DIT Independent, 1st.-30th. of November, 2000

DIT: Students Union

Follow this and additional works at: https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ditsu

Recommended Citation

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Dublin Institute of Technology at ARROW@TU Dublin. It has been accepted for inclusion in DIT Student Union by an authorized administrator of ARROW@TU Dublin. For more information, please contact yvonne.desmond@tudublin.ie, arrow.admin@tudublin.ie, brian.widdis@tudublin.ie.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License
Students march for grant increase

THOUSANDS of students marched through the streets of Dublin last week, calling for an increase in the €49 student maintenance grant to the equivalent of social welfare payment levels and the provision of rent allowance. They were also calling for an increase in the income limits so more students can avail of the grant.

USI President Julian de Spains told a rally outside the Department of Education that education is a right, not just a passing fancy. He said, "We have to take the steps necessary to make education available to all."

A maximum student grant of €49 per week means college is out of reach for many in our society. A maximum grant of €49 per week ensures that the marginalised continue to be marginalised. Enough is enough. It's time to stop the discrimination and give genuinely free access to education.

Thousands of students marched in Dublin calling for an increase in the grant.

"This march comes in the wake of a study showing that students spend 70 per cent of their grant on drink, drugs and cigarettes. The survey estimated that each student is spending at least €1,266 a year purely on intoxicants. University College Dublin carried out the survey and it came at a time when the USI's biggest series of student protests were taking place. According to Julian de Spains, President of USI, "we conducted a survey similar to this last year and we found that the cost of living away from home in college is between £4,500 and £5,000 and that would include money spent on cigarettes and alcohol. However, €49 a week is simply not good enough to live on, in Dublin it won't even cover the cost of rent. As a result, many students are forced to get part-time jobs, meaning they are effectively working 60-hour weeks."

The protest is the fourth in a series of student demonstrations organised by the USI. Last month alone, over 3,000 students took to the streets in separate demonstrations to Ahtlonic, Sligo and Letterkeny. "Today is just the beginning," USI's Campaign Coordinator Cliona Cullinan told the DIT Independent.
FIRST YEARS, JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET BETTER.

OPEN AN AIB STUDENT ACCOUNT AND GET

£70 OFF SpeakEasy Trium
OR £60 OFF Philips CD Sound Machine
£29 Geo WAP mobile phone + £14.50 free calls
£39 EXCLUSIVE OXYGEN KEY

Freefone 1800 24 1000

Visit any AIB branch
**DIT student wins top journalism award**

**By Samantha Rowntree**

CARL O'Brien, a fourth year journalism student in Aungier Street, Kork, was very pleased to have won a top prize at the annual ESB National Media Awards. Carl, who also works as a staff reporter for the Irish Examiner, was named Young Journalist of the Year at a prize giving ceremony at Croker Park on November 1st.

The 22-year-old reporter from Glasthule, Co. Cork, is currently working in the paper's Dublin office while he is completing his degree in journalism. Carl, who joined the Irish Examiner in July 1999, was honoured for two investigations and a personal constitution and the unnecessary death of cancer patients due to insufficient hospital funding.

The judging panel commented, "Carl O'Brien of the Irish Examiner, in highlighting these cancers in our society, has focused attention on them and hopefully will lead to attempts to alleviate them."

Irish Examiner Editor, Brian Loonery, said, "It is a great honour to have one of the country's brightest young journalists on the staff of the paper. The ESB National Media Awards are widely regarded as reflecting the standards of investigative journalism and Carl is understandably delighted with the award."

"DIT was a great place to start off and in a class we learned a lot from each other," he said. "But I owe an awful lot of the staff, especially journalism lecturer such as David Rice and Boghan Corry who were inspirational."

Carl was presented with his award and a cheque for £1,000 by the Minister for Public Enterprise, M. O'Roocks and ESB chair man Filly McGee.

---

**Vinny Dooley**

Here we are only four weeks to go till Christmas and can you believe it? So what's been going on? Well, the first, start, class rep training was a great success, this year we held it in the hotel in the Russell Court hotel on Harcourt St. The reps learned everything from public speaking to negotiation skills and how to be a councillor to organizing your class parties. As was it was as one long day of intense training but we did work best to make the day as interesting and fun as possible.

To all the officers who got elected congratulations and a very well done, to those who didn't make it, thank you for your support and for showing such a strong interest in the Students Union and I beg you not to let that interest die. This year there were two disillusionments; which was worse was unknown to many of us.

Monday, November 27, 27, explained.

"We are demanding that the Minister of Education substantially increase the level of maintenance grants for all students."

"We are very concerned that the grant costs are an added burden for students from low-income back grounds," he added. "This Government committed to access to education for all. But how can students from less well-off backgrounds find the money for these extra necessary costs?"

"We are now looking at direct protests. It will be a very visual or graffiti based. The preparations will take a couple of weeks,"

Dalton has told the DIT. "I would also have to involve making sculptures out of art and design waste materials.

"We hope to have a stunt in place outside Dail Eireann on Monday, November 27," she explained.

"We will be putting put posters and we will have petitions in place so students who want a material grant can sign up and campaign to get it."

"It's a very positive move and it gives us a push forward."
Chubb Security Personnel

Has the answer

We are currently recruiting Full/Part time security officers for Weekends and the Christmas period

We offer:
- Flexible Rosters
- Full Training
- Full Uniform
- Rates from £5.15
- Overtime rates after 40 hours

Interested??

Then why not call our recruitment Office on 01 8780260 or Fax: 01 8780270 Or drop into 4 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1 E-Mail: mmcewan@eircom.net

Frustration over Freedom of Information Act delay

By Aoife Dunne

THE Freedom of Information Act was due to be introduced to third level institutions this year but has now been delayed until July 2001.

When introduced, the Act will not only give students access to their exam papers, but also records showing how third level investment is being spent.

They will also have the right to correct or update personal information and hear reasons why decisions are made which affect them.

The Information Commissioner blamed the "training requirement" for causing the delay.

"If the Freedom of Information Act is to extend its tentacles around the country, it's going to take a huge amount of time and preparation," he said.

According to the Commissioner, each application for the Act takes six months to process and the delay was inevitable due to the increase in applications.

It will also take time to train the thousands of members of staff in third level institutions to deal with the Act.

Julian de Spáinn, President of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), is not happy with the situation.

He feels that "it is the right of the student and the taxpayer to see where half a billion spent on third level education every year is going".

Education Officer with USI, Colm Jordan, is disappointed with the delay.

"The drop-out issue cannot be effectively tackled without access to timely and accurate information."

When the act was established in 1998, there was no reference made to broadcasters. RTE lobbied for inclusion, and the Freedom of Information Act was introduced there on the first of May 2000.

They are now the only broadcasters with the act in operation.

Peter Feeney from the RTE Press Office said that the company is in a highly competitive market and felt that the act would set them apart.

The act has made "much less impact" than expected with only a "small volume of requests".

However Mr Feeney still calls it a "worthwhile piece of legislation," as it has "changed the culture in which public bodies operate".

He believes the delay in response to requests to be the biggest flaw.

If a piece of private information is required, it may take up to a year to access it.

You may have to go through several bodies to get it, particularly if a company is obstructionist.

Undoubtedly, the act has short-term benefits.

Companies now have to be accountable for almost everything they do and journalists can expose important information that was once unobtainable.

However, less information is being privately recorded, and this is bad news for historians of the future.

Students around Ireland will have to wait until July 2001 before they can access private information, but hopefully the Freedom of Information Act will provide the facts necessary to tackle issues that affect us all.

ESS expands its services

FOR the past four years, European Student Services have reclaimed tax for students from USA, UK, Germany, Canada and Holland. This year they are also adding Australia, New Zealand and Japan on to this list.

In total, ESS has helped 20,000 students reclaim tax back from foreign lands.

According to Michelle Sipil from the ESS "our attitude towards tax refunds is that we'll do our utmost to get money back for anyone who's worked anywhere, because if you paid tax in your job, you're almost always due a refund".

In fact if you have worked in a country which is not in the list above, ESS will still look into getting you your money back for you.

ESS along with Bank of Ireland also offers their refund up front and without interest.

The Bank of Ireland are given a certificate from ESS once they know the refund value and then they give you the money in advance.

The processing fee for tax refunds for the US, UK, Canada, Japan, New Zealand is 12.5% and for Holland and Germany it is 16.5%.

If you're interested of availing of the services provided by the ESS, you can contact them on their free phone number 1800 66 88 66, e-mail: info@ess.ie, website: www.ess.ie or call into 20 Eden Quay, Dublin 1.
## Reads of Nassau Street

**UNBEATABLE!**

**Easons 51% Dearer Than Reads of Nassau Street**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Eason's Price</th>
<th>Read's Price</th>
<th>Savings at Reads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lever Arch File</td>
<td>£2.00</td>
<td>£1.49</td>
<td>51p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bic 4 Colour Pen</td>
<td>£1.40</td>
<td>99p</td>
<td>41p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Tippex</td>
<td>£1.50</td>
<td>99p</td>
<td>51p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi Lighters</td>
<td>£1.00</td>
<td>49p</td>
<td>51p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 Hard Cover Science Book</td>
<td>£2.50</td>
<td>£1.79</td>
<td>71p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 Ring Binder</td>
<td>£1.25</td>
<td>99p</td>
<td>26p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Part Subject Divider</td>
<td>75p</td>
<td>49p</td>
<td>26p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 Refill Pad (80 Leaf)</td>
<td>£1.00</td>
<td>69p</td>
<td>31p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 Plastic Pockets (Box100)</td>
<td>£3.00</td>
<td>£1.99</td>
<td>£1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helix Engineers Rule</td>
<td>£4.25</td>
<td>£2.99</td>
<td>£1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ream Copying Paper (500sheets)</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>£3.99</td>
<td>£2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pritt Stick (medium)</td>
<td>£2.50</td>
<td>£1.99</td>
<td>51p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document Wallet</td>
<td>25p</td>
<td>15p</td>
<td>10p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concise Oxford Dictionary</td>
<td>£27.30</td>
<td>£15.99</td>
<td>£11.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 Refill Pad (200 leaf)</td>
<td>£2.75</td>
<td>£1.99</td>
<td>76p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helix Architects Rule</td>
<td>£4.25</td>
<td>£2.99</td>
<td>£1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocket Oxford Irish Dictionary</td>
<td>£8.99</td>
<td>£6.99</td>
<td>£2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9x7 Hard cover Science Book</td>
<td>£2.25</td>
<td>£1.59</td>
<td>66p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bic Biro</td>
<td>20p</td>
<td>16p</td>
<td>4p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twinlock Personal file</td>
<td>£29.50</td>
<td>£18.95</td>
<td>£10.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>£102.64</td>
<td>£67.69</td>
<td>£34.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Price check November 2000.

**PLUS 20% Discount off Books**

**PLUS 10% Discount off Magazines**

**PLUS FREE Sheet of Gift Wrap Value 99p with every Greeting Card**

**WHY PAY MORE AT EASON'S?**

Reads, 24 Nassau Street, Phone: 679 6011. Fax: 671 1684.
Twinning programme leads the way

By Dermot Keyes

DIT has stolen a lead on several of Dublin’s third level institutes through its ‘twinning’ programme with secondary and primary schools, according to the institute’s Director of Academic Affairs.

This follows Labour TD Dr Mary Upton’s demand for the city’s third level institutions to ‘twin’ with disadvantaged schools from around Dublin to boost the number of students going to university and college from inner city areas.

DIT Lecturer Dr Thomas Cooke, who is also Director of the Dublin Inner City Schools Project, told the DIT Independent that “four of the six colleges are linked with disadvantaged inner city schools”. Supervised study programmes, along with other study modules are conducted by college supervisors at the Aungier Street, Bolson Street, Cathal Brugha Street and Kevin Street sites.

Dr Cooke said the study programmes form an integral part in the success of the twinning project, which involves 20 schools.

“The students from these schools come into DIT and coming into a college atmosphere helps develop a familiarity between the students and the Institute and it also helps to break down a number of barriers,” he said.

Inner city Dublin is a recognised unemployment black spot and was one of the first areas in which an Area Based Partnership was formed. According to the Directorate’s documentation on the Partnership, 80 per cent unemployment exists amongst pockets of the inner city.

Over half of those over 15 living in the Dublin Inner City Partnership area have left school by the age of 15, which had led to a steady decline in the numbers of skilled manual and semiskilled workers.

DIT is an active member of the Partnership and has put in place “a number of strategies that attempt to address these problems as per the White Paper on Education, Charting the Education Future and Partnership 2000, ‘Action for Social Inclusion’. This says ‘The scale and concentration of disadvantage in certain areas of Dublin requires a strategic and targeted response. This must be multidimensional and must be targeted in a way as to support the individuals and communities directly affected.”

Dr Upton’s constituency of Dr Thomas Cooke, Director of the Dublin Inner City Schools Project, DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith and Lead Co-ordinator Peter Browne has led the way to univer ity and college going to university and college in the inner city.

Helping young pupils in the inner city

By Dermot Keyes

DIT appointed a Community Links Education Co-ordinator in September 1996.

Study programmes were immediately established for pupils in Whitefriar Street and Francis Street primary schools, where the staff and pupils participate in the programmes within their own schools.

Secondary school programmes for Kings Inn School, Warrenmount School, James Street and Larkin Community College are carried out within the DIT sites themselves.

Fifth and sixth year pupils are linked to a mentor in the assigned site and the programmes are carried out at Bolton Street, Aungier Street, Kevin Street and Cathal Brugha Street.

Book tokens, silver medals and Gaeltacht Scholarships, which are funded by DIT, form part of the study incentives for Leaving Cert candidates. 150 pupils are catered for under the terms of the programme annually.

One of the latest additions to the project was the implementation of the Dublin Inner City Schools Computerisation, which was recently launched by the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

The DISC project, which is directed by DIT’s Dr Thomas Cooke, covers 4,500 pupils and involves approximately 400 teachers in the 11 primary and nine secondary schools who fall under the DISC umbrella.

DIT and The National Centre for Technology in Education have provided grants, equipment and a full-time co-ordinator for the project; Fujitsu Siemens donated 48 multimedia computers and Dublin Inner City Partnership contributed £22,600. Dr Cooke said that computers are an “excellent tool for engagement and confidence building measures in the younger generation”.

DISC covers inner city schools between the canals and must be classified as disadvantaged by the Department of Education and Children.

As part of the Department’s IT2000 programme, it is proposed that all Irish schools will be fitted with computers by 2003.

Online registration a reality for students

By Lisa Deeney

DIT students may soon be able to register for college, pay college fees and receive results from the comfort of their own home with the implementation of a new Internet-based library system.

The new Millennium system has been successfully installed in all six DIT colleges. The system is state-of-the-art in specialised computer-based management systems for academic and research libraries, and will provide an exiting range of new and enhanced services for the Institute’s 20,000 students and academic staff.

The Management Information System (MIS) project, implemented in DIT and other Institutes of Technology, has the potential to become one of the biggest libraries in the State, increasing access to shared information across the country.

It is hoped that by September 2001 DIT students will be able to register online on a pilot basis. The multi-million pound project currently has five Institutes live with library software, with another three set to get underway by Christmas.

MIS plan to bring as much functionality to the web as possible “so students can log on at home in a number of Institutes and see the online public access catalogue (OPAC) without having to go to the library,” Derek Feeney, MIS project manager said.

The new system will also facilitate students seeking niche specialities of the libraries. The Department of Education and Science funded initiative began work in 1997.

Online registration a reality for students

By Lisa Deeney

DIT students may soon be able to register for college, pay college fees and receive results from the comfort of their own home with the implementation of a new Internet-based library system.

The new Millennium system has been successfully installed in all six DIT colleges. The system is state-of-the-art in specialised computer-based management systems for academic and research libraries, and will provide an exiting range of new and enhanced services for the Institute’s 20,000 students and academic staff.

The Management Information System (MIS) project, implemented in DIT and other Institutes of Technology, has the potential to become one of the biggest libraries in the State, increasing access to shared information across the country.

It is hoped that by September 2001 DIT students will be able to register online on a pilot basis. The multi-million pound project currently has five Institutes live with library software, with another three set to get underway by Christmas.

MIS plan to bring as much functionality to the web as possible “so students can log on at home in a number of Institutes and see the online public access catalogue (OPAC) without having to go to the library,” Derek Feeney, MIS project manager said.

The new system will also facilitate students seeking niche specialities of the libraries. The Department of Education and Science funded initiative began work in 1997.
Free Room Hire

Russell Court Hotel

Free bar extension
DJ £150 or you may supply your own.
21st parties catered for - NO hidden extras
Contact Banqueting Department @ 478 4066

no party too large or too small

Vatican

21 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2
Strictly OVER 20's
Open Monday - Saturday @ 11 pm
Free Admission
on Mondays and Tuesdays
Bank of Ireland launches new website

THE Bank of Ireland have launched a new interactive website for third level students at www.wantonomy.ie.

The site has been produced to benefit students in all aspects of college life in what they describe as “a unique and innovative format”.

There are four main parts to the site, which are entitled: Mind, Play, Motion and Lifelines. There are also a number of links to other related external sites.

John Simons, web development consultant with Bank of Ireland said: “when you think of a major financial institution, you don’t automatically think of something that students might find entertaining or even remotely interesting. What we’ve tried to do is set aside the fact that we’re a bank and produce a website dedicated to students and student life, adopting a new approach and mindset”.

The site is quirky designed and there are many useful as well as interesting features on the site.

There are sources for local accommodation, career advice tips and of course what a bank does best, money and budget advice. You can even access your account online with Bank of Ireland’s Free online banking facilities so you don’t even have to move from you seat to pay your bills.

On the fun side there are up to date listings to what’s on entertainment wise and even a game to keep you amused, sure what more could a student want?

EU commissioner visits Cathal Brugha Street

By Samantha Rowntree

DESpite the deluge and flooding that beset Dublin, the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, David Byrne visited Cathal Brugha Street on November 6th.

Commissioner Byrne made his address at the invitation of the School of Food Science and Environmental Health, entitled, ‘Food Safety: the key ingredient’.

During his address, he highlighted the importance of training and research in the area of Environmental Health. “The Cathal Brugha Street School is the only dedicated undergraduate degree in Environmental Health in Ireland,” said Commissioner Byrne. “It has been training Environmental Health professionals for the last two decades. It has been at the forefront of research in this important area and contributed greatly to advancement of the profession,” he said.

Byrne devoted most of his address to the important topic of food safety.

He outlined the European Commission’s strategy as set out in the White Paper on Food Safety that he published in January. He also announced plans for a European Food Authority (EFA) to oversee all aspects of food safety in the EU.

“I am pleased to announce this afternoon that I am bringing my legislative proposals for a general food law and for the establishment of a European Food Authority for the approval of my colleagues at this week’s College of Commissioners meeting on Wednesday,” he said. “So this timeliness of this occasion here in Cathal Brugha Street could not be better”.

The new proposals form the centrepiece of Byrne’s strategy to restore public confidence following successive food safety scandals throughout the EU. The commissioner also spoke of the controversial Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) issue, which has caused much debate. He stated: “as European Commissioner I am wearing three hats: the consumer protection hat, the food safety one and public health one.

“My position is not ideological and I have been struck by how polarised the debate has become, how it creates even greater confusion for citizens”.

Byrne hopes that the approach of the Commission towards GMO’s is a pragmat ic and inclusive one. “As one of the Commissioners responsible for the authorising of GMO’s, I am convinced to ensure that decisions reached are sound, and based on the best scientific analysis. I also want to see that consumers are presented with the information they need to make informed choices. Clearly I want safety first and foremost.”

Ms Marlene Proctor, Head of the School said: “the developments in the EU to do with food safety are particularly interesting to us from the perspective of our undergraduate and post-graduate work. Commissioner Byrne is very supportive of the work in this area. We see this area as one of growing importance as the food distribution chain becomes increasingly extend ed.” Ms Proctor presented a gift to Commissioner Byrne on behalf of the faculty.

Commissioner Byrne applauded the initiative of the School of Food Science and Environmental Health for inaugurating this series of lectures.

He concluded, “I also welcome your initiative in establishing a new course leading to a Masters in Food Safety Management. I certainly expect that my endeavours at the European level will give your students food for thought”.

Worked Abroad

Get your tax back now

Up front and interest free

No waiting

No malarky

Free fone 1800 66 88 66
we go to extremes so you can too

wherever you hang out - take a dual PASS and ISIC Card

for further details contact: Mark Browne, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland 34 College Green (ph: 6793777) or Kayona Fagan, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland Camden Street (ph: 4784766) or visit the new Bank of Ireland student website www.autonom.ie
Arriving in Bangkok, the first thing that hits you is the stench. A combination of intense heat, a range of different foods being prepared on every street corner, a sanitation system that leaves a lot to be desired and the countless number of stray dogs creates an odour that can only be appreciated first-hand.

The city itself is full of contrast. On one hand, there are beautiful, ornate religious temples, many of which are decorated with tonnes of gold. On the other hand, there is overwhelming poverty.

Half-built structures dominate the smoky skyline, incomplete skeletons that symbolise the recession that has hit Thailand. Take a trip on Bangkok’s Chao Phraya river and you’ll witness the shanty town lining the banks. Here people bathe, swim and fish in the brown waters.

Something else that will hit you straight away about Bangkok is the huge volume of people, a large number of whom are Westerners. More significant, perhaps, is that many of these are middle-aged men accompanied by young Thai women.

It is no secret that Bangkok has numerous marriage agencies specifically for Western men to meet young Thai women with a view to marriage.

Finding accommodation in Bangkok isn’t a problem. The Khao San road is a popular place for backpackers to stay as it offers a huge range of low-cost hotels and guesthouses. A tip for travellers on a budget: if you visit Thailand during the low season (April to June or September or October), it is acceptable to request a discount.

If the hustle and smog of Bangkok is all a bit much for you, relief is not far away. For just £2.00, a government bus will take you the three-hour journey to the port of Ban Phe.

From here you can take a fishing boat to the island of Ko Samet. This tiny island boasts long golden beaches and, unlike Bangkok, the weather is usually good. Ko Samet was once quiet, but now it is teeming with tourists all year round.

Chiang Mai, the northern capital of Thailand, is another busy city, but it has a certain charm that Bangkok lacks. The air here is less pungent - although there are as many cockroaches! This ancient city is rich in ruins and temples, a legacy from earlier Thai kingdoms.

For the die-hard shoppers, Chiang Mai has many markets, where everything from handicrafts to clothing can be bought. It is necessary to bargain for just about everything, but this can be a lot of fun.

Transport is also quite cheap. It costs just £2.00 a day to rent a moped in Chiang Mai - useful for visiting some of the less central sites.

One such attraction is the ornate Doi Suthep temple, 16 km west of Chiang Mai. Set 1676 metres above the city, on a clear day the temple has superb views of the northern capital.

Phuket is Ko Phi Phi. Ko Phi Phi consists of two islands, Phi Phi Don and the smaller and unspoilt Phi Phi Le, where The Beach was filmed.

Phi Phi Don is a small but beautiful island with sparkling golden beaches and a neat, clean little town. The island is still unspoilt and surprisingly quiet.

There are a number of snorkelling and diving trips on offer and it is worth trying one of these to explore the rich marine life in the clear waters of the Andaman Sea.

Off the eastern coast of Thailand are a number of islands including Ko Pha-Ngan and Ko Tao. Although often described as quiet, Ko Pha-Ngan and Ko Tao are home to the famous full moon party.

This happens once a month and attracts people from all over the world for a night of dance and techno music on the main beach of Laem Hat Rin.

Like Ko Phi Phi, Ko Pha-Ngan and Ko Tao both offer diving and snorkelling courses.

Ko Tao is much smaller and quieter than Ko Pha-Ngan but because it lies even further away from the mainland it is considerably more expensive.

This diverse country has a lot to offer. So what are you waiting for? Haul out your back pack and get going!
The only student travel company where you can book and confirm your J1 application online

Flights confirmed at time of booking

Only £100 deposit secures a place

Our unique Independent Traveller Programme with over 100 US destinations to choose from

Applications accepted from January 3rd

www.sayit.ie

SAYIT, FREEPOST, 13, Crown Alley, Temple Bar, Dublin 2
Workable work yields unmatchable experiences

Experiences are worth more than money

By Colin McGann

A winter arrives again, many students will now be getting itchy feet. Each year thousands of students receive J1 visas and head across the pond to work in the United States. The incentive is money, travel and possibly a break from our incessant bad weather. Set up eight years ago, Camp Counselors USA offers all these, but with a difference.

The programme was founded with the main aim of providing cultural exchange for 18 to 30 year olds worldwide. It was set up internationally and has provided placements for over 65,000 participants from 60 countries.

The group also run two work experience programmes, Work experience USA and Work experience Downunder.

The basic idea is that people aged between 18 and 30, not necessarily students, travel to America and work in summer camps for a 10-week period. Placement is based on the applicant's skills, which are asked to list on a very detailed form.

On receipt of this form, an interview will be set up in order to ensure that both the camp and the applicant will be satisfied with their allocation. A long list of qualifications isn't necessary, but an interest in working with kids is essential.

The package costs a total of £245, divided into an initial deposit of £75 with the application form and £170 when you have been accepted.

The deposit is refundable if you are not accepted for the programme. This fee includes pre-departure party and orientation, return flight to New York and overnight accommodation in Columbia University, and transport to your designated camp.

"Candidates don't work for free but if you want to make money you are taking the wrong option" says Emma Memrock, Director of Work Experience USA. Your bed and all meals are included in the £245 fee. You will receive pocket money of between $400 and $750 depending on age, experience and position at camp.

The counsellors act as a sister/brother figure to the children, so applicants must be prepared to work hard in getting along with the children.

"The most important factor to consider is that you will be living with children aged between 6-16 for the ten weeks," explains Memrock.

"People have come back to us and told us how hard they have worked but they have emphasised how enjoyable an experience it was."

She recommends this option for people pursuing courses in social studies or PE. The certificate awarded at the end of the programme is very valuable and this is the main incentive for most when choosing this option over normal J1 employment.

Annette Ball (22) took part in the programme three years ago. "It was almost getting sunstroke after spending all day in the sun!"

"You don't go over for the money, you go for the experience."

It is then you get told where you are going. "You could be sent anywhere, from a private camp to a special needs camp."

It seems the only downpoint of the trip was almost getting sunstroke after spending all day in the sun!

"You don't go over for the money," said Annette. "You go for the experience."

Only 150 Irish people took part in the programme this year, but with agents employed in all of our university cities this year, Camp Counsellors USA hope to have a much larger group.

The opportunity to meet and work with people from Russia, South Africa, Australia and America combined with a month after your camp work to make money under normal J1 conditions could make this a very beneficial summer for those who take part.

Camp Counsellors USA can be contacted at 41 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2 Tel: (01) 6793735, or email them at ireland@campcounsellors.com
Many people have a stereotypical vision of poor students rummaging through Oxfam's bargain rails to pick up some of last year's cast-offs. But this survey has blown this perception out of the water.

The most popular street in Dublin for students' shopping trips is Grafton Street. The red-bricked street, located just off Trinity College, is four out of ten students' first choice when they want to put Daddy's credit card limit to the test.

Perhaps the place is an embarrassment, but it is also popular with students who love shopping, but don't have criminal amounts of money to spend.

Mind you, shopping trips in Henry Street still furnish the pocket. An average student spending trip costs €120. So anyone who thinks the street is a skint student's paradise, is, sadly, mistaken.

Many students who shop on Henry Street say they mix expensive designer labels with cheaper, department store wear to give an overall expensive look. When describing their look, the most common answers are "posh", "casual" and "sporty".

Although the Temple Bar area is loved by students for its hip pubs, clubs and restaurants, it is not as popular for clothes shopping as many people might have expected. Only one in eight students shop there.

Female students seem repelled by the area. Only one in twenty girls buys clothes there. Perhaps they feel the area caters more for the alternative market, and doesn't stock enough ultra-fashionable garments.

Or maybe it's just that Grafton Street is a "sheer" pannah: That's a good joke. They say they'll spend up to €250 pounds on a single shopping trip. That kills off the image of alternative stuff being cheap, doesn't it?

The rest of the students surveyed say they shop in some of the city's side streets like South William Street (beside the Powerscourt Centre), or in suburban shopping centres like Blanchardstown Shopping Centre.

The most surprising element of this part of the survey, for me, was how much money students say they spend on clothes. Is everyone loaded? "Lying"?

Or are they just carrying loaded weapons into banks, and robbing them???

**Grafton Street's tops for student shops**

**By Enda Murphy**

A question on celebrities' dress sense threw up some interesting answers. Students were asked which celebrities they liked or appreciated.

Who else but Posh Spice would come first in the girls' list? Scary, Emma Bunton and Melanie Chisholm are the Spice Girls for all. Posh Spice's male admirers aren't all that interested in her.

The reasons they give for wanting to be like her are, "she's so thin" and "she looks good in anything".

Could those reasons be more wrong? Personally, I think her style is more a Halloween pumpkin: nothing inside and looks better in the dark!

Tied at a close second were designer ladies Liz Hurley, Jennifer Aniston and actress Natalie Imbaglia. Liz Hurley is definitely the most interviewed of second place, however. All of Liz's male admirers didn't even notice that she's wearing the same dress this week.

In fact, they didn't even want to. "I like it when Liz takes off top", purped one. Another added, "She's always scantly clad; she knows where her best assets are".

**Slim style icons sway students**

**Student Style File**

The DIT Independent asked students how important looking good was to them. Students gave mixed, and sometimes conflicting, responses.

Surprisingly, two out of three students said they wouldn't ditch a partner for not dressing well. Does that mean that if their partner turned up for a night out, sporting trackut bottoms and green wellies, they'd be thrilled? Don't think so.

More confusingly, these same people say they judge other people by the clothes they wear. Perhaps most of us make judgments before we go out with someone. One honest respondent said: "If my partner wasn't stylish, I wouldn't be with them in the first place!"

Yes, style does seem to matter to most students, whether we like it or not. Three out of four students confess they secretly envy other people's fashion sense. Some even admit they've asked a friend where they picked up a particular item, so they can bag one on the fly for themselves!

You are what you wear

Psychologists and top fashion gurus claim the colours you wear are an accurate reflection of your personality. This, is bad news for DIT students. The survey's results suggest we're a boring bunch!

Only 15 per cent of students say their favourite colour to wear is red, pink or orange. Bright, bubblegum, outgoing people wear these colours, experts claim. What does this say about the resident eats?
Fit for (college) life

Jenni Duggan and Ciara O’Brien check out some of the alternatives to the more traditional ways to keep in shape

Yoga
A student’s life can be rather strenuous with all those exams – and not to forget hectic social lives. Yoga is a good way to forget about it all for a while and relax your mind and body, while improving your flexibility and increasing your fitness and energy levels.

What more can you ask for? I took up Yoga not really knowing what I set out to do, but I was determined to get my money’s worth. By the end of the six weeks I was hooked.

Yoga originated in East India. There are many different types, but essentially, they all teach pretty much the same thing. The main part of Yoga is the postures, or asanas. In general, these postures are actually quite easy after a bit of practice, especially if the closest you’ve come to a sit up recently is reaching for the remote control. Just remember: it’s for your own good, not to punish you. But just to be on the safe side, don’t piss your instructor off, because you might find they develop a sadistic streak.

And since they are more than likely a black belt and can probably kick higher than you, you’re newly-acquired Buffy-esque skills won’t intimidate them. But there are opportunities to test your skills. Open competitions can provide you with the chance to see just how good you are, or just how much you have to learn.

But rest assured, all competitors are decked out in safety equipment, including a gum shield, for those who value their teeth.

If the idea of Yoga seems too relaxing and you are looking for a fun way to get fit, give it a shot. You never know when it might come in handy!

Salsa Dancing
Every fancied yourself as a Latin lover? Well if you don’t have the looks, why not try out the moves? A fun and easy way to get fit, it also gives you some fancy moves to impress the opposite sex on the dancefloor.

There are many classes taking place around Dublin that cater for all levels of experience. Many salsa nights begin with a class and then there is a chance for you to practice your new steps in a club.

This is a great way to get fit and have fun at the same time. Starting off, I felt like I had two left feet and by the end of the night my partner’s feet were sore from me stepping on them. However, I would recommend this for a really good night out. Why not get a group of friends together once a week and make a night of it?

Unlike many other ways of getting fit, Salsa dancing is a very sociable way of improving your fitness.

Yoga, kickboxing and Salsa dancing, three ways to get in shape that might appeal to your sense of fun

Picture the scene: it’s 6.30 p.m., you’ve just arrived in college from a hard day’s studying (ahem) and you’re stomach is rumbling.

Do you a) poke around the kitchen in the vain hope that your flatmates may have taken pity on you and left some of his/her dinner. b) break out the Cornflakes (after all, they’re not expensive). Did you pity on you and left some of his/her dinner? c) order a pizza. d) call the local takeaway, only to realise that you can’t afford it?

Well with a little advance planning, your days of poking around the kitchen for left-overs could end, even if your attempts at gourmet cooking usually start and end at the microwave. A balanced diet is improved by proper planning and allows you to have fun at the same time. Starting off, I felt like I had two left feet and by the end of the night my partner’s feet were sore from me stepping on them. However, I would recommend this for a really good night out. Why not get a group of friends together once a week and make a night of it?

Unfortunately, breakfast doesn’t make up one of the essential food groups.

To get you on your way, we at the DIT Independent have devised a few of our favourite recipes to share.

Quick Chicken Stir Fry
2 chicken fillets
1 packet of ready to cook noodles Fresh mixed vegetables Bean sprouts
Sweet and sour sauce (preferably from a tube)
Heat a little oil in a wok (or frying pan) Dice the chicken and add to the pan. Fry until cooked through. Add the mixed vegetables and noodles to the stir. Serve immediately to avoid your dinner sticking to the pan and becoming an unrecognizable mess.

Pasta Carbonara
1 lb Linguini pasta
3 eggs
to 1 lb of diced bacon
Garlic parsley cheese Chopped parsley
Salt

Grind pepper to taste

Cook the pasta in boiling water. Drain the pasta and put into a cold bowl of eggs. Toss the pasta, coating it with the eggs.
Top Dogs for music, games and videos
HMV offers a 10% student discount*

10 copies of the new Westlife album Coast to Coast to give away

Just write to the DIT Independent
DITSU, Rathmines, Dublin 6

*Terms and conditions apply

Wanted
College Correspondents
for Bolton Street, Mountjoy Square, Cathal Brugha Street and Kevin Street

Are you interested in writing,
do you like investigating stories, can you dish the dirt?
If so you would be perfect

Why not become part of Ireland's most successful student newspaper

Please contact Jennifer Duggan @ 496 9742
Solid acting, witty dialogue

Way of the Gun
(Cert 15, Released November 17th)

With a title like this, one would expect Way of the Gun to be a wild, tongue-in-cheek cop flick, a sort of American Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels with hip, good-looking gangsters smirking at each other and making snide references to popular culture.

But not all the great crime movies of the 90s have the words "Reservoir", "Fiction", "Pulp" or "Dog's" in the title. Let's not forget "Heat", L.A. Confidential" and (and here's what I was building up to, eagle-eyed readers) "The Usual Suspects".

The Usual Suspects didn't just make a star out of Kevin Spacey and director Brian Singer, but out of screenwriter Christopher McQuarrie, whose exceptionable script is now judiciously regarded as a benchmark in the way crime films were made years ago.

Which brings us around nicely to Way of the Gun, which is not only written by McQuarrie, but is his directorial debut. Ryan Phillippe (Cruel Intentions) and Benicio Del Toro (The Usual Suspects, Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas) are two drifters who get involved in the kidnaping of Juliette Lewis, a heavily pregnant woman who's acting as a surrogate mother for a couple with Mob connections.

So many movies casually use gunfire and violence as a background prop that the audience is usually anaesthetised to its effect.

As if taking his cue from the soaring Ommag Beach landing sequence in Saving Private Ryan, McQuarrie couples every bullet with a brutal visceral punch that can't help but make you wince.

Nothing feels glorified here. Everybody has slash marks on their face and even more shadowy past, none more so than the two antiheroes.

The trouble with a film that dwells so much in this murky underworld, where everyone has an ulterior agenda and casually plot double and triple-crosses, that major plot twist will sail right under your nose without you realising it.

Overall, Way of the Gun is a well-above average crime-thriller. The acting is solid, the dialogue witty and the gunplay downright terrifying. And the soundtrack's terrific.

***1/2

Pitch Black
(Cert 15, Released November 10th)

The number of people with a penchant for these Monster-in-the-Dark films is probably far higher than many of you would like to let on. It's been 14 years since Aliens graced the big screen and few - if any - films have come close to challenging it.

And Pitch Black is no exception. It does, however, knock the living hell out of any conceivable attempt to copy the alien, notably, the dire Alien: Resurrection. And in honor of that, Pitch Black should have been.

Based on the short story "Nightfall" by classic SF author Isaac Asimov, the set-up is simple - a ship transporting homesteaders to a new life is forced to crash-land on a desolate planet. The disparate group of survivors discover that they were not the first humans to set foot here - 22 years ago, something very nasty happened to the original settlers, leaving that only comes out at night.

And naturally enough, the same planet is about to go into a massive solar eclipse.

An old concept, but one that's been tweaked and made more enjoyable. Pitch Black is a corn on the verge of becoming a diamond.

***1/2

On video now

Gladiator

The General that became a slave, the slave that became a general... the General that cut a bloody swath through the weedy likes of Tom Green (MTV) may be able to see everything before it gets a release here has to go see the Coen Brothers' O Brother Where Art Thou, which still hasn't been released state-side. Come to think of it, never mind the Coen American relatives - everyone should see this on the big screen while they still can.

The same is true of Christopher Nolan's stylish noir-Thriller Moments, which finds Guy Pearce (L.A. Confidential, Ravenous) as a man with severe short-term memory loss trying to track down his wife's killer... those of you who don't harbour a deep-seated hatred for Tom Green (MTV) may be able to endure Road Trip, which has done surprisingly well both here and in the States...

No social life? Bad weather getting you down? Can't leave the house because of that pesky court injunction? You need to know what's

and unbridled energy of Gladiator help overcome the few shortcomings that become all the more apparent on video (Joel's Phoenix's Emperor Commodus veers close to pantomime at times, and Hans Zimmer's brilliant score occasionally threatens to go into warbling Enya territory). On the basis of this triumphant return to form, one can't help but look forward to director Ridley Scott's treatment of the Sils,sequeI Hannibal, due out next year.

Jerry O'Connell and Connie Nielsen in Mission to Mars

Girl Interrupted

Not in the same league as Mission to Mars (which can't help but be a good thing), Girl, Interrupted is still something of a disappointment. Based on the book by Susanna Kaysan about her stay at a mental hospital in the 1960s, Girl, Interrupted follows the fortunes of a young girl (Winona Ryder) called Susanna Kaysan who - prepare to be surprised - checks herself into a mental hospital in the 60s after a lack-lustre suicide attempt.

Along the way she meets the usual cliches: the pathological liar, the scarred burn-victim, the anorexic, the lesbian and the resident sociopath - a fiery Angelina Jolie, who tries her hardest to give the movie a much-needed kick-start.

Ryder does her best in a role that has you rooting for the guards to whip out nightsticks and start beat­ing the crap out of her. Whoopi Goldberg is the nice head nurse who gets so fed up with Kaysan that at one point, she drops her into a bath of ice-cold water, snapping: "You're a lazy, self-indulgent little girl who's driving herself crazy." The trouble is, you'll have figured this out after the first half hour. Maybe the first ten minutes.

In fairness, the acting is uniformly good. Angelina Jolie's performance is absolutely fantastic, earning her an Oscar... but the script is so irritatingly predictable and linear that by the end, you can't really wait for Jolie to get a lobotomy and Winona Ryder to turn into a large Native American and smother her with a pillow... oh wait, no. That was the film Girl, Interrupted wanted to be, but didn't have the balls for.

STILL SHOWING:

... anyone with strong American roots who can't see everything before it gets a release here has to go see the Coen Brothers' O Brother Where Art Thou, which still hasn't been released state-side. Come to think of it, never mind the Coen American relatives - everyone should see this on the big screen while they still can.

Two Smoking Barrels with Van Diesel in Pitch Black
**In the shadow of ‘Big Brother’**

Dermot Keyes checks out the latest reality challenge to hit our screens (computers, that is). Big Brother it ain’t, No 54 has arrived and our intrepid reporter isn’t getting too excited

The 5 participants in Room 54: Ewan, Liam, Siobhan, Freda, Ross

The flat in Dublin city centre called No 54 (surprise, surprise) and welcome in guests for a song and a chat. The outside world can find out what’s going on in the gaff by text messaging the gang on a mobile phone or by email. Siobhan O’Dowd, Fiona Gormley, Ross O’Mullane, Ewan Kelly and Liam Doyle were the five students selected for the challenge after the event’s organisers had sifted through mountains of applications prior to the launch.

The launch party on November 3 was followed by an appearance by the five incumbents on the Late Late Show, where Pat Kenny hummed and hawed his way through the questions. (No change there, then?)

The national press devoted several column inches to the web-soap in its first days of life, leaving the moguls of the outside world to track every move made by the web-soap’s fans. The Five students, 24 hour surveillance, anything can happen,” boasts the home page of the website, which has undertaken a major publicity drive to ensure maximum coverage for their interactive venture.

Our motley crew share a room on Aungier Street, the new-look team have arrived in Dublin for the first time. Despite this, I still felt like I knew everything about what had gone on in that house as I read the newspapers, magazines and papers, maybe a chat. Spin-offs are inevitable, but the Irish website Oxygen claims it isn’t one of them.

Defeat to Inchicore (3-1) was incidental, as qualification to the finals on November 23 had already been secured thanks to the earlier wins. Susan Waters netted Aungier Street’s solitary reply to the opposition’s treble.

There were good things ahead for Aungier Street, the best possible shot. Oh, and no one gets evicted, unlike Big Brother. No 54 just might become a hit. It might...

“Aungier St Hockey team reaches final tourney finals

Aungier Street’s hockey club got their year off to a superlative start by qualifying for the final of the opening college hockey event of the season at Crumlin recently, writes Dermot Keyes.

In their opening group match, Aungier Street beat close rivals, Kevin Street 3-1, thanks to two goals from Keith Benson and one from Andrew Whisker, the club’s co-captain.

The second game against Carlow IT also ended in victory, as Whisker hit another goal to add to a Colin Brady brace. Defeat to Inchicore (3-1) was incidental, as qualification to the finals on November 23 had already been secured thanks to the earlier wins. Susan Waters netted Aungier Street’s solitary reply to the opposition’s treble.

After Whisker’s stated ambition to “win everything” at last month’s meeting at Aungier Street, the new-look team have made a fine opening of what could be a highly successful season, both on and off the pitch.

Good times ahead for badminton club

By Ciaran McKeon (Treasurer and PRO, DIT Badminton Club)

The 5 participants in Room 54: Ewan, Liam, Siobhan, Freda, Ross

The team’s first game in the League was away to Trinity College on November 3, which we are glad to report was a very enthusiastic response at the DIT Sports Day, the Badminton Club co-eds knew that there were good things ahead for us for the club this year. Which is why I am glad to report.

Badminton is the largest racquet sport in Ireland and the fastest racquet sport game in the world and everyone involved in the Badminton Club is hopeful that we can give each event we enter our best possible shot.

From having just a single weekly training session, the club now has training times a week, catering for players of all levels.

In this year, we will compete in the HESF League, which will see DIT compete against other Institutes of Technology around the country. We have also been admitted into the Inter Varsity Championship, which will be held in the University of Limerick next March.

The team’s first game in the League was away to Trinity College on November 3, which we are glad to report was a very enthusiastic response at the DIT Sports Day, the Badminton Club co-eds knew that there were good things ahead for us for the club this year. Which is why I am glad to report.

From having just a single weekly training session, the club now has training times a week, catering for players of all levels.

In this year, we will compete in the HESF League, which will see DIT compete against other Institutes of Technology around the country. We have also been admitted into the Inter Varsity Championship, which will be held in the University of Limerick next March.

The team’s first game in the League was away to Trinity College on November 3, which we are glad to report was a very enthusiastic response at the DIT Sports Day, the Badminton Club co-eds knew that there were good things ahead for us for the club this year. Which is why I am glad to report.

From having just a single weekly training session, the club now has training times a week, catering for players of all levels.

In this year, we will compete in the HESF League, which will see DIT compete against other Institutes of Technology around the country. We have also been admitted into the Inter Varsity Championship, which will be held in the University of Limerick next March.

The team’s first game in the League was away to Trinity College on November 3, which we are glad to report was a very enthusiastic response at the DIT Sports Day, the Badminton Club co-eds knew that there were good things ahead for us for the club this year. Which is why I am glad to report.

From having just a single weekly training session, the club now has training times a week, catering for players of all levels.

In this year, we will compete in the HESF League, which will see DIT compete against other Institutes of Technology around the country. We have also been admitted into the Inter Varsity Championship, which will be held in the University of Limerick next March.

The team’s first game in the League was away to Trinity College on November 3, which we are glad to report was a very enthusiastic response at the DIT Sports Day, the Badminton Club co-eds knew that there were good things ahead for us for the club this year. Which is why I am glad to report.

From having just a single weekly training session, the club now has training times a week, catering for players of all levels.

In this year, we will compete in the HESF League, which will see DIT compete against other Institutes of Technology around the country. We have also been admitted into the Inter Varsity Championship, which will be held in the University of Limerick next March.
Relay team claims third spot in Maynooth meeting

By Dermot Keyes

DIT's Athletic club got their new season off to a flying start with an impressive place finish at the Inter-varsity relay at Maynooth on Saturday, November 11. Club PRO Paul Campbell was happy with proceedings when he spoke to the DIT independent that evening.

"It looks like we'll be in good shape for the season ahead," said Campbell. "We were very happy with how it went."

This annual event consists of a five-man effort over nine miles of road, which involves the first runner pounding the tarmac for a mile, the second runner for two miles, the third for three, with the remaining two runners running two miles and a single mile respectively.

Leinster Under-18 champion Darran Bateman was the opening participant for the DIT outfit and his strong run left his team third after the first mile.

The second runner, Campbell himself, had work to do to get back in touch with the leading athletes, from UCC and the University of Ulster. Campbell, who is the Scottish Senior Indoor champion over 800 metres, was impressive over the first mile, reeling in the UCC runner ahead.

Running the fastest two-mile leg of the relay, Campbell handed over to Irish international Eugene O'Neill, who looks to have regained his competitive streak after an indifferent twelve months.

His powerful run, the fastest three miles on the day, brought DIT into the lead, handing over to American club member Aidan Doyle for the penultimate leg around the Killade road.

A strong run by Doyle wasn't enough to hold onto the lead over the second two-mile leg.

A recent competitor in the Dublin City Marathon which he completed in just over three hours, Declan Keegan was a little short on the speed required for middle distance running after his marathon preparation and was reeled in on the anchor leg to bring DIT home in third place overall.

But Campbell was happy that the team had done as well as they had.

"It's a good beginning for us and hopefully this will stand us in good stead for the cross country races to come."

* Paul Campbell and his colleagues in the Athletics Club wish to thank lecturers Herbie McClelland, Hector Doyle, Seamus and Declan Byrne for attending the Maynooth relays.

The 'B' team in Maynooth, essentially substitutes for the relay team, were Gerard Victory, Michael Muligan, Barry Shield, Justin Falvey and Andrew McGrath.

The club also wished to express its condolences to Aidan Doyle on the recent loss of his mother. May she rest in peace.

The game where it's okay to handle the ball

OLYMPIC handball is not a game that would figure highly on the lists of favourite sports with many of the collegiate sporting brethren. A game that honed the ball-blocking skills of one Peter Schmeichel, it is certainly a fascinating and worthwhile sport to watch on the rare occasions it is screened on our televisions.

For the top man in DIT's own Olympic Handball Club, Colin Brosnan, 2000/2001 is a year that the club is seeking to secure its grounding after its foundation last year.

"The Olympic Handball Club was set up with the intention of getting students involved in this up and coming sport at every level," Brosnan told the DIT independent.

"The club welcomes not only the experienced player but the beginner too. So whether you just want to learn the game, or are good enough to teach us, there is something at the club for everyone."

Fun might be part of the game, but there is also the more serious, competitive side of Olympic Handball to contend with.

"We are entered in the national league and we will play six home matches and six away matches in this event," said Brosnan.

"Our first match is on December 3rd away to UCD. There are a number of friendly matches planned, and also a number of blitzes. A number of the other teams in the league are from other colleges. Other games and club events will be made known to members during the year. Brosnan added."

"We are very happy with how it went."

This annual event consists of a five-man effort over nine miles of road, which involves the first runner pounding the tarmac for a mile, the second runner for two miles, the third for three, with the remaining two runners running two miles and a single mile respectively.

Leinster Under-18 champion Darran Bateman was the opening participant for the DIT outfit and his strong run left his team third after the first mile.

The second runner, Campbell himself, had work to do to get back in touch with the leading athletes, from UCC and the University of Ulster. Campbell, who is the Scottish Senior Indoor champion over 800 metres, was impressive over the first mile, reeling in the UCC runner ahead.

Running the fastest two-mile leg of the relay, Campbell handed over to Irish international Eugene O'Neill, who looks to have regained his competitive streak after an indifferent twelve months.

His powerful run, the fastest three miles on the day, brought DIT into the lead, handing over to American club member Aidan Doyle for the penultimate leg around the Killade road.

A strong run by Doyle wasn't enough to hold onto the lead over the second two-mile leg.

A recent competitor in the Dublin City Marathon which he completed in just over three hours, Declan Keegan was a little short on the speed required for middle distance running after his marathon preparation and was reeled in on the anchor leg to bring DIT home in third place overall.

But Campbell was happy that the team had done as well as they had.

"It's a good beginning for us and hopefully this will stand us in good stead for the cross country races to come."

* Paul Campbell and his colleagues in the Athletics Club wish to thank lecturers Herbie McClelland, Hector Doyle, Seamus and Declan Byrne for attending the Maynooth relays.

The 'B' team in Maynooth, essentially substitutes for the relay team, were Gerard Victory, Michael Muligan, Barry Shield, Justin Falvey and Andrew McGrath.

The club also wished to express its condolences to Aidan Doyle on the recent loss of his mother. May she rest in peace.

Olympic handball chief Colin Brosnan tells Dermot Keyes about the ambitions and plans for the year for one of DIT's youngest clubs

Olympic handball chief Colin Brosnan told Dermot Keyes about the ambitions and plans for the year for one of DIT's youngest clubs.

By Dermot Keyes

DIT Rugby head Ross O'Daly has admitted that this year's campaign has got off to a rather sluggish beginning. "It's been a slow start to the year so far but to our advantage, Garryowen, who are strong opposition, postponed the game until the new year."

With the fixtures confirmed for the year, O'Daly spoke about the structures of the club.

"DIT Rugby has never had the formal appointment of a coach and indeed the AGM of the DIT Rugby club indicated that the student players are handling the running of the club. We would like to raise the profile of the DIT Rugby set-up. The team has at best only ever made the semi-finals. DIT should be a front runner in the (Ascent senior cup) competition and not a relegation threat each year," commented O'Daly.

We are devising a three-year plan to develop DIT Rugby and ensure early participation from all potential players each year."

The plan for the immediate future is to nominate a captain for the first team as well as the appointment of representatives in each of the college sides to put up posters and to contact players for training and games.

A slow start for DIT rugby year

By Dermot Keyes

DIT Rugby head Ross O'Daly has admitted that this year's campaign has got off to a rather sluggish beginning. "It's been a slow start to the year so far but to our advantage, Garryowen, who are strong opposition, postponed the game until the new year."

With the fixtures confirmed for the year, O'Daly spoke about the structures of the club.

"DIT Rugby has never had the formal appointment of a coach and indeed the AGM of the DIT Rugby club indicated that the student players are handling the running of the club. We would like to raise the profile of the DIT Rugby set-up. The team has at best only ever made the semi-finals. DIT should be a front runner in the (Ascent senior cup) competition and not a relegation threat each year," commented O'Daly.

We are devising a three-year plan to develop DIT Rugby and ensure early participation from all potential players each year."

The plan for the immediate future is to nominate a captain for the first team as well as the appointment of representatives in each of the college sides to put up posters and to contact players for training and games.

Rafael Guillena of Spain in action at the Sydney Olympics

Eugene O'Neill crosses the line following his contribution to the DIT effort
Ollie Campbell and Colin Patterson in jubilant mood following Ireland's sensational first test victory over Australia in 1979

Another test match, 1979, when he was selected at the expense of superstar Tony Ward. "It would be like Keith Wood being dropped for some unknown," said Ollie. For two years in a row Tony Ward had been announced European player of the year. It was an enormous decision to make at the time. "The media immediately devoted bottles of ink to the story, something Campbell remembers all too well. "I remember when we came home from that tour a friend of mine had kept a scrapbook of newspaper cuttings. In the Irish Press there was a combined headline.

Ollie never kicked in play all. I never took place kicks, kick-offs, restarts or 25-yard drop-outs. It all came about by accident when I played my first game for Old Belvedere against Clontarf. We scored a try and the captain assumed that because I was playing out-half that I would kick. So I took the penalty and that was that," today his kicking endeavours are legendary but he admits that it took a lot of hard work to perfect this particular skill. "I was 19 when I started kicking for my team. Most kickers of my age would have been taking place kicks for nearly ten years so I felt I had a lot of catching up to do," three hundred practice kicks a week for a year up to scratch. He continued to play for the Belvedere firsts while attending the College of Commerce in Rathmines. He studied for a diploma in business studies but is quick to admit that he was not a model of academic excellence. "I wasn't a particularly good student. My mind was certainly much more occupied on my rugby activities than my studies," said Ollie. Looking back I certainly wish I had been a better student. I think I would have been ready until I would go to training and pursue my real love, rugby," said Ollie.

In his early days, he showed considerable potential, but not as a kicker. "I never got Lehins蔡斯 and his father played for the Howth side, Sunny Molly Malone got totallly absorbed by rugby," said Campbell. "He missed the atmosphere of Ireland/Scotland game in forty years and that was because he was the seventh-born," this passion rubbed off on Ollie and his own playing career kicked off at his school, Old Belvedere.

One was about me replacing Ward and the other was about the Pope coming to Ireland. So I got top billing with the Pope!"

Whatever the reason for Campbell's selection he more than justified it. He scored 19 points in the first test against Australia and helped Ireland win the second test game to clinch the series. "We were the first Northern Hemisphere side to win a test series in the Southern Hemisphere. And as it turned out the second test on that tour that we won 9-3, was the last time Ireland beat Australia.

In 1979, Campbell's major international debut against Australia. His success for Old Belvedere (he won the Leinster championship in 1971 and 1972) had not gone unnoticed and an injury to regular out-half Brian McGowan gave him his first international appearance. However his debut was a nightmare. Ireland lost 20 points to 10, and Campbell's kicking was surprisingly consistent throughout the game. "I was delighted to have beaten the Scottish team. I didn't have much chance to emulate his heroes' achievement, against Scotland.

Tony Ward had been appointed as Ireland's points in the 21-12 victory over Wales. We were just delighted to have beaten such a strong Welsh side. Then we had England away and in 1982, he Ireland clinched the elusive Triple Crown. "No one was talking about Triple Crowns or Championships. We had lost seven games previous to the victory over Wales. We were just delighted to have beaten such a strong Welsh side. Then we had England away and in 1982, he Ireland clinched the elusive Triple Crown.

The whole world is in play a lot more and it's a lot faster. Earning a living for what you enjoy doing is most people's idea of paradise and I wish the current bunch of lads well. "Despite that, he is adamant that he wouldn't swap the era he played in for anything. He also worries that kids could be lured into rugby at too young an age and have nothing to fall back on if their career fails. It was only after Campbell's career ended that he truly appreciated the value of his education and set up his own menswear business.

Ollie's business keeps him extremely busy. He is, ashamed to admit that for the first time, his business life has taken precedence over his rugby, but his passion for the sport he served so well is difficult to quash. He is determined to get back into the coaching side of the game and is adamant that he is on a 'temporary sabbatical.' The loss of such a talent to the game would be inconceivable. Not that Ollie Campbell, the gentleman that he is, would ever admit to such a thing.
Planet Murphy & The Palace Nightclub, Camden St. Open 7 nights 'til late. Come early.