by the unique car chase.

By Darragh Clifford

Recent horror movies are a rare thing. Over the past decade, there have been some memorable horror moments with movies such as The Sixth Sense and The Blair Witch Project. What has been the disadvantage of these films, however, is that by the time these movies are released to the general public, the general plot and twists have been widely reported in the media and so audiences know what to expect.

What makes The Ring so unique is that you just don’t know what to expect. It has arrived on our screens without the fuss of huge Hollywood blockbusters. The Ring is based on a 1998 Japanese movie called Ringu, which was based on a novel of the same name by Japanese author Koji Suzuki. Ringu experienced immediate success in Japan and has become something of a cult classic among dedicated foreign film enthusiasts in the English-speaking world.

At first glance, the plot seems farcical. Watch an abstract arty video, get a phone call to say you have seven days to live, and then die seven days later. Not even Ken Russell could conjure up such a plot. But surprisingly, it works, mainly down to director Gore Verbinski (Mouse Hunt, The Mexican), and actress Naomi Watts (Mulholland Drive). But for such an unconventional horror film, The Ring starts like any other horror flick of the nineties: in a suburban house with two attractive high school girls. But it becomes apparent quite quickly that The Ring is very much not a Wes Craven movie as the manner of the first victim’s death is very disturbing.

The movie centres on Seattle journalist Rachel, played superbly by Watts. When her niece dies mysteriously after watching a video, the inquisitive Rachel decides to investigate. What she finds is that her niece had watched the videotape with three others in a mountain lodge, and to her horror, the remaining three had died at the exact same time as her niece in various circumstances.

To make matters worse, Rachel’s ten-year-old son Aidan (David Dorfman) starts behaving in a strange manner. When Rachel herself watches the video and gets that phone call, she knows she has seven days to solve the mystery before she kicks it. Unfortunately for Rachel, her son Aidan and her ex-boyfriend Noah (Martin Henderson) also see the tape.

As Rachel’s seven days progress, she becomes more and more desperate in her effort to exorcise whatever spell the tape has unleashed. This may all seem a bit too off-the-wall, but director Verbinski has enough tricks up his sleeve to leave viewers on the edge of their seats. The audience gets to see the tape in full (which only lasts two minutes) and it is fair to say that some of that footage contained on it is quite disturbing.

As the movie progresses, different clues that are contained within the tape become apparent to both Rachel and the audience. And in true horror film fashion, what you think to be the end of the movie is not quite the end. The final 15 minutes are truly terrifying, and even when the credits start rolling, you will leave the movie theatre feeling uneasy. Unless of course, you wait until it is out on video.
Keep on Your Mean Side

The Kills
Donostia Records
Release Date: March 7, 2003
By Donal Griffin

The Kills can certainly make a racket, considering there are only two people in the band. Hotel (guitarist, American, male) and VV (singer, English, female) met in London, left, formed the Kills in America and returned to record.

Keep On Your Mean Side, the Kills' debut album, is certainly one from left field. Which is not to say it's not very good. The opener, 'Superstition,' starts with a stuttering drum-machine. Just as one is expecting a bout of electronics, a clanging riff takes the song in the completely opposite direction. 'Cat Claw' and 'Pull A U' are slightly more conventional but the sparse sound of just a guitar, a drumbeat and making it work is still relatively unrelated territory in rock music. The White Stripes have proved its worth and now the Kills are doing the same.

Things get slow and psychedelic on 'Kissy Kissy' and 'Monkey 23.' There is definitely a strong taste of the Velvet Underground and My Bloody Valentine in the Kills' music, i.e. why use more chords when one will do, over and over again? The slower songs give room to the vocals and VV has a great female rock voice powerful, intimidating and strong.

The album even finds some room for twisted country music on 'Wait' and 'Gypsy Days.'

However, Keep On Your Mean Side isn't without its duff moments. Any Velvet-style jangly needs an edge to keep it interesting. Some songs just don't have this and begin to grate after a few listens.

But this can be forgiven. Anyone lucky enough to witness the Kills supporting the John Spencer Blues Explosion at the Tivoli in January saw the Usage chemistry/sexual tension shared by Hotel and VV and, hopefully, this band can build on this excellent debut. And here's hoping they release 'Fuck The People' as a single so MTV viewers will be singing along to the best chorus written in years: 'Hey...fuck the people.'

Jive Country


Ken McHugh has a wealth of production experience behind him

Not So Super Stan

By Sarah Graham

God help the newly formed Lamp Recordings if this "Moonlight EP" is their maiden release. I'd rather chop my clothes as it's catchy 'Supergrass' versus 'The Monkees' melange. It's not catchy enough for me to put a smile on your face.

The Be Good Tanyas

It's Not Happening

By Claran Murray

One of the members of this female three-piece holds a copy of DH Lawrence's 'The Lost Girl' prominently on her lap in the cover shot for this single. It suits the theme of this sweet country/folk/bluegrass song perfectly. For this is an ode to the power of denial, urging you to "just shut your eyes, it's not happening".

The trio hail from the home of country music, er, Vancouver. Fraser, Trish and Erin apparently came together through their passion for old-time music and vintage clothes. Well, each to their own.

Mainstays of country music, guitar, mandolin and banjo are all present, and the skilful interplay between them works well. All three have angelic voices, and the overlaid harmonies contrast nicely. But this is just a fleeting moment between the two, unpolished production.

And yes, my ears bled, but it was a small price to pay. This at least restores some pride to the straw hat brigade.

Sylophonic 'Man Music Technology'

By Ailse Dunne

'Hey...fuck the people'... it's not exactly a catchy pop song, but it's still almost good enough to put a smile on your face.

The trio hail from the home of country music, er, Vancouver. Fraser, Trish and Erin apparently came together through their passion for old-time music and vintage clothes. Well, each to their own.

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The Be Good Tanyas

It's Not Happening

By Claran Murray

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The trio hail from the home of country music, er, Vancouver. Fraser, Trish and Erin apparently came together through their passion for old-time music and vintage clothes. Well, each to their own.

Mainstays of country music, guitar, mandolin and banjo are all present, and the skilful interplay between them works well. All three have angelic voices, and the overlaid harmonies contrast nicely. But this is just a fleeting moment between the two, unpolished production.

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**By Jason Burke**

The Formula 1 season is just around the corner. It promises to be exciting and interesting while being a little confusing for teams and fans alike due to the changes in the format.

The Australian Grand Prix will once again play host to the season opener on the 9th of March. This year sees a few changes to the F1 calendar. The Belgian GP has been dropped due to tobacco advertising. There will also be a few less nights for fans as the F1 road show moves on to Malaysia after Albert Park and will not arrive in Europe until the San Marino GP in April.

Jordan’s announcement that Ralph Firman would be their second driver was unexpected. However, he is a driver with good racing credentials. He won both the British F3 championship and the Macau F3 championship in 1996 in which he beat the likes of Juan Pablo Montoya and Nick Heidfeld. His only experience in an F1 car came last December when he impressed in a test for BAR.

Firman may be a rookie in terms of Formula 1 but the 27-year-old is an experienced driver. He has spent the last six years in Formula Nippon in Japan and won the championship last year. He has known both good times and bad and it is hoped he will not be unfazed by the difficulties facing him as he attempts to establish himself in F1. It appears that Firman’s nationality has helped persuade a tobacco company Benson and Hedges into returning to F1. Born in Northern Ireland, Firman seems to have been a perfect incentive to lure B&H off its IndyCar’sovable.

The nature of Formula 1 dictates that the top teams will be most likely to adapt quickly to the new rules and thus will remain on top of the sport.

Michael Schumacher and Ferrari will once again be favourites to secure both the drivers and constructors championships. McLaren, however, has made good progress over the winter and will hope to improve on a relatively poor showing last season.

Williams BMW has a strong package but Juan Montoya has too long been touted as the man to shake up F1 without fulfilling the promise. He needs to firmly establish himself over the younger Schumacher before he can challenge Ferrari domination.

It remains to be seen if the rest will be able to make any inroads into the superiority of the big three. Jordan, having secured an engine deal with Ford, may start the season well but could fall back as the Works teams continue to develop.

Having secured exclusive youthful Dutch-F1 engines BAR will have to deliver a car that will get results if they want to keep Jacques Villeneuve from leaving at the end of the season.

Renault has taken a calculated risk by continuing to persist with the Jekyll and Hyde of F1, Jarno Trulli. The Italian driver is consistently quick in qualifying but rarely produces the same speed in races. Fernando Alonso is a much brighter prospect.

Sauber should consolidate their strong showing.

In Frentzen and Heidfeld, they have two experienced and consistent drivers. Toyota will be hoping to progress with a new partnership of Panis and Brazilian rookie Di Matta. It will be left to Juejarg and Minardi to scrap it out for points at the end of the grid.

The rule changes are the most drastic taken in the 54 years of the Championship. The emphasis is being placed at the feet of the drivers, literally. From the first race in Melbourne, telemetry from the pit lane will be banned and other devices such as traction control, launch control and fully automatic gearboxes will be banned from the British Grand Prix onwards.

Although this season may not see a change in the results, the starting grids are sure to provide some interest. If the predictability of last year came as a disappointment, you would be forgiven for looking on this season’s opener with some scepticism. However it may be worth staying up on March 9th.

The signs are that this season is set to be far but formulistic.

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**By Keith Reilly**

In recent seasons, the UEFA Champions' League has continually attracted criticism from football purists in response to the convoluted format it has had in recent seasons, the Champions' League takes the shape of a knockout competition from the last 16 onwards.

So, with this season's competition nearing the knockout stages, it would seem that we are about to witness the final throes of that much-maligned second group stage. And what an intriguing prospect that is, as many of Europe's footballing giants awake from their winter slumber......

Following the tenth round of matches in this season's competition, the quarter-final line-up seems certain to have a look of familiarity. Of the teams who have claimed the last nine European titles, only Bayern Munich are absent from the list of those still in contention this year.

Matchday ten saw three of the continent's most prestigious clubs secure their place in the knockout stages. Barcelona dropped their first Champions' League points of the season when drawing 0-0 with Inter Milan in the San Siro, but the point they earned was enough to ensure their progress to the business end of the campaign.

AC Milan and Manchester United went one better than the Catalonians, confirming their places in the last eight as winners of groups C and D respectively. The Milan giants became the first Italian side to reach the quarter-finals in three years when they ground out a 1-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow. Despite rigid conditions in the Russian capital, a 33rd minute penalty from Rivaldo sufficed to see off the tepid Lokomotiv challenge. United, meanwhile, emphatically brushed aside the challenge of Italian champions Juventus with a resounding 3-0 win in Turin. A brace from Ryan Giggs saw the 1999 winners leap ahead at the interval, and Ruud Van Nistelrooy established an unassailable lead when he tapped home midway through the second half. It was a Dutch-inspired 10th European goal of the season, making him the competition's top scorer.

The five remaining quarter-final berths are largely up for grabs. Juventus, FC Basel and Deportivo La Coruna will scrabble behind United for second place in Group D, while holders Real Madrid and German champions Borussia Dortmund do likewise in the wake of AC Milan.

Groups A and B are far more open. Newcastle United have revived their chances having seen off Bayer Leverkusen at St. James' Park on February 26th, and will compete with Inter Milan to see who qualifies along with Barcelona from Group A.

Group B's final outcome is quite literally on a knife-edge. All four teams - Arsenal, Ajax, Roma and Valencia - still have a chance to qualify. The next round of games will be crucial, as Arsenal host Roma and Ajax's partners Ajaek seek to guarantee a safe passage at home to Valencia.

Should you fancy a flutter on the team you consider prospective winners, William Hill have installed Manchester United and Real Madrid as 4/1 joint favourites, closely followed by AC Milan at 11/2 and Arsenal 15/2.

Juan Montoya has too long been touted as the man to shake up F1 without fulfilling the promise. Michael Schumacher and Ferrari will once again be favourites to secure both the drivers and constructors championships.
By Niamh Egan

STUDENTS from six different Irish colleges and universities took part in the annual US collegiate handball championships, which ran from February 19-22 last, in Portland, Oregon. Amongst these were 13 DIT students, comprising ten men and three women.

The students travelled to the west coast of America to participate in the tournament that incorporates 27 different third level establishments from all over the US. The championships, now in their 51st year, were hosted by Portland Pacific University with 230 players in all taking part.

The Irish did not fail to make their mark on the competition and the birthplace of the game was indeed well represented. In the top men’s competition the men’s own, Ireland contributed three of the semi-finals, a true reflection of the country’s impact on the tournament.

The eventual winner was Dessie Keegan, an Aungier St. student and a member of the Ballinahteedeen Handball Club, Keegan, presently competing on the US Pro Tour, is the first Irishman ever to win the title. If McKennon faced Sligo IT’s, McCann but the DIT lad couldn’t find no way to overcome the sixth seed, losing in two straight games 4:9.

Dareen McCarrick, Darren Flynn and Conor McGinny all made early exits from the competition. McCarrick and McGinny, as well as Cahill, won their first two games to add further points to the overall team competition. Meanwhile, Keegan emerged eventual winner on an 11-4 scoreline in the tie-breaker.

Boyle, while Keegan impressed on his dominance, his DIT colleagues on other American opposition. Padraig Cahill was unlucky to go down to Southwestern American opposition. Padraig Cahill was unlucky to go down to Southwestern American opposition. Cahill’s doubles partner, Paul Fitzpatrick won his first round game, but went down to number 5 seed, Barry Durham in the consequent round.

Kevin Street’s Mark McGowan won his opening game in style (14, 4) only to meet fellow Ulsterman, Ryan Daly of Queens in his second round game. After a keenly contested game which led to a tie-breaker, McGowan overcame the might of Daly to reach the last 16. Here McGowan faced Sligo IT’s, Joe McCann but the DIT lad couldn’t find no way to overcome the sixth seed, losing in two straight games 4:9.

Brave Maynooth fail to stop DIT progress

Intermediate Football Championship

DIT 2-18
Maynooth College 1-16 (a.e.t)

By Seamus Reilly

In DIT’s first ever championship match on their new grounds in Orangegate, DIT’s intermediate team overcame a gallant Maynooth by 5 points.

Playing down the hill in the first half, Maynooth raced into a five points lead, DIT’s starting line-up coming from Roscommon legend Keith Macon. However, two late goals, an outstanding midfielder, Whitehall’s giant gentle, Hugh McInerney and Dublin U21 star Anthony “Anto” Deasy left DIT lucky to be a point up at half time 2-01 to 0-06.

Former Dublin minor Ger Coughlan was forced to retire with a knee injury at half time which allowed Trim and Meath U21 cousin, Kick Paddy Houghton to come in as a direct replacement.

Playing with the hill and breeze, DIT surged into a four point lead, with Clarke, using his wizard, Mick McMahon looking particularly sharp around the “40”. Indeed, Clarke contributed 6 points in all. from 4 frees and had a memorable first outing for DIT.

In a 5-minute spell, Maynooth scored a goal and two points and DIT had to turn the table and fail to the bitter end to salvage a draw, 2-10 to 1-13.

20 minutes extra time resulted and as this is technically a ‘new game’, DIT brought on all their untried subs. Maynooth had only 17 players altogether and the fresh DIT legs made all the difference.

Bernard Dilliey - the Roscommon legend, Go South Healy, Bernard Faughnan and Daniel Cunningham rejuvenated the defence and the superior fitness of McInerney, Dessy and O’Hagan told up front. Playing up the hill for the first half, DIT forged ahead, with points from McMahon, captain Paul Fitmmarnice and McMahon.

McInerney then scored 3 magnificent long-range points to put the game beyond Maynooth and leave DIT comfortable 5 point winners.

DIT progress to the Leinster semi-final, probably against DCU, at the end of the month. Man of the match was McGowan, who gave an outstanding performance of fielding and distribution at centre-half-back.

Ironically, Keegan defeated two fellow Irishmen on his way to the semi-final of the NUIG in the quarter-final and fourth seed. Sligo IT’s Joel McGrath in the quarter-final.

Keegan overcame the stiff opposition of number two seed, Emo, following a tie breaker in the final. Keegan lost the first game 21-14 as Peixoto turned on the style, but the Mayo man never looked back taking the second game 21-11. In the tie-breaker, Keegan controlled the play well and went for the kill at every opportunity with Peixoto’s passing shot proving ineffective against Keegan’s power. The DIT man won the eventual winner on an 11-4 scoreline in the tie-breaker.

By Niamh Egan

DIT handballers take honours in US

By Sarah Graham

DIT Ladies Basketball could not fluctuate any more this season. After last week, plagued with injuries and exams, we finally had a full panel for a Dublin League game on Wednesday 12th of February last. And what a difference it made. Nobody had to play the whole game without a rest and everyone enjoyed playing together for the first time in ages. The DIT spirit was back and we were on fire.

After a shaky, settling in period against an aged but experienced ‘Team Euro’, DIT simply could not miss. Everything found the basket. Lay-ups through the center from Alice Heffernan, three pointers from Patrice Howell, hustled shots from Niamh Griffin, and Lisa Maher even executed an alley hoop lay-up.

Michael Jordan style. Cathy Molloy took down the rebounds all evening, while Aisling Goss made shots like second nature. A great performance by all and well deserved of the 75-40 score line. Things were quite so rosy the following evening as a game against the College of Surgeons team coincided with the mystery rag trip. We started the game on Thursday the 13th with only one substitute. From the tip-off, DIT was absolutely the better team but the inexperienced Surgeons team was not to be underestimated. Their one decent player kept their head above water throughout the first half and matched DIT’s every score. We eventually pulled away by 20 points in the third quarter and victory seemed inevitable.

That was until disaster struck and two DIT players were fouled off the court leaving only four against five for the last few minutes. Surgeons had a great advantage and used it well to narrow the lead to seven points. The last moments of the game saw frantic tactical efforts by coach Karl Finn to maintain the lead. Surgeons were on team fouls so every foul resulted in two free throws. Lisa Maher, after making two, ran the clock but even to the last second the result was unclear. DIT decided to go for the win. A lucky escape. On Monday the 17th of February, the team took the train up north to take on Dundalk IT. After a bit of a mix-up with starting times, the game eventually got underway.

The Dundalk team didn’t seem especially skilled but managed to get a few scores up on a DIT team unwinding a bit before the defense. The girls ate in to the small lead that the Dundalk team had built thanks to perfect rebounds from Cathy Molloy, quick shots from Lisa Maher which resulted in easy lay-ups for Alice Heffernan. DIT soon had the lead up over five but a couple of injuries and some foul trouble became a worry in the third quarter.

The game ended rather slow but at a score line of 67-64, DIT seemed nothing to complain about.

Three-in-a-row success for DIT ladies

By Niamh Egan

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By Sarah Graham

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By Miguel Delaney

SO, DIT's Sigerson Cup adventure is over for another year. However this season Joe McEvoy's men can keep their heads held high, having pushed an illustrious UCD side to the wire in a pulsating and exhausting first round match at Belfield.

In a game where neither side truly dominated, UCD's players will have been relieved to hear the final whistle as DIT pushed them right to the final minutes. Indeed it had not been for the magnificent performances of UCD's Liam Ó hEineachain and Peter Lawless, the outcome could have been very different. With many of UCD's key personnel struggling on the day it was down to three to rescue: Dave Billings' team. And they duly did with Ó hEineachain's scoring prowess and Peter Lawless' flawless kicking contributing all but a point of UCD's scoring on the day.

It was Ó hEineachain who was first off the mark, putting UCD into a 0-2 lead within minutes. However DIT responded quickly and to the full forward line of Ó Neill, McKeigue and Ó Hagan caused UCD's usually impermeable back line all sorts of problems and it wasn't long before DIT had established the lead. Making use of better opportunity of possession they managed to go 0-6 to 0-4, after two frees from O'Mahoney and a point from Stephen Bray.

It was DIT's midfield that was the launch pad for the team's performance with Ger Coughlan and Dublin under 21 star Hugh McInerney dictating the play for long periods and even overshadowing UCD's impressive Brendan Ó hAnnaidh.

With DIT looking stronger, it appeared a quarter-final place in the Sigerson Cup was well within their reach, showing how far they had come since UCD convincingly beat them in the league earlier this season. However, just like that game, it was one swift counter-attacking move, which once again turned the game in UCD's favour and underlined the Belfield side's quality.

Three minutes before half-time Brogan played a perfect hand pass for Ó hEineachain to run onto. He collected and blasted the ball home for the game's only goal to make it 1-5 to 0-7.

O'Mahoney and Lawless then exchanged frees, leaving UCD with a one-point lead. The balance of the game didn't change much in the second half, with DIT pressing to both hold and push UCD. However, just as Ó hEineachain's scoring had been their base in the first half, Lawless' kicking consistency proved to be in the second. He added three more perfect frees, followed by the best point of the day to put UCD just out of DIT's reach.

DIT continued to press, but UCD's defence eventually recovered their usual stingy form and limited Joe Moran's side to only two points in the second half. DIT simply couldn't conjure one last grand assault and the match ended 1-11 0-10 to see UCD through to the Quarter-Finals of the Sigerson Cup.

DIT GPA Development Officer Des O'Donnell was proud of the team's performance and paid tribute to the progress made.

"It was a magnificent performance by the team. They controlled the play for 35 to 40 minutes of the match and were at many times the better team. It was unfortunate the UCD goal came when it did. It took the momentum out of our performance and we petered out towards the end. The match was a great tribute to the attacking management of Seamus Reilly and Joe Moran, the quality of that game made this departure more than a fairytale.

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"It was an emotional game and the best tribute we could give them was to see them through to the quarter-finals of the Sigerson Cup," O'Donnell said.

DIT's Hugh McInerney dictated the play for long periods on the day.

McInerney (0-1), G Prior, D O'Mahoney (0-3), S Bray (0-2), D Freeman (0-1), S Griffin, T O'Connor, B Cahill, R Kelly, D Magee, B Ó hAnnaidh, P Curran, J Harley, L Ó hEineachain (1-3), A Brogan, J Sheridan, H Lawless (0-7)

Subs: D O'Connor for Evans (25mins), R Barry for Curran (35mins) R Ronaghan for Sheridan (40mins), S Lucey (0-1) for Kelly (44mins)

UCD: G McGill, D O'Donoghue, C Evans, P Fitzgibbon, A Quinn, S Griffin, T O'Connor, B Cahill, R Kelly, D Magee, B Ó hAnnaidh, P Curran, J Harley, L Ó hEineachain (1-3), A Brogan, J Sheridan, H Lawless (0-7)

Subs: B Kelly for McGrath (half time), D Neylon for Haafin (55mins)

The only sour note of the afternoon for LIT was when Gerard Condon was forced out with a serious leg injury midway through the second half.

He was missed the following Saturday as LIT were thrashed by UL in the quarter-finals. It would appear that DIT have a long way to go before becoming truly competitive at the elite stage of third-level hurling.

LIT put on an all-star show for DIT hurlers

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