Students left in limbo by lecturer

by Cian Fitzsimons

The studies of two final year DIT class have been severely disrupted by the refusal of a lecturer to attend class.

Frantic negotiations are underway to resolve a dispute dating back to May. The problems arose when, following a Management Accounting exam which the students felt was unrepresentative of the topics focused on in class, one of the students, Alan Coffey, composed and sent a letter to the lecturer concerned, Lein Ni Longain. This letter was on behalf of the majority of his class, and asked if their concerns might be taken into account when the scripts were being marked.

Unfortunately, the e-mail was delivered to several faculty members of the School of Accounting & Finance. This ultimately resulted in a request to Faculty Director, Paul O'Sullivan, for Mr Coffey's suspension.

According to the student, the class members involved felt "we were entitled to do what we did." Despite apologising four times for the circulation of the e-mail notice of his suspension was delivered to Mr Coffey's home by courier.

However, the request for his suspension was withdrawn by the school two days later due to take effect. Students involved believe this 11th hour reprieve was due to their contention that if one student deserved to be suspended so did the other 45.

A second class, none of whom had anything to do with the e-mail in May, has also been affected. Ms Ni Longain asked for an apology from all 46 students who made the initial complaint, but refused to accept it when one was delivered. Apparently the lecturer felt the class apology did not go far enough. The DIT Independent has learned that she has taken the trouble of formulating what she believes would be an appropriate apology. We have also learned that a similar query was lodged the previous year concerning the same lecturer, and was forwarded to the external examiner. No further action was taken.

Until an apology to Ms Ni Longain's liking is delivered, she has refused to teach the class, forcing both students and the school into a difficult position. Students in the class are meeting to decide whether they should accede to her wishes. Some fear that if they do present her with another apology (that would make six in total), it may set a dangerous precedent in staff student relations, and make a mockery of their right to free speech. The head of the School of Accounting & Finance, Dr Tadhg Barret, referred the DIT Independent to DIT President, Professor Brian Norton when asked for his views on the issue. Prof Norton said that while he couldn't comment on individual cases, certain "procedures do need to be improved and made clear."

It has emerged that under present DIT legislation, if a faculty director receives a request from a school head for the suspension of a student, they must accede to this request, even if they disagree with the reasons given for the suspension. In another example of the bewildering nature of DIT regulations, a student must wait until their suspension is implemented before they can appeal it, even if they are given prior notice of the date of suspension.

Sharon Hughes, VP of DITSU, said the case "highlights the need for a student ombudsman and for updating the regulations governing student suspension." It is understood that proceedings on the establishment of an ombudsman are finally nearing completion.

When contacted for comment, the suspended student's father, Tom Coffey, CEO of Dublin City Business Association, said there had been "a breach of the sloppy procedures" and that "astonishing immaturity" had been demonstrated by some of the parties involved. Ms Ni Longain declined to offer any comment on the issue.
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President's Voice

Hi, welcome to the second edition of the DIT Independent!

Hopefully you have settled into the routine of college life after the summer and things are going well. Let us know if not, that's what we're here for.

We recently launched our new website www.ditsu.ie and it is being continually updated and fine-tuned. All suggestions welcome to info@ditsu.ie.

You'll be hearing a lot about Tradfest and the 10K walk over the next few days; Tradfest is an Irish themed night out, now in its second year and will be in the Redbox on Tuesday 16th Nov.

The 10K walk is a student charity event in aid of children suffering in post-Chernobyl Belarus. The walk is on Thursday 18th Nov and starts from North & South side DIT Sites, continues into town then along the quays to the Phoenix Park and back (no LUAS!).

DIT’s new campus at Grangegorman took another step forward last week as the necessary legislation passed the second stage in the Dáil. It should be passed by year-end. An Agency will then be set up to master plan the campus and oversee the entire project. There is provision for 2000 beds for student accommodation on the new campus.

As you know our shops and canteen remain closed. They cannot reopen until a rescue package is implemented. We are trying to resolve unforseen problems that have recently arisen. The current situation is very unsatisfactory for everyone, but we are continuing to work on getting things back on track. I apologise for the delay.

If you encounter any problems, have some suggestions or are interested in getting involved, please drop into one of the SU offices where our staff would be happy to advise you further.

Enjoy the Christmas build-up (agh already?)!

Jarlath.

Joke shop worth €1

by Jim McGrath

No date had been fixed for the re-opening of the shop.

The company running them is likely to be sold for one euro.

DIT-SU Trading Ltd (Trading) is expected to be bought out by DIT-SU LTD for a nominal fee, likely to be a euro.

"It's one of the options being looked at right now" according to DIT-SU president Jarlath Molloy.

When asked about other available options he said "I don't have any details about anything else."

It had been expected that Trading could secure a 400K loan from the college through DIT-SU Ltd.

The company owes 300k to its creditors, including a 30k bank-loan - even though it was against the company's rules to borrow from the banks.

It is also believed that a significant five figure sum is still owed to the revenue commissioners.

After 8 weeks of negotiations it was realised that the passing of such a loan was illegal.

Under company law, a loan cannot pass from one company to another where there are common directors.

DIT was providing a bailout loan which was funded by the student registration fees.

DIT still refuses to deal with Trading, which means they will have to be bought out by DIT-SU Ltd to avail of the loan.

When asked about the delay in getting the matter resolved, Jarlath Molloy said, "Anyone who has been to DIT knows how long it takes to get anything done. It seems to operate in a different time zone.

There are numerous committees that every little detail has to go through. It's very frustrating."

Trading had been run by 4 student representatives and 3 external directors.

The external directors, who all hail from Navan in Meath including former SU president Ross O'Daly, have all resigned from the board.

Staff cut-backs put archers off target

Staffing problems have led to one of DIT’s most successful clubs failing to build upon their achievements. Keith Colton, Chairperson of the DIT Archery club, says that the restricted access to the Lilian Hall gym has badly affected the membership and competitiveness of the club.

The problems have arisen with the retirement of sports lecturer Mickey Whelan last year. His colleague Seamus Reilly is contracted to only 13 hours per week, and the gym is only open within these hours. This is down from the total of 29 hours access which was available to students before Mr Whelan's departure. In a notice posted around the gym, Mr Reilly describes the arrangement as "grossly unfair" to the students. Mr Reilly states that he and his union, the T.U.A.I, are "vigorously pursuing this matter."

Archery Chairperson Keith Colton claims "The new arrangements have badly affected the club." Last year, the archery club were undefeated champions of the annual Intervarsity competition. This year, the team finished second in their opening event. "I see that result as directly due to the restrictions," said Mr Colton.

Last year, the archery club could secure the full length of the hall. This year, the archers have to make do with half the space, approx 8 metres short of competition length. Unlike last year, when the club were guaranteed two and a half hours each week (one hour of which was in the evening), the club have allocated just one hour, on Monday lunchtime. "At the start of the term we didn't know where and when our club would be. It was totally confusing for everyone," said Mr Colton. The club have been unable to take on many new members; "We just don't have the time, in the one hour, to take on beginners." Mr Colton also said that Monday lunchtime is a difficult time for many.

When the matter was brought to the attention of Sports Development Officer Herbie McClelland, he said "I want this resolved. It's a staffing issue and it's not fair on the students." Mr McClelland promised an investigation into the matter, and is seeking a speedy resolution.

Bolton St remembers head porter John Lowe

A Mass of Remembrance is to be held for John Lowe, Head Porter at DIT Bolton St. John Lowe worked at the Bolton St facility for nearly thirty years. Staff and students were shocked to hear of his passing on 30th July 2004, just 11 weeks after being diagnosed with cancer.

His colleague of nine years, porter Joe Shields, said "John is really missed. He was a fair man, and we got on like a house on fire. You couldn't ask for a nicer boss." Indeed, all at Bolton St were keen to express a few words of thought. John's boss, Buildings Maintenance Manager at Bolton St, Richard Smith described John as a man with a strong character but soft centre. "In meetings and staff matters, he always stood up for his colleagues" said Mr Smith. "He was always on his colleague's side." Mr Smith will be among those to speak at the remembrance service, which will take place on Wednesday 17th November at 5.30pm in Room 259 Bolton St DIT.

The service will be attended by John Lowe's family, and it will be a poignant reminder for the many at Bolton St who knew him. "I was there the day he had to go to hospital. I'll see you later," he said to me. It was the last time he was in college. He was the best, was John. The very best" said Mr Shields.

James Brunton, a transport technician at Bolton St, wrote this poem in remembrance of John;

News 3

The Tall Fella

John the tall fella was always there
Neatly dressed, dark well groomed hair
A gentleman's manner and an assertive breeze
Making all him around feel at ease.

A voice of reason to calm any storm
His laid back approach was the norm
A smile, a nod, which said it all
Like the great Liverpool teams he commanded the ball.

Our place of work will not be the same
But the seeds John sowed will remain
The tall fella who for many showed the way
Will be remembered by those he touched, everyday.

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**DIT Independent**

**Only in DIT...**

Only in DIT would 100 students be held from class due to the actions of 46. Only in DIT would an apology be sought, offered and then refused. Only in DIT would students not know what to do. Only in DIT would the book be passed all the way to president of school, Prof. Brian Norton.

It is the firm belief of the DIT Independent that this situation should never have arisen. The proper procedures should be put into place to ensure that such a farce never occurs again. This paper will oppose any form of intimidation of the student body in situations such as this.

'Freedom of expression' is a basic human right which DIT Independent will see maintained at all costs.

**Only in DITSU...**

Only in DITSU would a shop, without major overheads, run up a colossal debt. Only in DITSU would the purchase of a six figure debt be even considered. Only in DITSU would students with no management experience be appointed directors of a commercial company. Only in DITSU would three elected student representatives do the work of a president, vice-president, education officer, welfare officers and six separate sabbaticals.

This paper believes that if DITSU does choose to buy Trading, certain acute actions will have to be taken. This will not be a question of how much less they should get involved, but how much more. Accounts and the distribution of money will have to be questioned. Rigorous action will have to be taken on behalf of the union to make sure huge debts are never accumulated again. This will ensure that their decision to buy the shops, won't come back to haunt them.

**Only in Ireland...**

Only in Ireland, would a reputable charity, which has aided the suffering of thousands of children from Belarus, be called into question. Only in Ireland, would the legitimate late publishing of accounts due to unforeseeable circumstances, lead to a froger of suspicion being raised. Only in Ireland, would this type of begrudging occur.

It is the DIT Independent's opinion that the actions of the unions in question, was rash and utterly indefensible. On viewing the accounts, it is the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer their right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion 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.

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The paper apologises for any discrepancies in the recently published article 'Dude, where's my canteen?,' regarding Portland Row.

10k walk to make RTE debut

**by Kieran Dineen**

DIT media are producing a documentary on the 10k walk, which will be aired on RTE in early January. Members of DIT media accompanied the last group of 25 students to visit Belarus. This year Irina Alexanderova, a Belarusian visitor, will be taking part on the walk and also a representative of International Charity Funding. The money raised from the event in the Gomel region, a day care centre in Minsk, and towards creating small homes for mentally and physically challenged people in communities throughout Belarus.

The walk has been clouded in unfair recovery after UCC and Waterford IT withdrew because of what they claim is the lack of transparency in the company accounts. The DIT Independent can confirm, after seeing the company accounts, there is no malpractice or misuse of charity funds.

UCC students union claim "even though audited accounts are to be published for 2003/4 as per company regulations, that does not go far enough. There was no promise to publish a set of internal management accounts, which would have shown exactly where all monies went (rather than a simple profit and loss account) and there was no promise to provide accounts dating back to 2000 because of alleged "unhappy differences" with a former ally of 10k (Childrens Chernobyl Project). Waterford IT claim, in a three line email, that it would be "morally wrong" to take part in the 10k walk.

Tom McGrath, organiser of the 10k walk, is very disappointed that this issue has overshadowed the walk. He says the reason the accounts haven't been published this year is that the company secretary, Chris Newell, has to sign them off and he hasn't got a chance due to a family emergency. He has made the accounts available to the DIT Independent and all student newspapers who have asked for them.

The money raised from the 10k walk used to be given directly to the Childrens Chernobyl project but this year the 10k walk organisers decided to break away from the CCP because of disagreement over where the funds should be allocated. Colette Devlin of the 10k walk says she is very disappointed that UCC and WIT are withdrawing. UCC asked the organisers of the 10k walk twenty questions, and the student leaders and the organisers went to the national council where the organisers presented UCC with a detailed 20 page booklet answering their queries. Tom McGrath says "we are one of the most transparent charities there is. What other charity would bring 25 students out to Belarus to show exactly where are money goes? I am very disappointed that this issue may overshadow the real story" Sharon Ni Bhdeain, the elegant RTE news reader, opened the event in UCD on the 7th of December. Equipment valued at over 50,000 has been purchased and donated to Orphanages and Institutions in Belarus from money raised by students: 3 equipped ambulances, 2 multi-purpose vehicles, 1 Radiation Monitoring Vehicle, 1 Optical Surgical Equipment, 1 Ultra Scan Machine, Car and salary for Gomel Cancer Hospice and completion of Multi Purpose Solarium.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I find it very hard to believe that the paper that promised its readers a reform in article content, to be a student paper for students has so quickly sold its soul. As with every DIT touches, it could be so much better.

I and I can comply to the highest degree with equal respect in your case as a non-profit organisation to sell advertising space.

However, the largest society in DIT is DITSU which every capitul­ated student of DIT is a member. They received great coverage and will hopefully continue to do so. In fact, the institution is as much criti­cised as it is praised, and may long inquiries of irony continue to humour our heart.

This leads me on to the pages dedicated to Socs & Clubs detailed pages 11&12, so suggesting that no other article would be present if not in relation to this heading. One finds that half the coverage no more informative than the clubs and socs festival held in prior weeks.

Had this edition been released before that time, one might be swayed to joining the reviewed clubs and socs.

Tales of great nights out radically differ from the second paragraph became tales of the committee members. So to sporting triumphs were turned into mission statements detailing economic values of membership. Great information, but one is at liberty to research all of this information on recruitment days.

A quarter of the reserved section was well written piece on the LGBT soc as it accomplished what it set out to do, inform. An excellent choice so explained within the article detailing the reserved social cli­mate restriction simple questions to be asked in public at the member­ship desk.

Then the final quarter was wasted on advertising, which I completely disagree with considering the whole. Features section was free from said such. One could guestimate that 75% of a Glastonbury review was pictures. You used a page for black and white pictures of tents. The only reason people want pics in the Indio, is to see themselves. Can I just say, people in tents.

There must be at least a hundred clubs and socs out there. A column of details and events is critical to the first issue, without research I would imagine this edition would have the most impact. This as you may imagine can only lead me onto my raison d’etre, I personally sent in a tiny piece for publication to soc editor for sokes Kate, detailing an upcoming event, something more valuable than memories of previous or an indication that size does not matter, when it comes to reading papers.

The Film PASS has a small voice that echoed off the stone cold walls bureaucracy and fell victim to the Irish Times perspective that size matters. In the interests of student life, reflection is good for two things, five years down the line to say to yourself one morning "wow I had a good time in college" and "wow, (looking in the mirror) I really should start going to bed wearing make-up. Quit living in the past and into the future.

David Cummins
Chair DIT Film PASS
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085-737-1913

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A boxing bout with Brian

by Kieran Dineen

Round two with Professor "call me Brian" Norton. He wiped the floor with me last year but I was back for a rematch. Tougher, stronger, fitter than ever.

He pulled off a coup in the weigh-in, where he announced that the bout would take place on his turf, in the lions den and at half nine when my defences would be down.

I sized him up in the opening stages, testing what he was made of. He told me Grangegorman "had cross party support and everyone is very grateful that DIT’s mission role was appreciated." He is hopeful that by Christmas "we will be at the agency stage, which is the end game in this stage of Grangegorman." He acknowledges that third level funding is a problem; however he describes it as "a manageable crisis." He feels that student fees are not the way forward. "Even though the GEEC report noted that the removal of fees didn’t increase social inclusion," he argues that we are now living in a different Ireland and that "the introduction of fees would mean extra support structures would have to be put in place" which he feels "would lead to more parasites in the system." So far my punches were bouncing off Brian’s big frame.

He believes colleges need to diversify to find capital, to create technology for industry like DIT does in its Product Design Centre in East Wall. He argues for more "spin-out activities" for colleges.

He landed a sucker punch when he highlighted the injustice of part-time students paying fees while full-time students don’t. "The government has all this rhetoric about lifelong learning and up-skilling," yet isn’t fulfilling its promises. I decided to counter this with my best move, my southpaw jab. Referring to the Lein Na Longain controversy he said he couldn’t comment on individual cases but did acknowledge that "procedures do need to be improved and made clear. There needs to be professional training for class reps to deal with these situations." He acknowledged that the idea of an ombudsman does need to be considered. At last I had him on the ropes. He fought back though with style and cunning declaring that ‘lecturers do take student’s complaints on board and take staff development seriously.’ I needed to land some serious blows.

When I questioned the system in DIT where everybody seems to pass responsibility to someone else he was on the ground. He was off the canvas at the count of seven battered and bruised but well ahead on points. "I do encourage colleagues to take more initiative. For historical reasons, DIT is a very hierarchical organisation. I intend to make it a more collegial. I encourage colleagues to take more initiative, however it is a cultural change."

The president is very interested in student affairs. He says that a student union run shop is his preference but DIT will look at other possibilities. The referee called time on the bout. The scores were racked up and the judges went in favour of Mr. Nice Guy Brian. I will be back though, a bare knuckle fight to the death Mr. President? All we need is a promoter, a semi-naked lady to hold up the round placards and a hard-up retired referee.

by Nuala Ryan

Dublin pubs are “looking out for college students” by making their premises over 20’s. According to management at The Palace on Camden Street, the over 20’s age restriction was introduced to benefit college students in the area.

“We found that college students didn’t like to mix with 6th years from the secondary schools,” said Mags, manager at the Palace. “20-year-olds just weren’t coming in any more.”

She also went on to add that 20-year-olds brought more business to the pub. “Many of them have part-time jobs,” she says. “They have more money so they drink more.”

The Palace has been a regular stop for DIT students. Now many students are unable to enter because of the new age policy.

“Tramore’, in Rathmines have also taken the over 20’s route. Management say that business in the pub has been unaffected since they changed from being over 18’s.

“We are getting in a different clientele,” they say. “We are still very busy.”

“Flannery’s” on Camden Street, is over 20’s venue. Management was unavailable to comment, however, on their reason for the increased age restriction.

According to the ‘Licensed Vintners Association’, the trade association and representative body for publicans of Dublin, it is up to the pubs to choose what age restrictions they impose on their doors.

This is bad news for students, who are finding that more pubs and clubs are changing their policy on over 18’s.

by Fergal A. D’Arcy

A group of class reps and concerned students congregated in Cathal Brugha Street recently to support DITSU Ltd in their efforts to re-open the shops.

The peaceful protest, organised by Bob Coggins, Brian Sinnott and Liam Phelan, created a sense of unity amongst DIT students. The Students assembled and were briefed at the Royal Dublin Hotel, where “Class Rep training” was in full flight.

Speaking to the DIT Independent Bob Coggins said, “In this instance we felt that student morale was low and the union couldn’t convey how we felt due to conflicts of interest on the board.” Liam Phelan added that, “The purpose of this protest was to show that students do care, and want to aid the situation.”

While a strong student presence was felt, SU President Jarlath Molloy believed that this could only be intimidating to board members, “If you harass people on the way into this meeting, you are blocking it. It’s on your head! Let everyone of you think about that for the next hour.”

Sharon Hughes, vice-president of DITSU, intervened at this point to suggest that a meeting should take place between two representatives of the crowd and the external board members, to allow the students voice their concern.

Before the meeting, protest organisers Bob Coggins and Liam Phelan met with Peter McKenna and Kevin O’Driscoll, vice-chairman and chairman of DITSU Ltd. The external directors’ primary concern was that DITSU Ltd was not to be brought down by DITSU Trading. The student representatives then gave a letter to the directors on behalf of those present, detailing their feelings and hopes that the shops should reopen. In the finishing minutes of the meeting Mr. McKenna acknowledged the much appreciated support offered by the students to Ltd.

Ombudsman proposals

by Cian Ficsimonos

A confidential DIT document, which has been seen by the DIT Independent, sets out the role of the proposed Student Ombudsman. The report states that the ombudsman will:

• Be appointed from one of the present full-time academic staff.
• Sit for a three year term.
• Have recognised neutrality, independence and confidentiality.
• Have direct access to all levels of the Institute, from President to porters.
• Provide advice to students and staff.
• Mediate in student-related grievances.
• Undertake formal investigation of complaints if needed.
• Refer unresolved disputes to the President, along with his recommendations and views on the matter.
• Present an annual statistical report.

by Tara Finglas

DIT has invested over €10 million in a new “state-of-the-art” FOCAS Institute. The FOCAS Institute will provide research facilities that will enhance the work of the Science and Engineering faculties. FOCAS is situated on Camden Row, next to DIT Kevin Street. The Institute will bridge the gap between researchers, scientists and engineers that provide the springboard for breakthroughs in technology.

“As DIT moves forward to support the development of a knowledge-based society, the FOCAS Institute will provide a platform for the development of research in key strategic areas such as the education of the next generation of advanced technological personnel,” said Dr. Hugh J. Byrne, Facility Manager, FOCAS Institute.

FOCAS Building opens for Kevin St.

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This is bad news for students, who are finding that more pubs and clubs are changing their policy on over 18’s.

by Tara Finglas

DIT has invested over €10 million in a new “state-of-the-art” FOCAS Institute. The FOCAS Institute will provide research facilities that will enhance the work of the Science and Engineering faculties. FOCAS is situated on Camden Row, next to DIT Kevin Street. The Institute will bridge the gap between researchers, scientists and engineers that provide the springboard for breakthroughs in technology.

“As DIT moves forward to support the development of a knowledge-based society, the FOCAS Institute will provide a platform for the development of research in key strategic areas such as the education of the next generation of advanced technological personnel,” said Dr. Hugh J. Byrne, Facility Manager, FOCAS Institute.
College joins the New World Order

by Eoghan Morrissey

There are almost 300 non-EU students in DIT making up 3% of the population. Hailing from 29 countries they are a major revenue earner for the college as well as contributing to the fabric of student life. The International Students Office provides information and support for all international applicants and students during their time in Dublin. International Students Officer Marie E. Kennedy explains: "We're a point of contact for students from initial interest, application and throughout their time in DIT. We provide advice and assistance on employment, opening a bank account, obtaining a PPS number, and administering the medical insurance scheme."

"The college has fifty students from India, more than most other colleges. China provides almost 200 students, although the majority would be already studying here," she says.

All six faculties have non-EU students, but Kevin Street has the highest number. The most popular areas of study are engineering, computer science and tourism and food.

The Office also offers a host family scheme which gives students "an opportunity to find their feet when straight off the plane." Kevin Street School of Languages provides a Certificate in Irish Cultural Studies to help students acclimatise to Irish life. There are International Student Friendship lunches and social gatherings held at regular intervals in Bolton St. and Aungier St.

DIT's fees for international students are being reviewed at the moment as they are low compared to other third level institutions. The same fee applies whether doing a diploma, degrees or postgraduate: €9000. The fees are scheduled for review in the near future.

One of the main methods of recruitment are Education Fairs. These are sponsored by Enterprise Ireland and DIT representatives travel to fairs in China and India. Five representatives will be travelling to a fair in Bangkok this month and Ms Kennedy has just returned from one in Norway. But Ms Kennedy explains that more and more students are coming to DIT via Education Agents. The agents receive 10% of the students' first year fee as commission once the student has received a visa and registered. "We get good quality students from agencies and DIT is after quality not quantity," she stresses.

The college is aiming to raise the numbers of international students to 10%. At present they account for approximately 7% of Irish third level students compared to 15% in the UK and 12% in Australia.

A Government report, Internationalisation of Irish Education Services, has recommended that a new state agency, Education Ireland should be established to attract overseas students, with the aim of having 15% of the total students by 2010. At present earnings from overseas students fees are €86 million.

Yet these efforts are being hampered by Government bureaucracy. This year DIT has had to refuse fifteen successful applicants due to them failing to obtain a visa. "There have been more difficulties with visas this year than any other. There's no real explanation and it's happening across the boards with other colleges. The problem has to be resolved; it's giving Ireland a bad image. There needs to be joined up thinking from the various Government Departments," says Ms Kennedy.

Most students have a good impression of their time in DIT. "One of the big differences students find is the drink culture. A lot don't drink, not on religious grounds but because they see it as a waste of money! It's not seen as a negative just a difference in culture," she says. Working together in groups can also be a strange experience to those accustomed to more traditional teaching methods.

Ms Kennedy says "the college has come a long way, but still has a long way to go. The College is developing its policies and now the Government is finally too."

Baby, it's wet outside

Ceri Tegglin takes a look at fashion for the rainy season.

It's raining, it's pouring. That's right, it seems like every night that weather idiot on TV3 is telling us that apart from another bake sale in Cork, rain clouds beckon on the horizon. With all these downpours, our lady-like glamour is wearing thin on the ground. If your expensive suede boots are sodden (or, you're stupid enough to step two feet outside the door without dousing them in a can of suede spray) then sensible wellington boots just might be the answer.

Wellies aren't cool. When mostly worn by country folk with a relish for jumpers and pale pink satin clutch bags, the popular plastic wellies aren't cool.

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$

$45 a pair, they can be snapped up at Schuh, Office and Fitzpatrick's Shoes.

Footwear aside, nobody can forget the most important and necessary rainy accessory. The umbrella is often forgotten until pushed into our hands by our tranny on the way out the door. As opposed to making a bold fashion statement, we might end up staking into college clutching an embarrassing large golf umbrella bearing the brand-name of a popular brand of haemorrhoid cream. As your street-cred might seriously be damaged by such a dangerous manoeuvre, you can avoid it by hitting the shops now. While the wind will make sure we buy at least five of these babies before the winter is out, we must shop carefully. Small compact umbrellas are perfect for slipping into bags but a nightmare for leaving on buses. Try the classic hook umbrella, ideal for dancing in the rain, while jauntily kicking our wellied heels. They'll set you back about €20 but are infinitely stronger than the lighter weight compacts. Look in Accessorize for cool pastel stripes, or if you want something flambayant go straight to the kiddies departments. Avoca on Suffolk Street brings back fond memories of Barbie umbrellas with their range of pink waterproof parasols and wooden pinocchio handled umbrellas.

Continuing with kiddie chic, this seasons accessories are perfect for bringing out the little glamour princess in all of us. Plastic tiaras and feather boas have been thrown in the tacky bin, but classy faux fur stoles and pearls are perfect for prancing around your palace. Finish an outfit off by adding a cute beaded purse. Accessorize has an adorable sequinned tassel book for €13.50. If you want to look grown up, try River Island for dusky pink satin clutch bags draped in feathers and chiffon. Finally, no princess is complete without her beaded slippers, Indian style, at Maharun in George's St. Arcade.

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Diehards with a vengeance against Lethal Weapons

by Tara Fingslas

"AH Jayus," say the two door-to-door men standing guard at the Two Towers Hotel, Ballsbridge. A crowd of protestors and ghouls approach the Berkeley Court Hotel where the scene is set for a showdown between the establishment and vocal protestors. A row of Gardai position themselves in front of the gate to deter any assault on the hotel.

The spark for this assembly of Ireland's mightiest protestors was a non-lethal weapons fair taking place in neutral peace loving Ireland. The fair was organised by Jane's Defence Information, a think-tank of non-lethal weapons. Non-lethal weapons can be a bit mystifying. They are weapons that are supposed to control a situation before it erupts into a full blown violent onslaught. Such weapons categorised as non-lethal include, tear gas, plastic bullets, pepper spray, etc...

"It's important that we make a lot of noise so people know what's going on," said Richard Boyd Barrett, Chairperson of the Irish Anti-War Movement, as he addressed the crowd.

As protestors from the Dublin Grass Roots Movement, the Irish Anti-War Movement, and DIT's own Sinn Fein society donned their grim reaper and skeleton costumes, the protest got under way. The DIT Sinn Fein society is concerned that at the use of non-lethal weapons in Northern Ireland, and their infringement on civil liberties.

"There is a general concern of human rights and an experience of our own members being murdered. Very few Sinn Fein members have not been touched by non-lethal weapons," said Brian Keane, President of the DIT Sinn Fein society.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) uses non-lethal weapons in their attempts to curb hostilities around Northern Ireland. "The PSNI is buying a lot more of these weapons. Seventeen people have been killed in the North already," said Brian.

"Stop the traders in pain, defend the right to protest," chanted the crowd. Outlines of dead bodies with red paint appeared on the pavement to symbolise those killed by non-lethal weapons. Non-lethal does not necessarily mean safe. Just a fortnight ago, Victoria Snelgrove aged 21, was hit in the eye with a pepper-spray projectile. Snelgrove was among thousands of Red Sox fans celebrating their team's triumph over the New York Yankees in Boston. Ms. Snelgrove died shortly after being hit in the face by police as a mini riot broke out. This is the 15th death that has caused by non-lethal weapons in America over the past 30 years.

Visit the maple leaf this summer

by Ruth Rowntree

Every year many students head to the United States on a J1 adventure. Yet few think of heading to Canada, it's friendly neighbour to the north! More than 35 million people visited Canada last year. Most visitors arrive as tourists, students or temporary workers. Applying to work in Canada follows a similar format to the J1 scheme. As well as holding a valid passport you must hold a valid visa, which permits you to study or work if applicable. The most common visa types under this category are work permits, working holiday visas and tourist visas.

A Canadian swap experience is a fantastic way to cover your travel and living costs, and it's a great way to learn more about the country, while adding international work experience to your resume. The swap scheme arranges your travel and helps you to settle in when you arrive, while supplying you with job and accommodation resources in each swap destination.

Alternatively, if finances allow, you could travel around parts of Canada for a month or so without requiring a visa. Canada is such a vast country in terms of size and attractions. A bus, tour, coach, train or even your feet will get you round the country! Canada's train services, although pricey, are reliable and efficient. Many tour companies organise trips and excursions. The Greyhound bus service operates coaches which will bring you around the country while The Moose tour will drive you around in mini-buses; small on space but big on fun! We took The Moose Tour around the east coast of Canada during the summer. Starting in Toronto we ventured up to Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa and many more places besides. The ticket is valid for 6 months. You can complete the East Pass in 9 days straight (as some of our travel companions did), but we opted for a jam-packed 2 weeks. All Moose drivers are Canadian and are enthusiastic and informative.

You send the company a day-to-day plan of your trip and they will book accommodation for you. The Moose is a hop-on/off tour service. The buses drop you off at each destination, and if you reckon you have seen all you want in one day you can pop back on the bus the next day, though if you like the place you can stay there and wait for another bus to come along. The drivers will take you to out-of-the-way places which you could never get to on your own. White-water rafting, bungee-jumping, river cruises, body-boarding, camping, pub-crawls, parties, BBQs, beaches and lots more (x-rated) escapades were all on the agenda! You can steep yourself in the history of Quebec City, lap up the native culture in the many Indian Reserves, revel at Montreal's Jazz festivals and even visit the Inuit. Outdoor enthusiasts can ski at Whistler, sea-kayak in British Columbia, raft down the St. Lawrence River, ramble among the Canadian Rockies and roam around the various wilderness parks.

From the thunder of Niagara Falls to the splendour of the Northern Lights, and from the growling grizzlies of the wilderness and whale-watching in Nova Scotia you will find something to add to the adventure of a holiday or work experience in Canada.

So next time you consider globe-trotting, listen out for Canada's call and set your sights a little higher, geographically that is, than the US!

If you have any features articles you want included contact features@campus.ie
Arms protestors assemble and show their concern. (All photos were taken by Lili Forberg)

Your vote is your voice. Don’t lose it.

Check the Draft Register of Electors before 25th November
at Post Offices, Public Libraries, Local Authority Offices, Courthouses and Garda Stations.
**A Bimbo responds**

_by Louise Conlon_

IN response to an article in last month’s edition about bimbos in Aungier Street written by Mr. Daniel Blackford, I would like to point out that so fondly refer to as the Militant Bimbo Wing. You have perfectly managed to describe at least one aspect of every girl’s college routine, I’m sensing a little bit of animosity towards us! Yes we straighten our hair, wear jeans and (shock!) makeup, drink lattes and occasionally gorge on chocolate. Exactly which part of this scares you?

Granted, you nailed the list of conversation topics, but you seem to be a tad more obsessed than us girls! Did the letters GHD REALLY disappoint you that much? Maybe your expectations were a little high. I mean everyone knows GHD is GHD!

This is not a cultural phenomenon, are we the first girls you’ve ever met? If our natural habitat is Java, where do you sit?

On the fictitious names thing, this is definitely not unique to the female sex! And ‘Brad’? please! I’m going to let you in on a little secret. Think more along the lines definitely not unique to the female sex! And ‘Brad’? please! I’m going to let you in on a little secret. Think more along the lines of Johnny (as in Wilkinson) or the hot rugby boys, ‘Armani’ for certain model types, Jude (as in Law) for the really beautiful boys, and ‘Taz’ for the Australian surfer look-alikes. You my friend, are going to classify as a wally (and by the way, the real names are known, we do our research).

You mentioned that “members of the opposite sex constantly provide the average MBW with a multitude of options to consider”. Seems to me to be the other way around, and not only do you base all your conversations around us mysterious beauties but you go so far as to write an article criticizing the very object of your obsession! Our conversation, however mundane or ridiculously irrelevant to you, is still the focus of your conversation. I figure the real reason behind your cry of panic is that you now realise that we females are charmingly complex, and because hitting the chosen lady over the head and dragging her back to your cave is no longer enough. Do we scare you? Maybe you think you won’t measure up and that is why you are trying to paint us as the threat. What exactly are we threatening?

I would paint it as more of an attack of the male ego, as opposed to an ‘invasion of the bimbos’. I’m not asking you to surrender, but I am suggesting you seek some help on the matter, help which will enable you to overcome this inherent fear of all things female. Failing that Mr. Blackford, perhaps you should work on your own life before being so baffled by ours.

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**Stack Attack**

_Damian Stack gives his opinion on the issues affecting students_

THE policy of free third level education in Ireland has been a failure. Fees should be reintroduced for those who can afford to pay them.

The reason detract for the abolition of third level fees was to boost the involvement in higher education of students from ‘disadvantaged’ backgrounds - it has patently failed to do so.

By imposing fees on those who can afford them it would allow the government to adequately fund the participation of disadvantaged students in third level education. By not only increasing the number getting the grant, but also bringing it up to an acceptable standard.

People argue that it is the role of the state to provide education, yet financially the third level sector is in serious trouble.

Something has to give.

The TUI in response to the latest OECD report of higher education in Ireland, which called for the reintroduction of fees, is that any such act would be “a tax on participation in higher education” - it’s about time somebody paid for it.

The whole reaction to the proposed reintroduction of fees, from the political establishment to that of the USI, sounds like the death rattle of the Middle Class clinging to the remains of the ‘Knowledge Based Economy’.

Something has to give.

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**DIT Tribes**

**Bolton Boys Behaving Badly**

_by Daniel Blackford_

MARTIN Clunes (Gary) and Neil Morrissey (Tony) look out. There are new pretenders to your crown - the boys of Bolton Street, and they’re behaving worse than ever before.

Bolton Street may be a great centre of learning for those mathematically and logically minded - churning out the architects and engineers of tomorrow, but it also acts as an incubator for laddish culture.

What else could it possibly be, a brief stroll through the college should be enough to reveal the massive discrepancy between the sexes on the north side complex. There are hardly any women. GAA and soccer jerseys abound. The Y chromosome rules.

Testosterone is King - the result being some totally predictable macho behaviour. Bolton Street man then lives for three things: football (whatever variation applies); drink; and most importantly, perhaps, the demographics of Bolton Street - women.

Firstly let us deal with drink - Bolton Street man says: ‘As much possible, as often as possible, for the least amount possible’. Any cheap beverage will do - Tesco’s is a kind of magic kingdom for Bolton Street man, containing a multitude of cost saving options. Bolton Street man, however, does not ignore the classics - Bavaria (now available on draught!), Dutch Gold (mould) Buckfast (gets you ***ed fast) all form part of his extensive repertoire.

In order to hasten the quest for drunkenness Bolton Street man will eat cheap food - ‘spuds usually as it’s the best way to a cheap night out’. Suitably tanked up Bolton Street man will head for The Big Tree on Dorset Street where he can quell his other great yearning: women.

The Big Tree is situated pretty much equidistant from Bolton Street and that other great institution of learning St Pats (which happily for Bolton Street man has a surplus of female students). The Dorset Street venue provides an invaluable service in the alleviation of north side sexual frustration and must be commended for doing so.

Indeed Bolton Street man’s reaction to the appearance of women in the corridors of the college is illuminating. There is no subtle checking out of the female whom has appeared before them - instead outright gawking. There’s no time for subtlety. This might never happen again.

After his night of decadence on Dorset Street, Bolton Street man must find his way home. Often times inebriated, he has been known to try and hail a taxi, while walking nonchalantly in the middle of the road against on-coming traffic. He finds it hard to comprehend the concept of a queue at a taxi rank, or for that matter a chip shop - he has to eat after all.

Finally he lays his head on his pillow, where he wakes up some hours later with the mother of all headaches. Oh to be a Bolton Boy...
Clubs and Socs unite for training

by Maura Fay

FOR those brave (and foolish) enough to run or start-up a society or club this year, a training day was held in the Russell Court Hotel on October 8th.

It was a barrage of talks and information on running a club or society. The morning session was specifically for new societies. Anita Conway, DIT Societies Organiser, explained the mystery of filling out budget forms and gave tips on avoiding potential pitfalls.

The afternoon and evening sessions were for all clubs and societies. Joe McGrath, a marketing lecturer from DIT, kicked off the afternoon session with a pep-talk on "delighting" societies members. Niamh O’Callaghan, Sports Officer and Stephen Maher from NetSoc gave the low-down on society promotion and publicity. Those attending the training day only got a 15 minute break between the afternoon and evening session.

The day trundled on with Niall Edwards giving a stark talk about health and safety. Paddy McPoland and Bob "Nice Guy" Coggins talked about event planning and the social side of Clubs and Socs. Colman Byrne, the guy behind oxygen student website, gave loads of useful advice about sponsorship of fundraising.

The DITSU Guild AGM was last on the agenda. Finally after a long, tiring day, those who took part were rewarded with Bar-B-Q.

Eóin Kearney, Assistant Societies Organiser, said "everyone really enjoyed it".

In previous years, Clubs and Socs training consisted of a weekend away but Eóin said that "it was felt that it was being taken advantage of" and, as a result, it has been reduced into a single training day.

The Karting Club's Sinto enjoys his fourth year at society training.
The SVP at work in DIT

by Nuala Ryan

THE Saint Vincent de Paul Society is entering its fifth year in D.I.T. Based in Aungier Street, the SVP society works at helping kids from disadvantaged areas of the city. Lisa Dunne and Katie Donoghue are president and vice-president of the society respectively. They remain positive and selfless about the work that the SVP carry out.

The society focuses on helping children in the poorer areas of Dublin. They run a homework and breakfast club, as well as a playground supervision programme.

A lack of “active volunteers” is the main problem faced by the society.

“A lot of volunteers sign up each year”, Lisa and Katie say, “but there are few active volunteers”. The girls are disappointed with this. Two hours once a week is all that is needed. But it is often two hours more than people can give.

The girls see a stigma attached to the society. “People hear Saint Vincent de Paul and hear Charity.” This stigma affects the profile of the club and the girls are trying to change this. The girls both agree that the society gets great support from the student union. Lisa says that no matter what “crazy” idea they approach the SU with, they will always listen and help out as well as they can.

Fundraising is also a vital part of the society, essential to run all the different clubs and activities. The five-a-side soccer tournament two years ago was a great success, as was the table quiz last year.

The society is completely dedicated to the children it helps. Although its main focus is on the breakfast and homework club, as well as the playground supervision, the society still tries to give the children a little more. Last year, the homework club was taken to “Santa’s Kingdom”.

A huge amount of work goes into organising these trips but it is all worthwhile, the girls say. The children don’t forget what you do.

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DIT’s karate kids

by Cilllín O Conchuir

“DON’T worry; no one has ever had a serious injury”. It wasn’t really reassuring to know but I nodded and smiled. It was like first day at school. All the other people were bigger, presumably stronger than me and I was like the little kid in the corner.

“He’s a reporter so go easy on him” remarked Colm Leonard, a 4th Dan black belt and the instructor of Shaolin Kempo with 23 years of experience. Putting all fears aside, I slipped off my runners and I was one of them. Well, almost.

Originating from the Shaolin temple it’s “half kung fu and half karate”, revealed Mr. Leonard. As the warm-up concluded it was down to the real thing.

I soon realised I was beginning to enjoy myself. It was a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere. Although not specifically a competition sport, the DIT Shaolin Karate club has been “extraordinarily successful in the last five, six years that we’ve been involved in the inter varsity competitions” Mr. Leonard stated. “There’s no emphasis on body strength, height, or weight. It’s just about reaching your potential”, he added. Vito Zhang, a blue belt, introduced me to some techniques.

“It’s like a scaffolding system, you start at a low level and make your way up” is how Colm Leonard described this type of self defense. It was extremely worthwhile to try this type of karate, learning how to strike with different parts of your body and against weapon attacks. I also learned how to distribute my weight so as not to damage myself when falling. It’s well worth knowing and surprisingly limits the extent of a fall.

It was good craic, one of those things you should do at least once. The students were welcoming and glad to help when I lost the plot. It was amusing to realise that I could floor someone older, even if he did fall rather easily. It was a little difficult to master at the beginning but with a lot of help I got the hang of it. I escaped with a minor limp.
A Shutter-ing performance at the Project

Aoife Giles learned about the role of photographer, photography and viewer when she went to see Shutter, a performance of dance, light and sound at the Project Art Centre in Templebar.

THE notion of the American West is one of the biggest myths of popular culture. It combines the constant drive to the mythical west along with the iconic cowboy. The development of photography occurred just as the West began to open up and this helps to explain the proliferation of images related to that time and place. However the reason for its continued resonance with audiences today is less clear. It is this relationship along with our relationship with photography in general that Shutter aimed to examine.

A solo dance performance that embodied the tensions implicit in our interaction with photography by displaying the tensions that are invoked when looking at images of the West, Shutter was both a tender dedication to the myth and a powerful investigation of how we respond to images. The stark set comprising a sand box, provided a canvas for the images projected and a malleable and contained homage to the deserts of western America. The haunting soundscape tantalised with its delicacy and immediacy.

Although always involving, the performance was subtle enough to provide the audience with space to consider how photographs blur a line between myth and reality during the piece and powerful enough to ensure that it would linger in the mind long after viewing.

DIT supports unity between Chinese and Irish college-goers

by Aoibhinn Wrenn

WITH over 130 members, the Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA) is one of the most thriving societies in DIT. The DIT branch of the society was set up in October 2003 and has links with similar societies in colleges throughout Ireland.

The society hopes to bridge the cultural gap between China and Ireland. Vice President Xiaodan Cui said that there is a “huge culture difference” between the two countries. Xiaodan says that the society brings students together to enable them to enjoy the change in culture. The society is also involved with sport. A basketball and soccer team were founded last year.

The Chinese Government is involved with the set-up of the CSSA, through the Chinese Embassy. This highlights the importance of the society, as the government want the Chinese to be integrated in Ireland. The society also aims to help students facing housing problems. The society itself arranges for students to tutor others who are having trouble with their courses.

Xiaodan said that Ireland was a popular place to study in, as it is an English speaking country with a very good reputation. She did feel that racism was “kind of getting worse” but said she never encountered any in DIT. President of the society, Si Young, said he would recommend Ireland as a place to study. He felt college courses were more practical here than in China, focusing on the ‘how’ rather than the ‘why’.

The continued support of Chinese students will allow for the future success of the CSSA.
DIT's gig

by Louisa Houghton

VICAR ST

November:
- Ben Folds and a Piano 15 Nov €31.00
- Tommy Tiernan 'LOOSE' 17, 19, 20, 24, 26 Nov €27.50

December:
- Damien Dempsey 06 Dec €22.50
- Paul McKenna 11 Dec €25.00
- Rodrigo Y Gabriela 13 Dec €22.50
- Special acoustic evening with Josh Ritter 16 Dec €22.50
- Hothouse Flowers 19 Dec €25.00

WHELANS

November:
- Jason Ringenberg & Chuck Prophet 14 Nov €17.50
- Martin Joseph 16 Nov €12
- The Answer 19 Nov €10
- Black 47 20 Nov €15
- Jaded Sun 21 Nov €8
- Mark Dignam 22 Nov €12
- Ross Breen & special guests Tadhg Cooke & Dave Geraghty 23 Nov €8/6
- The Walls 27 Nov €14
- Don Mescall 28 Nov €10
- Sons and Daughters 29 Nov €13.50
- Tom McRae 30 Nov €17.50

December:
- The Noise Conspiracy 1 Dec €16
- Pierce Turner 10 Dec €20
- The Frank and Walters 11 Dec €18.50
- Halite 17 Dec €10

THE VILLAGE

November:
- The En with Freaky Styley+Nearly Dead Jim 17 Nov €4
- The Skatellites 18 Nov €26.50
- Horace Andy 20 Nov €22.50
- Nick Drake Tribute 24 Nov €10
- Tom Baxter 26 Nov €16

December:
- Deicide 04 Dec €25
- Blaze 10 Dec €18
- New Model Army 11 Dec €22.50
- Dissection 16 Dec €22
- Future Kings of Spain 17 Dec €15

Regaling royalty with the Future Kings of Spain

by Linda Geraghty

WITH rain pelting down and forecasters doing their best to run everyone to the highlands, Future Kings of Spain's frontman, Joey Wilson, appeared unfazed and unaware of both the weather and the rapidly growing success of his band. Having formed in 2000, Future Kings of Spain played their first gig supporting ex-Dinosaur Jr's J Mascis and the Fog. Shortly afterwards, they were signed by independent record label Red Flag Records.

From the outset, the band has been associated with big names like the Pixies, Pavement and Dinosaur Jr. With producer Ted Niceley (Fugazi, Girls V Boys) working on their album, the Future Kings got plenty of attention.

"Those bands were a huge influence on me. I used to be a postman and had a walkman with me all the time. One of my abiding memories is of Christmas time; I had the Beach Boys on one side of a tape and Dinosaur Jr. on the other. I'd be standing in the lashing rain, listening to this trying to decide if I really wanted to walk up a drive-way to deliver some postcard. You know, once something is good and means something to you, you've got to take influence from it. I guess that because we played our first gig with J Mascis that people just latched on to that comparison. We're just a basic rock band really, with a bit of pop thrown in; there are a million bands I could mention."

Their self-titled debut album, released in April 2003, was cautiously praised.

"With strong financial support behind them the band quickly made a name for themselves and bagged a coveted European tour slot with Muse. That tour was out of this world, it was a premier division support slot; we had big dressing rooms, big riders, and a big tour bus. We played in a bull ring in Madrid, it was just incredible and every night there was between 5,000 and 10,000 people. The crowd was so wound up that Muse could have just read from Peig Sáors and they would have gone nuts."

On the home front 2004 has proved to be a good year for the Future Kings of Spain. Having picked up the Meteor Award for Best New Act and also made it in to the line-up for the Oxegen festival in June.

"Oxegen was really good for us this year, there was a great turnout and later in the signing tent we were amazed at the number of people who came in. But, I was so sick I couldn't really enjoy it. On the bus I was green and puked all the way there. I actually had pneumonia and was coughing all the time so it was a bit of a Freddy Mercury show must go on moment for me. I just tried to stay upright while we were on stage."

"With the Meteor award, you know, it's a chance to get on TV and let people hear your name. Not to belittle things here or anything, but Ireland is a small country so maybe it's easier, when you have an album coming out, to get press or whatever."

So, with work on a new album due to begin after Christmas, what does the future hold for the Future Kings?

"We have some Irish dates coming up and a couple of dates in Amsterdam with some English bands so that should be good. We hope to go back to Japan because our last album sold 20,000 copies there. It may not be a lot in terms of Britney Spears but it's a reasonable sized football stadium. We'll see what happens; it's very dear at the moment for international acts."

"We'll just take every chance we get to spread our fucking soft rock manifesto across Europe."

Future Kings of Spain's frontman, Joey Wilson.
Three Colours: Red, White and You!

by Deirdre Reynolds

IF the closest you've ever come to seeing a French film is watching the Pink Panther while eating a baguette, then stop what you're doing and flip to the November pages of your diary. The Irish Film Institute is hosting a French Film Festival from 23rd November to the 5th December. The festival's original collaborators, the film institute and the French Embassy, are joined this year by sponsor Martell Cognac to celebrate the essence of French cinema and applaud the creative forces behind this unique European enterprise. The ten day initiative was inspired by the popularity of French film in Ireland.

Jane Birkin, icon of French cinema and music since that song, "Je t'aime moi non plus", will be guest of honour at the festival which will feature a season of her short films such as La Piscine and the recent The Very Merry Widows.

The festival launches with Christophe Barratier's new film Les Choristes, described as a cross between Etre et Avoir and School of Rock. At the other end of the festival, the closing film will be Francois Favrat's comedy of manners Le Rôle de sa Vie (The Role of her Life). Other highlights include screenings of feature films that proved popular with the Cannes Festival Jury, among them the Irish premieres of both Olivier Assayas' Clean and Tony Gatlif's Exiles.

Clodagh Boyle of the IFI says the festival presents films "the French people themselves would go to see, as opposed to extremely art-house ones that can be quite populist". It unites art-house with mainstream, screening light comedies like Mariages! alongside darker visions like Anatomy of Hell. A further attractive segment of the festival called "Before they were Famous" is a collection of short films on the early work of such influential directors as Matteu Kassowitz and Jean Pierre Jeunet.

A full screening schedule is available at www.irishfilm.ie.

Martell French Film Festival tickets are available at the IFI Box Office (01) 679 3477.

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Bad Santa**

Care to indulge in a spot of Christmas cheer and festive spirit? Then don't watch this movie - because the only spirit you'll find here is Bad Santa's vodka shots!

Bad Santa stars Billy Bob Thornton as Willie, the crude, rude self-loathing boozier of a Department store Santa. Nahbing himself the scheming elf himself Marcus(Tony), the demon duo set out to survive by making Christmas Eve payday - to hit the store till, stash the cash and run! But for this to work, Willie's got to keep his job intact and his head above water - the only problem here is that the sole thing afloat is his liver.

Enter "the Kid", an innocent fatboy dim who believes Willie to be the real Santa and whose unconditional love 'n' stuff would, in any other festive flick, act as the inspiration for Bad Santa to turn good. But, of course, this isn't any other festive flick. So instead, the goofy kid simply acts as a springboard for more of Bad Santa's vulgar gags and politically incorrect cruelties to whose unconditional love On' stuff would, in any other festive flick, act as the inspiration for Bad Santa to turn good.

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A Painful ‘Birth’

by Deirdre Reynolds

Birth is the work of the relatively new director Jonathan Glazer, previously renowned as a music video director having worked with the likes of Blur and Radiohead. It's the story of young widow Anna (Nicole Kidman), who, ten years after the death of her husband, is getting engaged to the successful Joseph (Danny Huston).

When a ten-year-old boy (Cameron Bright) turns up at her doorstep claiming to be the reincarnation of her dead husband however, things deteriorate. Much to the concern of her fiancée and mother (Lauren Bacall) she begins to think there are more to his claims than lies and an unlikely relationship develops between the two.

The film is an unsettling portrayal of how love can affect the decisions we make and it's by far the most disturbing thing I've seen this year.

Birth has the potential to be an enthralling movie but Glazer, in an art-house style which no doubt stems from his music origins, seems to think that lingering and sickening scenes of Kidman and Bright in both together will automatically guarantee a reasonably good film.

The only thing that Glazer has managed to do with the movie is shock. Scenes of Kidman and Bright kissing and the aforementioned bathroom scene are disturbingly real thanks to the weighty acting. Unfortunately for Glazer, little other than those scenes stick in the mind and, of course, the public fight between Kidman and Bacall that ensued when the latter said Kidman was too young to be categorised a "legend".

But between the poorly written script and the weak storyline, which left many relevant questions unanswered, there's little to praise except the calibre of the acting. Kidman, Bright and Anne Heche all put in serious performances. The score by Alexandre Desplat is also something to enjoy so at least we can say that Glazer knows good music.

Motorhead mosher's night of mayhem in Dublin

by Kieran Dineen

THE great unwashed gathered in the Ambassador to pay homage to Motorhead, one of the architects of the metal genre. Before the unholy sight of the tight jeaned pensioners hit the stage we were treated to the sight of Down to Zero, an American metal group. Their loud, did i say loud, belowering music got the Motorhead and Metallica jersey-wearing mob moshing and head-banging and up to general mayhem. The lead singer announced that "the fucking madder you guys get, the fucking madder we do." Indeed the world's most ubiquitous swearword was the recurring lyric in all their songs.

By the time the American rockers had left the stage and brought the use of the English language, appropriately, down to zero the small crowd were jumping and jostling like crazed caged animals. Do heavy metal fans not have a sense of decorum? Motorhead thankfully are musicians, in the true sense of the word, and don't merely play loud deafening motorhead are credited with creating an edge over the more orthodox and less creative bands like the support act, and many of today's acts like Korn and Slipknot. Their new album matches up to their classic hit Ace of Spades. Inferno deals with such prosaic issues as death, death and death again in the songs. The Killers, Suicide, and Smiling like a Killer, a recurring theme. Lemmy comments "I dealt with the subject of murder from several perspectives." Classic metal; the head-bangers can save up for another night out when Metallica come to town. Beforehand though of Kids and Bright kissing and the aforementioned bathroom scene are disturbingly real thanks to the weighty acting.

Unfortunately for Glazer, little other than those scenes stick in the mind and, of course, the public fight between Kidman and Bacall that ensued when the latter said Kidman was too young to be categorised a "legend".

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Motorhead entered the stage to a deafening roar of approval from the metallers. Lemmy's graveling vocals are masterly and give the speed metal and trash metal, which motorhead are credited with creating an edge over the more orthodox and less creative bands like the support act, and many of today's acts like Korn and Slipknot. Their new album matches up to their classic hit Ace of Spades. Inferno deals with such prosaic issues as death, death and death again in the songs. The Killers, Suicide, and Smiling like a Killer, a recurring theme. Lemmy comments "I dealt with the subject of murder from several perspectives." Classic metal; the head-bangers can save up for another night out when Metallica come to town. Beforehand though
Ladies basketball flourishing

by Isobel Joyce

"We are improving all the time, with every match," says Olwyn Lawlor - a member of both of DIT's ladies basketball teams. DIT has two teams. One takes part in the Irish College Basketball Association eastern division, and the other is in division one of the Dublin League. There is some overlap of these teams, but you do not need to be a student in DIT to play for the Dublin League team.

The ladies began their season with a victory over St. Pat's by nine points. Outstanding players were Alison Murray (10 points) and Deirdre Hendricks (9 points), both of whom also play for the Dublin League side.

In the college league, DIT will also have to play Tallaght IT and Royal College of Surgeons home and away, and St. Pat's at home. If the ladies are successful they will go on to quarter finals facing a team from one of the other sections. The DIT Dublin League side is yet to gain a victory after four matches. Coach Dave Biggins need not be too disheartened however, as with every match the team are improving, losing by a smaller margin each time in a difficult league.

Anyone interested in joining either of the DIT ladies basketball sides should contact Olwyn Lawlor on 0876147219.

Soccer team leave it late to snatch draw

by Isobel Joyce

THE boys from DIT were saved their blushes as a late, late goal from Derek Treston rescued a point in their opening match of CFAI Division 1 South.

The match was played in poor conditions on a pitch that did little to help DIT play their free-flowing passing game.

However, they got off to a flying start when John Guerin applied a fine finish to a neat move in the first minute of the game.

Having recovered from this shock, the Garda team began to show some menace, making worrying inroads down both flanks.

But DIT found themselves two to the good after twenty-five minutes. A powerful run from midfield by Treston saw the ball drop to Guerin and he made no mistake with the simple chance.

Garda pulled a goal back when pressure down the wings and a scissor kick in the box resulted in a goal on the half-hour.

The scores were levelled five minutes before the half as a cross sailed over goalkeeper McNamee's head and was slotted into an empty net.

Manager Tony O'Connor was understandably upset at losing a two goal lead and Fitzell and Molloy came on for the second half in place of Ruane and Proctor.

It was Garda who took the lead on the hour though. A speculative drive was parried by McNamee, only for an onrushing striker to tap the ball into the net.

The final half-hour saw a concerted period of DIT pressure, which finally paid off with Treston's last gasp equaliser.


Hockey team going after league title

by Isobel Joyce

DIT's mixed hockey team has got off to a good start this season by qualifying for the finals of the league competition.

Three DIT teams took part in the group stages. These consisted of three groups of between four and six teams, with two teams from each group going forward to the final stages. Every team in the individual groups played each other in 20 minute one way matches held over two days.

Bolton Street and Aungier Street were drawn in the same group as CIT A (champions for the past five years) and a strong Waterford side. There seemed little chance both DIT sides would come through this group to the finals. Kevin Street hoped to make it to the finals - their only real competition being Tallaght IT.

Kevin Street made it through the group stages as expected, with a mix of draws and victories. Bolton Street found it difficult to field a side and suffered as a result, ending up with more losses than victories on both days.

As usual CIT A turned out a strong side despite missing some of their more prominent players. Having only managed a draw in both clashes with the champions, Aungier Street's side will be worrying that there are several inter-provincial players to come into the Cork side for the final.

On finals day there will be six sides taking part, all teams will play each other and the two teams with the most points will play a final match for the trophy. The colleges that qualified for the final are DIT's Aungier Street and Kevin Street, Cork IT, Tallaght IT, NUI Maynooth and Portobello College.
GAA ROUND UP: Seniors struggle, while division 3 & intermediates continue impressive runs

by Seosamh O Galluainigh

Higher Education league Div 1.
27th October.

UCD 1-08 DIT 0-03

ON the stormiest day of the year, DIT travelled out to Belfield more in hope than expectation. The good news that 3 players had been called up for Railway Cup training that night - Tom Walsh & Paddy Keenan for Leinster, and Michael Lyng of Cavan for Ulster - was tempered by the fact that two of them could not play for DIT in the afternoon.

Injuries also ruled out Joe Melia and Cian Ward. Damien Munnelly and Peter Turley started, but had to come off in the first 10 minutes. Paul Begley was unable to complete the warm up, and his absence further weakened the team. Midfielder John Kermmath missed out due to college commitments.

On any day, DIT needs a full deck to challenge the Southside aristocrats of Gaelic football, but credit to those who turned out in the foulest weather for years. Davy Hoare had a great game in goals as he saved 5 clear goal chances.

Eoin Zimboglou from St Pat’s in Louth and Austin Dennis from Lusk worked hard in an overstretched defence. Keenan did the complete the warm up, and his absence further weakened the team. Midfielder John Kermmath missed out due to college commitments.

Up front, Munnelly struggled with injury and Carroll struggled with the corner back. Only Johnie Beehan made any impression on the UCD rearguard.

All credit to the team in the second half though, as DIT manfully held UCD to 5 points to 1 in the second half, despite the Southside college having a 60mph gale and short rain at their backs.

But the damage had been done in the first half, when DIT failed to convert their possession and went in 1-03 to 0-2 down.

Manager, Seamus Reilly, although disappointed with the result, claimed it was the worst day he ever saw football attempted in. He praised his team for their effort and commitment in the worst conditions imaginable.

DIT: Davy Hoare, Darragh O Halloran, Colin Prendeville, Austin Dennis, B Kelly, Damien Burke, Eoin Zimboglou, Paddy Keenan, John Donegan, (0-1), Peter Turley (inj), Derek McCormack, Johnnie Beehan, Damien Munnelly (1free), John Carlton, Ciaran Calvey

SUBS: Fergal Smith for Turley, Billy O Loughlann (1free) for Munnelly, Kieran McBriarty for Dennis, Sean Gillen in for Burke

Higher Education League DIV 1
Nov 2nd

DIT 1-10 NUIM 2-12

DIT seniors made it 3 defeats from 3 at Maynooth, losing by 5 points to a spirited NUIM outfit that had seriously strengthened since last year.

Maynooth sped to a 1-07 to 0-3 halftime lead, with Alan Brogan’s younger brother Bernard getting the goal. DIT fought back valiantly in the second half though, with a beautifully taken penalty by Michael Lyng being the highlight.

However, DITs hope’s of progressing in the competition faded with the early evening light and they must now get their act together for the Sigerson, O Byrne Cup, and Dublin City Colleges Cup, which starts in mid November.

There were some encouraging performances for DIT though. As ever, Davy Hoare was 100% reliable in goals. Fergal Smyth, Colin Prendeville and Sean Gilsenan (playing his first senior game for DIT) were outstanding in defence.

But David Reynolds coolly slotted over two late points to seal a famous win for the underdogs, who are looking more like unbeatable with every match.

DIT: Barry Lyndsey, Donal Leddy, John Murtagh, Eoin Dunne, Willy Donnelly, Cathal Keegan, Willy Dwyer, Eoin Brennan, Colin Daly, Aidan Tuite, David Reynolds, Ger Teehan, Paul Whitey (1-0), Billy O Loughlann (0-3 f), Andrew Kerins (0-2)

Subs: Frank Harrington, Robbie Rowe (1-0), Greg Quinn (1-03)

Man of the match: Eoin Zimboglou

Higher Education Intermediate League

DIT 3-08 NUIM 1-13

DIT maintained their unbeaten run in the Intermediate league with a pulsating win over NUIM in Maynooth on November 3rd. Played in glorious sunshine, this victory looked unlikely at half time as, leading by 1-08 to 3 points, Maynooth were coasting to an easy victory.

But come the hour, come the man. Robbie Rowe arrived late but his introduction just after half time turned DIT’s fortunes around. His first involvement was to pull a ball from the clouds, burst through Maynooth defenders and smash an unstoppable piledriver to the top left of the net.

Another goal followed from the boy wonder Greg Quinn. When he clipped on three points with his trusted left foot, DIT knew their star was on the rise.

A Paul Whitey goal levelled the match but with time running out Maynooth were awarded a soft free, which put them in front again.

But David Reynolds coolly slotted over two late points to seal a famous win for the underdogs, who are looking more like unbeatable with every match.

DIT: Barry Lyndsey, Donal Leddy, John Murtagh, Eoin Dunne, Willy Donnelly, Cathal Keegan, Willy Dwyer, Eoin Brennan, Colin Daly, Aidan Tuite, David Reynolds, Ger Teehan, Paul Whitey (1-0), Billy O Loughlann (0-3 f), Andrew Kerins (0-2)

Subs: Frank Harrington, Robbie Rowe (1-0), Greg Quinn (1-03)

Man of the match: Greg Quinn

Higher Education Div 3 League

DIT 4-08 Marino College 0-12

DIT’s division 3 team got their campaign back on track after their disappointing outing in UCD.

The crack Marino outfit was weakened by some of their better players being away on teaching practice, and DIT dealt comfortably with anything they had to offer.

Wicklow net minder Sean O’Connell dealt impeccably with all goalmouth danger, diving full length to deflect a rasping shot over the bar near the end.

Mick Woods, Jason Hurst, Jonathon Morrough and Jimmy McNulty curbed any threat at the rear. Freshers Crombie (2-0) and Kehoe put in first class performances up front, but head and shoulders above the rest was Man of the Match Donal Brown of Kildare.

Another sparkling display like this will surely earn him a senior call up.

Division 3 Manager Sean Gilsenan was delighted with the team’s performance. Scan is now the only DIT gaelic manager ever with 100% success and is anxious to continue this run against Tallaght IT.
Shuttles soar in DIT

by Amy Brodigan

There are roughly 50 members registered with DIT’s Badminton club and one of the clubs organizers, Gerard Barry describes Badminton as DIT’s “hidden sport.”

Badminton has always been a popular sport in Ireland and DIT’s club is growing all the time. The club has received extra funding this year, partly because on November 5th they were due to travel to Limerick to take part in a new tournament called the Irish Student Badminton Tournament.

According to Gerard the club hopes to send at least 16 members down, for three nights to take part in the tournament. “The standard will be very high with lots of international competitors from England and Wales playing as well as all the Irish colleges.”

Gerard stressed there will be some “serious badminton to be played” but obviously the team hopes to enjoy their weekend away too.

The club trains from 12.30 - 2 PM on Monday in the YM.C.A Hall near (Aungier Street) and from 6.30-9 PM Monday night in Larkin College sports hall (near Cathal Brugha St)

Gerard feels that “there are some excellent players on the competitive team but there are also lots of beginners in the club who are always welcome. Anyone in D.I.T. is welcome to join the team. It is easy to see why the club is growing in popularity. There is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere in the Monday afternoon session, while the evening training session attracts a larger and more competitive crowd.

The club is due to play Tallaght LT in the coming month and they also hope to win best improved club this year.

SPORTS DIGEST

Cavers enjoy first trip

DIT Caving Club had their first trip to Boho, Co. Fermanagh on the 15th-17th October. Over the weekend the cavers did Boho Cave, Whitefathers and the famous Marble Arch Caves. While numbers were low, everyone had a great time and have all signed up for the next trip to Doolin, Co. Clare on November 12th-14th.

The Caving Club train at the wall in Kevin St every Wednesday from 6.30pm till 8pm. If you can’t make training contact us at http://clubsoc.dit.ie/caving

Hurling

The seniors have kicked off their campaign positively. They opened with a seven point Dublin DIT 3-11. DIT 1873/4, the result given that Kilkenny Senior

They opened with a seven point Dublin DIT 3-11. DIT 1873/4, the result given that Kilkenny Senior...
Murphy among medals at European Intervarsity Championships

Transport Management and logistics student Lee Murphy flew the flag for DIT while representing Ireland at the recent European Intervarsity Equestrian Championships. Angel Strickland Fahy found out how Murphy helped the team pick up an overall team bronze.

WEXFORD born show jumper Lee Murphy was on a team of three that picked up three medals at the European Intervarsity Equestrian Championships in October. The championships took place in Hamburg, Germany and riders took part in three days of competition, which included show jumping and dressage.

Day one consisted of the show jumping qualifiers, which were judged not only on jumping faults but also on the rider's style. Day two was the dressage qualifying phase and the final day saw the riders battle it out in both disciplines for the medals.

All aspects of riding ability were put to the test and the scores were carried through to the next day. The team's overall points tally then determined their placing. Lee and team Ireland had to perform consistently well throughout the three days to achieve such a high placing and beat off the stiff competition.

Their task was made more challenging by the fact that all competitors had to ride horses supplied by the competition rather than their own. This rule ensured that everyone competed on a level playing field. Riders were given just a short time to acquaint themselves with the horses they would compete on, which meant that medals were won on the rider's merit and not that of the horse.

Murphy, a 3rd year student, was awarded the second highest overall in the style element of the competition, an amazing achievement given the calibre of competitors. Team Ireland were also awarded a silver medal in dressage and a bronze in show jumping, finishing with bronze overall.

Lee had been selected to compete in the prestigious show by sending his CV to the organiser, who then invited the best 25 to complete trials. The six best were then recalled and narrowed down to the three who would represent Ireland in the championships.

The Aungier Street student now hopes to travel to Japan for the World Championships in December. The team's high placing in the European competition means that Ireland are seeded in the top seven countries and are strongly placed to do well in Japan.

However, the trip is set to cost in the region of 2500 euro, and Lee will need financial backing to get to Japan. Currently Lee is self-funded, but he has applied for a DIT sports scholarship and hopes to obtain backing from the college or an outside agency in order to compete. The financial side is just one of the problems Lee has to face when competing at this level. To make it to Japan a huge amount of intensive training will be required. Juggling this and the demands of a fulltime college course can be difficult, but Lee remains unfazed.

Gaelic Footballers gunning for glory

by Mark Rodden

The Gaelic Football Club is one of DIT's fastest improving sides. Under the stewardship of Seamus Reilly, the club has made steady progress over the last couple of years, and the senior side will be out to build on last season's promising performances.

The seniors will be lining out in Higher Education League Division 1, while the GAA club also has an intermediate team, a junior team and two freshers' sides this year. The Ladies team are also improving under coach Mick Ruddy, and last year they won the Division 2 title.

This year's senior panel has thirteen players with senior county experience, including Damien Munnelly (Mayo) and Tom Walsh (Carlow) from last year's side, as well as newcomers Michael Lyng (Cavan), John Kermath (Louth) and Paddy Keenan (Lossie). Derek McCormack (Kildare) is also a welcome addition to the squad after missing much of last season through injury. Galway's Damien Burke, Dublin's Colin Predervile and Laois under 21 Paul Begley are also names to look out for this year.

The seniors certainly have a busy schedule ahead of them. On December 10th, they will make a trip to London along with DIT's other GAA sides. There, the seniors will take on London's county side, and on their return from the English capital they will be fully focused on making an impact in the O'Byrne and Sigerson Cups.

Last year, DIT were the only college represented in the O'Byrne Cup, a Leinster inter-county tournament that is played in January before the start of the National League.

This year's draw has thrown up some challenging ties for Seamus Reilly's side. DIT will face Trinity in the preliminary round of the competition, and if they win that they will progress to play Louth. A win against Louth would set up a glamour tie against Dublin, and Reilly describes himself as "optimistic" that his side have what it takes to set up a clash with the Boys in Blue.

Indeed, Reilly's charges have every reason to be confident given last year's performance in the competition. They comfortably beat Kilkenny by 2-12 to 1-8, before narrowly losing to a full-strength Offaly side at the quarterfinal stage.

Reilly is also hoping that his side can make progress in the Sigerson Cup, the major competition in college GAA. In last season's preliminary round, DIT overcame University of Ulster, Corkeraine by 2-13 to 1-9.

That was as good as it got for DIT, however, as in the next round they went down to a Bryan Cullen-inspired DCU by 0-15 to 3-04. The Dublin centre back helped DCU to a seven-point lead before Damien Munnelly and Tom Walsh goals almost led DIT to a remarkable comeback.

In Munnnelly, the club has one of the emerging stars in gaelic football. Aside from his outstanding performances with DIT last year, the Mayo native made the breakthrough onto his county's senior panel, and was good enough to earn a place on the bench in Mayo's All-Ireland final defeat to Kerry.

A week after the senior's loss to Kerry, Munnnelly starred at full-forward for his county's U-21s in their All-Ireland Final defeat to Tyrone at Breffini Park. He scored four points in the game, and his range of free-taking - with either foot, out of the hands, or off the ground - was extremely impressive.

Hopefully the Mayo star can continue his good form for DIT this season and spur them on to a Sigerson Cup glory.