2000-2

DIT Independent, 1st.-29th of February, 2000

DIT: Students Union

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DIT loses arts academy to DCU

By Malachy Clerkin

A PROPOSED Academy for the Performing Arts is to be based in DCU, despite the fact DIT is widely regarded as more appropriate, given its international credibility in this field.

The decision to award the academy to DCU was taken by the Minister for Arts, Culture, Heritage, Gaeltacht and The Islands, Ms Síle de Valera TD. Her decision was based on a report compiled by Dr Peter Reinhaw of The London Guildhall School of Music. The report suggested the academy should be housed in three separate locations, one of which should be Dublin-based.

Dr Ellen Hazelkorn, Director of the Faculty of Applied Arts, believes the decision not to award the academy to DIT flies in the face of common sense.

"DIT is the largest institute in the country that caters for the performing arts. It has the highest number of students and the widest selection of courses." According to Dr Hazelkorn, efforts to secure the academy should be housed in three separate locations, one of which should be Dublin-based.

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Dr Ellen Hazelkorn

Dr Hazelkorn points out that "since music and drama are such diverse industries, DIT is providing the most exciting range of courses in the country. We have just set up a BMus course in music which will consist of four strands - performance, composition, teaching and traditional music."

Indeed, this is the only course in the country which gives traditional music such a high profile. "DIT's Head of Drama, Mr Victor Merriman, shares Dr Hazelkorn's disappointment, pointing out that DIT was not the only institute to be overlooked. "DIT and Trinity College are both major providers in this area, with long track records and international credibility in the field and yet both institutions are excluded from the proposed Academy." Mr Merriman suggests that the fact that DIT was overlooked may be something of a back-handed compliment. "This may not be a bad thing in itself, as it may simply amount to endorsement by omission of the specific qualities of both institutions. In the case of DIT, the location of performers within the Faculty of Applied Arts underpins the institute's commitment to understanding and positioning cultural workers across arts, humanities, social and human sciences in relation to each other."

Continued on page 8

£17m for new campus

By Lisa Deeney

DIT has received £17 million from the Government to purchase a 65-acre site in Grangegorman. Sport facilities and on-campus accommodation will be provided for in the new campus. This is the initial phase of the £150 million development plan for the DIT which is expected to be completed in 8-9 years.

DIT aims to provide sports facilities, to build on-campus accommodation, to move DIT buildings out of rented accommodation and to restructure and centralise the Faculty system.

The Government announced the funding of the Grangegorman site in late December. The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern is a graduate of the College of Commerce in Rathmines and is known to favour the move to Grangegorman.

Overall DIT's President, Sarah McGovern expressed delight at the news, while also noting it has taken a long time. "We have been campaigning for a couple of years for better facilities for the students of DIT," she said. According to her, DIT has, on average, less than half the space available to students in other colleges. The Grangegorman plan hopes to help combat this problem. At present DIT has virtually no sport facilities and no on-campus accommodation compared to UCD and other third level colleges.

The development plan is at an early stage and details about on-campus accommodation have not yet been finalised. "We have no student accommodation. This is bad when you compare it to UCD, a college of approximately the same size, which has 1,400 beds," McGovern said.

It is believed, however, that funding for on-campus accommodation will come from private sources.

DIT is hoping that the number of students accommodated for will reach 800. There is a definite desire to move out of rented accommodation as soon as possible. The Mountjoy Square site and DIT's administration office on Upper Pembroke Street, are both housed in rented accommodation.

Continued on page 8
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DIT Aungier Street students can contact us at e-mail: boiaungierst@tinet.ie
DIT Kevin Street students can contact us at e-mail: boikevinst@tinet.ie

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

Terms and conditions apply
While some of you may be running around frantically trying to build up your J1 money or just sitting around, patiently waiting for Rag Week to come around, for those of you who have experienced it before, we have taken it one step further.

This year, DITSU will be staging the largest student event the country has ever seen, in the Point Theatre. We hope you have fully catered for everyone's tastes with the wide selection of medieval, renaissance, rock and roll, video game, science fiction, science fiction, science fiction and more science fiction covers, chart disks and donuts along with the world's top DJ Tall Paul. For those Rag Week “first timers” it will be a week to remember.

Putting all the fun aside for the moment, Rag Week is also about raising money for a good cause.

This year our two championship drives by DITSU Council are: The Dublin International and The National Council for the blind.

These are two very worthy causes and well worth your support when buying your tickets during this week, you are supporting charity at all levels. Go out and support the two organisations. We also need volunteers for bucket collections and other charity fundraisers - so if you can, make yourself available.

We believe that everyone needs a balance between study and social life. The week of Rag is the last chance before settling down to study before the summer exams, so go out and enjoy yourself.

On the campaigns front, it seems that we have put some pressure on our local Dylan Assessment campaign and it is likely that we will not be handing out surveys for students to fill in at the end of this year.

However, we may go ahead and hand out our own surveys before this.

Election fever is almost upon us. Campaigns have started and our open for full time positions on Tuesday 21st of March and will stay open form that day until the 21st of March.

This is a chance for anyone and everyone to have a say in things done differently in the Students’ Union or even for those who just want to carry on the work.

The job of a sabbatical student brings many headaches and long nights, but also some great times.

Even though the money is not always there, you can still experience the joy of seeing others happy and the experience that you had a worth a lot in later life.

If you are thinking about it, I’d urge you to think about having to prepare to take a year out of your studies, however, it is a great experience.

Sarah

The Overall View

Report on central authority for grants

By Lisa Deeney and Eve Irvine

The Department of Education and Science will publish a report regarding the proposal for a Central Grants Authority this year in conjunction with the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs, according to Ian Russell of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI).

The Central Grants Authority would operate as a central agency, coordinating Third Level grants, similar to the Central Applications Office (CAO). Currently, for the Central Applications Office (CAO). Currently, 98 per cent of students in DIT were grant-holders and 65 per cent found the grant system unacceptable. In an interview with The DIT Student, Sara McGovern supports the idea of a Central Grants Authority.

“I believe it would benefit students in that it would be a much fairer system, everyone would be treated the same. It would also mean less bureaucracy and no late payment,” she said.

The President of USI, Philip Madden, believes that such an authority would benefit students across the country, as “specific payments of grants” would be the result. The largest single costs for students occurs at the start of term (e.g. books, deposit for flat) and therefore students need to receive their grants as early as possible into the term,” he said.

Michelle McAuley, SU President of Cathal Brugha Street, feels that many grant-holders in DIT are frustrated at the current system. “Students need to be clear about when, where and how they are going to get their grant.

At the minute, people are worrying because their friend from Letterkenny has their grant but theirs from Clonard hasn’t come through yet.”

The idea of a Central Grants Authority was first proposed back in 1993 with the publication of the de Butler report.

The report declared the grant system in 1993, which is the same today, to be an “unacceptable low”. It also said that the means test is “defective” as it ignores the accumulated wealth of individuals.

In 1995 the Government mentioned the concept of a central grant-processing agency, in the form of the 1995 White Paper “Charting Our Education Future.”

Michael Martin, the then Minister for Education in 1997, supported the idea of such an authority but no further action took place. Nicky Lawlor, SU Deputy President in Kevin Street describes this lack of action as “a blatant lack of interest on behalf of the Government in 3rd level education”.

Philip Madden, SU President believes that there is no authority in place at present because “taking responsibility from 66 authorities is not a simple task” for the Government. IMPACT, the trade union for the 66 authorities, said that the current deficiencies in the grant system was not the fault of the staff of the authorities but by the delays of the Department of Education.

“Having one agency may be an improvement. More is often better. And how will a Central Grants Authority deal exactly with peoples’ concern,” said Al Butler the National Secretary for Local Authorities.

Some County Councils’ are not in favour of a Central Grants Authority. Meath Cllr, Jimmy Finnegan said that it might have the effect of making the allocation of grants to under- serving people easier.

If Local authorities and Vocational Education Committees are allocating the grants, there is a greater chance of them knowing or finding out who is committing the fraudulence.”

It is believed the new Minister for Education and Science, Michael Woods will announce his position either way about a Central Grants Authority.

Transport student responsible for pool tables robbery

By Shane Mc Dermott

In December, The DIT Independent reported how two pool tables in the Students’ Union in Aungier Street were badly damaged and robbed. Since those robberies the situation in Aungier pool room has not improved.

According to the site president, Colm Jordan, Aungier Street pool tables are misused in two ways: Firstly the cash is being robbed from time to time and more frequently old newspapers are being stuffed down the tables. These effectively makes students get free games.

Thieves have turned out to be the first year students, most noticeably from the Transport Management and Business Information classes, though Jordan is quick to stress that he in no way blames every member of those classes.

“There is a core group responsible,” he said, “I’ve caught them in the act on many occasions.”

On one such occasion one student was brought into the president’s office, “I warned him not to do it again and his excuse was, ‘Well everybody’s doing it’. You’d think him being in third level he could come up with something better.”

To deal with the robberies, the DITSU has two options. They can buy padlocks for the tables and pay for repairs, or they can buy totally new tables. According to one student who would have to pay for the tables, they were originally in Bolton Street and were moved when that DIT got new tables.

They are in constant need of repair and as a result it would probably be cheaper to get in new tables and hope that students would want more respect for these. Regarding the issue of blocked pockets, there is nothing the DITSU can do except keep an eye on the pool room. The persistence of students makes this a difficult task however, paper being jammed in the tables everyday.

Jordan is not yet wishing to bring the incidents to the attention of the Gardaí. “I’d prefer to keep it in the college,” he said, “but I know that there are others in the Union who would have to pay for the tables, they were originally in Bolton Street and were moved when that DIT got new tables.”

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Reads of Nassau Street

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Canteen flicks to help students mix?

By Brian Healy

AUGIER Street site presi­
dent Colm Jordan is propos­
ing the setting up of a ca­me­ra in the non-smoking sec­tion of the campus canteen. The college has a film library of over 1,450 films and Jordan would like to see a large projection unit, similar to the ones used up in the canteen to show films on Mondays and Wednesday nights. The camera would also be beneficial to the film and broadcasting students who could use it to watch films that are relevant to their course.

Although Augier St has a film society which is defi­

Caitlin Jordon: "A cinema would help students mix in a college environment." journal had the title "Conflict and Other Issues in Irish Journalistic Practice" at the Journalism Graduate School on Wednesday night. The topic was "Ethics in Irish Journalism". It was chaired by Michael Foley, senior lecturer in the Journalism course in Aungier St.

The debate featured five well-known figures from Irish journalism: Sam Smyth, columnist for the Irish Independent; and contributors to the Irish Times. One of the debates was entitled "Ethics in Irish Journalism". It was chaired by Michael Foley, senior lecturer in the Journalism course in Aungier St.

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**Opposition, lack of funding to blame for political deficit**

Shane Doran on the lack of political parties operating in the various DIT colleges

Funding proved the major obstacle preventing students in Mountjoy Square from setting up a Fianna Fail Cumann in the college. The Mountjoy Cumann is no longer active and “will not be doing anything for the rest of the college year”.

Former Chairperson, Patrick Ryan, said that the Cumann “got a good response initially, when we started with fifty members, which is quite high in comparison with UCD and Trinity.”

They were refused funding on a level of parity with other college clubs and societies, however, and in their own words “couldn’t do anything without the necessary money.”

Political parties in UCD and Trinity are given the same status as other clubs and societies in the Universities, facilitating the various parties to meet on a regular basis complete with coffee and biscuits, a far cry from the existing situation in DIT.

**ANTI POLITICAL SENTIMENT**

The Kevin St Young Fine Gael Cumann are the only active political party in DIT. On 22 October, newly appointed Chairperson, David Jenkins, formally set up DIT Young Fine Gael (YFG). Jenkins claims he “encountered a lot of anti-political sentiment in DIT”, and had considerable difficulty in gaining recognition for YFG.

This recognition was conditional on an agreement not to receive funds for a year, and according to Jenkins, “I got the impression they would prefer we weren’t here, or else set up another society with nothing to do with politics, which is really quite a sad thing. The Student Union would like to be the only voice for the students.” Jenkins feels that the Student Union should invite all the political parties to set up in DIT, to give direct access to the Government and political parties.

Walach stresses the importance of working and cooperating with the various Student Union’s within DIT, and looks forward to meeting DIT students in the near future.

He may, however, find the reality a little more difficult as DITSU has tended to display an unhealthy degree of hostility towards political parties in the past.

**HOSTILITY**

This hostility was disturbingly illustrated earlier this year when an Aungier St student attempted to set up a branch of the Socialist Worker’s Party in the college. Ronan Tiernan, a first year Communications student, set up a stall in Aungier St during freshers week and had managed to assemble “fifteen or sixteen” people who had expressed an interest in forming a student branch of the Socialist Workers in DIT.

According to Tiernan, he spent three to four hours talking to students in the college, before leaving a colleague (not a member of the college) to look after the stall while he attended a lecture.

He returned to discover that members of the Student Union had removed the stall. Aungier St, SU President, Colm Jordan, subsequently informed him that students in DIT were only interested in having a good time, and were not interested in politics.

Tiernan is “disgusted” at the treatment he has received at the hands of the SU, which he describes as “a fucking joke.”

He also believes that it is “impossible to organise a political party in DIT given the present attitude of the Student Union.”

Jordan told the DIT Independent that he is “afraid of setting a precedent for outside organisations coming into the college.”

He points to a “rule” which apparently forbids political parties to set up stall or even discuss the possibility of organising a college branch in DIT unless the initiative comes from a DIT student in the first instance.

In other words, if you happen to be interested in joining one of the political parties as a student, you will have to go along and organise the whole operation yourself with no help or funding from the Student Union.

As you will have gathered by now, political parties are not welcome in DIT. Our own Union has decided that for us already. According to Bolston St. SU President, Graham O’Sullivan, “the way it works is, any student who wants to set up a society is more than welcome to, but for political parties it has to be a student in the college that asks them to set up.”

However, according to overall SU President, Sarah Mc Govern, “it is not written anywhere that political parties cannot come in to DIT. It depends on the President of the time.”

McGovern agreed that there was a need for cross campus co-ordination of Union policy on the issue of political parties in DIT, and promised that she would “sit down with our [DIT] Union Managers and Sabbatical Officers and get a policy together very soon.”

The DIT Student Union was democratically chosen to represent the wishes of the students who elected them in the first place.

It is not unreasonable to expect SU representatives to behave in the manner in which they were elected.

If members of this college want to set up or belong to a political party of their choice, then it goes without saying that they should be able to do so with the support, not the opposition of their Student Union.

**Labour**

Fianna Fail, Labour, the Progressive Democrats, Sinn Fein and the Green Party are not represented in any of the colleges, and play no active role in DIT Student politics.
As student union elections draw closer, Thomas Felle looks at the possible candidates for overall DITSU President

Kevin Street Site President Vincent Dooley said he would love to be Overall President

...students and politics

No new capitation fees please

STUDENT Union elections have always been a time when the rule book is taken out and people on the election supervisory committee flout their knowledge of it as if they worked for the Vatican and had PhDs in Canon law...

It is a time when the corridors of canters get decorated in a monochrome plaster of election posters, the most original of which usually affects the most votes, as candidates salivate at the prospect of walking the corridors of power.

Or at least that may be the case for the lesser, though not necessarily less important non-sabbatical positions such as ents and clubs and societies.

But for site president and deputy, at least in part it is hoped, some sort of policies are debated as the screech of microphones rattle on hustings days.

This year will be no different, although due to changes in the constitution last year part time officers are no longer elected until the beginning of the academic year in which they will serve, a move which was much criticised at the time by part time officers, but which was backed by most of the then executive, arguing the need for stable government, pointing out that as much as 50% per cent of elected part time officers in the past failed to fill positions due to failure or lack of interest in their position once Autumn came.

Most notably at the time, present Bolton Street Student Union President, Graham O'Sullivan, then a part time officer, spoke against that motion at a DITSU council meeting in early February 1999. Sources in the now executive have suggested may be interested in the overall position this year, however when the position was put to him he would not comment on the issue, saying "most of us are keeping our heads down at the moment!"

However one Site President has made no secret of his interest in the job. Kevin Street Site President Vincent Dooley has said he would love to be Overall President, adding he had a lot to offer the students, however he too said he would not confirm he would be running until after the close of nominations in March.

Site President Colm Jordan said he will not be running for the Overall job, as has Mountjoy Square's Keith Lenehan, saying that it was "not a job [he] was interested in."

Cathal Brugha's Michelle McCauley also ruled out the role, while our council is a complete no. and current Overall President Sarah McGovern is ineligible due to the three year rule in the constitution.

Politics suffers from apathy among Dart students

Opinion by Thomas Felle

When UCD first moved to their now infamous campus in Belfield, a great debate in the Senate went on as to the why a campus that was student proof should be designed.

After the riots in Paris in the late 60s, and the student liberation movement here in the early 70s, when concerns were still illegal and USI was first finding its feet, it was felt that a campus where no student body of any mass could conglomerate would be most beneficial.

No such requests are being made in Mountjoy.

Quite simply, there is no need for such a request, as DIT students wouldn't even bother turning up to a meeting such important minds.

Political parties have never thrived in the Institute. Far from the student political epicentre of the worlds that is UCD, a few badly attended meetings of a Ogra Fianna Fail and young Fine Gael once a year are all that any one ever seems to manage to do.

To be fair, the Fhers have in the past managed a little more than badly attended meetings, however this year they haven't even managed that.

There is no radical socialist party, there is no radical right wing party, there is no Monster Raving Looney party. Quite simply there is no thriving student democracy. Student elections are not fought on personalities or on a political basis, rather they are fought on personalities, and resemble popularity contests more than political debates.

Electoral to national student government (or the term unwillingly), while it is large and diverse and has never been the best of a campaign, that dissimilar if anything, their method of electing national representatives is even more flawed, with college representatives voting en masse for candidates. Such officers are never directly elected and have no popular mandate from the students they represent.

Radical changes are needed in student political party branches and have a direct role in national policy for that party.

When people like Pat Rabbitte and Ruairi Quinn were in college, things were different. They all entered politics in their early 20s, and represented their parties or their political beliefs while in student government.

The system in DIT, while at the outset it may look quite democratic, is fundamentally flawed.

Our council is a complete no. While consensus is part of democracy, it is not the only part. Statesman like soliloquies of "flawed pedagogy" will never be heard echoed around the corridors of DIT student power.

There is another element, which has perhaps inadvertently led to the lack of interest in student politics. Student Unions do not resemble political parties out of Social and Cultural budgets.

The measure was initially introduced to ensure that no political party could take advantage of the situation and no political parties, together with the fact that some students at the time were not happy that their money was helping fund political parties that they may not subscribe to.

However, it may have indirectly led to the slow demise of political interest amongst students in the Institute. Student politics in the last 10 years cannot exist in a vacuum and do not exist even if it is just pay for exams involved in the running the branch.

Without this support from central budgets, they cannot survive. Without them, students have been deprived a vital cog in the wheel of third level education: the political debate.

A change in this role may be fundamental, but it needs to happen. If DIT is ever to attain its much longer for University status, student democracy must thrive, it can only do that through politics.
Nation Building award goes to Mountjoy student

By Samantha Rowntree

Mairead Donnely, a third year graphic design student at DIT Mountjoy Square made a clean sweep winning the Architecture Building Design On Your Environment competition.

Design students around the country have made a design based on any of the many themes to be explored in the new relevant architecture-related subjects. Mairead used the creative design of a crane and hung to symbolise the emergent Irish construction boom.

Her design, along with highly commended entries from fellow DIT students Shona Patterson and Des Herry, is currently available in pubs, clubs and restaurants around the country on free post-cards.

Mairead Donnely was delighted by her win, saying that “it came as a complete surprise”.

She did some research on the Internet and decided that the question being asked by the producers, Making Waves, was “are we building an Irish identity through our construction industry?”

She saw “so many cranes and found that they were symbolic of the new building in the city at present”.

She wanted to illustrate, “a combination of what is now and what is the future”. She plans to spend her winning cheque of €2,000 on the expensive photographic material that her course requires. She’s also planning to visit San Francisco in the summer.

Nation Building is a challenging new eight part series about contemporary Irish architecture.

The series producer Cionna O’Keeffe explained the thoughts behind the competition: “One of the main aims of Nation Buildings is to encourage people to start looking critically at the buildings which surround them. Nation Building will pose tough questions to the planners, turf appreciation and beer appreciation societies across the city. There are five possible events this year overall have been very low. The lowest that many of them have seen so far. The reason range from pressures of course work, part-time jobs and simple lack of organisation of events.

All is not lost as there are many societies doing well and are active at the moment. Money is available, so both social and cultural events should be happening but do the students want it?

Anita will be working closely with the DIT student union and will have regular visits to each individual campus.

Anita is based in DIT’s Head of Management/Construction Building 1997. She has been working in areas administration, sales, and has returned from a year in Australia, where she worked as a functions co-ordinator in the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Anita has been employed to develop, promote and assist societies within the College. She is currently completing to organise inter-campus events. She is looking to develop a DIT drama society, debating society, music society.

The recommendations of the DIT development plan are that Kernel Street will become home to the Faculty of Science, Aungier Street the Faculty of Business, Cathal Brugha Street the Faculty of Tourism and Food Science and that Bolton Street will house the Faculty of Engineering.

There have been rumours that the site for master students at Chatham Row may become the site for the engineering faculty. However, contacted by The Independent, Robert Coyle, Secretary of DIT, said that “there are no plans to dispose of any DIT property at this point”. Also, according to DIT’s student union President Mairead O’Keeffe “Mountjoy Square will move to the Aungier Street site over the next number of years”.

It is hoped that the Grangegorman centre will house the Faculty of Built Environment and the Faculty of Applied Arts and Culture.

The site will allow for a 20 per cent increase in student enrolment at postgraduate level. This is good news for the DIT as we are already of both Irish and international students much more suitable than the traditional model proposed for the new academy.

“Is much more in line with the best contemporary thought and practice than a nineteenth century conservative model, even if it is established across three sites.”

The main concern regarding the proposal, according to Mr. Marrianne, “is the secrecy surrounding its progress over some two years, and the favour it’s given to these new facilities, in spite of their having little or no track record in the field.”

Indeed, the position of DIT and TCD in this regard could be useful as compared to that of the FAI and the GAA in relation to the proposed national stadium.

Societies organised appointer

DITSU in consultation with DIT Social and Cultural Committee have appointed a new Societies organiser. The purpose of this position is to promote and develop societies within DIT. Anita Conway is in the new position of Societies Organiser.

Anita is from Dublin a graduate of Leisure Management Cathal Brugha Street 1997. She has been working in areas administration, sales, and has returned from a year in Australia, where she worked as a functions co-ordinator in the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Anita has been employed to develop, promote and assist societies within the College. She is currently completing to organise inter-campus events. She is looking to develop a DIT drama society, debating society, music society.

Anita Conway says they’ve seen in years. Reasons range from pressures of course work, part-time jobs and simple lack of organisation of events.

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Anita will be working closely with the DIT student union and will have regular visits to each individual campus.

Anita is based in DIT’s head office Rathmines Road and can be contacted at 087-8576374 or e-mail her at macuddy@ditsu.ie.

Any ideas that you may have or just to let her know how your society is doing.

DIT loses arts academy to DCU

From page 1

He went on to point out that this practice of linkage between various disciplines is much more suitable than the conventional model proposed for the new academy.

“This is much more in line with the best contemporary thought and practice than a nineteenth century conservative model, even if it is established across three sites.”

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MARCH 2000

Tour DJ - CRISTIAN BOSHELL plus guests:

JON PLEASED WIMMIN - Mono, Dublin - 9th

DANNY HOWELLS - Sir Henry's, Cork - 14th

STEVE THOMAS - Dolan's Warehouse, Limerick - 22nd

STEVEN MCCREERY & COLIN TEVENDALE [THE TUNNEL] - Cuba, Galway - 28th

GONZALO - UCD, Dublin - 30th

www.britain-now.com
With DIT's Rag Week fast approaching, The Independent gives you the lowdown on all the madness and mayhem. All proceeds will go to Sight Savers International and the National Council for the Blind.

**National Council for the Blind**

*By Malachy Clerkin*

The National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI) is a non-profit voluntary organization offering a nation-wide service to persons experiencing problems with their eyesight.

NCBI is a registered charity and has been in existence since 1931. Blind and visually-impaired persons serve directly on the NCBI's board of directors and are encouraged to become members of its local county and area branches.

The parents of visually impaired children also enjoy the right to be members of the NCBI's governing body.

The NCBI uses the words “blind” and “visually-impaired” to describe a degree of sight loss which ranges from total loss to significantly reduced vision which results in a person seeing at 6 metres what others see at a distance of 60 metres.

Approximately 2% of people using the NCBI's services are completely blind, and the remaining 78% have varying degrees of usable residual vision.

Trained staff and volunteers work with NCBI in providing a wide range of quality services to over 7,000 people eligible to use them. Over 1,000 people use the services of the NCBI every year.

The NCBI has a policy of participation and consultation with the users of services.

Surveys of its work are regularly carried out and consumer advisory committees work with the NCBI in ensuring that services remain relevant and customer-friendly.

The NCBI's countrywide network of volunteers is engaged in the work of local branches through fundraising and support of local staff members.

At a national level, branch volunteers serve on the National Board of Directors.

**Aungier Street**

*Monday, February 21st*

11.00am: Indoor Football Tournament in the YMCA on Aungier Street.

1.00pm: Canteen Madness including live music and a Tequila and Taco competition.

3.00pm: 'Who wants to be a drunken Bastard' in Mono Lounge. Similar in style and content to Chris Tarrent's popular quiz show but this way you get drunk for free and you don't get to be a millionaire.

8.00pm: Celebrations kick off in the Garda Club on Harrington Street with free pint extravaganza sponsored by Guinness.

9.00pm: Table quiz with top prizes including a TV.

10.00pm: Hypnotist show which offers you the opportunity to humiliate yourself.

11.00pm: Thank God 4 Guinness Ball in the Garda club.

**Tuesday, February 22nd**

Chill out in the common area all day with all the coolest video releases. Refreshments provided. Pool and Table soccer competitions.

9.00pm: Crazy Nite in Mono Club including the infamous 'Sticky Bum' contest followed by the Romeo and Juliet Ball. All pints £2.00, all shots £2.00 and Aftershock £1.50, plus nightly promotions.

**Wednesday, February 23rd**

Rag Trip to exotic far-flung destination. Bus times to be confirmed.

**Thursday, February 24th**

Rag Ball - the Point Theatre-Cross campus fertilisation project.

**Bolton Street**

*Monday*

11.00am: Live DJ in the common room

Launch of Rag Mag/Iron stomach competition in the social area

1.00pm: Juniper live in the social area

2.00pm: Three-legged pub crawl starting in Bodkins on Dorset St

5.00pm: Drinks promotions in Bodkins and Four Seasons

8.00pm: Traffic Light Ball in Frazers

**Tuesday**

10.00am: Pre Rag Trip drinks in Bodkins

11.00am: Buses leave for Scooby Doo Rag Trip which will be taking in 3 night clubs. For those who aren't brave enough for the Rag Trip there will be a Live DJ in the common room.

Live band in the Social area.

1.00pm: Comedian in the social area

5.00pm: Drinks promotions in Bodkins

**Wednesday**

10.00am: Breakfast drinks promotion for Rag Trip survivors

11.00am: Live DJ in common room

Live Jazz band in common area

1.00pm: Guinness Pulsation in Common Room

8.00pm: Missing In Action in Temple Theatre. Admission free with Bolton Street Student card

**Thursday**

11.00am: Live DJ in common room

Slave Auction of Staff and Lecturers in social area. Also head shaving and waxing

1.00pm: Hypnotist in Social Area.

3.00pm: Pre-Ball promotions in Bodkins and Four Seasons pub.

7.30pm: Buses leave from Frazers on O'Connell St for The Point

**Friday**

11.00am: Videos in Common area

2.00pm: Beer promotions in the Goalpost
People don’t go blind by the millions. Each of them, as a human being, goes blind as a personal tragedy.

Sir John Wilson, Founder of Sight Savers International, who was blinded as a child.

Sight Savers International is the UK’s leading charity working to prevent and cure blindness in developing countries and bring hope to people who will never see again.

Founded in 1950, Sight Savers has restored sight to four million people and treated 45 million others for potentially blinding conditions. Sight Savers currently operates in over 20 developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Sight Savers’ programmes are developed in collaboration with local partners with the aim of establishing sustainable services, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

It has helped to pioneer many innovations such as:

* The introduction of integrated education in the developing world, allowing blind children to flourish in mainstream schools;
* The comprehensive eye care model, providing entire districts with a complete range of eye care services, including eye tests, diagnosis, treatment and education and training for the incurably blind;
* Setting up the developing world’s first production line for low-cost stitches and lenses used in cataract surgery, bringing down the global price of cataract surgery.

Sight Savers have also built their reputation on cost-effectiveness.

For just £50, Sight Savers can prevent a person from going blind from River Blindness in West Africa and £15 will pay for a cataract operation to restore someone’s sight.

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Kevin Street

**Monday**
1.00pm: Live DJ in the Snackery
3.00pm: Videos in the Snackery
6.00pm: Planet Murphy’s night with Guinness promotions and party games.
8.00pm: Karaoke with 1 TV and a stereo to give away
10.00pm: Woodsie
12.00pm: DJ

**Tuesday**
11.00am: Rag Trip
1.00pm: DJ - the Snackery

**Wednesday**
12.00pm: Live band - Rising in the Snackery
1.30pm: Comedians
6.00pm: Poker Classic in The Palace
10.00pm: The Pod with Al Gibbs

**Thursday**
1.00pm: Live DJ in the Snackery.
2.00pm: Gunge Tank
3.00pm: Finals of Pool Competition
4.30pm: Zak Powers, Hypnotist, in The Palace
7.30pm: Buses to the Point

Cathal Brugha St

**Monday**
12.00pm: Rag week launch in common room with live DJ, games and Who wants to be a Millionaire?
3.00pm: Kegs and Comedians in the Sidewalk.
8.00pm: Romeo and Juliet Ball in the Sidewalk with Guinness promotion

**Tuesday**
10.00am: Alan Gogarty in the Sidewalk.
1.00pm: Scooby Doo Mystery Tour

**Wednesday**
12.00pm: Austin Powers video - the Common room
2.00pm: Ice Skating in Phibsborough £2.50
8.00pm: Planet Murphys

**Thursday**
12.00pm: Fuusball Tournament - common room
2.00pm: £1 a pint in Brannigans
6.00pm: Pre-ball Promotions in the Sidewalk.
8.00pm: The Rag Ball in The Point

Mountjoy Sq

**Monday**
12.00pm: Pulsation in the canteen (Guinness promo)
2.00pm: DJ Djonny Boyle
5.00pm: Mystery Keg (Guinness promo)
8.00pm: Crazy night in The Big Tree (free kegs of Guinness)
Evening: Traffic Light ball in Frazers - free (Guinness promo)

**Tuesday**
12.00pm: Sink the Black Pool Competition
5.00pm: College DJs local pub
8.00pm: Planet Murphy’s night with Guinness promotions and party games.

**Wednesday**
12.00pm: Djonny Boyle
2.00pm: Playstation Challenge in Shakespeare (Pints & Bottle of Guinness - £2)
5.00pm: College DJs local pub
8.00pm: The Rag Ball
AIB on Campus

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

Julie Martin - DIT Kevin Street and Aungier Street

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

Opening Hours

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

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

DIT Bolton Street: 9.30am - 11.45am and 1-2pm (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
10.30am - 11.30am and 1-1.30 (Tuesday)
9.30am - 12.45pm (Tuesday)
WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WEBSITES

By Rachel Collins

The internet has become an integral part of our everyday lives. From work and study to leisure and entertainment, the internet has endless possibilities - if you know what you’re looking for.

Here at the DIT Independent, we know how frustrating it can be, looking for that perfect website to while away the hours, so we’ve found a few of the weirder and more wonderful websites to keep you amused during those boring computer classes!

Firstly, there’s the wonderfully weird (and powertful) Portakal Palace at http://www.toroadollies.com

A Wacky Web World Winner, this site is totally devoted to the weirdest of the toilet. The site contains more information than you would imagine possible to have about toilets. The books, hoaxes about toilets which are available for you to buy and enjoy in the comfort of your own bathroom, no doubt? They have movies about toilets, creative uses for toilets, games and contests, a notice board for your thoughts on toilets and lots more! The site is bright, accessible, and pretty user friendly (including the survey on whether the toilet seat should be left up or down!) Worth a look if you have a spare half hour of free internet access!

Next is the completely absurd “The page that turns you into a cabbage” at http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/2144.html

This is the type of website that makes you worry about the sanity of a lot of internet surfers! This site offers you the unique opportunity to - you've guessed it - turn yourself into a cabbage at the push of a button or a brussel sprout, or a cauliflower at that. For those of you with a soft spot for our lovely green friends, there are poems about cabbages and also links to spoof newspapers such as The Cabbage Times and The Giant Slug Brigade.

This site is a little slow to download but if you have the patience to wait a little longer than usual, you’ll get a laugh from it.

CELEBRITY HATE SITES

Celebrity hate sites are ten a penny on the internet. One of the better ones is the Assassin website at http://www.newgrounds.com/assassin.html

Categories such as “Accidently smashing up Britney Spears” (and who wouldn’t want to?) and “Splash! The Spicy Girls” give you the opportunity to do serious damage to celebrities with acid, mortar attacks and the odd car crash & get famous! My personal favourite is the “Microwave Fub” link where you get to watch the animatronic bastard version of a chicken and one of the chickens from The Muppets fry and explode at the touch of your mouse button.

For those of you who find these sites too juvenile, there is the ultra-classy “Crap-A-gram” site at http://www.fartfarm.com/crapogram.html

This site gives you the pleasure of selecting a crap-a-gram for a loved one and sending it to them by email. Choices include the seasonal Crappy Birthday, the seasonal Crappy Christmas and of course, the essential Crappy New Year’s card. Say it with a smile and a crack of the whip. This can be a lot more fun than the Postal exit!

VOODOO DOLL

Voodoo Doll at http://www.virtual-designs.com/v2/onlineform/voodoodoll/voodoo.htm gives you the opportunity of creating a voodoo doll, mutilating it with pins, a blade and a candle and then emailing to one of your less favourite people. When the person opens the email, the doll appears on screen and is subjected to a remakement of your torture. We did a test run at the DIT Independent and were both spoilt at how croppily the end result is.

On a lighter note, the ridiculous offering from “The Really Big Button that doesn’t do anything” is sure to cheer you up at http://www.gidgetscaps.com/youcanhave/mybutton.htm. This is a site devoted to a big red button that does absolutely nothing when you press it - confused? Me too, though obviously not thousands of other internet users who leave messages about this button on the site. Or maybe the button is just the beginning. Originally launched as a “Mystery Site”, it has now become a novelty address and contains hundreds of reviews, a variety of buttons and other pointless bits and bobs.

Voted one of the top 5% of all websites by the thoughtful people at Virtual Designs.com/v2/onlinedemos/voodoodoll/voodoodoll.html, it is a site worth a look at least to prove to yourself that there are alternative ways to do things on the internet.

Created for those who have a dozen better things to be doing with their time, this site is a little slow to download but if you turn up the power. The Fish in a Bowl is more than usual, you’ll get a laugh from it.

For those of you who prefer nothing more than a day spent slacking off, there is “I Should be Working” at http://www.ishouldbeworking.com

This site has heaps of useless information, games, jokes and links, but its star feature is the Picnic Button. This button is located at the top of every page and once pressed, quickly transports you to a new website, should you be bored, or lecturer make a surprise appearance - genius!

One of the funniest sites on the internet has to be Joe Cartoon at http://www.joecareen.com This is a disgustingly hilarious animated site offering you the chance to put a frog in a blender, then watch the results as you turn up the power. The Fish in a Bowl is another classic; as you can freeze it, electrocute it, pour acid on it, all the while listening to it shouting abuse at you. You can send lemmings plummeting over cliff tops, then give them marks out of ten for their triple backflip or somersault. The site has loads of great cartoons that you can save as screen-savers and also a few brilliant animated emails to give your friends a giggle too.

Finally, we couldn’t end a list of weird websites without including rotten dot com at http://www.rotten.com. This site is pretty self explanatory and should probably be avoided for at least an hour after eating. It describes itself as an archive of disturbing illustration and it isn’t lying. It includes a link to the Celebrity Mordac site which contains photos (generally from autopsies and police reports) of dead celebrities. Monroe, Monroe, Monroe and John F. Kennedy are all included (Watch out for the F.K.F., they’re especially gruesome). There are also links to rotten columns, one of the main ones being This day in rotten history. A feature which changes daily, giving an account of rotten things occurring on the particular day throughout history. Definitely only for the bloody minded among you.

CHOOSING A TRAVEL COMPANY

By Ciara O’Brien

WE’VE all considered jetting off to the United States on a Work and Travel Programme. New students go to the US on a Work and Travel Programme. New students go to the US on a Work and Travel Programme. New students go to the US on a Work and Travel Programme.

Choosing a travel company for the same flight. For both companies, the cheapest published prices would marginally cheaper than Sayit. But the maximum £600 on which the visas can be booked. Usit have yet to adopt this system, as students may have already discovered that the programme is only available to those studying for a higher degree or national diploma in the 20th century gave us. Sayit now requires that you are eighteen before registering themselves into a phone box to register on the one call. Sayit offers second J1 visa to those who have previously travelled on their J1 Visa programme. Anyone else is considered a first-time applicant, and students may have already discovered this.

But a major improvement Usit have made, is the introduction of telephone registration for second time applicants.

At least those who spent a night sleeping outside Usit offices to get their visa will now be able to register from the comfort of their home. This has been implemented because of the huge demand for second visas.

Calls will be taken from February until all the places have been taken. After this, a short waiting list will be taken in case of cancellations. Successful applicants will get their registration form through the post, which must be filled out and returned to Usit.

One small point: only one registration will be taken per call, so there’s no point in five people cramming themselves into a phone box to register on the one call.

Sayit also offers second J1 visas to those who have previously travelled on their J1 Visa programme. Anyone else is considered a first-time applicant, and students may have already discovered this.

Like all things in life, there are some rules for applicants. Usit requires that you are eighteen before June 1 of this year, and Sayit will not take applications from those over the age of 28.

Both companies state that applicants must be in studying a full-time course in a college, university or third level institution for a minimum of two years. In other words, part-time students need not apply. Usit also stipulates that the programme is only open to those studying for a higher degree or professional diploma in an academic field.

But if you meet the criteria, and you feel like a change for the summer, in the words of the great Nike giants, “Just Do It!”
Not just for kids

Jamie Hannigan looks at the latest film releases

AMERICAN BEAUTY
Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey) is a 42-year-old suburban loser. He hates his job and his wife and daughter despise him - not that Lester likes himself all that much.

When introduced at a party to a man he's already knows, he says - without a trace of irony - "it's okay. I wouldn't remember me either." But as we find out in the opening minutes, "it's never too late to change."

Fresh from nabbing the top three awards at the Golden Globes (Best Screenplay, Best Director and Best Film), American Beauty arrives on this side of the Atlantic amidst a wave of critical accolades.

But you know all this. You probably heard the same about The Blair Witch Project (Best Original Screenplay, Best Director and Best Film), American Beauty isn't as spectacular.

Apart from the fact that it's (The Iron Giant aside) the best children's film of this year, but it's in the running for the best film of the year, period. Ignoring comparisons to the original - this is better. It's funnier, darker and more spectacular.

While I really like the recent Star Wars film, I can't help but feel that Lucas could have taken a leaf out of Pixar's book - as it is, Toy Story 2 has more thrills, spills and that 1990's The Phantom Menace ever had.

The story has toy cowboy Woody (voiced by Tom Hanks) stolen away from the sanctuary of Andy's house by an obsessive toy collector.

Woody, it transpires, is a valuable antique toy, and is worth a lot of money to a museum in Japan.

A team of the other toys, headed by Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen) form a rescue mission which takes them out of the suburbs and into the big city.

Titre as it may sound, this is a "family" movie that can actually be watched by the whole family.

Don't be put off by the fact that Disney also marketed Inspector Gadget for the same audience - Toy Story 2 is more than makes up for it.

TOY STORY 2
It seems bizarre to think that Toy Story 2 was originally destined to be a straight-to-video release, the same as every other Disney sequel.

Apart from the fact that this is (The Iron Giant aside) probably the best children's film of this year, but it's in the running for the best film of the year, period. Ignore comparisons to the original - this is better. It's funnier, darker and more spectacular.

Video releases by Jenni Duggan

Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me
Austin Powers is back: Yeah Baby Yeah! The Spy Who Shagged Me is the "shagadelic" sequel to Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery.

American Beauty isn't as good as they say - it's fractionally better.

American Joe realising what he's become in time to win back the love of his family. Little in American Beauty is conventional.

It's like a bizarre hybrid of Fight Club and Blue Velvet (not as flashy as the first or as surreal as the second) which manages to balance a fine line between darkly humorous satire and moving drama.

American Beauty isn't as good as they say. It's fractionally better.

HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL
There's something about truly, truly dumb movies that appeal to everyone.

The sort of movie where a person will wander off by themselves to explore the basement of a haunted house.

The sort of movie where the haunted house in question was a former mental institute where the patients went crazy and murdered the staff.

The sort of movie where five people are offered one million dollars if they can spend one night... ALIVE.

You know, that kind of thing. House on Haunted Hill (and last year's PG-friendly horror, The Haunting) are based on the same 1958 William Castle movie.

Castle used electricity buzzers under the seats and had usher's waving skeletons up and down cinema aisles in an effort to scare the shit out of his audiences.

That sort of showmanship would have been welcome in this expensively gory remake, which isn't as terrible as its trailers make it out to be.

The best bits of the film (eviscerated corpses, flickering 1930's ghosts, disfigured demon-things etc.) are borrowed liberally from Jacob's Ladder, Hellsraiser and even Event Horizon, but there aren't quite enough of them to pad out characters that would have cardboard cut-outs going: "Jesus, they're thin."

But House on Haunted Hill, for all its faults, is pretty good fun and saith past ano­dyne crap like Double Jeopardy or The World is Not Enough. And if you do go, stick around until after the end credits to get a tiny extra scene.

Cruel Intentions
Cruel Intentions stars Ryan Phillipe and Sarah Michelle Geller (Buffy The Vampire Slayer) as Sebastian and Katharyn, evil-minded stepbrother and sister in this tale of seduction and betrayal.

Sebastian is a callous and calculating rich kid who passes his time seducing unsuspecting girls. Bored of preying on what he describes as "insipid Manhattan debutantes", he wants a challenge.

His equally malicious stepsiser has just the challenge, dedicated virgin and general goody two shoes, Annette (Reese Witherspoon), the headmaster's daughter.

The pair embark on a diabolical sexual wager, if Sebastian fails in this conquest, Kathryn gets his Jaguar Roadster and if he succeeds he gets Kathryn.

The film sets out to shock the audience with its innumerable and erotic dialogue.

However while doing this, at times it tries too hard almost forgetting the plot.

At times this film is slightly tedious but is on the whole enjoyable.

Video releases

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However while doing this, at times it tries too hard almost forgetting the plot.

At times this film is slightly tedious but is on the whole enjoyable.
A YEAR and a half into my course in Aungier St and by now I know the route to college so well that I think I could get there safely blindfolded. I travel to college in more or less the same way as everyone else. The only difference is that instead of hopping on the bus or the train, I hop on my wheelchair.

It takes me approximately twenty minutes to get to college and although I may be exposed to the elements, at least I don’t have to contend with the dreaded traffic jam. My journey is usually unproblematic.

The paths around Dublin city have got a lot better over the past few years, and travelling as it is, it is getting harder and harder to complain about them.

The only problem I do face sometimes is construction work on the roads and paths, but I never have much difficulty finding alternative routes.

It wasn’t always like that, however. My old wheelchair used to shiver with fear when faced with a curb, and travelling long distances was out of the question considering it moved as fast as an obese slug.

Fortunately I acquired a new wheelchair, the Storm XS (they always give them fancy names), two years ago. It travels longer and faster than most wheelchairs, and has an ingenious device called the curb climber, which helps tackle high paths. This wheelchair has enabled me to travel freely throughout the city and has undoubtedly made my life a lot easier.

That’s not to say that my path is always obstacle-free, of course. Although the streets and lanes of the city are fairly easily negotiated, I still have buildings to contend with.

Most old buildings are inaccessible, but what is even more frustrating is seeing new buildings being built without adequate facilities to cater for the disabled despite it being required by law.

It reminds me of comedian I saw on television who couldn’t understand why fireman had to slide down long poles when called to an emergency. “Just build bloody bungalows,” he shouted.

Aungier St is a welcome exception. It greets me every morning with a twisting ramp and two electronic doors at the front entrance.

The doors throughout the building are not too narrow, so I can’t use that excuse when I crash into them and every floor is accessible with the use of the elevator.

The lift can only be operated with a key, which is only given to people who need it and lecturers who are allergic to climbing stairs.

Therefore I find myself sharing the lift with different lecturers everyday, and they all ask the same set of questions. How fast does that wheelchair go? Do you have to recharge the battery often? And, how long does it take the battery to recharge? I’m seriously considering print-
UCC too strong for DIT

Cork cruise to victory in the second round of the Sigerson Cup

UCC footballers proved too strong for the DIT as they eventually cruised to a 0-12 to 0-6 victory in the second round of the Sigerson Cup in Belfield on Wednesday 9th February.

However things mightn't have been so easy for the Leesiders had the DIT managed to convert one of their many goal opportunities.

Both Ollie Murphy and Finbar Kelly could have left the game with a goal a piece for the DIT while a few goal mouth scrambles would have resulted in a DIT goal on another day.

But that said, it was clear that UCC were going to be a daunting task right from the off.

They played like a team who know each other well and found men with comparative ease throughout the match.

Clearly their fantastic victories in the Cork and Munster Club Championships have stood to them, and will do throughout the Sigerson Cup competition.

The news of the fall of their near neighbours and reigning Sigerson champions, Tralee IT, will have widened their victory smiles.

But they will have to up their game for the Finals weekend in Galway if they are to progress beyond the quarter or semi-final.

While they played some crisp, and direct attacking football, and took some great scores, they were exposed at the fullback line on a number of occasions and were fortunate not to concede a few goals.

On the other hand with players of the calibre of Liam Murphy and Keith Moran in their forward line they will be in with a fighting chance.

From the throw-in Murphy lead the way and scored four of his teams six points in the first half showing great accuracy from distance with either foot.

Despite playing with the wind DIT found themselves a point down at half time, 0-6 to 0-5, but were by no means out of the game.

Ronan Fitzsimmons kept DIT in the game with a virtuoso display.

He put himself about the field getting in vital hits and kicked three of the points of the game for the DIT.

The second half saw the DIT put some extended periods of pressure on UCC but their lesser experience and understanding of each other as a team let them down.

Had they taken their points instead of going for goals at such an early stage they may well have pegged back UCC.

But UCC played the game perfectly, absorbing the pressure and hitting DIT on the break, kicking some fine points in the process.

In the end the score may have been somewhat flattering but UCC undoubtedly deserved their place in the quarterfinals.

DIT - J O'Hara; R Brady, D Cahill, I Kearney; J Rafter, P Giles, N Cleere; J Cullinan, J Mooney; O Mullins, J Fitzsimmons (0-3), F Kiely, Sanning (0-1, free). Subs: P Murphy (0-1, free), N Cleere for Brady, G Kilmurray for Cullinan.

Ollie Murphy (No 13) in action at the Sigerson Cup Final

Who says size doesn't matter?

UCC too strong for DIT

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BIGGER IS BETTER

Fitzgibbon Cup

DIT - 0-9 ATHLONE IT - 0-10

Athlone IT saw off the challenge of our hurlers at Belfield on Wednesday February 2.

Playing with the wind, Athlone hit a purple patch midway through the first half and with Darren O'Shaughnessy finding the range from all over the park, they led 0-8 to 0-6 at the break.

Although DIT drew level through Barry Lambert, Athlone went on to claim the winning point from Paudi Mulhare.

DIT: E Curley; B Perry, T McGrath, J Maher; E Hoey, D Spain, G Curley; W Comerford, C Coen; P Julian, T Reilly (0-1), P Meehan (0-3, 3f); D Quinn (0-1), A Brett, Canning.

Sub: Barry Lambert (0-4, 3f).

ATHLONE IT: B Newell; D Qualter, D Brett, P Walsh; E Corrigan, A Coyne, E Duane; D O'Shaughnessy (0-6, 6f), T Quinlan; C O'Reilly, P Mulhare (0-3), P O'Brien; J Mullins, I Canning (0-1), M Cleere. Subs: N Deveaney for Mullins, R McRedmond for O'Brien, John Mullins for C O'Reilly.

Referee: P Delaney (Laois).

Ollie Murphy (No 13) in action at the Sigerson Cup Final

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Finbar Kelly (No 14)
Karting championship a great spectacle

THE Final round of the DIT Karting Championship took place on 15 December. At the end of round one, there were 50 drivers (ten from each college) within three seconds of each other, all looking for their place on the DIT team.

The chairman of the consecutive colleges were also laying side bets on their college to take the coveted DIT Constructors Trophy.

The Bolton St committee were extremely confident after winning the Inter-varsity championship earlier in the year.

There were four quarter final races with twelve drivers in each and the top six drivers advanced to the semi finals.

It was at this stage the spectators saw the biggest crash of the day, with Karl Bonner on the outside of three karts going into the second corner getting tangled up with the Constructors.

With eight karts right behind at 45 mph a pile up ensued. Karl limped away from the accident with extensive bruising, the main blow coming to his ego.

The semi-finals were just as intriguing. Race leader, Gerald Walsh span out with a blown tyre two laps from the chequered flag. It was this killer blow that gave Bolton St 2nd place in the DIT standings behind Aungier St.

The final was a great spectacle for the 70 odd spectators. Simon Clarke was on pole position with a time of 1 minute 55.8 seconds, with amateur driver Mark Muckintyre in second place.

Aungier St already had the constructors championship tied up with 8 of the 12 finalists and so the real battle was for 2nd place. That was between Cathal Brugha St and Bolton St.

The final was over 18 kilometres and saw Simon Clarke winning well.

He also came close to recording Kart City's fastest lap ever, failing by just 0.09 seconds.

The drivers that made the DIT Team are Simon Clarke, Peter Kiley, Paul Taylor, Ray Nangle (all Aungier St) Mark Muckintyre and Gerald Walsh (both Cathal Brugha St). Gerald Walsh made the team on the fastest lap rule.

There is no Bolton St driver on the team because they are Inter-varsity champions and are obliged to enter their own team.

The Inter-varsities are on the 12th of March, and the DIT Independent will bring you the results along with analysis of them in our March issue.

Athletes take gold

By Malachy Clerkin

DIT stars run a-muck in Athlone

The DIT men’s athletics team recently took gold in the National HSSF cross-country championships which were held on the grounds of Athlone IT.

On a windswept, rain-soaked afternoon in Westmeath, conditions were atrocious. The ankle-high muck combined with a series of steep hills to make the tough task of beating quality opposition tougher still.

In the main race, DIT’s Eugene O’Neill kept himself at the head of the field in order to avoid the worst of the underfoot muck.

With two laps left in the race, he shared the lead with Colm Coyne on Waterford IT. It was left to these two to battle it out for glory.

Coyne was wary of Eugene's finishing speed and attempted to make a break for home with one lap remaining. Eugene reacted quickly and overcame the Waterford man to take his first title of the season.

DIT easily captured the team prize by finishing first, fourth, fifth and eighth. Paul Campbell, Brian Byrne and Aidan Doyle were the valiant heroes who filled those places.

TaeKwon-Do attracts large numbers

By Malachy Clerkin

The TaeKwon-Do club in Kevin St is one of the longest running clubs in the DIT. It has been run by numerous instructors over the years and is one of the strongest and most popular clubs in the college.

Down through the years, it has attracted large numbers of students and continues to do so. Last year it were voted Club of the Year and are “currently trying to build from that platform”, according to chair-club chairman, Owen O’Connor. The current instructors are Kevin Hamigan (4th degree black belt) and Cormac Laidl (2nd degree black belt).

Cormac is actually a past student who started his training in Kevin St.

Kevin St are running an inter-varsity competition on Saturday February 17. Entrants will include students from UCD, Trinity, Cork IT, Dundalk IT and Carlow IT. It is expected that the number of participants will be just over sixty.

The competition will consist of three parts:

1. Patterns: This is where the student performs set movements against imaginary opponents.

It is a process which teaches the student to focus his/her defences and attacks in a coordinated manner.

2. Sparring: As the name suggests, this is where competitors get to put their training into practice and enter into a ring against a fellow competitor.

This part of the competition is broken down into weight divisions and groups of belt colours (i.e. to avoid a yellow belt vs a black belt etc.).

3. Destruction: The final part of the tournament consists of competitors using a combination of strength and technique to break wood.

The thickness of the wood is increased until only one individual remains who can break it.

Results

IUA Indoor Championships

Paul Campbell - third in 800m
Eugene O’Neill - first in 3000m
Paddy Shannon - first in triple jump
Men's team in 4x200m relay

While the men’s team took the laurels in Athlone, the ladies team were struck with a bout of flu which kept some of its best hopes at home.

There was, however, one shining light in the shape of Georgina Bradshaw.

The Kevin Street computer science student beta with a strong field on that self-same horrendous course to win her first ever title in a DIT singlet.

Her achievement that day has earned her this month’s DIT Independent Sports Star of the Month award.

Profile

Name: Georgina Bradshaw
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College: Kevin Street
Course: Computer Science
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Sports

February 2000

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All right, go if you must, but don't come back here pissed.

The one with the atmosphere
By Jennifer Duggan

One in three engineering students in the institute fail sessional exams.

According to a confidential report, the student exam results for the past four years show that the Faculty of Engineering has the highest failure rate out of all the faculties within DIT.

The DIT Independent has seen a copy of the draft report, which has been produced by the Examinations and Awards Committee of the Academic Council.

It breaks down the exam results of all courses in all faculties over the past four years, giving the percentage of students who passed exams each year.

According to the report, the overall pass rate for the entire faculty of Engineering for the 1998/99 college year was 69.49 per cent, which is almost 15 per cent lower than any of the other faculties.

The report of examination statistics prepared for the Academic Council, the Faculty of Engineering has the highest failure rate out of all the faculties within DIT.

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