Aungier St president elected to national union

THE President of Aungier Street students' union, Colin Jordan, was elected Deputy President of USI at its recent Annual Congress in Ennis, Co Clare.

Jordan beat two other candidates, Anna Browne from NCAD and Ailfe Braiden from NUIG to win the election.

On the first count Braiden had 45 votes, Browne had 39 and Jordan was in the lead with 65. However, he was still 11 votes short of the quota of 76.

After Browne was eliminated, Braiden received 17 of her transfers, while Jordan received 20, bringing him to a total of 85 votes, 9 over the quota and he was deemed elected.

Jordan said: "I am delighted with the results. I put a lot of work into the campaign and I felt I was the most qualified for the job.

"Next year I plan to maximise USI's representational capacity on national committees and also to produce a series of policy documents for the union.

"My experience in DIT and knowledge of DIT affairs, when viewed in a national role, should be beneficial to DIT's quest for university status."

Juliann de Spainn, an ex-sabbatical officer in NUIG and has served as Irish Language Officer, and last year as Deputy President/Campaigns Officer in USI ran unopposed and was elected president of the national union.

Cian O'Callaghan, this year's Welfare Officer for USI defeated Gareth Williams, Dublin Area Convenor, and will take the post of USI Deputy President on July 1st.

Alison Gibney, from UCD, ran unopposed and was elected Welfare Officer. However, the DIT delegation had been mandated by DIT council to vote against her.

Rory McDaid was elected Equality Officer.

Students still having sex

STUDENTS are still having sex. That's according to a survey conducted on the Irish student website Flunk.net. The survey, completed by over 1,000 students from colleges around the country revealed that 86.7% are sexually active.

The average age of respondents was 20, and the average age at which they lost their virginity was 17.

During that period students were, on average, likely to have four sexual partners, of which two would be one-night stands.

The survey was conducted on www.flunk.net following a feature article on students having sex on campus. The survey revealed that 34% of all students had sex on their campus. Interestingly this was the only category where the percentages differed to any significant extent between men and women, with 41% of girls saying they had sex on campus compared with 29% of men. 49% of respondents said they would see no problem in sleeping with a lecturer; 43% of students have had sex with someone in their class. 52% would use pornography during sex.

The celebrity men most want to sleep with was Cameron Diaz, with Britney Spears running a close second. For women there was one clear winner: David Boreanaz (Angel from Buffy the Vampire Slayer) claimed 24% of the entire female vote, nearly three times as high as the nearest rival, Matt Damon.

The favourite male sexual fantasy was to have sex with two girls at the same time. The top female fantasy was to have sex with a roomful of men.

The results in full are published on www.flunk.net along with details of students' most embarrassing moments. The results in full are published on www.flunk.net.

Flying high...

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Fares shown are quoted excluding taxes and are open to students with ISIC and under 26s with IYC (some age restrictions will apply). Valid for outbound travel in May 2000.

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DIT Kevin Street students can contact us at e-mail: bokevinst@tinet.ie

Bank of Ireland 34 College Green, Tel: 6793777 Fax: 6793833
DIT Bolton Street students can contact us at e-mail: mbrowndit@eircom.net

Terms and conditions apply
**Campus crime crackdown**

By Thomas Felle

A NEW initiative between gardai at Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station and Mountjoy Square DIT will ensure safer streets for DIT students, according to the gardaí.

The initiative will see two gardai from the station's community services policing branch attached to deal with security issues in the area.

The gardai will be in regular contact with DIT students' union and the college authorities on student safety issues.

The gardai will also be involved in preventative measures and will be on campus at regular intervals to advise students on personal safety and anti theft measures.

The main aim of the competition is to "stimulate a spirit of enterprise among DIT students".

The competition will be open to all students and will be judged on the basis of originality, feasibility, and potential for growth.

The two winners who are studying Marketing will advise students on personal measures and will be on campus at regular intervals to advise students on personal safety.

**DIT motion sparks debate**

EASTER time always means it's time for the Union of Students in Ireland's Annual Congress. DITSU, due to the size of its membership, always has the largest delegation so on Monday 10th April all 25 of us set off on our way to Ennis.

It was to be a week of speeches, debates,arguing, election campaigns and voting.

The whole idea about congress is that we set policy and mandates for next year's elected officer board in USI. Basically we vote on the issues we want addressed and campaigned on over the coming year.

There were very few contentious motions this years congress. The first one that sparked any real debate was a DIT motion on accreditation for clubs and societies.

What we were saying was that USI would campaign for the introduction of an accreditation scheme where students who got involved in Clubs and Societies could earn extra marks along the lines of the extra credits in America.

There was lengthy debate on the motion, mainly UCD against it and DIT for it but eventually the motion was defeated. Wednesday's first motions were constitutional amendments, the main one being the call for a full time women's rights officer. For a constitutional amendment to be passed there needs to be a two-thirds majority in favour of the motion.

The situation with colleges in the north is that they are members of both USI and NUS the British equivalent and pay something in the region of £5.70 per student in opposition to our £2.25 per student.

This means that these colleges can declare their full amount of students because they simply cannot afford to, which also means they have fewer votes than they should do.

This argument has been going on for the last nearly three years and it was hoped that the situation would be resolved at this year's congress.

The motion basically meant that 2 part time students would be the same as one full time student when it came to declaring student numbers.

Unfortunately the motion was defeated because there were still two-thirds majority and was defeated, upon which the entire northern delegation got up and walked out.

DITSU had submitted a motion to abolish the part time officer positions of Women's rights, LGB and Disability rights, however after listening to the officer reports of the part time officers this year we decided to put them forward and say that after hearing these reports we did not think the question should be answered.

So after supporting the north regardless of our loss of votes, putting our motions and we even gave UCD a lift home on the bus! DITSU were certainly flavour of the month.

And so congress ends but as per tradition at the banquet on the last evening UCD and DIT continue warring with songs that are written to basically just slag the other college.

UCD's offering this year was unbelievably lame, singing to You better shape up they sold us (again) that we would never be a University same old same old.

However DIT's superior songwriting, skills shone through with a song written to the tune of Tragedy.

We sang about their lack of support for the North: UCD! If the North is gone we can't go on You're a Tragedy You think you're great But you're no one's child It's time to see with no one behind you you're nowhere going no where!

We also sang about our better events, top venues and our Rag Ball in the Point as opposed to theirs in Boomerang.

We finished off by letting them and everyone know that we will be a University and the best one at that! DIT!

Our Day will come we will have some fun Quality Conditions met, u can be!

We will be The biggest and best University!

**USI Annual Congress Report**

By Michelle McAuley

The two winners who are studying Marketing will advise students on personal measures and will be on campus at regular intervals to advise students on personal safety.

"One has to be aware of the risks. Living in a city is becoming increasingly dangerous. It is the safety of students, especially those who live late and may be walking home, that comes first," he added.

The campus watch initiative was launched in UCC in 1992, and some 17 colleges around the country now participate in it.

Cathal Brugha Street has been participating in the scheme for more than a year and a spokesperson from DIT said it is expected that the other colleges will get involved in the autumn.

**Arts chosen before technical courses**

By Ciara O'Brien

SCIENCE and engineering courses are becoming less popular among students, according to figures Central Applications Office.

The number of students applying for science and engineering courses last year's figure of 4,255 to 4,025, and the number of those opting for engineering as their first choice has fallen from 4,196 to 4,035.

This will come as a blow to industries in this sector, as employers have predicted that over 16,000 vacancies will need to be filled in the coming years.

The declining numbers applying for these courses are reflected in the overall fall in CAO applications figures are down by almost 15%.

But DIT is still the most popular college, with 7,736 students applying, and its first preference on their CAO application for this year. For this reason we are almost 1,000 aplicants on last year's figures.

**Former film student wins award**

The highly acclaimed British Film 'East is East', which scooped the top prize at the recently awarded BAFTA awards in London, was directed by Irishman and former graduate of the film and broadcasting course in Aungie Street, Damien O'Donnell.

Damian and three of his classmates decided to go out or their own after graduating from the then course in Rathmines in 1992 and they set up their own production company, Clingfilms. Damian is preparing to shoot his second movie, a thriller, this summer.

"Meanwhile, Hugh Fairley, who graduated in 1984, recently picked up the Australian Academy at the cork film festival for his work on the film Chasing history's high waters. He won the Celtic film Festival Award for Best Documentary for his work on the highly acclaimed documentary We shall overcome which was made for thebbc.

**Millennium babies win competition**

This year's winners of the Student Enterprise Development Competition are Jennifer Good and Sinead Galvin with their project entitled "Millenium Babies".

The two winners who are studying Marketing in Mountjoy Square were presented with a cheque for £1,000 from the sponsors of the competition, ABC.

The competition has been running for the past seven years and is organised by the Bolton Trust.

The main aim of the competition is to "stimulate a spirit of enterprise among DIT students".

The co-ordinator of the competition, Phil Murray said that he is "pleased with the competition standards and was delighted that the sponsors, AIB were sponsored was given on the event".

Mr Murray also said that there was a great level of response from students and staff and that "the next objective of the competition should be to try and involve the Bolton Street and Kevin Street campuses as no entries have emerged from those areas for a number of years".

"One has to be aware of the risks. Living in a city is becoming increasingly dangerous. It is the safety of students, especially those who live late and may be walking home, that in the coming year. We have to try to curb and prevent it. We need the support of students to do that," he said.

The initiative aims to highlight four main areas of safety and security for students, namely residential security for bicycles and vehicles, personal safety and drug awareness.

The gardai have also launched a promotional brochure with advice and useful telephone numbers for students, which is available in the college.

Speaking at the launch, Paul O'Sullivan, Director of the Faculty of Business Studies, said the gardai were doing something very valuable.
Students’ Union officers for 2000/2001

Mountjoy Square

Overall President

Vinny Dooley

PRESIDENT: Damien Fallon
DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Kellie Dalton

Kevin Street

PRESIDENT: Nicky Lawlor
DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will Nelson

Bolton Street

PRESIDENT: Marguerite Fitzpatrick
DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Neil Cronin

Cathal Brugha Street

PRESIDENT: Cathy Power
DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Ruth Allen

4 DIT Independent 5 May 2000

Oxygen © + DIT Independent giveaway

to celebrate the launch of oxygen, the definitive Irish student site, we’re giving away these toys to three unbelievably lucky students at the Dublin Institutes of Technology.

here’s how to win...

1. take the card inserted in this newspaper to www.oxygen.ie and enter the number
2. follow the game instructions on screen
3. hold on to the card, wait for the magic email to tell you that you’ve won

what, no card ?!!
if there is no card inserted between the sheets of this publication, don’t fret - go to the site and register to get your own number.

Win!
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now you can download free internet music

Win!
Speakeasy
Esat Speakeasy Phone with £20 worth of calls

Win!
Unison
Unison Internet Set Top Box turn your telly into an internet access point

competitions features services the lot

see www.oxygen.ie for terms and conditions - closing dates and other excuses.

wants to get involved as a student rep? go to www.oxygen.ie or contact bodies@oxygen.ie
Alas, or maybe not, the end of the year is upon us. Looking back over the year in the students’ union, I do believe it has been a successful year. Looking back, of course we will all have complaints and an odd regret where we see we could have done better. However overall I feel we have made significant progress over the year.

The two DITUSU publications were something I prioritised as communication tools that I wanted to improve. Both the DIT Independent and DIT Magazine were completely revamped to make them more attractive and also a more interesting read. We took the decision this year to outsource both of the publications to production companies and this has worked very well on both a financial basis and also from a readership side.

Also in the interest of better communication we started, and will end the year with a Blast Campaign on what the Students’ Union does for you. This is to inform you of the services we provide, which some are unaware of.

Money is obviously of critical importance to the union in order to provide proper services to you the students. This year we were more successful than ever in attracting sponsorship from various companies. In total this year advertising and sponsorship was nearly four times greater than any previous year. In addition to this we got significant and positive media coverage of the union.

In order to monitor how the union was performing in the various areas and on an overall basis, we conducted various surveys throughout the year, on do you know who your SU representatives are? how do you rate their performance, what you thought of events during the year etc. These surveys were carried out at four different time points during the year and a major attitude survey was also carried out.

The feedback received from the students was then acted upon and where it was clear that the union was constantly trying to improve, we can sometimes be easy for the elected officers to get so busy in their day-to-day work that they can lose touch and indeed these surveys conducted by an independent company are a crucial barometer of performance for the officers. Their confidence that their views are being taken into account also helps to get the students to voice any worry about recruitment and in particular to allow us as the elected officers to act upon them.

A number of welfare campaigns were carried out in all campuses these included alcohol awareness, drugs, tenants rights, sexually transmitted diseases and other health issues. I hope you found these useful and if there are any other areas that need attention please let us know.

Our biggest overall campaign of the year was the campaign for Grangegorman. This included writing letters to all TDs in the country, having questions raised in the Dail and other lobbying. We also ran information campaigns to highlight the defence both in the press and internally in DIT. It paid off however and I was very proud when the Taoiseach announced that the 65 acre site was being granted to DIT.

On the education side we improved our levels of representation and our quality assessment of lecturers campaign has kept focus on the DIT. We hope it will come to fruition although not everyone is happy about it.

It has been a good year for entertainments with bigger and better events being held in every college in the DIT and every college having weekly entertainments. This year also saw more free and subsidised events being provided.

The culmination of all the entertainments for the year had to be the RAG Ball in the Point Depot which was a major ticketed and enjoyed by the majority of those who attended. DITSU are the only students’ union in the country with the capability of organising such an event and I think it is something we should be proud of.

The achievement is even more obvious when you realise the number of events we held in the Point where tickets were only £30. Triste held a ball in planet Murphys and charged over £12 for tickets.

I’ve enjoyed my three years in the students’ union and I’m sad to see goodbye but for me anyway its time to move on. So Goodbye, and of course best of luck in the exams. Thanks

Sarah McGovern

If you are interested in the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections and clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper if the policy of the DIT Independent to make the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or omission contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students’ Union.

The DIT Independent

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The DIT Independent is produced by

And printed by The Meath Chronicle, Navan, Co Meath

Alas Nugent, an engineer from Clonmel is to represent DIT at the London International Youth Science Festival.

Alas was chosen from a group of 20 students to attend the forum. The trip entails attending scientific lectures, visiting institutions and partaking in a scientific social programme with the other 200 delegates from all over the world.

This is the second year in a row that a student from Bolton Street has won the prize.

DIT was represented last year by Sam Jackson.

Entrants included first year students from a number of different science subjects in DIT.

The first part of the selection process took place in the Bolton St., Kevin St. and Cathal Brugha Street campuses.

Two students from each college were chosen to go on for the final interview.

The second round of interviews were conducted by the Faculty of Science and the Royal Dublin Society.

Student to represent DIT in London

Directors write book on college history

By Ciara O’Brien

USI are planning to launch a campaign to protect students from the dangers of the date rape drug Rohypnol.

A recent USI national council meeting heard that more than thirty women in the Republic claimed to have fallen victim to the drug in the last year.

Cian O’Gallagh, USI Welfare Officer, said “we are in the process of drawing up a Safety on Campus Campaign to highlight the many ways in which students are vulnerable and to encourage them to take the necessary steps to avoid dangers.”

A number of cases were also mentioned by representatives from Queen’s University, Belfast, who said that a number of students were drugged when their drinks were spiked with Rohypnol.

Rohypnol produces sedative effects, including amnesia and muscle relaxation.

Traces of the drug pass through the system in a matter of hours, making it difficult to detect.

Anyone who suspects they might have been a victim of such a rape are advised to be tested immediately.

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**Library services for alumni**

Library services are now available for reference use by all alumni. A new scheme by the library will also make it possible for former DIT students to use the library as an external member for a reduced annual fee. External members can at the moment use the library facilities for a £50 per year fee, however DIT alumni will be able to avail of full borrowing facilities for £35.
In an interview on the future of the newly acquired Grangegorman site, Director of the Faculty of Applied Arts, Dr Ellen Hazelkorn, explains to Thomas Felle why Arts must be first to move to a new campus.

"There is no doubt the current situation is difficult, but there's an incredible level of energy and determination that has been wonderful."

Dr Hazelkorn explains that the faculty committee have a vision of what they would like but are in very early stages. The committee is to report to the Institute within the end of the next few months. The proposals will then go to the Department of Education for ratification.

The estimated budget is in the region of £150m to spend over 10 years in a public-private partnership, i.e. the department puts up some and the university private sector through actual projects.

The site will include a head office, a students' union head office, sports and playing facilities, a student centre and a sports complex. "Student accommodation is a project that the private sector could take on, in a lease back scheme. The students union will have a reserve fund of about £250,000 a year out of the capitalization fees to go towards funding a students union complex," explains the Faculty Director.

However, nothing is likely to happen soon. According to Dr Hazelkorn, the DIT group presently sitting is going to come up with a shopping list of needs, and from there the hard work of getting these requirements into concrete starts.

"But we need space to do this. Because we don't have our own space we have to fit in with what's available." In the future, this will change and students will be the ones to benefit most.

At present, Chaith Row, Rathmines, and Grangegorman sites share parts of Applied Arts, as do all the other sites. According to Dr Hazelkorn, the facilities at the smaller sites like Rathmines have been upgraded but it is totally inadequate for what students need. "We are just not at the races when you look at what you should be having. The art and design facilities are appalling, the journalism media facilities are good but they are cramped. We can't recruit any more students because we don't have any more space to do the kinds of things we want.

"In the new building, what we want to do is to divide facilities between dedicated and shared space. We want to be able to have a sculpture space for sculptors only. We want to be able to have editing studios that film students only have access to, and we want to be able to share spaces like lecture theatres and coffee bars so that students can interface and mix on an arts platform."

"We want to see space for students who have finished to set up companies. DIT can be a helping hand in giving them space to start. We need performance and exhibition space, but in keeping with the DIT community links tradition, we would look at involving local schools with lots of different performance space, both formal and informal."

She explains that 24-hour access to facilities will also become a reality, where smart cards would allow students to enter and exit sections of the buildings at any time, day or night.

"Such access facilities are provided in other European cities for students, recognising the increased need for a more liberal approach to third level education, especially in Arts."

"I would like to students' work exhibited in the campus, the yards used for sculpture students, the halls for design students, the open spaces for performance students and coffee bars for lunchtime concerts. It's all ahead of us, and it's an exciting challenge."


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According to a preliminary proposal and vision of the faculty, written by Dr. Hazelkorn, Applied Arts has suffered most in the race for facilities.

"Because the faculty is a new construct, with no comparable 'college' within the former CDVEC structure, such physical dispersal has seriously undermined the cohesion of the staff (both academic and non-academic) and students, has hampered academic and research opportunities and militates against our drive towards a common pedagogic approach including multidisciplinary programmes and modularization.

At a very general level, it is possible to sub-divide the facility needs of the faculty of Applied Arts into the following discipline related groups, each of which requires different types of accommodation to meet had reached different pedagogical and research potential. Such a proposal would look broadly like this:

- Social sciences and legal studies: classroom, seminar rooms, staff offices, student facilities, research/postgraduate rooms, and common rooms.
- Languages: as above plus dedicated multimedia language labs/facilities to be provided across DIT but main facilities located at Grangegorman.
- Music performance: custom built and dedicated music performance, practice and teaching facilities as per 'best practice', plus 'normal' classroom and staff/student facilities as noted above.

Creative and digital Arts and Media (art, design, painting, film, video, audio, multimedia, digital imaging, journalism/publicizing, media music technology): dedicated space, comprised of large open-plan flexible spaces, capable of being subdivided per particular needs plus specialist labs and work places.

To be able to take advantage of new opportunities, it is crucial that the space allocated to the Faculty of Applied Arts at Grangegorman be designed with these specific needs and opportunities in mind. Traditional educational space, typically provided, will not be suitable.

Concept for 21st century design

Open plan functional modular and flexible space, capable of being subdivided easily according to specific needs, and making a distinction between dedicated and shared space.

Much emphasis would be placed on sharing space, both to rationalise facilities equipment but equally important to encourage multidisciplinary pedagogy. Shared space would be allocated by time tabling.

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**Felle or From**

**Time for another look at student union elections**

Opinion by Thomas Felle

There is something very wrong with the way democracy is practised in DIT student union. Throughout the country, students voted in hotly contested local student elections. Recently student unions voted in the new USB executive, also a hotly contested campaign. However, there were no battles in all but two or three DITUSB executive seats. Only one candidate ran for more than half the positions.

Even the most important of positions, the overall President, did not manage to attract more than one candidate. It should be noted that this does not take from the caliber of the newly elected official. He will have the opportunity to prove his worth in the coming academically, having already served as site president in Kevin Street.

During the past four years as I have made my way through my course, I have often looked with starry eyed amazement at the way students union politics works. In truth, they don't in the strictest sense of the word. Attacks on positions and on a person's character to serve are taken personally. The "you're either with us or you're against us" mentality rules court and anyone with the courage to step out of line and question the ruling authorities is immediately shot down and castigated as a traitor.

When the DIT Act was enacted in 1992, the respective union elections at the time were faced with a new challenge. The then executive lived up to that challenge, and formed DITSU out of the five separate students' unions that then existed. For the first time they would now be working together as one union with one Overall President (a position also elected that year). During the past eight years, this has worked very well, with the different colleges now very well geared together. Co-operation amongst the sabaticals is common place, and overall campaigns and events are now a regular occurrence.

However, it is now time for another look at the way the students union sabaticals are elected, what jobs they do and whether there is room for further change. The old "if it ain't broken, don't fix it" attitude has no place in an emerging democracy.

At present, the five colleges elect five presidents and five deputy presidents, and together the student body elects one overall president. While this works, there is a better way to do things. What is needed is a more overall approach. If DIT is in time to become a university and to really become a first class educational institution, the students' union must also adapt to change. Elections in the future need to be fought on a faculty basis, with one-off running to represent students in each faculty. Overall positions such as entertainments officer, education officer, welfare officer and a president would then be fought to represent the entire students body.

These overall officers would be based at HQ, where support staff, office space, and student facilities would be provided. The idea that each site needs a president and a deputy president is short sighted and weighted at best.

Obviously in the short term, there is no hope of such amendments to the way students are served. Space at Grangegorman is still not finalised, and much work in the next 12 to 18 months will centre around such student facilities and accommodation on campus there. But a strategic plan for the students' union body is needed. Such a plan, not unlike a program for Government would give students the opportunity to choose government wisely, and not on the promise of a few extra beer vouchers at the next promotion.

Things have got to change, the sooner the better. We as students have got to grow up and stop being satisfied with promises of 'free beer' and 'givin' it loads' as an answer to everything. While there is obviously a place for social endeavour amongst students, a third level education must be more than that: there must be room for expansion of mind and of intellect, of creation of thought, of facility for debate, and above all for mature reflection. None of these things exist or can exist in the current system of government.

I have in the past been critical for my comments on student political parties in DIT. I have stood by my comments it that regard. While attending the recent closing of nominations for DITUSB elections, one candidate suggested that two others may have been running on a 'ticket' i.e. they were running a shared campaign. While it was pointed out that there was nothing dishonest or illegal about this, Sarah McGovern said that the students' union would be happy if it didn't happen. Both candidates denied that they were.

I was appalled. Whether they were or were not was irrelevant, what is to be condemned is the fact that they were, they felt compelled to deny it and that they were discouraged from running on a common platform in the first place. Surely the students who they were proposing to represent would have been much better served had they ran together on policies and principles, rather than they be mainstream political or independent. DITUSB need to grow up, and so do DIT students.
A model student

Twenty-two-year-old Sarah McGovern has many strings to her bow. Not only is she overall president of DITSU, the biggest student union in the country, but she is also a part-time model with Assets and has appeared alongside the supermodels on the Brown Thomas catwalk.

Combining her duties as president, a college social life and the glamour of modelling is all in a day's work for the smiling Sarah. But how does she manage it all?

"It's sounds corny but I love helping students achieve more from college life. I'm not doing this for the pat on the back but rather for the love of it. I love organising events and the politics of student life," says Sarah.

Sarah began her college life five years ago as a language and business student in Kevin St. She has so far completed two years of that course but has taken time out for her roles of welfare officer and DITSU President.

As a first year, Sarah became the class rep. In second year, she became the president of the language society and was responsible for the Erasmus students.

"I really enjoyed it. I did it along with a friend of mine and the two of us got involved with the students union that way and got to know the people in there."

Gaining confidence, Sarah decided to run the following year for the position as Kevin Street Welfare Officer.

"I decided I'd like to run for office and make a few changes. I wanted to try and make it a lot more open to students. And I wanted to communicate to students about what the student union actually does."

Competing against a fellow student of hers, Sarah was convinced her opponent would win but was surprised at the clear majority vote in her favour. Last year she decided to run for overall President of DITSU.

Despite competition from other campuses, Sarah beat off contenders and has enjoyed a hectic yet satisfying year in her term of presidency.

"Over the past year I have been responsible for a number of campaigns and have had dealings with the Dail regarding various student issues."

One of Sarah's campaigns has been the BLAST campaign which set out to inform students what their Students Union could do for them.

She commissioned an artist from DIT Mountjoy Square to design the logo and posters and was pleased with the positive response the campaign received.

"I decided involve the students in the decision and to design a logo that reflected them."

Sarah also employed a new graphic company to design a new layout for the student paper the DIT Independent.

"Working late was never part of the job description but Sarah doesn't mind. However, with all her responsibilities does she get to enjoy the student social life?"

"I usually leave my socialising until the weekends where I'll drink locally with friends. During the week, I might cook a meal or have a bottle of wine with friends. Because I am so busy during the day, I usually don't go out on weeknights."

As her term of presidency draws to a close, Sarah has begun looking to the future and the direction she wants to take.

Her course has now become a degree course but Sarah has the option of changing and is considering pursuing something different, possibly law.

Travel is definitely on the agenda. But with all her experience, she would ever consider a career in politics?

"I have thought about it and I'm not ruling it out as a possibility," says Sarah. "But I don't think so," she adds smiling.

In whatever she decides to do, however, the DIT Independent wishes her luck in her future choice of career.

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Rebecca Kelly spoke to Sarah McGovern about her term as DITSU president and her plans for the future

So what does bring DITSU president involve?

"My day starts at nine when I arrive in the office and can finish as late as eight in the evening depending on the amount of meetings and functions I have to attend. So I'm on the go the whole day."

"As president I have daily negotiations with DIT regarding important issues such as the new Grangegorman faculty."

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Sarah McGovern, president of DITSU: "It's sounds corny but I love helping students achieve more from college life."

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"Safe Pass" construction scheme

By Rebecca Kelly

The recent Construction Industry Partnership Forum was held in the Faculty of the Built Environment at DIT Bolton St. The forum launched the "Safe Pass" scheme which will aim to reduce the high level of serious injuries in the construction industry.

The scheme is designed to encourage employers to train their employees in Health and Safety Awareness and it is intended to have every construction worker in the country receive a seven hour training programme.

The Faculty of the Built Environment at Bolton St is a recent addition to DIT which aims to develop a centre of excellence for the disciplines of the built environment in Ireland. It will meet the needs of the community in the effective planning, designing and building of the countries towns whilst protecting the environment.

In his welcome address to the forum, Faculty Director Mr. John Ratcliffe, said, how pleased he was that DIT should be chosen to host the pilot programme. Mr. Ratcliffe was positive about the proposals "Safe Scheme" and he placed on record the Institute's keenness to become involved in any future developments in this activity.

The objectives of the scheme are to raise the standard of safety awareness in the construction industry and to maintain a register of personnel who have received the "Safe Pass" training.
IN ORDER TO HELP YOU THROUGH, STUDENT SERVICES PROVIDE:

- **Student Assistance Fund** - provides a rescue service for students in unexpected financial difficulty. Its primary aim is to stop students dropping out of college for financial reasons.

- **Personal Accident Insurance Scheme** - all DIT students are covered 24 hours a day, 52 weeks of the year worldwide in respect of injury arising from certified accidents.

- **Medical Services** - free health centres in Bolton Street and Aungier Street, dental and optical fund for specialist medical consultation where it is recommended by the college doctor.

- **Counselling Service** - 7 counselling psychologists provide this service which aims to assist students in overcoming difficulties or concerns, large or small, which might interfere with the attainment of their personal and/or educational goals.

- **Childcare Fund** - provides up to £50 a week for students who are parents to help cover the cost of childcare while in college.

- **Accommodation Service** - this service provides accommodation listings at the start of the academic year.

*These services are provided from funds paid for from your capitation fees*
Well, it's that time of year again! Time for us hard-working students to crack open the books and commence a few weeks of panic before the exams finally begin.

Yes we know we should have been studying all year, we know we should be prepared by now, but the truth is, most of us aren't. And all that non-preparation and panic can lead to stress.

Stress is a fact of life, and it's probably quite reasonable to say that most students have suffered from exam stress at one time or another.

The question is how do we deal with it? And how do we recognise it in the first place?

Dr Susan Lindsay, Senior Counsellor for DIT, has identified five signs of exam-related stress. These can range from panicky or anxious feelings to actual physical symptoms, such as headaches.

Being short-tempered can also indicate that a student is suffering from stress, as can an increased desire to put things off and negative self-talk. So if you find yourself thinking that you're going to fail, and that everyone is smarter than you, chances are you're suffering from exam-related stress.

So the next step is coping with it. And this doesn't mean just surviving - coping means learning how to deal with stress effectively.

But Dr Lindsay also points out that there are right and wrong ways to cope. Under the heading of wrong ways, see cramming.

Stress is a fact of life, and it's probably quite reasonable to say that most students have suffered from exam stress at some time, no matter how much you don't know. So it can do more harm than good, and probably should be avoided.

The right way to cope involves emotional, physical and mental preparation. Emotionally preparing yourself for an exam includes positive self-talk, visualisations and relaxation techniques.

The Student Counselling Service recommends visualising taking the test without stress, or picturing a peaceful place, such as a deserted beach. For relaxation, one popular method is to try "breathing by threes", that is inhaling slowly through the nose, counting to three, and then exhaling for the count of three.

Mental preparation involves finding out about study techniques from lecturers and the college counsellors, as well as reading books and internet resources. For the right way to cope, see study techniques from lecturers and the college counsellors.

Organising your notes, anticipating test questions and also finding out as much as possible about the exam. A studying, of course! To be physically prepared for an exam, Dr Lindsay recommends a good night's sleep the night before. Just as important is a healthy breakfast, avoiding sugary foods, as these will leave energy levels low later in the day.

Having the necessary clothing for the exam will also combat stress, as will allowing extra time to get to the test centre.

So now you're prepared for the exam. But what about tips for answering the questions?

There are five steps that the Student Counselling Service recommends.

First of all, read through the entire paper, highlighting important words. Then check how many questions need to be answered. Mark those that you think you can attempt and finally, pick those that you are going to answer.

Then it's on to step three: allocate the time for each question, and begin with the one you feel most comfortable with.

Next, plot out your answer clearly before you begin. And the final step is to always read over your answers and proof read for mistakes.

Ciara O'Brien looks at ways of avoiding much hated exam stress and has some useful tips for students

What did you see?

The DIT Independent is proud to announce details of the hottest music event of the Summer

Witness, a two day modern version of the infamous Feiles that brought trippers to Thurles every summer, will now bring some 30,000 fans to Fairyhouse of August 5 and 6. According to organisers, it is the "next instalment in its innovative series of programmes which promises to be one of the most impressive music events ever to feature on the Irish music calendar".

Included in the two day line up are artists including David Grey, Travis, Ocean Colour Scene, Happy Mondays, Super Furry Animal and a host of other acts.

In all, some 50 artists will appear on the stages over the weekend, making a unique Witness line up.

Many more artists are happy to take the Witness stand and will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Kenny Jamieson, of Witness, commented the event would "transform Fairyhouse to welcome thousands of people keen to see a line-up which will cover all types of music, ensuring the ultimate Irish weekend. Most importantly, where there's good music there'll be plenty of sun!"

Fresh young Irish talent will be welcomed to Witness with the opportunity to grow with the event over the coming years.

Witness was created by Guinness to add to the vibrant music scene which is already firmly established in Ireland. Witness provides quality, credible music events, doing its bit to satisfy the insatiable demand for music in Ireland. Witness also aims to push the boundaries out to challenge people's perceptions of what a 'gig' can and should be.

The first ever Witness gig set the scene for quality music when Bowie, Placebo and Talvin Singh shared a bill in a venue which held only 500 people.

Witness created an amazing buzz by giving away tickets to young music fans in pubs and bars. It is unlikely these artists will ever appear together again in such an intimate venue, unless it's by Witness.

Over the last month, Witness has been spotted in cities around Ireland performing intriguing street activity. Witness commissioned a team of young artists to transform billboard sites around the country with graffiti.

To see Witness near you usually means, keep your eyes open and ear to the ground, Witness activity might be around the corner.

Tickets, priced £34.50 for a one day or £59 for a weekend pass are on sale now and are available from Ticketmaster and usual outlets nationwide. Also available on www.ticketmaster.com.

The event also has its own hotline at 1890 30 9486377.

For those who don't fancy walking to Lepordstown, some 150 buses will be available to ensure safe passage to and from the Witness on both days.

A shuttle service will operate from O'Connell Street on Saturday and Sunday, buses will depart every 20 minutes, the first bus leaving for the site at 12.30.

The bus fare is £10 return. Further details on what promises to be the hottest gig of the Summer are available on the Witness website, at www.witness.com
While inter railing cannot be described as a relaxing holiday and is very demanding and often tiring and stressful, it is probably the most enjoyable and sociable way to see Europe. Anyone I know who has embarked on this type of journey have all said that the good points by far outweigh the bad.

For details on ticket prices and other essentials, check out USIT’s website at www.usitnow.ie.

Don’t ever leave your bags unattended at any time. If you want to get rid of them for a while, it is usually possible to leave them in the baggage room of a train station for a few hours.

Many travellers take the train at night to save on accommodation. While this is a good way to save money, you have to be more careful to look after your belongings. Always lock the door of your cabin at night and keep your personal belongings with you at all times.

Inter Rail passes can be bought from any USIT office. Under this pass, Europe is divided into eight zonal regions. These regions are grouped geographically and it is possible to buy a ticket for one to three zones. If you are the indecisive type and can’t pick three zones, it is then the best option is to buy a global pass, which allows you to travel in all zones for up to a month.

Prices range from around £150 for a pass for one zone to £260 for a global pass. An Inter Rail Pass also entitles you to reductions on many ferries throughout Europe and a reduced price on Eurostar services. There are a number of essential and useful items, which you should consider bringing on your trip.

The first and perhaps most obvious of these is a rucksack. Waterproof camping rucksacks are probably the best as if you are unfortunate to be caught in a heavy downpour the last thing you want to have to do is wring out your underwear.

A sleeping bag is also a pretty handy thing to have with you. Some hostels along the way may not be the cleanest and you’d never know where you might end up sleeping.

Apart from money, there are a few other useful things to pack. The Thomas Cook International Train Timetable can be purchased from most bookshops for around £10. It is updated every six months and will probably become your best friend on your trip, especially when you stuck on a train for hours and there is nothing else in English to read.

There are many other guide books devoted to travelling Europe by train and most good bookshops will probably have a fairly good selection. An Oige Hostelling Card can be bought at USIT before you go for £10 and will give you discounts in many hostels.

While most who embark on an inter railing trip have the time of their lives, some do have bad experiences. To avoid any of these unpleasant experiences, there are some things you can do to ensure your own personal safety and the safety of your belongings.

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No plans for the summer? Why not go off the rails and dare to be adventurous and travel Europe by rail?

Every year, thousands of students set on the trail of adventure and fun with rucksacks on their backs and rail passes in their pockets. Many take this travel option not just because it is inexpensive but also because there is no need to stick to a planned itinerary, in fact it is far more fun to take off with no plan and see where you end up.

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AIB on Campus

For all your financial needs, please contact your local student officers.

Julie Martin - DIT Kevin Street and Aungier Street

Ciara Toomey - DIT Mountjoy Square, Cathal Brugha Street and Bolton Street

Opening Hours

DIT Kevin Street: 10am - 12.30am daily
DIT Aungier Street: 1.30pm - 3.30pm daily
DIT Mountjoy Square: 3.00pm - 4.00pm (Monday)
10.30am - 11.30 am (Tuesday)

DIT Cathal Brugha Street: 2.15pm - 3.30pm (Thursday)

DIT Bolton Street: 9.30am - 11.45am and 1-2pm
(Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
10.30am - 11.30am and 1-1.30 (Tuesday)
9.30am - 12.45pm (Tuesday)
The politics of reproduction

Deborah Condon reports from Japan and discovers how the land of the rising sun has just woken up to the Pill

Behind Japan's modern, industrialised and technologically superior image lies a deeply traditional society, where a woman's place is still in the home and her main role is child rearing. Nothing emphasises this more than Japan's rejection to a drug, which since the 1960s, has been the definitive drug of women and was seen as synonymous with their sexual liberation. The contraceptive pill, a drug which the rest of the industrialised world dealt with decades ago, went on sale for the first time in Japan in September 1999, almost 40 years after approval was first sought.

How can Japan, an advanced industrial country, be the last of the Western world to allow a drug which provides so many benefits for women? Furthermore a bizarre contradiction exists. While Japan rejected the Pill, it welcomed two other forms of contraception, condoms, and more controversially, abortion.

The high rate of unwanted pregnancies that exists suggests Japan would welcome a drug which gives women control over their fertility. But this has not happened. Instead people's view of the Pill is extremely negative and what can only be described as anti-aborted.

While debate over the Pill has continued since the 1960s, Viagra, the male impotence drug, was approved in Japan only within the past six months. (Approving a new drug for sale in Japan usually takes a minimum of two years and costs about $20 million.) New competition, Schering wanted to find out why there was such a high failure rate. Liam Condon is the man in sales. In order to understand this, he had to battle the mindset that gives Japan's anti-Pill activists.

However the fight to provide the Pill in Japan is a visible form of contraception for Japanese women is far from over. Today ten companies compete to win a stake in this market. But these companies also have to compete with 40 years of bad publicity. The negative image of the Pill must battle the most acceptable image of abortion and condoms.

Japan is the largest condom market in the world. Known as sakamaii (skin), many people believe them to be 100 per cent effective. However, unlike in the West, very different. Japan has one of the highest failure rates in condom usage in the world, largely due to lack of sex education. Depending on various studies, condom failure varies between 12 and 16 per cent.

Nichi Schering is the Japanese subsidiary of a German pharmaceutical company and is one of the ten companies that bid to launch the Pill in Japan. It is currently number one in sales. In order to understand this, the well-known sexologist, Lyndal Lyon, told me, "there are only a few people who consider foetal viability and this is no theme for public discussion."

While in Japan, I spoke to many women about contraception and the choices open to them. Masami, 27, a single woman, was frank in her recruitment. "We Japanese people had a lot of abortion and pregnancy but it was ok, not much complaining. Nothing was being said."

Furthermore many Japanese people view the Pill as being "cashing in on people's fears."

However the high dose pill is seen as dangerous, and is not generally prescribed around the world. Mr Condon explains: "It's been clinically proven that high doses of estrogen can lead to Venous- Thrombo-Embolism (VTE), and that is the most common form of Pill-related adverse events. That would be for example, a blood clot, in the leg, which would then maybe dislocate and travel up to the lung, and then become a clot in the lung. This would lead to serious complications. And for that reason, lower dose pills with a lesser amount of estrogen were launched." And so the Pill, as we know it, was approved around the industrialised world.

While the biggest battles the Pill faces is the image of abortion and condoms. The question remains, why is Japan more open view of this now, abortion attracts little controversy.

For instance, a devout Catholic. The Catholic Church proved to be one of, if not the most, powerful and influential institutions in Japan in the 20th Century. Its views on abortion are clear. It is wrong no matter what the circumstances. While there is a more open view of abortion, the focus remains one of the most contentious issues in Japan, and this is largely due to the Church. Japanese people never had this. They did not have an influential religion constantly telling them abortion is wrong. Therefore the moral dilemma did not exist.

With the "economic" directive in mind, a legal battle is a moral dilemma, abortion became an accessible and accepted option. Today it remains one of the most controversial issues in Japan. According to government data, in 1997 there were 1.19 million live births and 338,000 abortions. Experts believe that a further 100,000 abortions went unreported.

Most industrialised democracies only allow abortion within the first trimester (12 weeks). In Japan, abortions can be performed as late as week 22. This is based on the idea that "foetal viability", a concept which, in my experience, nobody will officially discuss. Fetal viability means that if a child's organs are not developed enough to survive outside the womb, then an abortion may be performed.

Elke Kato, a gynaecologist who works at a hospital in Osaka, told me, "there are only a few people who consider foetal viability and this is no theme for public discussion."

"The person in question and that person's spouse" interpretation for unmarried people is wide open. As a part of effort to a discrimination against the physically and mentally disabled, legislators eliminated all eugenics provisions in 1996.

The Eugenic Protection Law became the Maternal Body Protection Law. While abortion existed in Japan years before most of the rest of the industrialised world, the question remains, why is there such an uncontroversial option in Japan?

The Japanese do not have the same scrupulous abortion as the West. Some believe this is because of the religious image of performing services for the repose of the souls of aborted fetuses. This practice is called mizuko kuyu (water-chid ceremony). (Mizuko kuyu can also be used as a ceremony for miscarried or stillborn babies.) It allows the mother and her partner to express their grief, pain and guilt. The services are performed for one week and the woman may have the option of renting a zōko stone, which is a statue in the temple grounds, to represent her dead child. Some of the media and mizuko kuyu practitioners have been accused of hinting at the idea of胎生. This is a curse which a childless child in the other world can bring upon a family through spirit attacks. Some believe the only way of avoiding this is through mizuko kuyu. Others believe that this is simply a sinister marketing ploy to encourage possibly guilt-ridden women into undergoing the free-paying ceremony.

Mizuko kuyu does not itself necessarily explain the high abortion rate, in Japan. It is estimated that only around one fifth of women who have abortions undergo the ceremony. And many shrines and temples refuse to carry it out, as they believe it is cashing in on people's fears.

While mizuko kuyu might not explain the high abortion rate, religion somewhat can. The main religion in Japan is Shinto, a form of nature-worship. Shinto does not have a strict philosophy or moral code like many other religions. Furthermore many Japanese people mix their Shinto beliefs with Buddhist ones.

Because of the lack of a strict moral code, attitudes towards abortion are completely different to, for example, a devout Catholic. The Catholic Church proved to be one of, if not the most powerful and influential institutions in Ireland in the 20th Century. Its views on abortion are clear. It is wrong no matter what the circumstances. While there is a more open view of abortion, the focus remains one of the most contentious issues in Japan, and this is largely due to the Church. Japanese people never had this. They did not have an influential religion constantly telling them abortion is wrong. Therefore the moral dilemma did not exist.

With the "economic" directive in mind, a legal battle is fought over abortion with unwanted pregnancies. According to government data, in 1997 there were 1.19 million live births and 338,000 abortions. Experts believe that a further 100,000 abortions went unreported.

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YOU'RE THE hundredth best soccer player in the world. You play for a major English or Italian club. Your face adorns the cover of sports magazines and fans mob you for an autograph when you go training. When your national team plays, you're an immediate selection.

You're the hundredth best businessman in the world. Your company is well up in the Fortune 500 list and you spend more time worrying about yachting races than about adding value to your already stupendous earnings.

You're the hundredth best chess player in the world. You sit in a Dublin cafe, unrecognised by any of the customers, and complain about how taxes eat into your scantly earnings. Your name is Alexander Baburin.

Actually, the Russian national based in Ireland has just recently been edged out of the top hundred. "A couple of tricky Burmese guys knocked me out."

But he is confident that, given the proper conditions, he could chalk up the points that would shoot him into the world's top fifty, at least.

The problem is that he hasn't got the proper conditions. The tall blonde Russian, although his amiable accent immediately brings to mind the "vicious circle" his small income from playing chess places him in. Supporting family, coaching beginners, writing for chess journals, all detract from him focusing single-mindedly on improving his rating.

Which is an obsession with so many players, and not just professionals.

The British journalist Daniel Spanier, in his book Total Chess, describes the fixation with climbing the table that fills every tournament hall: "The youths with their furrowed gaze, the girls, pop-eyed with the strain, the bearded veterans and hopeless hangers on of the tournament circuit, they are all after the same, elusive, yet so immediately within grasp, higher rating—just one more point, that's all—and they're there."

Most of these "hopeless hangovers" on would give their non-piece-moving arms to breathe the clear air that Alexander does, on the border of the world's top hundred.

But Baburin himself is not likely to develop the neuroses so common to chess players if he never scales further up the peaks—or even if he slides lower down the cliff face.

"I think people pay too much attention to ratings. OK. Let's put it this way. Imagine I'm number hundred and another guy is number fifty in the world. What does that really mean? Is he a better player? Maybe stronger, yes. But it doesn't necessarily make him a more interesting player. More popular. Or more famous.

"This is what I started to reckon about a year ago. So I started my own newsletter Coffee Break Chess and later my own website. It's all about raising the profile. It doesn't really translate into anything material, but I think it's a good thing to do. It's better than spending all your time studying chess just to bring your rating a little bit up.

"I think maybe now a comparison would be in order. Let's say there are two painters. Let's say that one painter, for whatever reason, sells his works for more than the other. Does that make him a better painter?"

"Maybe it has more to do with fashion. Maybe it will turn around. It's like转让ing, when they make a fist in circles. You always can say 'this guy is faster than the other'. But there's also figure skating, where you can say this guy does it more beautifully than the other guy.

"Well, both of these elements are present in chess. One guy can be a real mean, strong player. But not very interesting. Another guy might make a lot of mistakes but be so interesting as a player that everybody says 'wow, this is the guy'. So I think it would be wrong to be obsessed with ratings in chess, because they only reflect one element: Running around in circles."

Alexander Baburin: the Russian national based in Ireland has just recently been edged out of the top hundred. "A couple of tricky Burmese guys knocked me out."

Laboring analogies are a constant in Alexander's talk, which is delivered in Eurovision-style terms, like guy, dumb, and wow. He compares computer-sided matches to "boxes using swords". The indirect and not practised his own chess coaching and writing gives him the status of a "spring doing spring exercises, but not springing".

His speech is careful and intricate, like a lecturer reading from prepared notes.

His cleverness has been proven more than just his talent on the board. At school, he graduated with the highest marks in all subjects. As well as being an outstanding chess player from a young age, he might also have embarked on a career as a professional swimmer or basketball player.

The game remained his real career even as he studied radiography, did a stint in the army, and dabbed in engineering and linguistics.

Not long after the Soviet Union collapsed he became a member of the Irish Chess Federation (he has represented us in the chess Olympiads) and added coaching to his job description.

In 1996 he finally won his Grand Master title, the highest accolade in American chess, and the mighty Victor Korchnoi, former world finalist, in Copenhagen.

But just when his playing career was reaching new heights, actually making a crust from the game turned out to be more difficult than ever before.

He now has to write articles for chess journals, to teach pupils and to give lectures just to make ends meet.

The Soviet Union was certainly much kinder to its chess players than the free market of the west, but Alexander has no nostalgia for the old system.

You cannot have it both ways. You cannot have a Western economy and not pay for certain things. You cannot have a bad Russian economy and a nice life for chess players.

"When I was a kid, I travelled a lot to chess tournaments, had hundreds of hours teaching and my parents never paid for anything. Which was good in certain ways. But when people feel sorry about it I don't think most of them would like to have lived in that society."

And it's not as if he feels insecure about the future.

He fully expects to still be a chess pro in twenty years—"besides, who would employ me?" he jokes—and points out that he's maintained his current foothold in the table despite all the distractions from pure competitive chess.

Distractions he welcomes rather than bemoans. Baburin corrs most alive when he is discussing his latest scheme, an electronic newsletter called Coffee Break Chess, which is mailed to over a thousand people and has had a huge response. (His personal website is so popular that his hit counter broke down in the effort to monitor the amount of visitors.)

Where most chess magazines reassemble the more boring type of maths texts, Alexander's looks more like the "curious stuff" that occurs in the life of a Grand Master. "It's sort of a community new," he says of Coffee Break Chess.

"It's nice to know people want to hear about you. It's interesting, but for me it is also a sort of marketing. It massages my ego, too!"

Doing his own marketing is unfortunately do rigorous as the Irish media have shown little interest in our only resident GM.

Which shouldn't surprise anyone. When talking about how much he enjoys coaching, how little he cares for ratings, or the pleasure he gets from sharing his experiences with others through Coffee Break Chess, Baburin is laughing.

Alexander Baburin is living proof that nice guys don't always come last.

"Bibi Baskin?" Yes, exactly. And last year I was on TV3, in the morning, for two or three minutes.

This lack of attention makes it hard to find sponsorship, but Baburin is still fond of Ireland. Former British champion Tony Miles calls him "Seamus Baburin," he says laughingly.

He isn't sure he'll stay here, though. England beckons as "professional it would be a very good move for me".

Another pull factor is the amount of eminent chess friends he has across the channel, including former world finalist Nigel Short and teenage prodigy Luke McShane. Making friends is as easy to him as making enemies is to other chess luminaries.

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Alexander Baburin is living proof that nice guys don't always come last.
The proposed bill basically makes provisions "for a new authority, to be known as the Private Security Authority, whose membership will include nominees of the Minister, representatives of employers and employees in the private security industry and a nominee of the Garda Commissioner".

The approval of this bill has been criticised by the opposition, and for reasons not without foundation. Fine Gael’s John Farrelly, who represents the Meath Constituency, has spent the last three years drafting up a thorough bill calling for the "registration, control and supervision of persons engaged in the private security industry". The bill was rejected in the Dail, and Farrelly’s grievance lies mainly in the fact that the wording of the Government’s bill is almost identical to his.

In his press statement he declared that "there are too many stories about criminal activities in the security industry. Reports of bouncers selling drugs in nightclubs, paramilitaries running protection rackets and rough handled, sometimes violent, behaviour by some security personnel are disturbingly common. The bill aims to regulate the security industry and ensure that only legitimate and accountable personnel are allowed to work in within the sector."

Farrelly felt strongly on this issue for quite a while now. His interest started when he was driving two young lads from his home village to Navan on a Saturday evening. They informed him that they were going to a nightclub outside of his constituency and that it was rampant with drugs. When he enquired as to how the drugs came into the place they told him that it was simply to bring drugs into this nightclub, because the doormen were on the take and they did not even bother to hide their activities.

"Shortly after that there was a taxi man that rang into Pat Kenny one morning and said he had been paid £1200 apiece to act as security people. I have not forgotten that. I have heard that there was a private security company employing over 10,000 people with an estimated turnover of more than £20 million annually. In addition, there are also a potential 10,000 people employed as door supervisors or bouncers. This proposed legislation will impact in a wide-ranging way on the daily lives of many sections of our community."

As of yet it is not known when the bill will take effect, according to Alan Mulligan of the Department of Justice.

"It’s practically impossible to predict how quickly it will get through the house, there are many deciding factors, including the opposition’s reaction to it. Also, it’s pretty complicated legislation, and that always takes longer."

Even after the Bill has been introduced, it will take a long time for the licensed system to establish itself in the country, as the newly trained doormen and security workers will have to be phased in gradually.
An exercise in '80s nostalgia

Ray Foley checks out the latest film releases and some due out in the coming weeks

American Psycho
Funny, punctent, and weirdly gripping, American Psycho is a satire that feels like a hallucination; its tone of Bennettian, light-fingered malevolence is closer to late Bushel or the Kubrick of "The Shining," than it is to Bert Elston Ellis' infamous 1991 novel the film is based on.

Yet director Mary Harron ("I Shot Andy Warhol"), if anything, is an even more devious provocateur than Ellis was.

By treating the book as raw material for an exuberantly perverse exercise in '80s nostalgia, she recasts the go-go years as a template for the casually brainwashed consumer/fashion/image culture that emerged from them. She has made it real and it's parable of today.

Patrick Bateman (Christian Bale), a 30-year-old merger and acquisitions turk, has a bottomless expense account, a private airplane (Reese Witherspoon), and a fetishistically luscious white-on-white designer apartment. But he's a Hollow Man.

He occupies a cool sweat demimonde where everything, from dinner reservations to massages to muscle tone toclass is a status symbol - a signifier of identity.

Harron ("I Shot Andy Warhol"), working with gleeful precision, mythologizes the moment when America rediscovered the heady egomaniacal rush of conspicuous consumption.

She reveals in the decadent details -- the pasha's array of skin lotions that Patrick uses for his dementia, or his ongoing struggle with trying to bring up her kids, stymieing her mounting debts by finding an elusive job and generally come to terms with the fact that her life, thus far, has come to nothing. What she has in droves is empathy for fellow victims and the steely determination to scale mountains.

Usually with suits on.

Her great cause -- and the movie's plot - lies in her discovery that a huge corporation's negligent pollution of a small town has resulted in a horrendous array of cancers and illness amongst the locals.

Having warmed her way into a smalltime law firm as a skivvy, by sheer force of will she then capjues her long-suffering boss Ed Macey (Finney) to take up the case and let her do stuff you know, win over the folks, take on the drastically big time lawyer types with her nascent grit and a splendidly foul-mouthed wit as she delivers the film's nicely timed comic relief.

Lost is the gorgeous movie star and real person a film like this requires. One of the film's principal torments is that the guy does keep on making the film's nicely timed comic relief.

Erin Brockovich
Your typical Julia Roberts vehicle tends to do what the film says on the tin: big budget and largely8 lurk the writers, let loose the wrath he paradoxically to dance on a treadmil of fabulousness.

Bale, who in movies like "Velvet Goldmine" has specialized in playing shrinking violets, here acts with a newly potent leading-man danger.

During the murders, or when he's committing a trespassion with hookers, Patrick plays his favorite pop songs and discourses on why he loves them, and his soliloquies on Hurley Lewis and the News' "Hip to be Square" or the oeuvre of Genesis are classics of bedazzled solipsism.

The more a song justifies his sloppy existance, the more it leaves him in rapture.

After his coworker disappears, Patrick is questioned by a private eye (William Dafoe), and we feel protective of him -- not because we like what he's done, but because Bale lends such vivid, funny life to Patrick's squirmingly inadequate.

After a while, Patrick begins to fall apart, and the movie takes a leap into the surreal. The transition doesn't entirely work; it's confounding when it should be haunting.

Still, the mere Bale performance grows in unglued, the more Patrick begins to fall apart, and the more it leaves him in rapture.

Erik Brockovich
Your typical Julia Roberts vehicle tends to do what the film says on the tin: big budget and completely shenanigans with that man, and those legs.

Brockovich is presented initially as a terminally unlucky but doggedly determined individual wading through trying to bring up her kids, stymieing her mounting debts by finding an elusive job and generally come to terms with the fact that her romcom shenanigans with that man, and those legs.

tells us to his upscale dementia.

More than just corrupt, he's living in a bubble where everything, from dinner reservations to massages to muscle tone toclass is a status symbol -- a signifier of identity.

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The series was shot in the village of Portmeirion in Wales, famed for its unusual mix of different architectural styles, and every year fans of the series gather in Portmeirion for conventions.

Luckily for fans, there are some big names attached: The movie is being written by Christopher McQuarrie, screenwriter of The Usual Suspects and X-Men.

It will be directed by Simon West (currently marking 'The Marine') and produced by Barry Mendel (The Sixth Sense). Best of all, though: it overem by executive producer, Patrick McGoohan, who created, wrote and starred in the original series.

There has long been talk of a return to the series, but the only thing that has so far surfaced was a four-part comic book sequels in 1988, McGoohan himself wrote a screenplay in 1996 but McQuarren, Mendel and West have chosen to return to the source material instead.

"For me this project is a huge responsibility because there is such a cult following for the show," Mendel said. But with Simon West and Chris McQuarren it's going to be a cool and commercial movie." Any Given Sunday
Oliver Stone is back in the chair to take on the battlefield of US football.

"Listen up team, this is the play. Us white guys are gonna blast through the middle with a mixture of youthful machismo and world- weary substance-fueled middle-aged angst. And all the action's gonna be captured on a frenetically-edited range of different film stocks! Got that? Hop! Hop! Hop!"

Okay, so it's easy to make fun of Oliver Stone, but then, the guy does keep on making basically the same movie. This time the subject is the brutal world of fictitious American football team the Miami Sharks.

Possibly the most 'Oliver Stone' Oliver Stone movie to date, Pacino essentially plays the director himself, as a hard-drinking football coach who must reverse the Sharks' losing streak, while the predictably underwritten ice maiden comes in the form of Diva' ball-breaking club owner.

One of the film's principal critiques of the game is that, while most of the players are black, the people in control are white.

Of course, this would have more substance were it not for the fact that the best lines go to Pacino and James Woods, the latter plumping new depths as the team's drug-dealing doctor.

Yet, despite the film's multifarious faults, which also include a truly rotten cameo from Stone himself as a sports commentator, there can be no argument that this is one of the most visually exciting experiences you will have this year, as the audience is dragged so close to the action that it is possible to hear every grunt, feel every injury and almost taste every drop of spit blood.

The timely-disposed in the audience will be praying for a football time out long before that climactic impossible-to-win game rolls around.

It hardly needs pointing out - this being an Oliver Stone movie - that they will be doing so in vain.
When your Mother went on about housekeeping she had a point.
House keeping is something best done on a regular basis with a brush at home or with programs which will clean up your hard drive.

When I say clean up your hard drive I don’t mean actually taking a brush to clean off the dust but programs that will analyse the files on your hard drive and erase the programs which are not needed to run applications (Word, Excel etc) or your work saved in a file.

These programs can be downloaded for free from www.winfiles.com. You log onto the site and specify what type of programs you want such as an “anti virus” or “easy clean” and the operating system you are running (Windows 95 or Windows 98 etc.).

A search for easy clean to operate on a Windows 98 platform gives more than 20 programs which can be downloaded for free and will remove any temporary files or garbage files that have been created and left on your hard drive. Temporary files and or Garbage files are created by your operating system (Windows etc) when you are working with applications as the computer creates a temporary file but these are not always deleted when you close the program you are working with. Clean Disk or Clean PC or any of the other similar programs will go through your files and remove the unneeded files.

The Winfiles site is a great place to find a program to play MP3 files such as Winamp, anti virus programs like Mere or Getright.

The Getright program allows you to schedule what file you want to download and which site you want to download them from. The beauty of the web is the transfer of programs but this take time so Getright makes this much easier because you don’t have to start the downloading process again if your link gets terminated because it will restart automatically when you next log on. The program allows the user to schedule as many files as you want from multiple web sites. The site also provides tips to solve problems which you may encounter so this is a good place to start looking for solutions.

What will they come up with next? Voice (www.icope.com/cope/teoice) is InterCope’s Phone Messaging Service which connects Internet world to the non-Internet world. It allows you to record, and send a voice messages from a Multimedia or Internet enabled PC to a normal telephone. So now you can send voice messages to people even if they don’t have an internet connection and they too can send back their voice response through phone to you! All the recipient needs to have is a normal telephone. And what’s more its absolutely free! The only problem is that it only works in Bangalore.

But other companies must have set up a similar service or Voice may expand their service in the future.

Why Voice? You may be anywhere in the world and if you want to send a voice message to someone in Bangalore, you could use this service instead of spending on expensive international phone calls. If you are a business traveller and want to send an urgent voice message to your partner’s mobile phone in Bangalore you could use this service right from your laptop! And the recipient can also record his/her voice message over the phone and it will be sent to you by email!!

My head is wrecked, the project is due, I could only find out about XXXX.

Nua is a software and publishing company. As a software company it produces programs which allow easy online publishing for in company access

• produces E-Zines (online newspapers)
• compiles secondary market research (research done by other companies)
• compiles figures and comments on emerging trends

The site allows you to search through the database of surveys by keyword, category such as Finance or Information Technology and country.

The E-Zines are called New Thinking, Nua Internet Surveys, Nua Knowledge News and Making It Work.
Gallant effort in Collingwood Cup

(The following is an extract from a report on DIT's Collingwood Cup campaign for 2000 by Michael B Whelan)

The team trained four nights a week...

Those training with clubs two nights per week were permitted and continued to do so. Those who did not have a club in Dublin continued to attend and four nights in Bolton Street. The reason we undertake this type of routine is specifically to acclimate our players to continuing maximum effort five games on consecutive days, often in harsh weather conditions and frequently at night.

As it happened, this week was to stand us in good stead. The conditions were indeed poor, but our players rose magnificently to the challenge.

The whole squad developed an incredible team spirit and following our inaugural participation, which surprised most people by qualifying for the Plate final last year.

This team climbed new heights going through a tough section unbeaten to win the section and qualify for the Collingwood semi-finals.

The first game was a key game as we opened our campaign against a strong home team who were one of the favourites to win. University of Ulster at Coleraine were indeed a quality outfit and it was our opening game we returned to the dressing room a goal to the good scored by first year Alan Gallo.

We knew Coleraine would come out at us early and often and they did not let us down. We defended excellently when necessary - retained possession when we needed to and created some openings which Coleraine did well to suppress.

Overall we were marginally the better team despite a very determined team effort by Coleraine who ejected us to a last fifteen minutes of continuous pressure, but we held out valiantly and went on to gain a brilliant win, thus setting us off to the start we craved and deserved.

The next game saw DIT pitted against our neighbours Dublin City University. This was to produce a game of great attacking flair from our point of view as we launched attack after attack, creating at least six one on ones with the goalkeeper who was in excellent form and thwarted all six attempts.

Having hit the post on a couple of occasions and the crossbar twice, one could be forgiven for thinking that despite our obvious superiority we might not win this game.

The team was not about to wilt and went on to win the game 1 – 0, courtesy of Gallo again but consequent of a massive team performance.

This set up a situation where by we had a full six points from two games and were leaders of the section would play the illustrious UCD, who having drawn with Coleraine and beaten DIT were a point behind us going into this final section 2 game.

We needed a draw to win the section and the qualification to the semi-finals they needed to win to qualify.

This game was played in the most atrocious weather - rain, sheet and snow - on the most cut up pitch in the complex. But this is Collingwood and the show must go on.

The first half was reasonably even with both sides nullifying each other, finally ending at 0 – 0 half time score. The second half was more exciting and the final score was 2 – 2.

The semi-final the next day pitted DIT against University College Cork another of the powerhouse of University sport especially soccer.

Maybe this would be too much of a challenge following on from our gigantic efforts the previous day and in light of our opponents being a big strong skilful team with a tradition of winning Collingwood Cups.

I need not have worried. This outfit is nothing if not brave. We were to be involved in another epic performance. For ninety minutes the play ebbed and flowed and for a twenty minute period in the second half of normal time we dominated the game by controlling midfield and stretching the Cork rear guard almost to breaking point but alas Cork held out, and towards the end of normal time put pressure on us but we survived to see the game into thirty minutes of extra time.

Both teams gave everything in pursuit of victory but the defence held out. And so to penalties. It was heartbreaking to lose this way, which I see as elimination not defeat.

So during the course of the tournament we only conceded two goals to UCD, were the only team to hold UCC scoreless and they went on to win the Collingwood Cup on a score of 1 – 0 beating Magee College in a tight game in which both teams showed the strains of a long tournament with both having to endure extra time in the semi-finals.

They were five Freshers in the DIT starting eleven and together with the rest of the squad they did themselves to the team and the DIT proud and I hope their heroic efforts are rewarded by some form of recognition.

DIT do well at Cork IT Taekwon-Do Tournament

By Owen O'Connor

The 12th February saw the holding of DIT Kevin Street's second annual Tae Kwon-do intervarsity tournament.

The tournament was well supported, with entrants from DIT Kevin Street, Cork Institute of Technology, and UCD. The Kevin Street team put up a strong performance, coming away with the majority of the honours.

Amongst the team's winners were Eleanor Keogh, 3rd in the yellow tip patterns division. Trevor Boyne 1st, Sharon King 2nd and Stringer 3rd, in the yellow belt green tip patterns competition.

In the yellow tag women's sparring, Eleanor Keogh came away with 1st place, Jane Murphy with 2nd place and Grace McCormack with 3rd. Mark Payne took second place in the mens' division.

Una Gaughan came 1st, and Emma Leahy second in the heavy weight womens' sparring. In yellow-green belt mens' sparring, Jim Tong took 2nd place in the light weight division, with Eamonn Walker and Kevin Bracken 3rd, and Trevor Boyne 2nd in the heavy weight category.

Sinead O'Reilly convincing took 1st place in the blue-black tip patterns competition, as well as in the red-black tip light weight sparring.

The overall team event went to DIT Kevin Street with a 3 – 2 victory of UCD in the competition climax.

DIT do well at Cork IT Taekwon-Do Tournament

THE DIT Kevin Street Taekwon-Do club again put on a strong performance in the Intervarsity Taekwon-do Tournament.

Despite strong competition from Cork IT, UCD and Limerick IT, the Kevin Street club still came away with an appreciable amount of the prizes.

In the mens' yellow tag to green tag sparring, Grace McCormack came first and Una Gaughan second in the light weight division, with Eleanor Keogh coming first in the heavy weight category. Darragh Collins took third place in the mens' yellow tag to green tag heavy weight sparring, with Robert Lynch coming away with second place in the mens' heavy weight green belt to blue belt sparring.

There was also success for the club in the patterns competition. Trevor Boyne came third in the yellow tag to green tag section, Tom Barry came third in the green belt to red tag division, and Stuart O'Reilly also managed third in the red belt to black belt section.

The Cork trip was another big success for the Kevin St. Contingency, and is a indicator of how far the club has come in recent years. The club has grown in numbers and stature in the past 3 years and regularly enjoys training attendance levels of over 35 – 40 members. New members, especially beginners, are always welcome to the club.

For information on training times, see the club web site at http://www.clubsoc.dit.ie/taekwondo or the club notice board outside the Snackery in Kevin Street.

The Keelin Kevin Street Tae kwon-do club would like to extend it's thanks to the event sponsors, and also to the DIT Kevin Street's Sports Officer Seamus Byrne, and to Kevin Street's Student Union President, Vinney Dooley, whose support helped to make these events possible.

(Owen O'Connor is a member of the Tae kwon-do society)
Sports awards

Club Executive of the Year
Keith McAodh (DIT Basketball Club)

As secretary of the DIT South Basketball, Keith throughout the year organised and co-ordinated all league, championship and friendly fixtures for the men's and ladies basketball teams. He has been instrumental in the club's development this season. By raising the profile and participation level of the club to new levels within DIT, he has managed to secure a sponsorship deal for the club for 2000/2001. He has worked diligently and has taken his responsibility as a committee member very seriously. Next year he has already set up and established an Annual Inter College 3 V 3 tournament in DIT and hopes to enter the DIT basketball club into the European colleges tournament in Paris.

John O'Hara (GAA/Soccer Club)
It is not very often that you find such an accomplished sportsman as John, who is equally adept in Gaelic football and soccer at a very high level. John is the goalkeeper of the Mayo Senior and under 21 gaelic football teams and is also a member of the Belvedere Boys Soccer Club in Dublin.

He has represented Ireland under 18 at an international level and has been head hunted by Manchester United and Reading to attend their soccer trials. At home he was instrumental in helping the Mayo Minor Team to victory in the Connacht Championships and progress as far as the final of the All Ireland Championships in 1999. He truly is a most deserved winner.

Certificates of merit
The following students will receive a certificate of merit for their contribution to the development of sport and recreation within DIT and to the overall development of student sport at third level:

- Aidan Kennedy - DIT Judo Club
- Barry Williams - DIT Hurling Club
- Barry Enright - DIT Rugby Club
- Clara Ferry - DIT Gaelic Football Club
- Mags Fitzgerald - DIT Camogie Club
- Colin Brolsin - DIT Olympic Handball
- Eugene O'Neill - DIT Athletics Club
- Ray Nangle - DIT Karting Club
- Jimmy Delaney - DIT Sub Aqua Club
- Kevin McDonagh - DIT Mountaineering Club
- Max Haeferle Murphy - DIT volleyball Club

Club of the Year Award
The DIT Karting Club only came into existence in the last few years - Ray Nangle, Chairperson, was very significant in the club's development. The club was prominent in the DIT Independent all year with numerous half-page articles informing DIT students and staff of the club's various sporting activities.

- Secured many sponsorship deals from various external sources such as AIB Bank, Stell and Guinness.
- Plan to develop a ladies team separate to the men's as there is a difference in ability between male and female drivers.
- This year they have many achievements accredited to the club to date such as winning the Munster Inter-varsities and 1st and 2nd place in the All Ireland Inter-varsities.
- The Karting Club has also found an All Ireland Winner in Champion - Paul Taylor, who looks poised to capture the Formula A Championship and follow the steps of great Irish drivers such as Eddie Irvine.

Clariication
In the story on DIT sports day in October's issue it was stated that the coaches were running an hour late. This is in no way reflected on the excellent service provided by Marathon coaches on the day, nor was it meant to infer that they were to blame for the coaches lateness.

Paul Brady - (GAA/Handball)
Last year we thought there was nothing more this young sportsman could achieve in his chosen field. This year he has already added to his impressive list of achievements, which include winning the Irish Universities (singles and team events), the Leinster Open and USHA Collegiates Singles titles in the USA, where is the reigning under 19 World Champion in the US Nationals.

He is also a Golden Gloves finalist, an Ulster Open Finalist and a finalist in the All Ireland singles and doubles championships. He is undoubtedly an outstanding sports person who has demonstrated a level of dedication unmatched by his peers.

Barry Enright receives his certificate from Eamonn Coughlan and Declan Glynn, director of external affairs

Mags Fitzgerald receives her certificate

Herbie McLeland, Sports Officer in Aungier Street, at the Sports Awards
All right, go if you must, but don't come back here pissed.

The one with the atmosphere

THE PALACE NIGHTCLUB