DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of October, 2000

DIT: Students Union

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By Niamh O'Donoghue

DIT student, Lyndsey Jones woke up in hospital, dazed and confused, with a tube down her throat. Her concerned friends had called an ambulance when she collapsed at the Kevin Street / Mountjoy Square Fresher's Ball at the Temple. It was discovered that Lyndsey’s drink had been spiked with sleeping and epileptic tablets.

Girls from her old school.

The part-time Students' Union officer hadn’t intended to go out that night, but her friends persuaded her to go to the bar. “I didn’t have that much to drink, just a half-pint of Bud and about three bottles of Smirnoff Ice because I’m not that big into drinking,” she said.

Downstairs, she chatted with girls from her old school. “I had a drink in my hand and I went off to the bathroom,” she explained. “So I came back and just picked up a bottle that was on the bar. I didn’t even know if it was mine cause there was so many bottles there, so I just picked it up and carried on drinking and talking to the lads.”

At about one o’clock Lyndsey began to feel the effects. “It was hard to breath, I’d never fainted before and I thought I was going to faint,” she said. “I had no concept of what was going on around me, I just felt like I need to get out of here and I was so limp, tired and sleepy. I really just wanted to go to bed. I needed to get out. I felt so weak, I knew I had to sit down.” Her friends helped her downstairs where they rang an ambulance. “They couldn’t believe it was me. Anybody that knows me knows I don’t do drugs or anything like that - I just don’t see the point,” she said.

“I can’t even remember what time I woke up. I was lying there and I was so incoherent. I could hear the nurses asking me was I okay, could I do this, could I do that, but I just couldn’t. I wasn’t so limp, I just couldn’t do anything they asked.”

The nurses informed her that she was cut cold for about an hour and a half. “Only for the lads had been there, I can honestly say I really didn’t know what would have happened to me,” she said. “I’m so lucky that I wasn’t picked up by somebody I didn’t know. It’s a scary thought to know that I’ve come so close to it. I think everyone was so shocked that they knew the person that it had happened to and reality sort of hit home.”

As a result of this incident, the Kevin Street Student Welfare office are setting up an awareness campaign in the lead-up to the Christmas ball. DITSU president Vinny Dooley has also expressed his concern about spiked drinks. He has urged people to be very careful with their drinks and not leave them unattended.

Boys come first

By Aoife Stokes

NEW figures from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) show that male students get the majority of first-class honours degrees. Figures indicate girls fail to perform boys at secondary level, which leads to female students out-numbering males at third level by over 1,000.

However, the male students bridge that gap at third level and achieve most of the top marks.

It must be noted that first-class honours make up only 7 per cent of degrees awarded each year.

These figures can be further explained by the fact that male students tend to take courses where high marks are available. In courses such as law, medicine and architecture a large number of first-class honours degrees are awarded. In the universities researched, males far outnumber the female students in these faculties.

The marking of exams for these courses is quite close.

"You call me fat?" Sumo wrestler wannabe in plump plummet!

Another sportsgiving

By Dermot Keyes

THEY sumo wrestled, fenced, ran, kicked, tackled, shot hoops and slapped sliothars all in the name of sport ... and fun. The DIT Sportsmates at the ALSA complex on October 4th was another enjoyable start-of-year jamboree for both the hardened competitor and the merrymaking messers amongst the sporting student population.

Those of the karting persuasion took to the Kylemore Track, a race circuit where chicanes were careered, corners were cut and wee first years mixed it with the seasoned semi-amateurish experts who dream of greater days and bigger cars in Monaco.

Every imaginable sport was catered for as always by the organising team, which must be commended for the fine and orderly fashion that accompanied the running of each sport. Be it Olympic handball, squash, underwater rugby (I kid you not!) or judo, virtually every sport to what the student’s palate was catered for. Sports: 18/19

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Programme offers opportunities to disadvantaged students

By Samantha Rowntree

DIT's Lifelong Education Access Programme (LEAP) was launched by the Minister for Education & Science, Dr Michael Woods, and president of the Dublin Institute of Technology, Mr Brendan Goldsmith, on October 9th in Fitzwilliam House.

LEAP aims to give more access to disadvantaged school leavers, students with disabilities and mature students. Under this new programme, DIT hopes that from 2005, 100 students will have access to whole-time DIT courses each year.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Goldsmith highlighted the need for educational institutions to play a primary role in breaking down the barriers to access.

"There's no easy solution to this fundamentally important problem, no simple quick response which will reverse economic and cultural forces which have been at play for generations," he said. "It is therefore vitally important to have a genuinely co-operative approach involving the whole range of institutions and social partners."

Dr Woods said "as we face into the future, where knowledge and adaptable skills become increasingly important to the labour market, the challenge for our education system is significant. Educational opportunity is the key to employment opportunity and if we are to help marginalised groups to participate in our growing prosperity, we must use education as a tool.”

The bridging course will concentrate in core subjects like maths, English and computer skills.

There will also be a strong emphasis on personal development and personal skills. Students who successfully complete the course will then be guaranteed entry to a whole-time course in DIT.

Peter Brown, LEAP co-ordinator with Dr Michael Woods, Minister for Education and Mr Brendan Goldsmith, President of DIT at the launch of LEAP.

By Aoite Stokes

The USI is calling on all colleges to employ a qualified Equality Officer to implement an Equality Policy and an Equality Action Plan. That female performance is lowered by 20 per cent of senior lecturers in our universities is wrong with very little discretion being employed. However, we do know that in University College, Cork, female students were being under-marked before the introduction of anonymous marking," she said.

A study by Prof. Catherine Bell in that university found that prior to the introduction of anonymous marking men out-performed women and after its introduction women out-performed men. We must have similar studies in Ireland.”

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Programme to provide personal support

By Samantha Rowntree

PEER Mentoring is a new pilot programme that aims to provide first-year students with the support and guidance they need to get accustomed to college life. It has long been acknowledged that students find the first few months of college a bit of a struggle.

Whether it's that a student can't get used to living away from home, or that their course seems a bit daunting, the advice programme will offer students some reassurance that college life is not so bad after all.

The Peer Mentoring programme, which models itself on the American "buddy system", recruits and trains mentors from second year to befriend new students. The programme trains mentors from second year to befriend new students. The programme targets students who have completed counselling service. The programme has about 30 mentors who have completed counselling service.

Mr Peter Brown, co-ordinator of DIT's new LEAP programme, feels peer mentoring will be of particular benefit to students from disadvantaged backgrounds as they often feel they don't fit in.

"New students particularly appreciate the support from someone of roughly their own age, who's clearly been through the same experience."

Mr Brown has found all the mentors hugely enthusiastic, but was surprised at the low level of response from students in Kevin Street to take part. He admits the programme is dependent on people's goodwill to get involved. Sheila Harrington, DIT's Disability Liaison Officer, says, "disabled students are delighted with the peer mentoring programme as it's a new way for them to move out of second level education and not find themselves isolated at third level."

As DIT is very much mainstreamed students with disabilities often find themselves isolated, peer mentoring offers the support to prevent this happening.

Ms Maura Fimnegan, a researcher on the student retention project, believes: "It's necessary to ascertain the problems students have in the first few weeks. "Then a mentor can be assigned to meet with a student informally once a week." It's hoped that the scheme will be successful and continue long-term to assist all first-years in DIT.

Low figures reported for meningitis vaccination

By Dermot Keyes

FIRST-YEAR students who wished to avail of the Government-backed Meningitis C Immunisation Programme in DIT have received vaccinations during the first two weeks of October at the Bolton Street and Aungier Street sites.

However, despite an advertising campaign and 11 deaths in Ireland in 1999 among the youth population, it appears that DIT students did not flock to the provided vaccination centres, with one health centre member describing the response as poor.

The vaccination is part of a Department of Health programme to immunise everyone in Ireland up to the age of 22 against the Meningococcal Group C infection, more commonly known as Group C Meningitis and septicaemia. Approximately 1.3 million people are covered by the immunisation.

Despite the Government allocating £25 million to the programme, the response that the Minister for Health, Mr Michael Martin, would have envisaged for meningitis C vaccination centres.

Mr Lawlor commented the reported low figures were not made available to the DIT Independent, despite requests made to both Bolton Street and Aungier Street Health Centres.

DIT Administrator Mr Robert Lawlor said the Eastern Regional Health Authority was responsible for recording the number of vaccinations. The ERHA did not have a spokesperson available when contacted.

Mr Lawlor commented the reported low figures were not surprising. "You have to take into consideration that this was a voluntary vaccination and there was certain to be many people who did not want to be vaccinated."

"But it must be stated that many of the covered people in DIT might have got the vaccination already from their GP in other health board areas," he continued.

"The idea of providing the vaccination at the colleges was to allow those who may have slipped through the net or simply did not know about it earlier to receive the vaccination."

Despite not covering all DIT students eligible by age under the scheme, there are no plans for further vaccination centres to be provided during the year.
USI sells stake in USIT

The Union of Students in Ireland will make €9 million from the sale of its stake in USIT, the student travel company, USIT, writes Lisa Denney. However, they are not planning to share the money with its student members as it is “already earmarked in different areas”: USI plans to buy a new state-of-art headquarters in Dublin for about €2 million and invest the remainder of the windfall in a portfolio of shares and other investments to improve its overall services.

The union has no plans to distribute a proportion to its members, or to reduce the membership fee.

Adi Roche, executive director, and Ali Hewson, patron of the Chernobyl Children’s Project, attended the launch of the largest student charitable event ever.

“Fresher’s walk for Chernobyl” is a campaign directed by DIT lecturers, who hope that the walk will be the largest student charitable event ever.

“I am sure everyone has heard reports and stories about the dangers of date rape drugs and drinks being spiked in nightclubs. You may even know of someone, a friend or a family member, who has had a bad experience. How often have your parents warned you before a night out not to leave your drink unattended?”

But do we really pay attention, or does it all just go over our heads? You might read a story in a national newspaper about someone whose drink was spiked and think ‘that’s terrible’ but you probably also think, ‘that would never happen to me’.

“Don’t be so sure. That is probably what Lyndsey Jones, a part-time student officer in Kevin Street, thought and she was wrong.”

Lyndsey was out for a night with her friends at a college-organised event. She only left her drink for a minute to go to the bathroom but even this was too long. She woke up with a dangerous cocktail of sleeping and epileptic tablets, when you are out at a college ball. However Lyndsey’s self-confidence was not the only thing to suffer.

“Perhaps the most frightening aspect of this story is that Lyndsey was at an event organised by the college, attended by other students. You may think that things like this only happen on a Saturday night out on a dodgy night-spot but obviously not.”

We may think that when you are out in town with your friends that’s when you need to be careful, not when you are out at a college ball. However Lyndsey’s story shows that we must be careful all the time.

This is a frightening story and it brings the reality home that bad things can happen to anyone. It shows how careful we need to be in order to ensure our personal safety.

In the coming weeks, an awareness campaign will be launched by the Kevin Street Student Union to warn students about the dangers of spiked drinks unattended. However it is vital that all Student’s Unions do the same. It is essential that students in every college are aware of the dangers.

Lyndsey’s story will make us all more aware of this danger and perhaps prevent the same thing happening again.

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the 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.

The DIT Independent

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Fresher’s walk for Chernobyl

By Aisling Casey

The plight of Chernobyl children was aptly reflected at the launch of the largest student charity event ever, ‘The Fresher’s 10k Walk’ on September 21st. The Chernobyl Children’s Project, in conjunction with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and sponsors Bank of Ireland, is to further the pace of development in their ongoing campaign for increased funding for Chernobyl with a new fundraising initiative.

They are calling all first-year students in Irish colleges to take part in a sponsored walk on November 16th.

Adi Roche, executive director, and Ali Hewson, patron of the Chernobyl Children’s Project, attended the launch, speaking at the launch. Ms Roche paid tribute to USI and Bank of Ireland, “The money raised by the ‘Fresher’s 10k Walk’ will mean that the Chernobyl Children’s Project will be in a position to reach many other children and make a difference to their lives,” she said.

Ms Roche emphasised the generosity of the Irish people, but informed the public that scientists predict the worst effects of Chernobyl will not be felt in the region for another 20 years. “The support of USI and Bank of Ireland gives us a much needed boost at a time when the world’s attention is being divided on the ongoing devastation in Chernobyl,” she said.

Two children from Belarus, Margureita and Antonia, were at Stephen’s Green to help launch the event. Margureita, aged 5, is in Ireland as part of the Chernobyl Children’s Project “Long Term Care” Programme. She was abandoned at birth, suffering from loss of hearing and a heart murmur as a direct result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. Due to the Chernobyl Children’s Project, she was adopted by an Irish family last month.

USI are appealing to as many of the 30,000 first year students as possible to take part in the event, Julian De Sp-Ionn, President of USI said, “We want the Fresher’s 10k Walk to be the largest student charity event ever.”

Mr De Sp-Ionn said the response to the event so far has been excellent. “But this can only be built upon by students raising the money needed to help this stricken area of the world,” he said. “We are asking each to raise €75 by getting parents, brothers, sisters... relatives, workmates and friends to fill their sponsorship cards.”

As a sign of their commitment to the event, Bank of Ireland will donate €1 to the charity for every third student account opened in their bank this year. Kevin Burke of Bank of Ireland said, “It is great to see so many students giving selflessly of their time for a great cause.”

In conjunction with USI, the walk will be a campaign co-ordinated by DITSU President Vinney Dooley. It is an effort to promote the event, a campaign co-ordinator has been assigned to each college. The project has also begun a poster campaign, which reveals hard-line facts. One reads ‘screaming children have to be strapped to chairs while traumatised surgical battles to remove cancerous tumours with no anaesthetics’.

According to Vincent Dooley, DIT will be pushing for support for the first two weeks of November.

Although the aim is €75, students are encouraged to raise as much money as they can over the next few weeks. “It is only a 10k walk at your own pace and it will be a good day out for everyone,” he added.

Students from senior years are also welcome to get involved in the event. Registration cards are available at the Students’ Union in all DIT colleges.
Focus on... accommodation

10,000 extra students look for housing

Every year, students around the country are faced with the daunting task of finding suitable and affordable accommodation. This year the problem has been exacerbated with rising rent prices and an estimated additional 10,000 students in the rented accommodation sector.

Despite the increase in students looking for rented accommodation, nothing has been done to address the difficulties facing students to keep up with the rising rent prices. According to a recent report of the Commission on Private Rented Residential Sector, there has been an increase of 60% in the number of privately renting households from 1991 to 1997.

However, most of this increase has been in the luxury end of the market which students can not afford to live in.

The increase of students into the private rented sector has also been matched with a decrease in living standards for them. It is not uncommon for students to live three or more to a room. I'm sure you can talk to any student who has ever looked for accommodation and I'm sure they can tell you some horror stories.

On average students can probably expect to pay around £50 to £60 pounds a week for living space.

Most students have to work during the college year just in order to survive and make their rent. Just to make a weeks rent, a student making £5 an hour would have to work at least 10 hours just to make enough to cover their rent let alone food, bills and transport.

In fact over a quarter of students who took part in the USI survey said that financial pressures were the most common cause for dropping out of college.

While accommodation is a problem for student's nation-wide, particularly those attending a college in Dublin, it is worse for students attending DIT as there is no campus accommodation provided by the college.

However this is hardly surprising when we take into account that overall only 6% of Irish students are housed in on campus accommodation. This is a disgrace when compared with 28% in the UK and 17% in Europe.

Students are an easy group for unscrupulous landlords to take advantage so it is important that you know your rights and what you are entitled to. If there is anything you are unsure of, contact your students union and they will help you out.

Also it is essential that you read any lease or agreement fully before you sign anything.

DIT students are advised under no circumstances are they to book accommodation without viewing it first. First year students who are living away from home for the first time are advised by the Student's Union to pick digs as their first choice.

On average, for a seven-day week, students can expect to pay around £70 with meals included.

There is a DIT Accommodation List, which is produced by the Student's Union on a weekly basis. This includes details of normal flats and houses as well as lodgings accommodation.

Tips on rented housing

- It is important to remember that you may lose some or all of your deposit if you damage the property above normal wear and tear, if you leave before the lease is up or if you leave bills or rent unpaid.

- Always make sure you read the lease properly before you sign it so you know exactly what you are signing for.

- Landlords are legally obliged to provide you with a rent book, which is a record of rent and other payments made by a tenant to the landlord. It also contains other details concerning the letting of the property and is useful to ensure that there is no confusion.

- All tenants have a statutory right to quiet and peaceful possession as long as they pay their rent. Even our landlord does not have the right to enter the accommodation without the permission of the tenant.

- A landlord may however be entitled to enter the property to survey it and to ensure that it is being maintained, to read any meter that may be installed while the tenant is present and in a case of emergency.

The DIT Independent looks at the issue of student accommodation

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DIT students are advised under no circumstances are they to book accommodation without viewing it first. First year students who are living away from home for the first time are advised by the Student's Union to pick digs as their first choice.

On average, for a seven-day week, students can expect to pay around £70 with meals included.

There is a DIT Accommodation List, which is produced by the Student's Union on a weekly basis. This includes details of normal flats and houses as well as lodgings accommodation.

Tips on rented housing

- It is important to remember that you may lose some or all of your deposit if you damage the property above normal wear and tear, if you leave before the lease is up or if you leave bills or rent unpaid.

- Always make sure you read the lease properly before you sign it so you know exactly what you are signing for.

- Landlords are legally obliged to provide you with a rent book, which is a record of rent and other payments made by a tenant to the landlord. It also contains other details concerning the letting of the property and is useful to ensure that there is no confusion.

- All tenants have a statutory right to quiet and peaceful possession as long as they pay their rent. Even our landlord does not have the right to enter the accommodation without the permission of the tenant.

- A landlord may however be entitled to enter the property to survey it and to ensure that it is being maintained, to read any meter that may be installed while the tenant is present and in a case of emergency.

What you say...

Elaine Keogh, 15th Year, Kevin Street.

"I got the DIT student accommodation list the day I was offered my place, and I rang everywhere, but it was all I could get. The rent is a bit expensive, and the place is really small."

Claire Ivory, 1st Year, Kevin Street.

"I got the DIT student accommodation list the day I was offered my place, and I rang everywhere, but every single place was gone already. Nearly all of the places listed were on the northside, so it was no help. At the moment I'm staying at home in Leixlip, and there's a lack of it as well. I did look, but all I could find was a double room for £90 a week."

Kelly, 2nd Year, Aungier Street.

"I'm still living at home in Leixlip, because accommodation is too dear, and there's a lack of it as well. I did look, but all I could find was a double room for £90 a week."

Kristian O'Neill, MA, Aungier Street.

"I got a good place at the Student Union, but the moment I'm staying with my sister."

ShaDe "The woman we rented the apartment from got a good place at the Student Union, but the moment I'm staying with my sister."

Shane Reilly, 2nd Year, Aungier Street.

"My apartment is two and a half miles from college and 1 have to walk for at least 3/4 of an hour to get in, but it was all I could get. The rent is a bit expensive, and the place is really small."

Elaine Keogh, 1st Year, Kevin Street.

"I got the DIT student accommodation list the day I was offered my place, and I rang everywhere, but every single place was gone already. Nearly all of the places listed were on the northside, so it was no help. At the moment I'm staying with my sister."

Kate Walshe, 2nd Year, Aungier Street, Shane Reilly, 2nd Year, Aungier Street, Lisa Kelly, 2nd Year, Aungier Street.

The only flat listed near the college was described as a three bedroom but when we rang it only one bedroom."

Declan Byrne, 2nd Year, Kevin Street.

"I'm still living at home in Leixlip, because accommodation is too dear, and there's a lack of it as well. I did look, but all I could find was a double room for £90 a week."

Kristian O'Neill, MA, Aungier Street.

"I've got a good place at the Student Union, but the moment I'm staying with my sister."

What you say...
### Why Pay More at Easons?

**Reads of Nassau Street**

**UNBEATABLE!**

**Easons 51% Dearer Than Reads of Nassau Street On These Items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Eason's Price</th>
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**WHY PAY MORE AT EASONS?**

Reads, 24 Nassau Street, Phone: 679 6011. Fax: 671 1684.
By Lisa Deeney

MORE investigation is needed regarding public private partnerships (PPP) the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) insist, as it has been revealed that DIT’s new Grangeegorman campus is being considered under a PPP agreement.

Public private partnership is ‘an agreement between public sector organisations, in this case the Dublin Institute of Technology, and private sector bodies, which have yet to be confirmed. The idea of PPP’s is that they will reach the Third Level Market and it is gaining momentum quite rapidly.

“there is no reason why the government shouldn’t give the money to DIT; so we can build it ourselves,” claims DITSU President Vincent Dooley. “It would save us a lot of hassle... public private partnership is just a term used for more complicated loan.”

“At the moment DIT does not have the funds or money to finance the new campus... In the long-term it will have to be paid for by the college and we would save money by buying and paying for it now,” he added.

The contract will involve tenders from the private sector. It is believed that the public company will raise the finances to construct the new campus. It is expected to take seven to eight years to build the new campus. DIT may lease it for a period, expected to be about ten years. After the leasing period DIT will have the option to buy the Grangeegorman campus back.

USI President, Julian de Sp-unn believes that more investigation into the concept of public private partnerships is needed. “The government at the moment has a huge budget surplus, so why does it need to use PPP?” he asked. “Also the issue of price controls needs to be addressed.”

“The public companies are making an investment, they are making money. There has to be something in it for them.

It has been revealed that DIT’s Grangeegorman campus is being considered under a Public Private Partnership agreement.

By Lisa Deeney

TWO out of five DIT students will not graduate from their chosen course, a new study has revealed.

The DIT report reveals alarming statistics which indicate that the degree completion rate is the worst in the IT sector.

This drop-out rate is very worrying given the annual hype over the points system and the intense competition to get into certain faculties, courses and colleges.

Recent figures indicate that girls do better than boys in the Leaving Certificate so it should come as no surprise that in all the DIT faculties, female students are more likely to persist with their studies. On a gender basis, the report shows consistently higher female completion rates throughout all DIT colleges. The greatest difference lies in the Science faculty, where there is just over 17 per cent difference between male and female completion rates.

The study also highlights some surprising differences in the dropout rate in different courses. The Applied Arts faculty does worse than expected, with a 11 per cent completion rate. But the biggest disappointment is in the faculty of Engineering, with a 50 per cent dropout rate, and the Business and Science faculty, with a 42 per cent and 39 per cent dropout rate.

This has worrying implications for the national drive to boost science in universities and institutes of technology. The study also reveals that Kevin Street had the highest dropout rate, while Carl Brough Street has the lowest.

The study, conducted by Project Directors Jill Barrett and Susan Lindsay, and researchers Maura Finnegan and Mark Russell, was a tracking exercise, where the aim was to follow first-year students who entered DIT in 1994 until their departure from the Institute.

The question now is: what efforts are being made by DIT to curb this huge dropout rate? We are hoping to have a more comprehensive student induction ‘ice-breaker’ programmes to help first years in their early days in college, and there is a need for a follow-up programme during the term as well”, said Ms Barrett.

Ms Barrett believes the academic side of DIT should also hold some responsibility for such a huge dropout rate. “Each course committee should be directly involved in reviewing the quality of courses and they should be more responsible for the retention rates of their course... the bottom line is making sure students are facilitated if they want to move courses if they have made a wrong decision,” she said.

According to campus.ie, it is now compulsory that tutors have to interview students wishing to dropout.

“We keep constant review of those non-completing students and we ask them why they decide to dropout,” explains Ashling McHugh of the Faculty of Built Environment. “We follow through each year on that to try and establish the reasons for dropping out.”

“This year, DIT’s induction programme was specifically geared to encourage first-year students to come to us if they’re considering dropping out,” said Ashling. “All support staff including SU officers and tutors are working with us in addressing this problem.”

The decision to leave a course should not be taken lightly, Asling advises. “Students who are away from home can find themselves in a college where they know no one, and miss home. They may find themselves over burdened by subjects which they were unaware they had. It is a very confusing time for students, they are trying to get settled, find accommodation and may feel like a small fish in a big pond.”

Vinny Dooley, DITSU President believes that is a number of valid reasons for such a high dropout rate in DIT. “A lot of it has to do with financial problems. A lot of first years do not know much about their course and the whole area of social acceptance - fitting into college is a large factor.”

The peer mentoring programme is just one of the DIT initiatives that will try to reduce the huge dropout rate.

“All students who opt out of a course are permanent dropouts. Many go on to other studies, but there is no way of keeping track of them.

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Another Fresher's Week has come and gone, and in every DIT, the students are feeling the aftermath.

Missed classes, sore heads and unidentified bruises from the drunken stumbling abound.

After all, what better way to get a proper foothold in college life than to attend your very first Fresher's Ball (and second, and third...) and end up with a hangover that lasts for the rest of the week?

Of course it's not helped by the pub crawls, guaranteed to keep your blood alcohol level somewhere around the "totally wasted" mark.

Photographs start doing the rounds showing you locked the arms of a complete stranger, or in some other embarrassing situation, like trying to flag down a squad car in the mistaken belief that it is a taxi.

You unsuccessfully try to blame it all on the alcohol.

Two days later, you find you've signed up to a number of clubs and societies, in which you had absolutely no interest, and managed to miss the only one you really wanted to join.

For the more athletic among us, attending the DIT sports day seems like a good idea.

But it could have far-reaching effects for the less fit among us as we line up for the 1500 metres, white limbs on show, with optimistic hopes of actually running the entire track, not being carted off halfway through by an ambulance.

Tip for next year: watch out for the photographers; those pictures of you in your shorts and t-shirt, pounding up to the line in fifth place may come back to haunt you in the future. In the meantime, check out the photographs on these pages, and pray, for your own sanity, that Rag Week doesn't turn out to be a repeat performance.

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The joys of public transport

Natasha Reid experiences the joys of travelling by public transport to and from college

In relation to complaints, the “put-up and shut-up” attitude of students is changing. Many feel one voice won’t make a difference, but realise that many voices will.

Most of the students I interviewed have phoned to complain about bad service; many wrote letters and filled in complaint forms. As for me, I’m done complaining. I’m moving into town!

I'm moving of guitar.--- -=.=--=-= bil Reid journey, during which you smoke, because you have ended your call in despair, complain, you may have company doesn’t take this law seriously.

Dublin Bus, this is probably seen a driver smoking for these days, but don’t bother to complain about the smoke, because you have seen a driver smoking himself once, and realise the company doesn’t take this law seriously.

You give up and decide to use the DART. Big mistake! The DART is worse.

If you are a commuter with Dublin Bus, this is probably a typical journey for you. If you ever lifted the phone to complain, you may have ended your call in despair, being told that drivers won’t work on Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays. You suggest having a different timetable for these days, but don’t bother to complain about the smoke, because you have seen a driver smoking himself once, and realise the company doesn’t take this law seriously.

You give up and decide to use the DART. Big mistake! The DART is worse.

If you are a DART user, you will be familiar with that computerised voice often broadcast just before a train is due, apologising for yet another cancellation due to staff shortages. When the train finally arrives, it’s full and filthy. Due to the lack of attendants, a few teenagers are selling joints while sharing a bottle of vodka, and a fight breaking out is always a strong possibility.

So Friday comes and all you want to do is escape from the mayhem. This can be more trouble than it is worth! I spoke to one Aungier Street student, Georgina, whose train stopped as scheduled in a town in the West, but didn’t pull out for an hour. There was no announcement to apologise for the delay, or attendant in sight to explain the hold-up to passengers.

As for the alternative, a journey with Bus Éireann is greater penance than Lough Derp, or so I’ve been told by Shane, a UCD student, who missed his grandmother’s Month’s Mind in Mayo due to the company’s incompetence. His misery started in BusÁras. “As I was about to throw on my bag, the driver shouted, ‘We’re full’ and drove off leaving a dozen of us waiting in the rain. After half an hour, a racy rcketey minibus arrived to pick us up,” says Shane, 18.

“The seats weren’t properly bolted down and some gave way during the journey,” he added. When they arrived at the half-way mark, CIE staff, who had no intention of bringing them any further, cursed at passengers. It wasn’t until customers became emotional they decided that the instructor decided to send them the rest of the way. Shane arrived at his destination two hours late.

These stories may shock students who’ve grown up in countries where everything runs like clockwork, but they are nothing new to those of us who crowed onto ancient school buses as children.

So what do the authorities say? Myles McHugh of Iarnród Éireann states that services run punctually 90% of the time. “It’s the nature of public transport that delays will occur.” So if you don’t mind that one in every 10 rail trips will be disrupted, Iarnród Éireann is the service for you! In relation to complaints, the “put-up and shut-up” attitude of students is changing. Many feel one voice won’t make a difference, but realise that many voices will.

Most of the students I interviewed have phoned to complain about bad service; many wrote letters and filled in complaint forms. As for me, I’m done complaining. I’m moving into town!
DIY Independent

New York on a
York

hours after
treated
kept
arrived,

that's the first thing you
concoctions that would fell even the
enough to the Full Monty. And I do
But if bars and pub crawls aren't
your thing, there are some other
options. Crete is full of history,
culture and archaeological sites.
Since we'd spent one week lazing on
the beaches and inspecting the local
pubs, we decided that second week
would be better spent exploring the
island. If you lack a driving license,
the only other way to really see Crete
is to rent a moped. Tour operators
don't recommend this - there have
been many accidents involving
tourists in the past. In fact this was
one of the first things we were
warned about when we got off the
plane. So to broaden our cultural
horizons, we set off on the

Climbing into a cab with
three relatives, we were
astonished to hear another
cab driver shouting at us.
"You can't all go in that cab!",
said one, in what I distinctly
recognised as a movie-like
Brixen-Italian accent.

We were treated to a verbal
tussle and a car chase down
1st Avenue as the cabbies tried to
out-maneuver each other. Our
experienced cousins were bemused by
our stock and explained the other
driver was annoyed because
it was illegal to have more
than four in a cab.

That's the first thing you
learn about New York -
everyone has an opinion they
think everybody else
deserves to hear. The second
thing that struck us was the
extraordinary presence of the
colourful fibreglass cows on
the streets; a phenomenon we
wished to learn more about.
But since it's all in the name of fun,
everyone joins in. Between party
games and drinking alcoholic
cocncoctions that would fell even the

I had to be loud and confident;
aggressive almost. Karen and
I arrived in New York on a
Saturday evening, and by the
next afternoon, we had
witnessed our first live
demonstration of that well-
known New York attitude.

"You can't all go in that cab!",
had shouted one cab
driver, while another
complained, "The only other
way to really see Crete

Looking for some
extra cash for Christmas?

Chubb Security Personnel

We are currently looking for
security officers/Chauffeurs
for the new U2 album
Overturning. We CAN'T LEAVE
BEHIND our fans. To
organisation accommodation
before they go.

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**WEBSITE REVIEWS**

**The last word in beer**

Sites for students

With so many websites springing up daily, it's bound to catch on to the potential for student-oriented sites.

Now there is a multitude of websites clamouring for our attention. The DIT Independent takes a look at some of the sites on offer for the student population.

**Oxygen**

The website that spawned no 54 (which, by the way is NOT the Irish Big Brother) also gives us freemail, travel articles and humorous features.

The drawbacks of turning 21, why Buffy is the best programme on TV and a celebrity agony column, courtesy of Mrs Shady, adorn this site, and find out what's really cool about 2000.

If you've been bitten by the travel bug, find the cheapest flights or else there'll be many a friendly (ahem) advice, or if you need something a little more in the old.

Or if you're feeling inspired, share your travel tales with Oxygen users through the site's travel competition.

Budding comedians should check out the unlife section, which includes a jokes section that should make you, the most popular (or hated) person in the pub, depending on just how well you tell 'em.

For your convenience, the site can be customised to your own preferences, meaning that when you register with Campus.ie, all that information you fill out will be put to good use.

Another excellent aspect of the site is My Locker, where registered users can store files or keep track of their appointments and schedule.

**Campus.ie**

A new addition to the student website sector is Campus.ie.

For those of us who need more help with our finances than being told how to spend it, a money section tells us all about student taxation issues, how to plan finances for the year and debates the merits of UK banks versus Irish their counterparts.

The drawbacks of turning 21, why Buffy is the best programme on TV and a celebrity agony column, courtesy of Mrs Shady, adorn this site, and find out what's really cool about 2000.

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Another excellent aspect of the site is My Locker, where registered users can store files or keep track of their appointments and schedule.

So no more cursing at the computer when your floppy disk decides to eat the last week's work or that all-important essay.

And with Campus.ie email accounts, users get 10 megabytes of space for those must-keep emails.

Like all good websites, news, entertainment and sport are available.

The site has teamed up with the Irish Examiner to bring us all the latest news from around the country, and now there is no excuse for missing the last bus/train home - easy to use timetables have been included on the site.

For those of us who need more help with our finances than being told how to spend it, a money section tells us all about student taxation issues, how to plan finances for the year and debates the merits of UK banks versus Irish their counterparts.

Funk.net provides the latest in Irish news.

Of course, college news has its very own section, and for those intent on making the most of their college years, Funk.net provides the latest Hollywood gossip and music industry minutiae.

Funk.net also provides a range of forums and discussion groups for users taking in everything from whether women want nice guys to DCU Fresher's Week.

The diverse news features section asks if football jerseys are worth the expense; questions the integrity of the Olympic Games; and investigates the lack of sporting heroes.

Visit the ents section to find out about the flattermates, from hell and how to deal with them - lets face it, most of us have been through rough stages in our lives with cohabitators, regardless of how long we know them.

Tune into Funk.net for guides on everything from finance to sex and contraception.

The law guide might come in handy for those who like to walk the wild side; see the drugs guide if you are lacking in inspiration!

A complete guide to all the drugs on the market can be easily accessed.

**Surf for fun**

Informative, interesting and accessible...the internet is all these things. While we'd like to believe that we spend our online time constructively, there are times when you just want surf for fun.

But with the thousands of sites out there, it can be a slow process to find one that fulfills your time-wasting needs.

Check out this guide for a step in the right direction...

www.thenion.com

Claiming to America's finest news source, The Onion is good for a laugh, regurgitating its newsnewsworthiness. One of their top stories relates presidential candidate George Bush's horror at the $2,000,000 salary for the job.

You can also read about the family that spends awkward, silent quality time together; if you've ruined the onion's first aid tips should probably be taken with a pinch of salt, or else there'll be many a first aid kit around containing alcohol, cotton balls, Jar-Jar Bani Aids, Chapstick, car bingo games, cigarettes, etc.

www.weeklyworldnews.com

As if the print version wasn't enough, the Weekly World News is available online.

The paper that brought you Farley also contributes garbage such as ghost chickens who has ruined the lives of a farmer and his wife, the healing fingerprint of Christ and the fountain of youth - cells soaked in Jack Daniels and snuff juice apparently do not grow old.

If you have a problem, Dear Dotti will give you compassionate, friendly (ahem) advice, or if you need something a little more in the paranormal way, Serena and her psychic advice could be just up your street.

If all this isn't enough for you, the archive will yield such stories as "Top Scientist Says: Sicko Space Aliens Are Stealing Our Women". You can't say we didn't warn you.

www.shockwave.com

Got some time on your hands? What better way to while away the long college hours than play games on Shockwave's website?

No matter what your playing preferences, there is sure to be something here to hold your attention for more than a few minutes.

Arcade classics, old favourites with a modern twist and adventure games are all available. Raid cookie factories, go cyber snowboarding or take Jerry Loose Jocks on an adventure in the Australian outback - the choice is yours. If you'd rather spend your time more constructively (!) Shockwave also has several other channels, including shows and music.

www.2211.com/pop.htm

For those of you who can't get enough of bubble wrap, visit this site. Virtual Bubble Wrap is silly, but fun, and best of all, it's free.

Okay, for hardened bubble-wrap-poppers, there's something missing, probably the noise and the real bubblewrap.

But hey, it's one way to pass the time!

www.fosmi.com/pregnant/index.html

Welcome to the internet's first pregnancy test. Yes, just by clicking a button, you can find out if you are pregnant.

No more messing about with sticks and no more waiting. And if that isn't good enough, the site will also tell you the gender and who the father is.

The reliability of the test is a bit dubious (as if!) - the father can be anyone from Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton or your boyfriend.

Not one to depend on, but amusing enough.
Evgeniya's story

Sometimes ago, a little Belarusian girl was flown to Ireland by Adi Roche's Chernobyl Children's Project. Her name, Evgeniya - seven years old, quiet and very shy. She had spent six and a half years in hospitals, in constant pain. Her condition could not be diagnosed by her doctors. Every vein in her body was swollen. Despite her severe pain, Evgeniya always managed to raise a smile for her doctor.

Her treatment in Cork Regional Hospital was not easy. At first her doctors had to detoxify her body. It meant even more pain for the little girl. She could not even move in her hospital bed. Dr.O'Donoghue attends her every morning. He gives her encouragement. Evgeniya asks. When I grow up will I be able to have babies? Will the babies be like me? After a long time Evgeniya is able to move around her hospital ward.

There are thousands of children who suffer because of Chernobyl - the world's worst nuclear accident. They live in poor countries. There is not enough money for the drugs that can help a child who is dying in agony. There is not enough money to pay for children in orphanages.

Evgeniya froze in the winter because there is no money for heating and not enough blankets. The World talked; Ireland by Adi Roche.

Freshers - please read this. It's important

In the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, The United Nations promised millions of dollars in relief efforts. The European Union made all sorts of promises. Nothing much happened. The radiation affects nine million people. The levels of radioactivity in the countries bordering Chernobyl are hundreds of times higher than levels in the rest of the world. Children are the most vulnerable. Radiation accumulates in their thyroid glands and spreads to the rest of their bodies. Leukaemia, skin cancers, bone cancers are widespread.

The Chernobyl Children's Project was born. It is a remarkable organisation. You can make a difference, to the Children of Chernobyl. For God's sake, Help us get the children out.

The Chernobyl Children's Project is a remarkable organisation. You can be generous. The EU has made all sorts of promises. The UN promised millions of dollars. Nothing much happened.

The children who suffer because of Chernobyl - for God's sake, Help us get the children out.

I would like to think that the students and staff of DIT can match their Cork counterparts, not least because this entire project was conceived in Mountjoy Square.

The Biggest Charity Event in Irish Student History

On November 16th 2000, we hope to have every Fresher in every Irish college and university taking part in a sponsored walk in aid of the Chernobyl Children's Project. Each Fresher will be asked to raise £75 by getting parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, workmates and friends to give them £1, £5 or £10 and fill their sponsorship card.

We want to raise over £1m. The project will have a huge publicity campaign. USI have given their full and enthusiastic backing to the project and provided all sorts of resources to make it an outstanding success story by Irish students.

Julian de Spina USI president and Rory McDaid - USI Equality officer are travelling the length and breadth of Ireland to promote The Fresher's 10K Walk.

Get your tax back now

Up front and interest free

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No malarkey

Free fone 1800 66 88 66
**ALBUM REVIEWS**

The last word in beer

One step better

Rebecca Kelly reviews the latest albums

Madonna - Music (Warner)

The latest offering from the Material Girl is the self-importantly titled Music. A woman of a generation, Madonna certainly has contributed to music, whether hers is the definition is debatable.

The follow-up to 1998's Ray of Light does, however, manage to go one step better but you can still shake the feeling that you may have heard it all before.

European disco funk, pitch-emulated vocals, and muted breaks make you wonder if Madonna was actually apologising for your £15 of hard earned cash wrongly spent.

Rating: 5/10

Radiohead - Kid A (EMI)

You know an album must be worth listening to when politicians condemn it. Nothing fires your curiosity more than Tony Blair criticising the latest offering from Radiohead as being evil. Indeed, the controversial collection of melancholic melodies entitled Kid A is strangely perverse.

It is definitely a departure from the much loved guitar based tracks on critically acclaimed albums The Bends and OK Computer.

But that is not to say it's no good. Yes it's different but Radiohead are admired for their non-conforming ways.

The album is largely an experimental look at different sounds and textures moreso than potential singles.

"Idioteque", "Treesingers" and the title track Kid A, feature-synthesised drums and drums and one says it has a slight garage/underground feel.

Fans of Radiohead's angry guitar riffs will be pleased however to learn there are a few on the album, such as "Optimistic" and "The National Anthem".

But as Thom Yorke pointed out in an interview with Dave Fanning, "I couldn't listen to guitar music anymore, it was like bloody wallpaper to me."

Overall, the album takes a bit of getting used to and would be more suited to mellowing out after a few pints.

But I bet you didn't realise that hidden in the back under the disc itself is a rather unusual collection of drawings and psychotic ramblings such "come on kids, the bodies floating downstream, the truck loads with machetes."

Great stuff.

Rating: 6/10

Pearl Jam - The Point Theatre Dublin

They say if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. And that's exactly what Pearl Jam have done by releasing their own concert bootlegs giving illegal copy merchants a run for their money.

The Seattle pearls of grunge jammed the Point back in June and if you missed the concert, you'll love this album. Vedder's manic vocals and the crowds devoted moshing is all captured perfectly on the double CD. All the old favourites are on it, "Corduroy", "Sometimes", "Daughter", "Betterman", the list goes on.

Ed proves he is not just an ageing rocker and a pretty face by entertaining the crowd with anecdotes and the old long-winded joke.

Encoring with six numbers, including my personal favourite, "Do the Evolution", PJ round up two solid hours of frenzied rocking.

However, Vedder's finale was by far the high light of the evening. It's just a shame you can't actually see it.

As the last strains of "Black" reverberated around the Point, he climbed onto the speakers and flung himself into the crowd. Oh to be standing below!

Rating: 9/10

Mono's student night

DIT reporters Anne Sharkey and Bernadette McGarvey check out Club Mono's student night

LATELY it seems that every City Centre nightclub is cashing in on the lucrative student night market with their offering to this crowd. But Mono has undergone a few minor changes.

Formerly the Mean Fiddler, Club Mono is the only club in the area which offers the all night drinks promotion.

Despite Club Mono's dedication to attractive DJ residencies, this only applies at weekends. On the night we visited, the music was extremely poor.

The dancefloor was often deserted as the DJ churned out last year's hits and one to many songs from the eighties.

Afterwards, the DJ admitted he was having a particularly bad night and apologised for the noticeable gaps between songs. However, the drunken majority seemed blissfully unaware of the musical hic-cups.

The seats in the club are comfortable and secluded, which provides a rather laid back environment.

The bar staff are extremely chatty and the bouncers are unusually friendly. If you don't mind cheesy music, the cheap beer and the friendly crowd make for a pretty good night out.

Club Mono's student night runs every Wednesday night from 10.30pm onwards. Student ID's are essential and the average age is 18 to 23.

Held during the week when trade in pubs and clubs is low, the student night offers cheap booze, cheesy music and an opportunity to meet talent from other colleges.

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Rating: 9/10

Radiohead concert review

Rebecca Kelly sees what Radiohead have to offer in a big top at Pundighestar racecourse.

Radiohead are famed for their non-conformity both in music and beliefs. Their latest album, Kid A, is a fine example of their complex, sometimes perverse, slant on life. It would therefore be sacrrosanct for the band to perform in a regular venue with sponsorship from corporate drink giants.

Instead the circus rolled into Pundighestar, and Radiohead performed their very own freak show under a big top. And what a great idea. Flat video screens suspended from rigging and excellent acoustics meant that even those at the back had a bird's eye view of the performance. Despite the rain soaked grass and overcast skies, it had a real summer festival feel with fast food and beer in neighbouring tents.

Remaining true to form, eerie violins marked the band's entrance. Yorke was in good spirits and his trademark vocals woosed the audience on new album tracks, The National Anthem and Morning Bell.

The new tunes went down well but the real crowd pleasers such as My Iron Lung and Just caused the tent to erupt into a moshing mayhem.

It's been three years and two albums since the Oxford five piece have performed on Irish shores but it was definitely worth the wait. Sampling more tracks from the breakthrough album The Bends had everyone in great humour and the crowd lapped up tracks taken from the critically acclaimed album OK Computer. At one point during all the performance, the crowd completely took over and Yorke had to ask the audience to take a step back.

Lights were pulled out in their hundreds for Fake Plastic Trees and Meet Me in The Static In the Voice Range out over the swaying mass. But it wasn't only the band who performed that night. The crowd got their chance too with an impromptu rendition of Happy Birthday dedicated to Thom.

Encoring with Lucky and the ironically titled Optimistic, Radiohead once again proved to critics that the crowd loves a circus.

Pearl Jam - The Point Theatre Dublin
**FILM REVIEWS**

**The last word in beer**

**Bjork takes to the dancefloor**

*Dancer in the Dark* (15s, Released October 27th)

Film buff Jamie Hannigan checks out the latest offerings in film

Already a star in his native Hong Kong, ass-whipping actor Jet Li first came to the notice of Western audiences when he kicked several shades of shit out of Mel Gibson in *Lethal Weapon 4*.

Wary of being stereotyped as the archetypal Asian hardnut, Jet Li broke away from convention and took one of the title roles in this elegant update of William Shakespeare's most poignant romance Romeo and Juliet.

An incentive twist on the classic story, a lyrical song to the purity of true love and the indefatigable power of the heart.

Well, not quite. The two families "both alike in dignity" are now warring Asian and African-American gangsters. "Juliet" is now "Trish O'Day", played by Aaliyah (an R&B "superserat", according to the press notes). 'Romeo', via Jet Li now does the only thing any young soitor would do to win the heart of a fair heart from the other side of the tracks..."

- Which generally involves kicking several shades of shit of just about everybody, oddly enough.

The plot involves something about him finding out who's responsible for the death of his irritating brother. However this would be rapidly obvious to anyone with an IQ larger than their shoe-size as both story-line and romantic subplot take a back-seat to Jet Li's extraordinary physical ability at beating up the supporting cast.

There's not enough angst for a romance and not enough sense for a thriller, but if that's what you're after, then you're in the wrong film.

**1/2**

**Liberty Heights**

- **15s, Released October 27th**

Liberty Heights is one of those "Perfect 3-Star" films... It's not bad in any way you can put your fingers on, it's funny, it has moments of poignancy, and it has a number of fine performances.

The whole thing moves at its own leisurely pace, and with a subtle, underplayed charm indebted to writer/director Barry Levinson's (Rainman, Diner) affection for the 1950s Baltimore of his childhood.

But not a great deal actually happens. Three distinct stories emerge from the upwardly mobile Kurtzman family.

Father Nate's (Joe Mantegna) "Burlesque" theatre is running out of steam and the illegal numbers racket is being squeezed by the government.

Older son Van (Adrien Brody) has his heart set on a seemingly unattainable WASP girl while Ben (Ben Foster) is smitten by Sylvie, the first black girl integrated into his high-school - this is 1954, remember?

The main theme linking the three stories seems be how these three different generations of Jewish men are coping with the rapidly changing world around them.

Unfortunately, Levinson seems to be trying to put his story on a larger scale than it should have been.

Certainly, there was a gold mine of background material in the booming post-war period, but the film suffers from taking the focus away from the family itself.

The father and sons are the strongest characters, but we see little of them interacting with each other, and the story suffers because of it.

That said, I have no doubt that quite a few who will love the sprawling structure and laid-back feel of Liberty. For me though, it adds up to the perfect:

***

**RECOMMENDED**

**Memento**

- **18s, Released October 27th**

I have a fear of giving too much away about this terrific noir thriller about lies, murder and memory loss, so in the best tradition of theological debate, I'll keep it vague.

Memento centres around Leonard Shelby (Guy Pearce), a former insurance-investigator whose sole purpose in life is to track down and kill his wife's murderer.

Trouble is, Leonard suffers from a bizarre form of memory loss, he can remember everything of his life before "the accident" but cannot recall what happened 15 minutes ago, where he is, what he's doing or where he's going.

All Leonard has as a guide are a series of Polaroid photographs, index cards and the disturbing tattoos adorning his body. He can't trust himself, let alone the people he meets. All he has left to remember is vengeance.

Make no mistake, this is not geared to the Romeo Must Die audience but rather for anyone prepared to actually pay attention to the screen.

Memento fishes in the same waters as the Sixth Sense put all its eggs into one big climatic twist (which most people had already figured out).

The film opens at "The End" and works its way back. Whereas something like The Sixth Sense put all its eggs into one big climatic twist (which most people had already figured out).

The twist in Memento is the film itself, constantly shifting the audience's expectations about characters and their motivations.

The chances of something coming out this year to match Memento for its striking originality are slim. See it now and try to figure it out.

****

**Roméo Must Die**

- **18s, Released October 13th**

Roméo Must Die: There's not enough angst for a romance and not enough sense for a thriller.
Independent Horoscopes

Aries (Mar21-Apr20)
Ever get the feeling that something is about to happen but you are not sure what? Well that basically sums up your month ahead. You are suspicious of everyone and by default everyone is suspicious of you. The planetary movements in the first week of November are causing you a bit of a headache. You may be in for a small windfall mid-month but only if you keep your eyes open.

Destiny points to an open gate.

Taurus (Apr21-May21)
Bulls take note. What you accomplish over the next month will lay the foundations for what you will achieve in the future. So accept nothing but the best. Saturn moves into your chart this month, scrutinising over pending targets. You love to indulge in those frivolous delights but try to curb spending habits at least until after Christmas.

Destiny marks the end of your downfall but after the 16th you will have to grin and bear an unexpected uphill for students everywhere

Gemini (May22-June21)
The months starts with a few upssets as Mercury reverses through Saturn causing headaches in finance and business. But from the 16th on things will start to improve. After the 19th, be prepared for some serious loving! But one-night stands are out - true fulfilment stems from serious relationships only.

Destiny offers you a golden handshake.

Cancer (June22-July23)
The Aries Full Moon shines in your sign on the 13th and causes you to reassess domestic and career options. Now is the time to make a definite decision about a choice you have been mulling over for the past few months. Money matters become the focus this month. Have you been overlooking spending? You love to indulge in those frivolous delights but try to curb spending habits at least until after Christmas.

Destiny heralds the arrival of an enigmatic stranger.

Leo (July24-Aug23)
Pride has always been your downfall but after the 16th you will have to grin and bear an unexpected upset in your life. Take heart! You learn quickly from your mistakes. So use the knowledge you have gained to your advantage.

Destiny sees your name in Accomplish over the next month, ending November on a much higher note than when it began.

Virgo (Aug24-Sept23)
Forfe gala ideas, plans and dreams in the first two weeks of this month. Mid-month troublesome Mercury moves into Mars causing frustrating delays and setbacks. You tend to have a sharp, critical tongue. Hold it in check after the 19th as misunderstandings will cost you dearly.

Destiny sees a red haired child.

Libra (Sept24-Oct23)
You have been bored and restless lately. Longing for changes gets you nowhere. Act on your desires this month. Libra luck is on your side and you won't be disappointed! The Full moon on the 13th heralds the end of period of bad luck. Now is the time to let your hair down and party! Enjoy the glitter and glamour of life around the 23rd, 24th and 27th.

Destiny begins with the letter P.

Scorpio (Oct24-Nov22)
Love is the focal point this month. With Mercury moving into your sign around the 14th, temptation is on the cards. Should you choose to sample the forbidden fruits depends on your current state of affairs. Before you make any rash decisions try and solve the problems you have at the moment. Remember the grass is not always greener on the other side. After the 16th you have six months to resolve a love or relationship problem that refuses to go away.

Destiny is in a red rose.

Sagittarius (Nov23-Dec21)
Venus oils the wheels of love and money this month and lucky old Sagittarians everywhere will score on both accounts. But before you get carried away in the pleasure of it all, tend to those nagging worries first. It work is left unfinished, the repercussions later will be serious. Remember a stitch in time saves nine. Having said that, you will have one of the best months of the year. So enjoy it!

Destiny marks the end of a debt.

Capricorn (Dec22-Jan20)
With Saturn moving into Taurus on the 16th a spanner is thrown into the works. Everything was running smoothly up until now but you may have to redo some work you thought was finished. Life does this sometimes but November is not all doom and gloom and the run up to Christmas sets the stage for bigger things to come in your life.

Destiny says accept advice from a mother figure.

Aquarius (Jan21-Feb19)
November may not be your favourite month but this one certainly will be. Career prospects take centre stage and any monetary difficulties you have gotten yourself into will miraculously be resolved. Love also moves to the fore with a possible secret admirer announcing their existence mid-month.

Luckily you!

Destiny sees your name in lights.

Pisces (Feb20-Mar20)
You are by nature a trusting individual but this lovely quality can sometimes be used against you. Others may perceive your belief in mankind as gullibility and may try to pull the wool over your eyes. But you are no fool. Open your eyes this month and re-evaluate "friendships". It will ultimately lead to many personal successes.

Destiny is a green car.

Irish Independent

80 Free Tickets for HQ Hall of Fame to be won!

How would you like to Dance the night away with your three best friends to Salsa, Soul or Fresh & Funky rhythms.

DIT students simply write your name and address on the back of an Irish Independent masthead dated between Monday 23rd & Friday 27th and place it in the competition box located in your student union shop. 4 Winners will be picked on Monday 30th October in each of the 5 student shops.

Irish Independent
Student Price Only

50p
A welcome addition to DIT sport

For freshmen, Dr Glynn remarked that sport’s great socialising aspect is another reason to become club members.

"Students who are new to DIT find that involvement in a sport often, via a sports club, help them settle into college life by providing a wide circle of friends..." With sporting greats such as Stephen Roche, Steve Collins, Ollie Campbell and Brian Kerr having all passed through DIT doors during their younger days, Dr Glynn hopes to see current students putting their "name up in lights" for future generations of students to admire.

The disjointed nature of the DIT sites and the distances that students travel to make training sessions has acted as a disincentive for the interested, rather than the dedicated sportsperson to join a club in the past. Dr Glynn admitted that the college’s excellent sporting record is all the more commendable, “considering the current limitations on facilities at DIT,” a third level institute which currently owns no outdoor playing fields.

"We intend purchasing the property of St Brendan’s Hospital, Grangegorman,” continued Dr Glynn. “This will be extremely advantageous for DIT sportspeople, as it has existing playing fields and a pavilion which could be used immediately and will be developed over time.”

The Brochure has also been added to the college website at www.dit.ie/admin/sport. DIT Sport Officer Caragh O’Buachalla told the DIT Independent that both ventures will be officially launched at a date yet to be confirmed.

Should students wish to find out further information about the college’s various sports, the main figures in DIT sport are as follows.

Herbie McClelland - Sports Officer

Herbie has been a member of the Sports and Recreation Committee since 1981 and as a former Army Physical Training Instructor, has made his valuable know-how and experience available to thousands of students.

He is responsible for sport and recreation development at the Aungier Street site. Herbie also holds responsibilities for DIT clubs in athletics, camogie, Gaelic football (both ladies and men), handball, hurling and soccer.

Herbie can be contacted at 4023042 (extension number 3042).

Caragh O’Buachalla - Sports Officer

Caragh joined the Sports and Recreation staff in 1998 and is currently studying Mountjoy Square on a part-time basis.

She is responsible for the overall development of sport in Cathal Brugha Street and also holds portfolios for the fencing, karrtening, sub aqua, swimming and sailing clubs. Caragh can be contacted at 4024153 (extension number 4153) or at caragh.obuachalla@dit.ie.

Niamh O’Callaghan - Sports Officer

In her sixth year as a member of staff, Niamh is currently studying for a MBA in Sports Management, following on from her degree in Business Studies (Recreation and Leisure) received at Waterford Institute of Technology.

She is responsible for sports development at Mountjoy Square. Niamh looks after the needs of basketball (north and south), judo, olympic handball, rugby (ladies and men’s) and volleyball (ladies and men’s).

Niamh can assist students at 4024153 (extension number 4155) or at niamh.ocallaghan@dit.ie.

Michael Whelan - Physical Education Lecturer

Michael Whelan held a staff member since 1980 and was a soccer scholarship recipient in the United States where he studied a primary degree in Physical Education where he studied a primary degree in Physical Education and a Masters Degree in Physiology.

Michael can be Emailled at michael.whelan@dit.ie or phoned at 4024409 (extension number 4009).

Des O’Donnell - GAA Development Officer

Des joined the Sports and Recreation staff in 1999 and can be contacted at 4023424 or at des.odonnell@dit.ie.

Mad marathon thoughts

The Dublin City Marathon will soon be upon us once more and for the elite athletes, agile amateurs and those lunatics who wear ridiculous rabbit costumes, competing in such a gut­ wrenching, vomit inducing competition is a magnificent achievement. I, Dermot Keyes, got the mad-capped idea to run next year’s Marathon following Sonia O’Sullivan’s Olympic exploits. (Bear in mind, it’s still just an idea)

Alongside many of my communications colleagues on the fourth floor of DIT Aungier Street, my stomach filled with a tension and nervousness that sport had not afflicted me with since the dying seconds of that Champions League Final in Barcelona (so shoot me - I’m a Man United man).

Sonia O’Sullivan was going for gold in Sydney and I was desperate to see her win a metal.

After the near miss of Barcelona and the sadness and agony of Atlanta, a medal of any kind would be a magnificent achievement. Just a few laps in and Sonia was moving... backward.

"Don’t worry, she’s all right,” I said, in an effort to convince myself that she was okay that she would get it together and get back to the leading pack.

Denied the gold only by the greatest run of Gabriela Szabo’s life, it was a magnificent effort and a personal triumph of the highest order.

Filled with that usual inspiration that greets any Irish sporting triumph (how many people took up cycling after 1987?), I decided it was time to lace up the old Asics shoes and resume pounding the pavements.

After 1987, I decided it was time to lace up the old Asics shoes and resume pounding the pavements. The only way that I and many other running enthusiasts could overcome their lead-lined deficiency, was to run马拉松s... such as my 2001 Dublin Marathon and this time around.

So off I went. Shorts pulled on; lovely Daz-inspired, cheap imitation Nike socks; and a fully zipped­ up rain jacket donned to sweat the beads of running out of me.

I trundled up the avenue away from my digs and believe me, I did take it easy.

A previous running comeback in February had ended in failure, followed with a flu virus that moved quicker through my body than I had done those springtime jogs.

Thankfully, I’ve not been hit with the same affliction this time around.

Some three weeks and over fifty miles later, my speedbump is still there; but my legs have lost a rad of their lead-headed deficiency.

Twelve months to the 2001 Dublin Marathon and by then, I hope the only speedbumps that I’ll be seeing shall be those elevated strips that garnish so many of our capital’s thoroughfares. Where’s my Charlot’s of Fire video.
Whitaker hopes for happier hockey year

IT HAS been said that Kevin Keegan filled his English players with "infectious enthusiasm" during his time as English manager, but in sport, even that isn’t enough.

With international experience behind him, a welcoming demeanour and a palpable sense of dedication, newly appointed DIT Hockey Chairman Andrew Whitaker may succeed at college level where Keegan failed.

The inaugural hockey meeting for the coming year was held in Aungier Street on October 12th, where he set about his recruiting drive with great optimism.

Whitaker took the hockey portfolio as a result of the lassitude and apathy that marked DIT’s hockey efforts last year. "Last year was a fiasco," commented Andrew.

"We only had eight players so we couldn’t compete in any tournaments.

He put the lack of progress down to poor communication between the various sites and the committee. "Bad organisation was part of the problem - the club never got much publicity," he explained.

So this year I decided to play a more active role. We have 25 people who have signed up this year and this should make all the difference."

The extended panel, composed of male and female students, should ensure no repeats of last year’s problems, something the Chairman was keen to emphasise. "We are a lot stronger this year and there’s a good chance we will make the finals in Crumlin."

This takes place on November 8th. To reach the final, DIT will have to dispose of Kevin Street and Inchicore, something Whitaker is confident can be achieved.

Whitaker told assembled players that the presence of a healthy panel of players for each game was paramount to achieving success.

"I realise that people don’t want to miss lectures all the time so we’ll need the extra players for those days when some are missing. If you say you’re going to turn up, then please turn up." He added that the team is for players of all standards, from beginner to veteran and stressed: "it’s pencilled in for the cup transport is not a concern," he said.

Brian Healy and Dermot Keyes attended the first meeting of the year and discovered its motivated Chairman has high hopes.

Despite this, the ambitious Whitaker amusingly stated: "want to win everything."

Three DIT players have made the top grade at college hockey following selection to the Irish college squad towards the end of last year. Whitaker himself, along with Keith Benson and Colm Brady have attained international honours.

A fourth player, Gary Ryan, has turned out for international trials and their high standard bodes well for DIT hopes this year.

Whitaker commented that no fixtures had yet been pencilled in for the cup competition, which will be hosted by Cork Institute of Technology.

"The weekend will be funded by DIT so money and transport is not a concern," he said.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included the election of officers to the hockey committee.

Nick Harris was appointed as Public Relations Officer, Keith Benson was selected as Treasurer and the absent Gary Ryan was "carmarked" by his Chairman for the vacant Secretary’s position.

Andrew Whitaker, Chairman of DIT Hockey Club

"When I left you I was but the learner but-now I am the master"

Out on his own: A rugby player strides for the try line

DIT sports day

Hockey mess. Another Sportsday, another head up the ass!