DIT News, 1st.-31st. of December, 2008

DIT: Students Union

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The DIY Phantom

Words and photos by Gary Fox

The corridors of Kevin Street are being stalked by a vigilante, intent on dishing out their own brand of justice. However, in this case the justice in question is essential maintenance which is being neglected by maintenance staff despite it being brought to their attention.

Working under the pseudonym of 'The Phantom' the mysterious DIY enthusiast has so far restricted his activities to the Kevin Street campus.

The campaign titled "Why can't this be fixed?" initially began when posters appeared of broken items in different parts of the campus with the simple question, Why can't this be fixed?

The campaign appears to have evolved with the appearance of The Phantom.

Posters have appeared showing the work of The Phantom, the most recent showing a successfully repaired door handle on the men's toilets.

The actions of The Phantom are in response to what many Kevin Street students believe to be a complete lack of essential building maintenance. In one instance, the drinking fountain on the ground floor has remained out of action for months.

The campaign has even attracted the attention of a popular Irish bulletin board site, where it is a hot topic of discussion on the DIT section of boards.ie.

Posting on the forum, The Phantom states, "I am here to fight for the students and will fix my way around the site to ensure that it can be fixed [sic] and it doesn't take two years to fix a few things.....I will strike again soon......."

As of yet, the identity of this hands-on helper has remained a mystery as they look poised to continue their spree of on-campus maintenance.
Holidays are coming

Yes it's that time of year again when you can't get the Coke Cola Christmas ad tune out of your head. Yes indeed holidays are coming woooo!!

In this bumper edition of DIT News we are celebrating the festive season. With a guide to buying cheap Christmas presents on page 7 and if you are stuck for something to wear for your Christmas party then we can give you plenty of ideas with our fashion spread on pages 16 - 18.

Catch up on the latest DIT news - from mumps in Bolton Street to Phantoms in Kevin Street and everything in between.

Thinking of planning a trip over the holidays or next year then you must check out volunteering in Africa on pages 22 & 23 or pages 24 & 25, which tells you what to expect when you visit Vietnam.

Of course it has been a busy time sports wise in DIT. From sailing, football, boxing, soccer and even the Sports Scholarships Awards, it's all covered in the sports pages, 26 to 32.

I'd like to take this time to thank everyone who has made this issue possible and also wish everyone in DIT a very happy Christmas.

See you all in 2009!

Apology

DIT News and its Editor would like to apologise for pages 9 & 10 of the last edition of DIT News. We are very sorry if anyone was offended or hurt by said pages.

Seamus O'Neill Editor

DIT's got talent

First it was Britain's got talent and now DIT's got talent as Event Management students organised the big event in Break for the Border in late November.

Melann events as they called themselves put on an impressive show, one which will surely stand to them in their future careers.

Acts on the night ranged from fire jugglers, break dancers and singers with the winner being Maria Grennan who sang 'In the arms of the angel'. Maria who studies music in rathmines won €100 for coming first by the public vote. Proceeds from the night went towards a new Cystic Fibrosis unit in Temple Street Children's Hospital.

Competition winner!

Congratulations to Pedro Garcia Martinez who scooped himself €50 in last month's competition for helping to choose the new DIT News logo. Spend it wisely in these days of recession!

In this month’s issue of DIT News readers have a chance to win tickets to 7up Christmas on Ice and a stay in D4 Hotels.

Busy time for SVP

This Christmas the SVP will be working tirelessly to brighten up this special time of the year for those who are not as fortunate as us. Our annual appeal has begun and there is a variety of different projects under way to raise vital funds.

Firstly we have our collection of toys and non perishable foods which shall be going into Christmas hampers and be distributed among the local community.

We also have a raffle with a number of brilliant prizes. These prizes include: VIP weekend tickets to Electric Picnic next year, Tickets to a six nation match, A voucher for a night in a D4 hotel, Bottles of wine and spirits and also a cash prize of €100. Also vouchers for the Bad Ass Cafe.

Also we shall be receiving a portion of the proceeds raised at the “Christmas Mayhem” event in Tripod on the 18th of December. For this we are very grateful.

The day to day work of the SVP in DIT is a soup run on Monday and Thursday. This involves walking the streets of inner city Dublin giving food and soup to the homeless. But more importantly we talk to them and see how they are getting on and coping with their situation.

We also do Age Action every Tuesday and Wednesday where we spend time with the elderly and help them with activities such as; art, yoga, dancing and music.

Next semester we shall be starting the Homework Club and Flat Decoration.

We shall also be on RTE’s “Nationwide” on Wednesday the 10th of December at Seven o'clock. So tune in and witness the work we do.

It is one of the oldest societies in DIT as it has been running for well over a decade. Presently we have 142 members.

What's hot:

- elfyourself.com - possibly one of the most funniest websites for this time of year.
- Christmas time = presents, drinks, good food, lots of quality streets, Christmas crackers, USA biscuits - what's not to love about this time of year!
- X Factor final - who will it be Eoghan, Alexandra or JLS?
- It's not Dancing on Ice but it's the closest thing, 7up Christmas on Ice.
- DIT's got talent
- The Christmas tree on O'Connell Street.
- Exams, assignments, libraries and other scary things!
- The O2 branding gone mad, it will always be da point.
- Those itchy wooden jumpers your granny keeps buying you at this time every year.
- Pork-gate, it looks like babe is going to survive this Christmas but the recall of products has meant job losses for hundreds.

What's not:

- Diana Vickers - ‘the claw’ has gone.
- The Christmas tree on O'Connell Street.
- Exams, assignments, libraries and other scary things!
- Those O2 branding gone mad, it will always be da point.
- Those itchy wooden jumpers your granny keeps buying you at this time every year.

Let us know what you think

If you have any ideas, stories or pictures, let us know!

Email: newssoced@gmail.com
Bebo: http://www.bebo.com/NewsS
Phone: 01 4027192
continued from front page

When DIT News paid a visit to Kevin Street in late November it found the drinking fountain on the ground floor still out of order and every single tap in the men’s toilets on the top floor not working.

The IT lecturer, Michael Ring was at the centre of the national media’s attention in November as he unveiled a revolutionary new bionic paw.

Ring, a lecturer in Product Design at Bolton Street designed a plastic unit which in essence replaces the bottom part of the dog’s leg and foot. This unit fits over a metal bar which is sealed within the dog’s leg.

The new invention has been fitted to a pit bull terrier named Coal, who lost the bottom quarter of his leg as a result of cancer.

Amazingly, the unit was designed and built without any external funding. Ring, who has been with DIT for 26 years, spent hours of his own time designing and building several prototypes before the unit was finalised.

He said, "I really didn’t think it was going to take as long or as much time. I probably put 100 hours into it before I built the first part".

The biggest challenge facing the design team was the issue of fatigue. The leg will have to be able to carry the dog for the rest of his life; this could possibly be hundreds of thousands of steps. Many of the original prototypes suffered from fatigue breakage after a certain number of steps.

He examined videos of the dog walking and combined this analysis with x-rays and drawings to formulate a solution. Specialised software programmes were then used to factor in subjects such as loading and pressure.

The Bolton Street lecturer got involved in the break-through project by chance, his head of department at Bolton Street just happened to mention his brother in-law, Noel Fitzpatrick, a vet in the UK, was working on a new process called ITAP and needed assistance in the design aspect.

Having a bionic paw is not Coals only claim to fame. He was the only dog to be allowed attend Live 8 and has also been backstage at the Albert Hall. Coals owner, Reg Walker is a music industry security guard who has reportedly spent upwards of €10,000 on the dog’s new bionic paw.

“The whole situation also serves to highlight the large number of facilities issues that exist both in Kevin St and in DIT as a whole.”

The online recruitment website Jobs.ie currently has listing for a Buildings Manager position in DIT. Closing date for applications is January 3rd 2009 so there is still time for The Phantom to lodge their application.

One Giant leap for doggie kind

Gary Fox caught up with Michael Ring, the man behind the bionic paw.

On December 4th, DITSU Governing Council authorised the President, Martin Dunne, to investigate the possibility of DIT becoming a Fairtrade College. How would that affect DIT students and staff? Well, it would mainly affect the brown stuff that we consume in vast quantities (I’m talking about coffee here). A conservative estimate is that we consume just under a million cups of coffee a year—that’s enough to fill the newly refurbished swimming pool in DIT Kevin St.

Currently, most of the coffee sold in DIT is not Fairtrade coffee (with the exception of DIT Bolton St, who took the decision to exclusively sell Fairtrade coffee a couple of years ago). With normal coffee, the price received by producers of the coffee may not cover the cost of production. With Fairtrade coffee, the price that is paid covers the production costs and also includes a 'premium' which allows for investment in local social or economic projects. The Fairtrade organisation signs long term contracts and makes finances available to encourage the development and growth in impoverished areas.

Becoming a Fairtrade College would mean that each of the million cups of coffee sold in DIT would be Fairtrade coffee, which would be worth a lot to people in developing countries. In 2003, Oxford Brookes became the first UK University to get Fairtrade status. There are now 70 Fairtrade colleges in the UK. The sales of Fairtrade goods are growing at a similar high rate, and as the economies of scale grow higher, the price premium for Fairtrade goods is getting smaller. Fairtrade products are becoming visibly abundant with UK supermarkets recording a 42% increase in Fairtrade coffee sales since 2003.

In November, a group was set up to campaign for Fairtrade status for DIT. The campaign will try and address any queries people have about becoming a Fairtrade College. In DITSU Governing Council, some concerns were raised by DIT students who had been out in Kenya and believed that while the Fairtrade system worked down as far as farmers, it did not extend to farm labourers who were being exploited by the farmers themselves. The Steering Group will be contacting Fairtrade Ireland to address these concerns.

You can support the campaign by:
- Ask for Fairtrade Coffee in the college restaurants
- Choose Fairtrade products when you’re shopping
- Show your support by becoming a fan of the “DIT Fairtrade Campaign” Facebook page or Bebo page
- Attend some of the coffee mornings / publicity events that we’ll be holding in the second semester.
Fine Art students at DIT Portland Row have won late night opening hours for their North Dublin campus. After forming a committee and enlisting the help of the Students' Union, students secured four late nights openings per week, with college facilities also opening on Saturdays – a significant increase from the unhelpful regulations at the start of the year.

Third year class representative Andrew Carson said students were asking “to be treated the same as our fellow students in the other campuses. All we want is parity. We pay the same fees as the other DIT students, but lack the same privileges of the other campuses.”

The campus is largely under-resourced and has faced an ongoing battle to ensure students are given the same opportunities as other third-level institutions.

“How are we meant to compete with students from campuses like NCAD and IADT?” asks DIT student Emma-Jane Geraghty. “We’re working hard to get our degrees, but without sufficient time and resources we can’t produce high quality work. We need those extra opening hours so we can compete at the same standard.”

The art campus has been subjected to criticism in the past for the lack of facilities offered to students. A promise made in September for on-campus broadband has yet to be fulfilled, with some students forced to buy their own wireless broadband to avoid queuing for the only four research computers in the building.

Serena Teehn, a final year student and class rep in Portland Row, faces a stressful year ahead with her dissertation and final year projects. “I’ve been trying to have a colour photocopier and printer put into our college since last September and there’s still no sign of it. It’s not a big demand considering we’re an art college. It seems pretty basic to ask for a colour printer – something that really affects our research and work.”

A darkroom, central heating, internet access and running water were just some of the other issues the students are campaigning about. The standard of the building itself has also been deemed unsuitable and there is a lack of work space for the students. A proposed move to Denmark Street was scrapped last year and the Fine Art faculty have yet to hear if there will be any move in the near future. It was only after submission of a petition signed by most of the student body that students found they were making progress. Martin Dunne, president of the DIT Students Union, presented the petition in a meeting with the college finance department.

“Of the tragedies of DIT is that overhead costs are so much larger because we’re spread across so many campuses,” he said. “This can lead to disparities among the different faculties. Now that we finally have the longer opening hours we intend to push through with the other issues. They shouldn’t be allowed to fade into the background. It’s easy to raise the arguments, but students need to keep the attention on the matters raised. As regards the broadband, there has been an agreement made and students should see progress in the next few weeks.”

Head of faculty Brian Fay is happy with the start of the new improvements to the education of the students on the course.

“We’re very aware of how practical this course is,” he said. “It’s not like a written course; students can’t carry home an oil painting on a bus to have their work completed – it’s just not realistic.”

As well as the need for materials and equipment, Mr. Fay also highlighted that longer opening hours would “help towards their education. At the end of the day that’s all we want.”

With regular ‘house-keeping’ operated every Tuesday between the students’ representatives and lecturers in Portland Row, Brian Fay feels secure in his efforts to keep the lines of communication open. “We want to have an immediate connection with the students we’re working with. It’s the only way we can continue to build on progress we’ve made so far.”

“I’m really happy we got the late opening hours because now I feel like when I’m studying I’m not restricted by a five o’clock deadline,” third year student Rachel O’Callaghan noted. “I’m motivated to do more work because I know I won’t get interrupted.”

The accomplishments by the students in this protest has led to a boost in student confidence. Speaking of the possibility of demonstrations needed in the future, first year student Claire McCluskey said, “There’s definitely enough feeling on campus that we can demand the basic requirements we still don’t have. If we have to face this again we’re going to start a sub-committee to work with the other years. It’s not something we’ll drop because at the end of the day it’s our education.”
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Nollaig sa teach na gaelgoiri
Le Clare Cullen

TI Gaeilge DIT is an Irish language accommodation set up by Oifig na Gaeilge DIT, in which students apply to live completely through their native language of Irish, for the college year. This year is the first year of the scheme, and depending on the success of this year’s pilot project, more places will be available next year for those who wish to apply.

Hello a chairde!!! Clare ansao! The house is going grand, at the moment we’re decking it out for Christmas, or Nollaig as we say! We got a blow-up snowman, and a little white tree and silver decorations. The crann is only up to our knees it’s so cute! We’re all so busy lately with all our society commitments, Aoife is working in the Conradh, (which is great on Tuesdays for an oul’ drink as Gaeilge)! I’m in a play next week by Eric Fitzgerald (class rep covener) and of course we’ve all got the Cumann Gael and our show! Our show is coming along go maith, we are getting better at it every week! The Christmas party is coming up soon for the Cumann Gael and tá an scéitími orainn! It will be a lot of spraoi, it’s a huge Christmas “Sult” in Break for the Border- an nite out as Gaeilge at Christmas, what more could you want. Most evenings though, we sit in and chat and watch Sex and The City and work on our college work. All of our Irish is coming on in leaps and bounds, it’s true that practice makes perfect. I would be happy to describe myself as liofa now! That’s all for now, hope to see you all at the Coisir Nollaig!

We have a youtube site,(account name: tigaeilgeDIT) which we will try to get some videos up on really soon, and we are on Radio Na Life (106.4) every Friday from 6.30-7pm. If anyone has anything they’d like to ask us or abair linn, seol riomhlighsto tigaeilgeDIT@gmail.com. (Or just to abair “hi”)

DIT students quiz President of Ireland
By: Aoife Ni Ghlaicin Riain

Áras an Uachtaráin was the destination for five lucky DIT students who took part in a recording entitled “Presidential Lecture Series”. Airing on RTÉ Radio One, the students job was to inject a different perspective, and encourage debate with their questions.

The first two parts were recorded on the day, to be broadcast on the 30th and 31st of December at 1.30pm; presented by Joe Duffy and with the President opening and closing each show. Around 60 students attended, coming from almost every third level institution in Ireland, along with several non-nationals now residing in Ireland.

There were two speakers, one for each show, and we had the opportunity to ask questions of them, and of the president herself. In the first part, Martin O’Neill, Irish-born captain of Aston Villa, spoke about what “Being Irish” means to him. He spoke honestly from his own experience growing up in the North. He outlined the huge changes he has seen come about since that time. He described how strange it felt to have two English men come to interview him in his house for the position with Aston Villa, painting a very symbolic picture for us of the two men sitting casually in his living room, with the classic pictures of Padraig Mac Piarais and the Sacred Heart looming, ignored, on the walls.

The students had plenty of questions, but it was the President who gave the best answer regarding what it means to be Irish. She agreed that the meaning has changed since times past, but, even through the globalisation and anglicisation of this modern society of ours, we must not forget the thousands of people in other countries who are truly proud of their Irish roots.

Irishness is infinitely important to these people, even now when it may not be so important these days to some of us living in Ireland.

Padraig O Ceidigh, Managing Director of Aer Arann, was the second speaker. He spoke about contemporary economic matters and what we, as a country, can do to solve the problems at hand.

He emphasised that the future is in the hands of us students, stressing that innovation and entrepreneurship from the new generations is necessary to steer Ireland through the difficult, dark days ahead. He spoke energetically, without a script or even notes, and stood before us openly telling the inspiring story of how he founded Aer Arann.
Christmas - what's it all about?

By: Hannah Fortune

According to a recent survey carried out by DIT Christian Union, over 80% of randomly selected students believed the most significant reason for them to celebrate Christmas was for eating, drinking, parties and presents.

And yet, 56% agreed to the claim that Jesus' birth is "good news of great joy for all the people". When asked why Christ came, many participants responded "to give hope" and "to save us" or referred to Him as a "Savior". This may prompt one to question "Why do we need to be saved?"

In the current economic climate, those who have lost jobs with the additional financial pressure of Christmas, may identify with a sense of hopelessness. Other reasons given for Christmas being an anti-climax for many people were loneliness, broken relationships, and that it's over-hyped, mainly by the media.

A separate survey addressing faith and Christianity asked students: "Assuming for a moment that God does exist, what question would you most like to have answered by - or about him?" The responses were interesting to say the least.

Issues such as health and suffering were questioned as one student asked "What's the story in Africa with da AIDS?" Others questioned life after death "What’s the 'one' thing I can do which can take me to heaven?"

One could come to the conclusion after reading all of the responses that health, relationships, financial success, and even life itself are temporary - all things which can be taken from us. An example of someone in the Bible who experienced this to be true was Job. He lost everything: Wealth, family, friends and health. There is one thing however, that could not be taken from him - his faith. The same is true today.

DIT Christian Union meets every Tuesday @ 7pm, in Room 4-086, DIT Aungier Street. We are running a Christianity Explored Course in the New Year. Contact Hannah – 086 3695538 for more details. All Welcome.

Walking in a straight line was suddenly the hardest thing to do for many would be models as the model castings for the DIT Toyota Fashion Show took place in November.

Guys and girls had to impress the judging panel made up of Shirren, a model with Morgan agency, Johnny from Morgan agency and LA make-up, Zoe, Sponsorship development officer and director of last years fashion show, Anna and Blaithnadh, co-directors of this years show and Ena, journalism student and head of the style team.

20 girls and 17 guys were selected to shrieks of 'Oh my God' and 'yess' from the lucky ones. According to Anna, "The main quality that we were looking for in the students was confidence... correctly and making yourself an expert in your

Get wrapped up this Christmas

If you are stuck for Christmas present ideas never fear, Louise McHenry from DIT News is here with a savings savvy guide to buying good gifts on the cheap.

Unless you know exactly what your loved ones want then follow our advice for practical, useful and cash-low pressies.

For nearly all your family members and friends, there is an easy option... Get yourself to Marks&Spencers or Boots where they have Buy 3 items and get one free promotions. Marks have the best offer - rather than just giving the cheapest items free if you buy lots of things - every third item is free meaning you can save big money.

For your female relatives and friends, they have a number of lovely gift sets with their modern own brand body scrubs and butters. Much cheaper than almost identical products from the Body Shop, they smell and feel amazing. See also manicure and pedicure sets, plus funky bright lip glosses for your younger sister and the floral collection of soaps and talcum powders to keep your granny happy.

As well as all the beauty products, you can buy any number of excellent and great-value cookbooks for any budding Nigellas or Jamies. There are plenty of things to get for hard-to-buy fellas too - if they like random gadgets such as Top Gear Racing Bath Boats or Build Your Own Periscope Sets. Well we did say that they would be random.

Marks also do kids toys but if you're looking for cute, hard-wearing and piggy-bank friendly toys then head to the Early Learning Centre (Henry Street and the Square Tallaght). They have a huge selection of great kids' games suitable for babies, toddlers and pre-teens. Extremely cute and ridiculously fun games such as Manic Martians, Jitterbugs and Puff the Pop Up Dragon will have you in the good books until at least News Year Eve and all for less than 10 euro.

For electronics such as hair straighteners and CD players, it's worth checking out Argos online before heading into the shop and being completely overwhelmed by the selection in the catalogue. On the website you'll find the "Latest Price Cuts" section which seems to be constantly updated with new offers.

While we're on the subject of online shopping, lets not forget that when it comes to DVDs and books - webpurchasing is the way to go. Amazon and Play.com have a huge range of films, boxsets and other wonderfulness that even the extra postage to Ireland makes shopping there worth it. If you can head up North where the sterling is dying a very tragic and painful death alongside the mighty euro there are savings to be had.

With almost exactly the same shops as Dublin, but just a little bit cheaper you could follow the crowd and go to Northern Ireland and bag the bargains. And while you're there - treat yourself to a mulled wine and a bratwurst at the Christmas market - you can afford to!
!!MISSING!!

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ANY INFORMATION CALL OR TEXT 0858150543

DIT SVP Society Christmas Appeal
In association with the DIT Societies Office and DITSU

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How it Works:

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Bring the present unwrapped with the tag stuck securely and return to the Students Union or DIT Societies Office Aungier St.

For further information please contact James Costabal at 0862351472 or call into any Students Union...
It kicks orse, roysh?!

Aisling Mockler reviews the latest offering from Ross O’Carroll Kelly.

Ireland’s favourite rugby jock is back and life is “LL Cool J” for him. “Mr. S and the Secrets of Andorra’s Box” is Paul Howard’s eighth instalment in the Ross O’Carroll Kelly series and it does not disappoint.

For those of you who are not acquainted with the series, Ross O’Carroll Kelly is the spawn of the Celtic Tiger. His opulent lifestyle has always been financed by his criminal father and his abhorrent ways have always been tolerated by his long suffering wife, Sorcha.

However, his father’s assets have been seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau and Sorcha has found the strength to file for divorce. Ross has lost everything and this book explores a new chapter in his life; moving on and growing up.

Paul Howard’s series has captivated the attention of thousands of readers. The only slightly exaggerated perception of life in the elite district of Dublin 4 has had critics and readers alike raving. The most magical quality of the books is the phonic style of writing.

Howard’s translation of the various Irish accents is comedic gold and he has truly captured the Celtic Tiger generation. His books have spawned many new phrases, most notably “Yeah, roysh”. His characters seem to have utterly dislikeable qualities but they have hearts of gold and we cannot help but feel sympathetic to them.

“Mr. S” follows the break up of Ross’ marriage and the founding of a new life in Andorra. Coaching the Andorra rugby team means Ross is separated from his children and friends but luckily “Dick Features” is there to keep him company, with hilarious consequences.

Ross seeks therapy to find himself (and to find a way into his therapists’- “Blues from Down Here”)

This book focuses on the development and maturing of Ross’ character but sadly, other prominent characters are left behind. The best scenes in the series revolve around the interactions between Ross, his rugby friends and Ronan but sadly, Ross’ new life in Andorra somewhat excludes these characters.

This book creates a new path for Ross and he has made a fresh start. Old grievances are settled and we finally acknowledge Ross as an adult and a father. Ross, ever the philosopher, sums up his views on life via a rugby analogy;

“Rugby is like life in many ways. You can do all the wrongs and win. You can do all the right things and lose. I actually don’t care if we lose or how much we lose by- as long as we can look each other in the eye afterwards and say, yeah, we did the best we could with what we had at our disposal.”

Mamma Mia

DVD review by Cliona Ward

Mamma Mia! is pure, unadulterated entertainment, not a movie! The wafer thin storyline follows a young bride trying to figure out who her father is on the eve of her wedding.

In no way groundbreaking, this slar plot offers up the perfect excuse to reprise some classic ABBA tunes and to get your foot tapping.

Lacking any kind of cohesive cinematography or choreography you must abandon all expectations, embrace the cheesiness and ignore the absence of plot, character or direction in order to savour the experience.

Without a m-lodie singer or graceful dancer in sight, you’re left wondering just how Mamma Mia! can possibly be so enjoyable. It’s the cringe worthy performances of the cast that really gets you running for them.

Meryl Streep prances about with admirable gusto, while Pierce Brosnan, resident earsore, belts out the cheesy pop tunes like the best of us can into our hairbrushes.

Director Phyllida Lloyd took a chicha-chan-chance here and it hasn’t really paid off in terms of style, but she is rescued by the familiar, cheesy content that will have even the most reluctant viewers swayed.

In a nutshell, his comy jukebox musical is the perfect film to foster some festive cheer this season.

TV on the Radio get Tripod thumping

Gillian Middleton was at their recent gig in Dublin.

TV on the Radio are a five-piece band who formed in New York around the same time as the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

Their sound could be described as art-rock heavily influenced by post-punk with a hint of trip-hop thrown in for good measure.

They took the stage in Tripod on November 15th to a full-house of adoring fans.

The crowd comprised of scenesters, students and bearded thirty year old men.

The set featured tracks from all of their albums with songs like ‘Blues from Down Here’ and ‘Wolf like Me’ garnering the loudest applause.

Special mention must be given to ‘Dancing Choose’ a much faster track where the underlying percussive elements were made by beat-boxing and looping the vocals to excellent effect.

Another mention goes to an entirely percussive rendition of ’A Method’.

Lots of classic fan favourites were included in the set with the crowd showing they were very appreciative.
Beyoncé knows how to do it

I am... Sasha Fierce reviewed by Luc O Cinseala

Beyoncé Knowles can do no wrong lately and her latest two-disc project ‘I Am... Sasha Fierce’ continues this trend.

There’s a clear divide between the two discs; with ‘I am...’ showing Beyoncé belt out some ballads and in turn showing us that she can ride the highest and most emotional vocal waves until sundown.

If I Were a Boy suits its position as opening track to remind us what Beyoncé can do with her voice.

Enter Sasha Fierce; Beyoncé’s fiery and experimental alter-ego. Sasha provides a well needed dose of up-tempo tunes and the album instantly becomes more energetic and fun.

Single Ladies oozes that “Man, I could really dance to this!” vibe found in Rihanna’s finest music but Diva and Video Phone are a falling point. However the latter leaves potential for some dirty dancing.

This album is probably not Beyoncé’s strongest album but when you’re in a league like hers it can be hard to top your personal best. ‘I am... Sasha Fierce’ certainly makes a credible effort.

Hidden gems

With Cliona Ward

In these fearsome financial times it’s hard to fight off frugal frustration and maintain a composed demeanour. Angst ridden, you may find yourself looking for thrifty avenues to alleviate your agitated boredom and this is where DIT News steps in. Lurking in your library are great movies, and what’s best they’re completely free. Starting this issue is your guide to the greatest untapped resource in your DIT library.

Rebel without a Cause

Given the aforementioned angst and frustration, what better film to relate to this festive season than Rebel without a Cause? Made in 1950s America the film chronicles the exploits of disaffected post-war youth. James Dean plays Jim Stark, the new kid in town desperately seeking a raison d’être; the ‘cause’ of the film’s title.

Stricken with an overbearing mother and emasculated father Jim treads the fine line between teenage rebellion and delinquency, often finding himself in the company of the juvenile police. Therehe meets Judy, whose wild behaviour stems out of her inability to communicate with her deliberately distant father, and Plato, an emotionally troubled boy whose parents appear to have abandoned him.

The trio of “lost souls” find in each other an unconventional family, a setup that is doomed to failure. With underlying elements of incest, homoeroticism, androgyny, nihilism, emasculation, and madness, Rebel without a Cause has earned itself a place as one of the greatest films of all time.

It is an absolute must see for any anguished student – especially when you can rent it for FREE!!!
BAM Soc - What's next?

Liam Stewart gives the low down on everything BAM related.

Questions and Answers? D'Aungier Street? Christmas Cracker? BAM Ball? MALAWI?

The BAMSoc Team have announced a list of events to close semester one and are starting to finalise details of our major Semester 2 Events.

On Monday 8th December members participated in the Audience of the RTE TV Programme Questions and Answers. With the current economic climate, this programme has been focusing on economic issues in recent times. BAMSoc was invited to send members to participate in the audience, and to date 12 members have enjoyed participating in two shows. The first group received an enthusiastic welcome from the shows production team, including presenter John Bowman. Mr Bowman invited the group for an aftershow reception. At the request of Mark Jones, BAMSoc Guest Speaker Coordinator, Mr Bowman, gave us a number of suggestions and contact details for future guest speakers for BAM Events.

Semester 1 will be brought to a close with a MASSIVE event in Tripod on Thursday December 18th in with the Christmas Cracker event! The Christmas Cracker, which is expected to be the biggest student event in the entire year, is being organised by a team of societies from Northside and Outside DIT.

Three charities have been chosen to benefit from the night, St. Vincent DePaul (nominated by DIT SVP Society), Teenline Ireland (nominated by Fashion Society) and Wells for Zoe (nominated by BAMSoc and Freestyle Soccer Society). The event is expected to be sold out prior to the night, and anybody wanting to attend is advised to get tickets from their local societies early.

BAMSoc plans to get straight back into action in February with the Business and Marketing Ball. This blacktie event will take place in a prestigious Dublin city centre hotel and is expected to be hugely popular, particularly among business and marketing students. Tickets will be on sale in February.

BAMSoc is well aware of the need for Corporate Social Responsibility. Dennis O'Brien, in speaking at an event hosted by our friends at DIT Hothouse, spoke of the need for entrepreneurs to "give back" to the community. BAMSoc and the Freestyle Soccer Society are co-organising a trip to Malawi in Africa along with the charity and registered NGO Wells for Zoe.

On 4th April 15 BAM Students, with the support of DITSU and the DIT Societies Office, will travel to Malawi. They will spend two weeks working on Wells for Zoe projects. The group will work hard for 12 days, setting up a bee keeping and farming businesses for women who look after orphans, play with local children, share experiences with a local youth group and assist in existing Wells for Zoe projects.

This will be followed by two days recovering at the picturesque Lake Malawi, Africa's third largest lake, before returning to Ireland.

Last year a group travelled to Malawi with the Freestyle Soccer Society and completed a school, village garden and started a HIV / AIDS Support Group. This year the group hopes to revisit their original project, and to work on a newer orphanage, farming and beekeeping projects started with local people.

During the summer three members of the original group returned for three weeks and completed the decorating and furniture in the DIT Luvovo School, ran a number of village workshops for local teenage girls, and helped a number of locals set up chicken farming businesses.

Other BAM news:

BAMSoc, DIT's biggest and newest society recently held their launch night in the Purry Kitchen, Temple Bar. In keeping with BAMSocs other events 200 tickets were sold at only €5 each in DIT, which included a free champagne reception. The launch party was a major success and proved to be the biggest night of the month for majority of DIT Business and Marketing Students.

Also...

Election Fever hit Aungier Street on 5th November and BAMSoc got involved in celebrating oBAMa style!

The BAM Team decided to offer a FREE night for all BAM members...

A reception was held in Aungier Street during which President Elect Obama's speech were broadcast to 60 guests and wine, pizza, soft drinks and snacks were served. The guests were from a diverse background, including a significant number of international and erasmus exchange students, along with a number of Bolton St and Kevin St engineering students and BAM business and marketing students.

Members then moved onto a Feile, Camden Street, which had made special arrangement to accommodate the group.

The group were finally given FREE admission to 21s, which was also giving away FREE A&F gear!

This was the third major event held by the Business and Marketing Society. The Society has an objective of helping to promote integration among Business & Marketing Students in DIT, and was delighted with the success of the oBAMa Party at helping to meet these objections. The Society would also like to acknowledge the kind assistance of FRESH, Camden Street and the DIT Portering staff with this event.

BAM IN Bundoran...

The Business and Marketing Society held its first trip from 7-9th November. Over 40 members travelled to Bundoran, Co. Donegal, for a team building surfing weekend.

After a bus journey of almost five hours the group arrived at the hostel where they quickly sought local refreshments after the arduous journey!

A small number of the group managed to revive themselves enough for a 10am surf lesson, while another 26 were sufficiently awake to go at 2.30 to face the cold winds of West Donegal.

The group hit the town en masse Saturday night before returning to Dublin 2am Sunday.
DJ give me a beat

Lyndsay Copeland profiles one of DIT's most entertaining societies.

Founded in 2000 by Will Kinsella, the DJ Society has become one of DIT's biggest societies. The society has grown and progressed for the last eight years, gaining newer and better equipment and providing a platform for prospective DJs to hone their skills.

The aims of the society are:

"To provide a social forum in DIT for DJ's of all musical tastes, allowing them to have an outlet for there music and providing them with a public platform to showcase there talent."

"To teach prospective DJ's, to cultivate and grow prospective talent within the student body. To provide entertainment of a alternative nature that adds to the variety of the social life of the students, to provide musical services to all other societies".

DJ lessons are held every Monday from 5pm in The Blackbox theatre in Aungier Street. Everyone is welcome to come along, member or not. All levels are welcome as it's a very friendly and inviting atmosphere.

The society has got quite a range of different equipment, with more on the way. This includes; Four Technics 1210s, two Pioneer CDJ1000s, two Pioneer CDJ100s, a Pioneer DJM600 and two tomahawk lights.

The society organise a lot of different activities for members and also for people who want to give DJing a try. As well as hosting lessons they also host open deck nights where anyone, of whatever skill level can see what it's like to DJ in front of an audience. Many of the more experienced DJs in the society have also played in many clubs in Dublin.

Upcoming events that DJ Soc are participating in are Spinnoff 2009 and Intervarsity competitions. They also plan on attracting some big DJs for events in the college.

If you want to get more information you can contact them on their site www.bebo.com/DITdjsoc and you can also watch their online tv channel at http://muzu.tv/ditdjsoc.

DIT mountaineering club reaching new heights

A trip to the Burren turns out a success for the mountaineering club despite the heavy rain, writes Karen McCabe.

The DIT mountaineering Club recently spent a weekend in The Burren, Co Clare on a climbing trip.

Arriving late on Friday 24th October, we checked into our hostel and then headed off to the local for a few drinks. The next morning, armed with some local knowledge of the area gathered the night before, we set off on a hike through some of the Burren walks.

Despite the lashing rain (and a couple of sore heads) we trekked on in high spirits. The scenery was breathtaking in areas and we even managed to complete the hike two hours early, finishing at Ailwee Caves (The caves appear in the Father Ted episode "The Mainland" under the name "The Very Dark Caves") where we stopped for some much needed food and drying out.

We all amused ourselves trying to see who had the most water dripping out of their clothes along with taking over the electric heater that was warming the gift shop!

Later at the hostel, Orla Casey produced her guitar and we all enjoyed a singaround around the fire, hoping for better weather the following day.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear, perfect for climbing!

Starting at Ballyryan, some inland cliffs, the new members of the group had their first experience at outdoor climbing. Even with a few showers falling, we made the most of the time we had there, with everyone getting in three or four climbs at different cliffs. After a few hours there, we made our way to the sea cliffs.

The views were fabulous as we scrambled our way down to the shore for the climbs.

With the sea ferociously pounding the rocks behind us, we were all feeling quite underside of the cliffs.

Tired but accomplished, the crew spent that evening relaxing with a few drinks, with the more adventurous people scouting outside for places to climb by torchlight!

Monday morning it was a weary crowd that headed back to Dublin, some carrying cuts and bruises as souvenirs of a good climb!

A fantastic trip and plans are already under way for the next one.
Unleash your inner Diva

This year Pink Training was held in Galway. Pink training is a weekend away that is primarily aimed at Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students in Ireland on both sides of the Border. We arrived Friday evening after about six hours on the bus (Fun Times), checked in at the hostel and headed over to the student bar! (Yeah Galway has a student bar the one thing DIT is missing!) They had a Sexual Health Magician. It’s a fun way of learning about sexual health much better than your average school talk.

Most of Saturday was taken up with workshops. In my opinion it’s a waste of time coming to Pink Training and not attending as many of the workshops you can. If nothing else it’s a way to meet new people.

The workshops tend to be interactive which is why I like them so much. I find its easier keep focused when you’re part of the group. I am aware that not everyone is as talkative as I am but Pink Training accommodates for everyone.

It tries to help everyone come to terms with any issues they may be facing and with its safe space policy, it ensures total confidentiality.

Drama in Connemara
By: Jemma Curran
I t all began with a ridiculously long bus journey. Six hours long if I’m not mistaken. I was extremely glad when it was over!

When we got there, we didn’t waste any time in getting stuck into a workshop. The great thing about the workshops was that you could act like a complete eejit in front of everyone and it didn’t matter!

Early on, the group was divided into North Side and South Side, on a campus basis. We then had to form two tribes, complete with assigning a specific job to everyone within the community. This led on to a tribal war dance, a worship ceremony and finally a mating dance where we had to seduce members of the other tribe. (You know, just a normal day in Drama Soc.)

The workshop that I had been dreading the most was the ‘trust’ workshop, but it ended up being one of my favourites. The trust walk was fantastic, even if I was completely terrified for quite a large chunk of it!

And as for the nightlife, let’s just say the Drama Soc sure knows how to throw a party! I managed to function on around four hours sleep for the whole weekend, which is still more than what others got!

Santry to Tynagh for DIT karting club
By: Thomas Maguire & Graham Higginbotham

A dampened track awaited the members of the Karting Club for the third outing of the year. In total 25 eager racers made the trip to the exciting out-door circuit of Kart-City in Santry, Dublin.

After the practices, six heat races followed with each competitor racing in two heats from various starting positions on the grid. Mid-way through the heats, a steady haze of rain began to fall changing the track conditions once more. With braking and acceleration becoming more tricky, it made for some excellent viewing for the on-looking karting members.

Once the heats had been completed, it was down to business with the Semi-Finals and the Grand Final. With track conditions worsening by the minute, the nine finalists were faced with a completely different track to the one they started on at the beginning of the event.

The race was run over a slippery 11 laps with Graham Higginbotham and Cormack O’Neill fighting for the lead for 9 laps. An error from Graham two laps from the end gave Cormack O’Neill the honours, followed closely by Graham Higginbotham in second and a lonely but well deserved third place for Chris Armstrong.

Other Karting News...

On the 21st of November D.I.T. Karting Club held their annual driver championship in Galway. Thirty-five racers battled it out at Pallas Karting in Tynagh for the prestigious John Hanrahann Memorial Cup.

John Hanrahann was a student of D.I.T., a talented driver, and a senior member of the Karting Club whose life was cut short in tragic circumstances during a private test session at Mondello Park in May 2003.

The trip is a yearly event and since 2004 has been dedicated to the memory of John and every year the presentation of the cup to the winner is made by John’s parents Padraig and Mary Hanrahann’s hometown of Killimor in east Galway.

This year the group left Dublin on Friday morning and raced on a damp afternoon. The group were split into two for the two half hour sessions, a tough challenge with a track length of 1500m and many twists and turns.

A light shower of rain hampered the first group of racers with the track drying out over the duration of the second heat and the times improved as a result.

The drivers with the fastest sixteen laps go in to a fifteen minute final, some straight away after finishing the second heat. The final produced some great battles all over the track with the racer who got the best average lap time for the session winning the championship.

The winners were in 3rd position club Treasurer A. Sweetnam, finishing 2nd and setting new track record of 57.06 seconds in the process was D. Keegan and in 1st place N. Daly was overall winner.

The presentation was held in John Joe’s of Killimor and the food and drink provided greatly appreciated by the exhausted drivers before the group left for Galway City. A night out in Galway followed and enjoyed by all the karters. Thanks to all who came on the trip for their excellent behaviour and support of the club. For more information and all the pictures from the trip check out www.bebo.com/DITKARTING
Making and Breaking

Do people still make New Year’s resolutions and stick to them or are they a thing of the past. Caitlin McBride asks DIT students about their plans and promises for 2009.

I t would seem DIT students have managed to achieve what the human race has collectively strived for since the dawn of time: perfection. Out of the several students I interviewed, only 3 planned on making New Year’s resolutions. And none of them had any intention of keeping them.

Naturally, the majority chose for the healthy living option. “I’ll give up sweets and chocolate. I won’t snack as much during the day. I’d like to give up drink.” Notice the key words of “I’d like” to and “I will” give up this, that and other.

According to the majority of DIT students, we all have a case of ‘I’ll start it tomorrow’itis, which has caused us all to become a bunch of mini alcoholic gluttons.

We’ll start doing more college work tomorrow. “We won’t drink anymore”’ from Monday on. Procrastination is the key to success, isn’t that how the old saying goes?

We always tell ourselves the basics: “I’ll stop eating chocolate. I’ll start studying more. I’ll go to the gym more often. I’ll start it tomorrow.” Blah blah blah. It’s as if we’re addicted to our own failures. It would seem New Year’s Resolutions are the holiday equivalent to the toxic relationship: you know it won’t last, you know it’s probably a bad idea to get involved to begin with, but you just can’t help yourself.

The real reason most of us seem to avoid these pedantic annual rituals is because of simple scientific evidence.

We’ve tried and failed in the past. And how can you argue with the facts? Although I have to quote one success story that would do the New Year’s gods proud: Ciara Hewitt from DIT’s Kevin Street campus. Not only did Ciara successfully complete the diet she set for herself last January, it encouraged her to even undertake a new one for 2009, although she has no idea what it will be yet.

So what resolutions, if any, will the students of DIT be making as 2009 approaches?

Andrew Davies responded with a simple, “No I never have. Probably never will.” Ah, the joy of a man who knows what he wants.

Orla Murphy, of Kevin Street actually believes not necessarily in New Year’s resolutions, but that it’s nice to set goals for improving yourself.

Jenny Conlon set an achievable goal for herself last year: Don’t get involved with stupid guys. Since, her and her boyfriend have been living happily ever after for the past year, it would seem that maybe resolutions aren’t such a bad idea after all.

Grainne Quinn and Claire Walsh were both adamant about giving up snacking during lectures. Apparently the phenomenon has swept the Kevin

St campus as a surprising few interviewed announced they intend on giving up the same thing. But again the ladies gave themselves “a week, maximum,” to last with their new non snacking ways.

Willie O’Dwyer proves he’s a man who can’t be kept down, and although he believes resolutions never last, he intends on giving up drink, or at least cutting back.

Ronan Anderson stated his goal of finding a job and intends to payoff his student loan. Aside from making history as the only aspiring journalist who will actually get a job in the recession, he intends to expand his horizons and give Irish girls, whom he swore off years ago, another chance. Ladies, watch this space!
DIT’s Got Talent & Model casting for the DIT Toyota Fashion Show

Photos by: Gary Fox

Above: A DIT student tries out to become a model for the DIT Toyota Fashion Show

Left: Magda Hanf of the Breakdancing Society performing at DIT’s Got Talent at Break for the Border recently.

Left: Amanda, Niamh, Sheena, Aisling and Lisa from Cathal Brugha Street campus at DIT’s Got Talent.

Below: Urschi Wojnar shows off his fire juggling skills at DIT’s Got Talent recently.

Above: Caroline, Laiko and Polline from DIT Aungier Street being entertained at DIT’s Got Talent, which was held in Break for the Border recently.

Above: A group of guys get ready to strut their stuff at the model castings for the DIT Toyota Fashion Show recently.

Above: The lucky 37 guys and girls who were chosen to be the models that will participate in the 2009 DIT Toyota Fashion Show next March.
Above: Louise wears fawn chiffon dress with velvet bow Zara €99.90
Rebecca wears silver cardigan Oasis €57 and black skirt with red satin cumberbund Oasis €87

Right: Louise wears grey wool coat €79.90 and green chiffon frill dress €39.90 both Zara. Black liquid effect leggings Oasis €28
Rebecca wears grey frill chiffon dress €39.90 and white wool coat €99 both from Zara. Red beret Pennys €3.
Shoes both models own.
Nevil wears Tommy Hilfiger black party coat €400, Hilfiger vneck €390, Hilfiger white shirt €90, Hilfiger dark jeans €120, black leather shoes €390.90
Eanna wears grey casual jacket €91, stripped shirt €43 both from Topman, light jeans Hilfiger €90. Shoes models own.
Above: Eanna wears black party Blazer €350, white shirt €90 both Hilfiger. 
Rebecca wears belle turquoise satin dress Oasis €115 and brown fur shrug Zara €49.90

Right: NeviIl wears black chord blazer €250, purple satin shirt €100 both Hilfiger, grey bootcut trousers €61 Topman. Shoes same as before.
Louise wears gold padded dress Oasis €84 and leopard skin heels Zara €79.90 and necklace Penneys €2.50

Left: Rebecca wears black chiffon maxi dress Zara €51.94. 
Louise wears white maxi dress with Japanese ink print Zara €59.90
Above: Rebecca wears blue chiffon dress €49.90 Zara.
Eanna wears pleated white shirt €100 Hilfiger, skinny fit jacket €122 Topman. Nevil same as before.
Louise wears grey chiffon sequin detail €49.90 Zara. Headbands from Penneys.

Below: Nevil wears white shirt €90 Hilfiger, skinny fit trousers €53 Topman.
Louise wears belle red dress €115 Oasis. Rebecca wears fawn chiffon dress €95 and black sequinned beret €4 Zara.

Photography by: Gary Fox www.garyfox.ie
Make-up by: Steph Sutton steph_sutton@eircom.net Tel: 085 1331395
Thanks to Aisling Connolly for sourcing the models from the DIT Toyota Fashion Show. Models are: Louise Fry, Rebecca Doherty, Nevil Copeland & Eanna Diffley.
Stylists: Orna Cunningham, Julie Kavanagh & Rachael Ryan.
Thanks also to: Chris English & Emer Tunney.
Location: The Grand Central Bar O’Connell Street, Dublin 1.
Clothes kindly provided by: Oasis, Penneys, Tommy Hilfiger, Topman & Zara.
While we may not have the extra cash to burn at the moment it doesn’t mean we can’t buy ourselves a ‘new’ outfit as Sarah O Hegarty found out when she hit the charity shops and vintage stores of Dublin city centre.

Left: Faux fur coat C45. Lace Corset C2. Tartan Skirt C6. All from WaWa Aungier Street.

Above: Hound’s tooth print dress C35. Belt C25. Beaded Bag C45. (Styled by Ellen Kenny @ Wildchild)

Left: Vintage Floral print shirt C25. Vintage skiny Levi’s 501C $25 Track top £40 Brogues £20 All from Wildchild as before


“Unlike new clothes vintage pieces give your style an eclectic finish and you will not have to worry about a girl in your class wearing the same top as you to college”
Comment & Opinion

Why register twice?
By: Louise McHenry

A ny first time students at DIT, whether under- or postgraduate, will remember having to register. For first years, it was quite sensibly a week before classes began. For some postgraduates, it was either the week of classes or the second week in. Current students could register online.

So registration – you arrived anxiously, proffering your birth certificate, your bank draft receipt and your confirmation that you had paid the entirety of your fees. It was bad enough for the undergraduates who bemoaned their fees of just under 1000 euro. It was slightly more painful for the postgraduates – some of whom had to bring evidence that they had emptied their bank accounts to amounts of 6500 or 7000 euro.

Ah sure that’s not too much for the excellent administration provided by our college!

But that was the start of the year – every student was issued with a student card, a student number and confirmation that they were part of the DIT massive. Our details were on the system. We had emails; we were in classes. We existed as students of the college.

However, barely a few weeks later, boxes started to appear around colleges. Little brown padlocked boxes asking us to register for exams. Erm, what? Surely we’ve already registered. You know ... at that time when we handed over our exorbitant fees, when we got our course code and title printed on our plastic student cards? Or doesn’t that count?

Apparently not in DIT. Apparently, students who register for the college only do so to attend classes. Or only do so because they’ve got a few thousand euro to spare and they’d like to donate it to DIT.

Deciding to actually do the exams seems to be secondary – you can decide a couple of weeks later. Oh yeah, except if you don’t do your exams, you don’t get your degree. Hmm... try and figure that one out.

In Aungier Street, for example, it takes exactly twenty seconds to walk from the Registrations Office to the Examinations Office. Surprisingly both offices have internet access and phone lines but for some reason, they seem unable to transfer information from one office to another.

Yes, it may only be another piece of paper to scribble your details on and post in a little box but why? Why register twice? What’s with the unnecessary paperwork? And why do DIT get away with charging a late fee of 60 euro to anyone who misses this pointless deadline?

Response

Commenting on the examination registration process a senior administrative source at DIT said they supported the idea of a single registration process and that DIT would be hopefully working towards this in the future.

Posh looking pad proved less than memorable: DIT Graduation Ball

I t was a late Sunday evening in November, after getting a little lost we turned into a long country estate drive. We were all slightly taken back by how amazing the hotel looked. When we spotted the Helipad we all bust into laughter. It seems a bit posh for DIT!

On entering the lobby we were greeted by a polite receptionist that checked us in quickly, as the queue was starting to build up. We had booked a room with two double beds but in true student style the four of us bunked in together.

The room was large and spacious with all the amenities one would expect. Room service was quick and helpful, bringing lots of ice!

At 7.15 we all met in the hotel bar for a pre-drink, the bell was rung and slowly we all moved into the main ballroom. The decoration left a lot to be desired with just a small centerpiece on each table. How much would it have cost to get a class of ’08’ Banner? It was a simple thing that would have added that little special touch, which you would expect at your graduation.

The menu was simple, vegetable soup and fresh rolls, chicken breast on a small portion of mash with a cream sauce that was bland to say the least.

There was one roast potato and mixed vegetables for the table. The desert was a chocolate mouse (if you could call it that). Tea and coffee was on hand to wash down an otherwise poor meal.

After the disappointment of the dinner, it left most asking what did we spend €76 on? The playful speech by the current Vice-Present of Services and Trading, Dermot, got the mood going.

The band Blue Moose, made the night! They keep knocking out the tunes. They had a song to please the whole crowd. Once they finished the DJ from DJ Soc spun out all the cheese classics and current chart tunes.

Just when we thought the night was over, a student pulled out his guitar and the singsong continued until the bar stopped serving.

While most of us didn’t make it for the breakfast, the few that had stayed up all night said the variety was extensive.

The question however is why was it so expensive?
Ticket for Dinner - €76
There were about 350 to 400 people at the ball, with a min of €26,600 taken in on tickets? Where did that money all go?

DIT Students’ Union response

Final cost of a ticket to a student varies depending on how they choose to pay for the ticket – as with all TM tickets. We set the base cost, a proportion of which we then pay to TM.

We are constantly investigating other methods of selling the tickets which may result in lowering of costs for future Graduation Balls.

We’re assuming, given the number of attendees the author estimates as having been at the Ball, that they are speaking of the Business Graduation Ball. This is generally the largest Ball but was not attended by between 350 and 400 people this year as the author seems to believe.

Factoring in the lower attendance figure than the author estimated, plus TM charges both on our end, as the promoter, as well as on the purchaser end, the actual figure returned to DITSU for this Ball was considerably less than the €26,600 mentioned.

Any profit that is made on this Ball is used to offset small losses made on some of the other, smaller Balls. Most costs are fixed costs – band, DJ, transport etc.

This is a shorter response than the one first written, resulting from a request by DIT News to shorten our response.
Feature

Wanted

As the jobs market suffers its worst slump since the 1980s, students are becoming increasingly nervous about their future employment prospects. Claire Hartnett examines the current situation and students prospects for employment.

Just how bad is it for students? We're always broke anyway, we actually enjoy the taste of Bavaria and we've been shopping in Aldi since day one of Freshers' Week. With all this recession depression it's worth considering how changes in the economy will affect students.

Undoubtedly, it will be the class of 2008/09 who will be most at risk from the economic downturn. But it's not all doom and gloom for final year students. Research carried out by Gradireland.ie found that 71% of the 211 employers it questioned said they expected to recruit the same number of students this year as in 2007. A minority of companies questioned have reduced the volume of graduate recruitment this year, but, according to Caroline Kennedy, careers and opportunities officer at the National College of Ireland “having suffered with a lack of talent due to recruitment freezes in 2001, the vast majority of recruiters see the value of maintaining their graduate pipeline to ensure a consistent flow of talent when the market picks up.

The recent turmoil in the financial services sector has no doubt impacted upon employment opportunities in the area. The banking sector is expected to substantially reduce its graduate recruitment this year and a reduction of graduates by 15% is expected by most of the major banks. This downturn in employment opportunities was also reflected by the absence of most of the major banks at this year’s Grad Ireland Fair.

Business students’ employment prospects, however, are in a better state. Accountancy remains one of the strongest sectors for graduate recruitment in Ireland with the big four firms (PWC, Deloitte, KPMG and Ernst and Young) planning to recruit upwards of 1000 graduates this year. Lorraine Toole, Graduate Recruitment Manager for Price Waterhouse Cooper stated that business was actually increasing in PWC and that there will be no change in the amount of graduates recruited for the 2009 intake. She did, however, admit that there was a definite increase in the number of applicants applying for the programme this year.

The IT jobs market is another sector where employment prospects are healthy. The decline in students applying for IT courses combined with a dip in the numbers graduating from existing IT courses has led to a huge gap in the jobs market. Opportunities for students on courses that combine IT with other disciplines are plentiful. Ciaran Murphy, a UCC professor in Business Information Systems (BIS), stated that there is a strong demand for graduates in information systems particularly from the international financial services market.

Graduates of disciplines such as arts and media have always faced a tough battle in the search for employment, but competition for jobs will increase even more in these sectors over the coming months. Falling advertising revenue has impacted upon most of the major media outlets in the state and staff cutbacks have been used to compensate for the loss of expected advertising revenue. The recently announced RTE cutbacks will hit media graduates hard as staff vacancies will not be filled, where feasible, and the contracts of some casual and fixed term workers will not be renewed making it almost impossible for newly graduated students to get a foot in the door of Ireland’s main broadcaster. TV3 has also announced redundancies as a result of the slump in advertising revenue.

It’s not all recession depression though, according to the DIT careers service. Dave Kilmartin, Head of Careers, states that whilst there has been a definite decrease in the amount of employers seeking to employ graduates across the board, there has been an increase in the number of employers actually actively coming to the college to give presentations to students. Kilmartin encourages students not to panic about their future employment prospects – “Previously it was an employees market but now it’s an employers market. It is difficult out there but the crest of the wave will come back again, this sort of change and flux is natural and students need to take a stepping stone approach now to their careers”.

So the general mood seems to be one of cautious optimism. Yes, there are fewer jobs available to graduates, no, it’s not time to drop out and move to Australia. Employment opportunities still exist but competition is tough and companies can afford to be a lot more selective this year. Grades will matter now more so than ever and work experience in your chosen field will set you apart from the crowd. And there’s always Facebook. With its international headquarters soon opening in Dublin, there’s no better place to start your foray into graduate employment than a company whose wares you’ve been “testing out” for the past few years in college computer labs!
Volunteering in Africa can provide priceless memories for those wanting something a little different for their summer holidays.

Every year thousands of Irish students head to the United States for a summer of drinking and debauchery. It is invariably the trip of a lifetime, but if you want something different and fancy some adventure, why not consider volunteering in Africa? It was the trip of a lifetime for students Mary Hyland and Anna Ryan.

The two girls headed for Uganda after signing up with an American volunteering organisation called A Broader View. They were assigned to live with a wealthy couple in the capital city of Kampala and days later they started work in the nearby Sanyu Babies Home. This orphanage is home to over forty children under the age of three. As carers, Mary and Anna were encouraged to feed the children, play with them, clean them and change their diapers.

"I'm not scared of baby poop anymore," laughs Mary, who is a third year pharmaceuticals student in Trinity.

People might imagine that African orphanages are desolate, abandoned institutions but Anna and Mary's experience highlights what a difference well-placed resources and volunteer work makes. The orphanage has ten Mamas, who do the cleaning and food preparation. The children are healthy, happy and well cared for. Local Ugandans come in during the day to help and of course there are the foreign volunteers.

However, not all orphanages are as professional as this. Anna previously spent a summer working at orphanages in Ghana and the experience was very different. "In the last orphanage, they would hit the children for silly things like soiling themselves. There were no toys to play with. The orphanage was given money but resources were badly allocated."

Luckily for the children in Sanyu Babies Home the orphanage is a proper home for them. "Each of the children has forty brothers and sisters. The oldest children are only three years old yet they all know each others' names," says Anna.

"People shout at you and touch you. There are huge amounts of people in a tiny area and they all want to speak with you. It's not like Dublin where people walk around and don't give a s**t."

Many of the babies get adopted and four were adopted during the girls' short stay. Previously, many children were being adopted but then set to work as child slaves. Nowadays, strict controls ensure that the children only go to loving homes. Those who wish to adopt must live in Uganda for three years and visit the orphanage often before adoption is finalised.

Anna and Mary also spent a week working in the African Child in Need, a shelter for homeless boys between twelve and eighteen. It was founded by Milton, a former church worker who saved all his money to open the shelter. Anna and Mary sing his praises. Milton went around the city and asked homeless boys if they would like a place to stay, but many of the children found it difficult to accept his offer. Drink, drugs and smoking are all strictly prohibited but as many of the boys are addicts they can not accept the rules.

The boys confided in Anna and Mary, telling stories of hardship and horrific abuse. Cruel parents and gang violence are the norm for these boys.

One boy called Andrew endured years of abuse at his parents' hands before running away at seven years old to live on the streets of Kampala. During this time, he was forced into stealing and gang crime, but for him it was a means to survive.
Milton offered Andrew shelter when he was 14 and since then he has become the boys' leader and inspiration. The girls fondly recall his acts of generosity and goodness.

"The shelter was near the slums so local children would come to sit with the boys," says Mary. "They had one meal of rice a day and the local children would look on hungrily, as they rarely got to eat. Then, we would see Andrew pouring rice onto another child's plate, saying he wasn't hungry. He's just like Aladdin!"

"He had a job selling CDs during the day but he never used his money to buy food. He spent his money on using the internet, trying to get an education," explains Anna. Andrew loves R&B and is trying to set up a band with two of his friends and Anna's next adventure was trying to get an education,"

Despite spending only a week in the shelter, the girls felt they made a difference in the boys' lives. "They thought it was so special that we came all the way from Ireland. That's how Milton put it to them: 'They came all the way from Ireland to see you because they love you and you are special.' They had no families but Milton did his best to instil confidence and self-belief in the boys. He made one message very clear to them: 'Everyone loves you and you need to know that you are loved.'"

The girls remained in contact with the boys during their stay in Kampala but after six weeks of volunteering in the capital they moved on to explore Africa. The girls travelled the continent for three weeks in an Overland, a big truck with the container converted into a people-carrier. Chores were divided out amongst the travellers and they slept in tents but life on the Overland was just another adventure for Mary and Anna. They visited the popular ex-pat town Jinja, where they went bungee-jumping and white water rafting. Many volunteers visit this area to enjoy tourist activities and socialising. Mary and Anna's next adventure was gorilla watching in the Rwandan rainforest, a trip they highly recommend.

Anna recalls the exhilarating experience: "We were standing right behind them but they barely noticed us. Mountain gorillas are very rare and it was amazing to see them in their natural habitat just eating and lazing about."

Following a trip to a Kenyan game park, the girls visited the Ugandan equator line and learned an important lesson in plumbing.

"There were three sinks, one on either side of the equator and one on the line. On the southern side of the hemisphere the water turned clockwise; on the northern side, the water turned anti-clockwise, but on the line the water went straight down. It cost a few dollars to learn this but it was pretty strange," the girls laugh.

Mary and Anna paint an extraordinary picture of life in Africa.

"For the first three days, everything was really strange and quite scary," says Mary. "People shout at you and touch you. There are huge amounts of people in a tiny area and they all want to speak with you. It's not like Dublin where people walk around and don't give a s**t."

"It's like being a celebrity," adds Anna. "Because we're white, they think we are rich and from TV land."

Once they got past the initial culture shock, the girls became immersed in the African way of life.

"I went to Africa with low expectations," says Mary. "I knew I would have an amazing time but I expected to be bathing in the river and not eating much. This wasn't the case, though; their way of life is similar to ours."

The girls left Africa with many friends and memories but most importantly they've learnt important lessons.

"We'd ask, 'what time are we doing this or that?'; and the reply would be, 'Hakuna Matta.'" Anna remembers. "You would ask the time and they would say 'Africa Time!'"

The girls try to apply this principal to life in Ireland but our pace of life doesn't often allow such a philosophy. Nevertheless, Mary and Anna have learned to sit back, relax and enjoy life.

"I can now take a step back and laugh about things whereas before I could get quite hot headed," explains Mary. "I now know you don't need a lot to be happy."

The girls' trip was completed on a modest budget but they made the most of their time in Africa. Those wishing to volunteer for the first time should choose a reputable organisation. The girls are keen to point out the importance of researching the company you are travelling with so you can get the best possible experience. Most importantly, the girls urge students to take the trip of a lifetime and consider volunteering. "Do it!" Mary enthuses. "It's amazing. I had the best time of my life and I can't wait to go back."

http://www.abroaderview.org/

Left: Women carrying water from the well. Above and below: Mary and Anna with the children in the orphanages.
Think of Vietnam and several preconceptions will spring to mind; war, rice paddies, communism and fish sauce. All fair assumptions to make but throw tranquil white beaches, serious nightlife, rich culture and a gracious welcoming populace into the pot and you get one of the most vibrant and exotic countries on earth.

After haggling for a taxi to take us from Hanoi’s tiny airport into the city centre we arrived at a dilapidated hotel looking nothing like our online booking. It was late; we were tired and hungry. A search for food through the centres unlit and deserted streets yielded nothing but closed shutters and the scurry of rats and cockroaches briefly lit by our meagre torch. Carefully checking under the bed we resigned ourselves to sleep. Our first night in Vietnam wasn’t boding well.

The next morning we awoke to a completely different city. The narrow streets were packed with people, food was being cooked on the side of the street, shops were selling everything from paper lanterns to pirate cds and the heat from the sun magnified the scents of spices, fumes and perspiration. Grabbing a bottle of beer, and some Bun Cha (spicy noodles) from a street vendor for 80 cents, we were ready for the day.

Hanoi is Vietnam’s capital city, with a population of 3.3m and what seemed like at least double that number of scooters. The city is manic; the rumble of millions of motorbikes have replaced the bicycles making crossing the street an art form and whilst sitting down at a bar, public announcements blast out harking back to Communist days. But there is tranquillity here too. The city wraps itself around the peaceful Hoan Kiem Lake whilst The Temple of Literature affords a welcome respite and a hit of culture. Fans of mummified dictators will enjoy shuffling past the eerie spectacle of Ho Chi Minh’s embalmed body.
Hanoi is a love it or hate it kind of place. Brian, a rugby player from Dublin we met loved it so much he moved over to manage a bar. Others can’t get over the congestion, the noise or the site of whole boiled dogs for sale.

Leaving the capital behind a turn north would take you to Sapa for some mountain trekking. Looking for something more relaxing, we headed out to Cat Ba Island. Unfortunately the island was more kitsch than calming so we quickly boarded a traditional Vietnamese Junk for a two day trip around Halong Bay.

The Bay is a UNESCO world heritage site and entrant for one of the ‘New 7 Wonders of the world’. Steeped in Vietnamese mythology, Halong Bay is an ethereal sprawl of 1,966 tiny islands surrounded by deep turquoise water. Gently cruising through the inlets was awe inspiring. We anchored up for the night in a sheltered bay and soon found the boat surrounded by ‘mini shops’; local women in boats laden with everything from cigarettes and biscuits to vodka and whisky all keen to strike a deal.

Anywhere you go in Vietnam be prepared to be seen as a walking ATM. In the touristy areas your just another rich western tourist and off the beaten track you’re the same but more of a novelty. No matter how broke you are back home or that the airfare over might have required you to sell a relative; your still rich. But see the back-breaking physical labour most Vietnamese call their daily job, earning less in a year than we would in a month, and you will probably agree with this view.

Vietnam has low unemployment but is still struggling to recover from the economic effects of what is commonly known as ‘the American war’.

We past the initial ‘tourist’ thing and it’s hard not to fall for the easy charm, humour and genuine kindness of the Vietnamese people. When one of our group crashed his scooter (warning: rent bikes at your own peril!) we were soon being looked after by Minh, he spoke perfect English and insisted on acting as our translator, guide and all round god-send. Staff at our hotel checked in daily round god-send. Staff at our hotel checked in daily, they even phoned ahead to make sure we were well looked after in the next town on our travels.

Our trip ended in Ho Chi Minh City, still Saigon to most Vietnamese. The city is a heady mix of east and west; Buddhist temples, palaces and cultural parks fight for space with huge malls and cinemas. A good start to the day is a massage in HCMC’s school for the blind. The War Remnants museum is a graphic, harrowing and essential visit. Not least because of the first-hand accounts of devastating Agent Orange attacks. Hours spent admiring the bewildering array of temples can be balanced with hours spent partying away in district 1; the cities nightlife epicentre. For longer stays work can be found teaching English or volunteering in one of the many orphanages.

It is difficult to do justice to this incredible country in the space available here. If you are thinking about a 11 trip to the US next year, make sure you consider Vietnam first. You are guaranteed a rewarding and unforgettable experience.
DIT sports scholars honored

By: Seamus O'Neill

A total of 56 DIT sports scholars were honored at a ceremony in DIT recently. Students from a wide selection of sports including everything from archery to windsurfing, together with their families, were presented with their sports scholarship awards from special guest Packie Bonner.

Opening the evening Head of Sport at DIT Sínead McNulty commented on how committed DIT is to the area of sport. “We are supporting elite athletes who have both the talent and dedication required to achieve academic and sporting success in their chosen sport. “Some of our past and current scholarship students have represented both the institute and their country at world student games, world university championships and at the recent Olympics”.

Speaking exclusively to DIT News special guest Packie Bonner spoke of the importance sport plays in students’ lives. “I think it keeps students disciplined. There up and out early in the morning and it gives them a discipline. “They are fit, health and they are also thinking. It does compliment you as a student. If you are bogged down with stress and exams get out onto the pitch and it freshens your whole mind and your ability to think.

Commenting on the best advice he ever received he said, “I was a professional and I was very focused on what I wanted to do and what I wanted to try and achieve in sport. Advice that was given to me was to work very hard, live your life properly, and on the way up you are always going to come back down so have a bit of humility about you”. He advised students that, “if you are good at your sport be focused on it. Don’t think of it as a hobby. If you are good at it give it 100% and who knows what you might do after. You always have your academic life to fall back on”. Speaking at the awards ceremony Dr. Mike Murphy, Chairperson of the DIT Sports Committee and Director of Faculty of Engineering, quoted Earl Warren who said, “I always turn to the sports page first, which records people’s accomplishments. The front page has nothing, but man’s failures’.

He also talked of the problems, which are often faced by the sports department. “Sports here at DIT has and continues to face challenges most from a facilities perspective. However on the people side and particularly the sports and recreation services team they have done a sensational job of developing sport at DIT”.

Also announced on the night by Dr. Murphy was a new scholar of the year award. More details of which will appear shortly. The scholar of the year award will be awarded to someone who contributes most to DIT. Ken Lynch of the Irish Institute of Sport said, “The sports scholars have been committed and you have made a choice to be a sports person and an academic and that’s what this agreement is about between DIT and the Irish Institute of Sport. “We want to try and create an environment where the athlete can succeed in a sporting sense and also in an academic sense”.

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DIT mens premier soccer team knocked out

The DIT Men's Premier Soccer Team were very unfortunate not to progress in the Premier East playoff against IT Tallaght.

Having convincingly won their Division they faced old foes IT Tallaght in Grangegorman on November 26th.

New DIT soccer Scholarship student Oleg Shiskarev scored for the home side but it finished all square at 1-1 at full time.

Extra time brought no score so it was down to penalties. IT Tallaght won 4-2 on penalties.

Next up for the premier team is the 3rd and 4th place playoff against Colaiste Ide. After Christmas both the DIT A & B team will play in the Umbro Cup 2nd round with the hope of reaching the final in Galway in March. Both these teams reached last year’s finals with the B team winning their competition and the A team reaching the semi-final.

where the Garda College defeated them and went on to win the A competition.

DIT sailing team get set for Sailing World Championships in Perth

DIT Students Marty O’Leary and Emer McNally have enjoyed a whirlwind of national sailing successes in recent weeks. Sailing in J80 keelboats, they won the Match Racing Nationals as crew for Nin O’Leary, and the Patriots Cup crewing for John Sheehy. The Patriots Cup was sailed between three UK and three Irish teams in Dun Laoghaire at the end of September.

O’Leary, a 4th year engineering student in DIT Bolton St., was selected by Nin to sail aboard his boat for the Irish Sailing Association’s All-Ireland Helmsman’s Championships. Sailed from Howth at the start of October, they beat 15 national champions, Beijing Olympians and other Irish sailing legends to take the title.

Marty also crewed for John Sheehy in the Irish qualifier for the Nation’s Cup, in Kinsale in November.

McNally, 3rd year Marketing, and O’Leary are on the successful DIT sailing team which won the Intervarsity championships this year. They are travelling to Perth, Australia to represent Ireland in the Team Sailing World Championships in January after qualifying in April.

Recreational soccer gets a boost in DIT

DIT Football Facilitator John O’Carroll has set up two new recreational soccer competitions on a pilot basis in Larkin Community College this semester.

On Tuesday from 6pm-7pm an indoor soccer futsal competition is taking place with 4 5-aside teams in action and the finals will be played next Tuesday the 9th of December.

On Wednesday also in Larkin College on the astro pitch there is a European Astro League taking place with teams from Ireland, Finland, Spain, Italy and France. The finals for this competition will take place next Wednesday 10th of December.

The Monday night astro league is still in full flow and concludes next week also.

In February 2009 the DIT Soccer Club will be running more recreational leagues in Larkin College and in addition are currently securing venue’s on the south side of the city to serve students from Rathmines, Kevin Street and Aungier Street.

For more information on recreational soccer contact:

John O’Carroll
DIT Football Facilitator
086 7954371
John.o'carroll@fai.ie
DIT rugby continue unbeaten run

IT's unbeaten league campaign continued after a less than convincing win against a weakened Garda side. While DIT gained maximum points from this match winning and getting the bonus point, this performance lacked the precision that this talented side is capable of.

DIT started very brightly with an early try from Jan-Simon Byrne. The centre sped through a gap in the Garda defence to score a try under the posts that outhalf Barry McGlaughlin had no trouble converting.

DIT continued to pile on the pressure on the Garda team but too often knock-ons and errors prevented them from putting further scores on the board. Garda College then got a try and after they converted it brought the scores level.

Two excellent penalties from outhalf Barry McGlaughlin meant that DIT went in at half time with a 13-7 lead.

A try from Mark Farrell 20 minutes into the second half after a trademark powerful line break cemented DIT's lead, as the pace of the game began to take its toll on the Garda side. After some excellent build up play Steven Cassells went over the line for DIT's third try of the game.

Garda then got a try to make the score 27-12 before DIT sealed the bonus point win with a fine individual try from Alan Thompson. Garda got a late score and the game finished up on a score line of 34-19.

For the second game in a row Barry McGlaughlin had a fine kicking game. This time landing all his place kicks and finishing with a points tally of 14 points.

The star performers of this match were out half Barry McGlaughlin, Cian Erraught and Richie Delaney who made a big impact when he came off the bench.

DIT rugby have now won their opening two games and remain on track to get through to the All Ireland semi final in their first year in the first division. Their next game is against Coleraine and a win in that game will leave them unbeaten going into the New Year.

DIT line up: Padraig Mahon, Ger Mahon, Ian Leonard for Andrew Buckridge, Kevin Kilran for Ken Tuite, and Dave Byrne for David Sheridan.

Congratulations to Jan Leonard, Davy Toman and Richie Delaney for their selection for the Leinster College's team. We wish them the best of luck in the interprovincial colleges series.

Three medals for DIT

Thirteen DIT students traveled to Queens University Belfast last weekend to compete at the swimming and lifesaving Intervarsity championships.

Swimming scholar Stephen Duffy picked up a gold medal in the 100m breaststroke race in an almost PB time of 1:06. Duffy also collected a silver medal in the 100m individual medley.

Lifesaver Rachael Haskins also came away with a silver medal in the 50m Manikin tow.

Students participated in team relay events finishing in forth place, just outside the medals in four different relay races.

All team members enjoyed the weekend and will resume training at Kevin Street pool and Belvedere College pool. Anyone interested in joining the teams can consult the sports website for the timetables

FIT 2 GO Club – Free lunchtime swims

Our Fit2Go Club pool facility has been newly refurbished and to help us re-launch our new pool programme we are offering free lunch time swims to all DIT students and staff. Just simply pop over to the Club anytime next week (8th – 12th Dec.) between the hours of 12 and 2pm and enjoy your complimentary dip! Our pool is fully supervised by qualified lifeguards who are on hand to make your visit as enjoyable as possible. Other activities on offer include aqua fit classes, swim lessons, mater class sessions and lane or leisure swimming so whether you are interested in a leisurely swim or a more strenuous workout we provide the perfect setting.

For further information on opening hours, facilities, join on line service etc please visit our ditsports website at http://www.ditsports.ie/fit2go.htm

Why not join our FIT2GO Club TODAY?? It's a simple as popping into our FIT2GO Club facilities at DIT Kevin Street or Bolton Street College Campuses and purchasing a pay per visit card for as little as €10 which will allow you to access pool or gym facilities
Two goals secure DIT’s place in semi-final

By: Alan O’Mara

DIT 2-09
Athlone IT 0-09

DIT’s ‘Fresher A’ panel secured their passage into the All-Ireland League Semi-Final on Thursday with a hard-fought six-point victory over Athlone IT in Grangegorman. Confidence was high in the camp coming into this game after an unbeaten run in their group, which saw them overcome DCU, UCD and Queens as well as drawing with Jordanstown. Athlone, to their credit, proved stubborn opposition this time out and refused to go down without a fight. However over the course of the contest DIT showed they were by far the classier outfit and never looked like exiting the competition.

The home team’s ability to score goals ultimately proved the difference between the two sides with both their majors coming in the second half through the lively Gary Walsh and substitute Seamus Keane.

In the opening period, DIT had to play against a strong breeze and battle hard up the hill but despite the elements being against them they led by 0-04 to 0-03 at the interval.

It was by no means an exhibition of football but having the advantage at the break was a sign of their dominance, particularly at midfield, and Athlone’s lack of cutting edge.

DIT created far more chances in the second half but they never really had to hit top gear. Walsh’s early goal put them firmly in the driving seat and wing-forward Daragh Smyth was very impressive, finishing the day with five points from play.

The visitors then rolled up their sleeves and tried to get back into the game, and, as the intensity dropped they tagged on a couple of points to reduce the deficit to three.

That was as close as they would come though as DIT rallied in the closing stages. The attackers capitalized on a rebound off the post to allow Keane to roll the ball into an unguarded net to see his team comfortably through.

A semi-final against either University of Limerick or DCU now awaits them.

DIT team: Alan O’Mara (Cavan), Colin Larkin (Dublin), James Ruddy (Mayo), Fergal Battra (Longford), Stephen O’Brien (Meath), Damien Barkey (Cavan), Farrel Aughney (Dublin), Anthony McLoughlin (Wicklow), Gearoid McKiernan (Cavan), Keith Lawlor (Offaly), Kevin Difflay (Longford), Daragh Smyth (0-05)(Meath), Daniel O’Hara (Mayo), Gary Walsh (1-02)(Laois), Conor Lynham (0-02)(Westmeath)

Subs Used: Mark Kelly, Seamus Keane (1-00), Richard Dunne, David Carrick, Robert Lambert.

Snookered at the Spawell

The DIT snooker “A” team reached the semi-finals of the all-Ireland snooker championships for the second year running last weekend. Team members Paul Ennis, James McDonald, Damien Barkey, Farrel Aughey and Anthony McLoughlin represented the college at the snooker Internavaries at the Spawell complex in Templeogue, Dublin.

Before reaching the quarter-finals, DIT beat Queens University Belfast in a 7-3 win and thrashed the UCD “B” team, 10-0. They lost only one game in this qualifying category to NUI Galway 7-3.

The team proceeded to the quarter-finals playing against the UCD “A” team. The match was locked at 5-5 and progressed to a play off, with James McDonald winning the one frame shoot out. Having finally reached the semi-finals, they were defeated by the Queens University “A” team 6-3. Queens went on to play NUI Maynooth in the final.

During the same weekend, DIT’s snooker scholar Paul Ennis reached the finals of the all-Ireland snooker championships featuring eighty players, beating many prominent international competitors. Paul played against the current Irish under 21s champion Johnny Williams, winning 3-2 becoming the Irish champion for the first time.

Members of the team mentioned the first class practice facilities which are available at both Queens and Maynooth universities for snooker players and they suggested that DIT would have a better chance at success in future championships if facilities at the DIT are improved.

Men’s Football

The Senior team defeated DCU, Carlow IT, Dundalk IT and drew with UCD to top their Division 1 league group. They played Jordanstown in the league quarter finals where they were defeated by last years Sigerson champions 1-09 to 0-09. The team are now two weeks into a five week training program before Christmas. The Seniors have drawn Kilkenny on Sunday January 4th in the O’Byrne Cup with the winners going on to face either Laois or DCU in the next round on Jan 11th.

The Senior B team finished mid table in their group after wins over Carlow IT and UCD, before going down to DCU. They face no action now until the new year.

The Intermediate team, have recorded five straight wins in Division 3 of the league, over Inchicore, Mater Dei, Cadets, St. Pats and Royal College of Surgeons. They defeated North West College of Further Education from Derry in the League quarter finals in Armagh today to set up a Semi Final meeting with Colaiste Ild Keane.

The Junior Football team, advanced to the Leinster final after wins over UCD, Trinity and DCU, before going out to Maynooth by a point. They are now finished until after Christmas.

The Freshers A football team topped Division 1 of the Leinster/Ulster section of the league. Following a draw in Belfast against Jordanstown, DIT went on to beat DCU, UCD and Queens. The team defeated Athlone IT in the Div 1 league quarterfinals in Grangegorman to set up a Semi Final meeting with DCU or UL. Six of these Freshers football members were nominated for a Sports Scholarship, including Wicklow senior Anthony McLoughlin, Cavan minor Gearoid McKiernan and Meath minor Daragh Smyth.

The Freshers B team have played three challenges and three competitive matches to date. They were beaten by Maynooth in their opening game, but managed to get a draw out in Belfield against UCD. This week they defeated DCU on a scoreline of 1-14 to 2-7 in their concluding league match. Seamus McKiernan and his team are now eagerly awaiting the draw for the Freshers Div 2 Championship after Christmas.
The DIT fresher hurlers booked their place in the All Ireland League Final after a thrilling win over a talented UL outfit. On the way to the semi final the lads beat UCD St. Pats and GMIT as well as playing out a draw with NUIG which meant they topped the group.

This game against UL took place in Belfield under lights on Tuesday 25th of November. The opening stages of the game was very tight as both defences were on top. Dublin U21 Corner forward David Treacy drew first blood for DIT with a neat point on the run.

Treacy added another point from a free to make it 3 points to 2 in favour of UL. However DIT soon found their rhythm and began to make their dominance count on the scoreboard.

Harry Kehoe scored a superb point with his back to goal after being fed by James O’Hara. Indeed O’Hara was outstanding all night and held UL’s Kilkenny all-Ireland minor winning captain Joe Brennan scoreless from open play.

Treacy who was proving a constant thorn for the opposing defence scored a goal from close range just before the break to put some daylight between the two teams. The DIT defence spearheaded by full back and captain Michael Fagan held firm for the remainder of the half leaving the score 1-5 to 0-3 at the interval.

After the half time cup of tea the DIT lads rose their game. Playing with the wind they scored the first 3 points of the second half through John Fagan, Paul Morris and a Michael Maloney penalty after full forward Aodan McInerney was hauled down inside the large rectangle.

The UL boys were stunned but they responded in style and their number 10 scored a wonderful individual goal running a full 40 yards with the ball on the hurl before smashing it to the net. They added two more points the first from a Brennan free and the second from fellow Kilkenny Minor Mark Dwyer. The score was now 1-8 to 1-5. Game on.

However DIT were far from finished and their early morning training sessions organised by trainer Michael O’Keeffe in the run up to this game began to payoff as their superior fitness seemed to give them the upper hand in the second half.

Centre forward Shane Murphy hit a long range point after being picked out expertly by corner back Padraig Donnelly. Two more points from centre back Maloney and without question the point of the day from Padraig Phelan left the game in a favourable position for DIT.

Another pointed free from Brennan did little to stem the tide as it was all about the industry and work rate of DIT in the closing stages. An opportunist goal by substitute Scott O’Brien ended the game as a contest. Harry Kehoe scored one last point to leave the final score 2-13 to 1-6.

The game was a very physical battle and it will stand to the lads when the championship comes around in January. In the mean time the Freshers have an All-Ireland league final to forward to against a formidable UCC outfit.

The game is fixed for 8PM on Thursday 11th of December with the venue yet to be confirmed. There will be a big improvement needed for the final as the DIT wides count was very high in this game. But if the freshers show the same team spirit courage and determination they have every chance of success.

Four DIT students traveled to Cork for the Novice Intervarsity Boxing championships on the weekend of the 21st November.

Opening the championship, newcomer Nicholas Hegarty represented DIT in his first ever fight against Trinity’s Greg McGibney in the featherweight category (60kg). While Hegarty put up a good defense, he was pipped at the post as McGibney proved stronger in the second round.

In the 67kg category, DIT’s Paddy Kelly beat welterweight contender Mark O’Keefe of CIT 9 points to 3. It was noted how “Paddy bided his time in the ring, using the space to his advantage, as Mark was throwing punches wildly.”

DIT’s third representative, Paul Jones, was unable to compete on the day weighing just above the requirements for the middleweight category.

Finally in the heavyweight category (91kg), Troy Tyson of the DIT had to concede the match to Luke Gordon of TCD due to a technical knockout. Although Tyson was in the lead, the fight finished after only ninety seconds, when his shoulder popped out having received a knock.

Overall, DIT performed extremely well in the Intervarsities and seniors are already in training for the championships taking place in UCD on the 24th January. The Boxing Club trains at Linen Hall (opposite DIT Bolton Street) every Thursday evening from 7-9 and newcomers are invited to come along.