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DIT News, 1st.-30th. of November, 2007

DIT:Students Union

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Registration problems: students stress over delays

By now, most of us in DIT have settled in to the new academic year, but for many students the return to college after the summer was problematic. Several students who sat the September 2007 repeat examinations had trouble receiving results, getting confirmation of a pass/fail decision, and registering. Students who were unable to register were delayed in getting their new student cards, meaning they were not able to access the library once last year’s cards stopped working.

Many of these problems may have been avoidable, arising from a serious lack of information for students regarding the structures and procedures of exam boards and the registration process.

Frankie Whelan was one such student who endured a series of confusing events before finally being able to return to college this year. He was repeating an exam in May 2007, having failed it the year previously. “By mid-June there was still no sign of the pin reminder email or my online results... At the start of July [I was informed] that my case had been overlooked.”

Frankie got his results after the deadline to register for the September repeats had passed. He got a receipt of payment for exams, but did not receive any further communication from DIT. “I wasn’t overly worried until the day of the exam when I still hadn’t received any documents.”

According to a DIT source the reason for this delay was that the School of Media holds repeat examinations in May, but they don’t hold the repeat exam board until September. This is why he was not registered in time to receive his timetable which is usually the document that allows students access to the exam hall.

An Exams Office spokesperson explained that there is a provision for this eventuality. “If a student turns up (without documentation) we don’t turn them away from the exam. The invigilator contacts the exam office and they are issued with a number so they can be facilitated on the day of the exam.”

However, in this event, students must also go to the exams office after the exam to fill out a form. “Then they are entered on the database for any further correspondence in terms of generating exam results or if they need to repeat.” Failure to fill out this form could result in a delay accessing results, a problem encountered by many students this year.

Because he had not registered for the repeat exam initially, Whelan encountered a delay retrieving his results. “My results arrived on the 4th
Welcome to the DIT News

Hi everyone and welcome to the brand new DIT News—a completely independent newspaper for DIT students. We’re here to tell your stories so the voice of students is heard and acknowledged by those in positions of power in DIT. We want to focus on issues affecting student life in DIT, both academic and social. We want to promote DIT sports and societies and give the people who put massive effort in to improving the quality of campus life some credit.

We want to represent all students of DIT, no matter what campus they go to. If you don’t see any news from your campus in this paper then do something about it. Contact us, tell us what you want to see reported so that we’ll be better able to tell the full story about life in DIT. We welcome contributions from all DIT students.

DIT has the potential to be a great college, there is so much going on but with sites scattered across Dublin, it’s easy to lose sight of this. We want to bring you the best of DIT news, events and sports every month so everyone can see that it really is a cool place to study. Forget dreams of Grangeegorman, let’s face it, none of us will be here for that move.

Let’s focus on DIT as it is and be proud. The DIT fashion show, shows of the biggest student events in the country, and the Drama Soc are hosting a huge national theatre festival this year. Our sports clubs are doing great and deserve our support.

Having said that, it’s important not to be complacent. If you see a problem, don’t just moan about it to your friends, tell us about it so that we can report on real issues and maybe get something done about them. Get in touch & let us know what you think!

Katie Teehan
Editor

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

It is also the policy of the DIT News to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor.

The burning question...

For our Bebo poll this month we asked: What do you think of the Return of the Wispa?

What’s hot:

- DIT Christmas in early December: bring on the mince pies!
- Being handed free goody bags by promotions people on campus. Who cares if the energy drink tastes dodgy, its free!
- DIT Soccer kicked out of Collingwood Cup, a low blow by the IUFU

What’s not:

- Squirrel mail – slow, unreliable and just plain ugly
- The price of a cup of tea in Java City in Aungier Street is now a ridiculous €1.30
- DIT Christmas in early December: bring on the mince pies!

Let us know what you think

If you have any ideas or suggestions, let us know!
Email: newssoccd@gmail.com

DIT Christmas in early December: bring on the mince pies!
Doors finally open for Drama Soc

By Rachel Casey

After a delay of over one year, the installation of a backstage theatre door in the Activities room of DIT Aungier Street is finally underway.

This will allow for an increase in seating capacity for events hosted in the theatre space, including next years ISDA festival.

The turning point for this issue came last Tuesday, October 16th, during class rep training held in the Royal Dublin Hotel, where DIT president Brian Norton opened the floor.

DIT Drama Soc president lan Mullin, put the issue of the backstage door to Mr. Norton, asking him what his views were on this unfinished theatre space.

Mr. Norton’s response was almost immediate, and spoke to Buildings Maintenance officer Peter Heaslip before the end of last week. After discussing all the pros and cons of the project, Mr. Heaslip confirmed to the president that all difficulties were solvable.

The delay was due to the issue of fire safety. The Buildings Office were concerned that if the door was installed, items such as set props might have been stored in the adjacent hallway, creating a fire hazard, jeopardising the safety of anyone in the immediate area. However Mullin has guaranteed that the fire safety policy will be strictly adhered to. Extra signage is to be installed in an effort to maintain safety of students.

Drama Soc are delighted with the news. It comes just in time for preparations for the Irish Students Drama Association Festival (ISDA), which will be hosted by DIT in 2008.

Running for one week, beginning on March 24th, it is the first time that a non-university has hosted the event, and it promises to put Aungier Street’s theatre space on the map.

Bill Hennessy, Buildings Maintenance Officer for Aungier Street, has been given the go-ahead by his senior Peter Heaslip. After discussing all the pros and cons of the project, Mr. Heaslip confirmed to the president that all difficulties were solvable.

The new door is estimated to cost between €5,000 to €6,000, and will take 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

Mullin is excited at the opportunities the backstage door will offer for Drama Soc and DIT students. “This will provide the platform for more people to become involved in all aspects of drama: from acting and production to lighting.”

RAG Charity to be Debra

By Orla Sheils

The DIT Student’s Union governing council has voted Debra Ireland as its DIT RAG charity of choice. The election took place on Tuesday the 23rd of October with councilors choosing from a range of charities, from Focus Eireann to The Order of Malta. A close contest was fought between Debra Ireland and Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin, before the former won the vote.

Debra Ireland is a charity that works with those who suffer from Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB). This is a distressing and painful genetic skin disorder causing skin layers and body linings to separate and blister at the slightest touch. Debra Ireland aim to fund research into this condition. At the moment, there is no cure for the disease.
Bodkins v Cornerstone: no contest

By Louise Tierney

Unlike most colleges, DIT doesn't have its own student bar, so students in the various colleges on both sides of the Liffey have decided their own. For South side students at Aungier Street and Kevin Street the chosen venue has been The Cornerstone and for those on the North side, Bodkins near Bolton Street is the pub of choice.

Since the return to college The Cornerstone has been generating an endless amount of complaints, due largely to the apparent change in their policies and general attitude towards students. Almost all the students we spoke to who drink in The Cornerstone had the same story. One of the main complaints is the newly implemented dress code, which makes it difficult for groups of students to go to the pub straight from college, as tracksuits are not allowed.

A group of optometry students claimed that the pub now makes for a very uncomfortable place to drink in, saying staff watched them for the entire time they were there.

"The whole time we were there it felt like they were waiting for us to do something wrong. At one stage one of the barmen even stood across from where we were just to keep an eye on us, and waited there until we had left." Other students commented on how expensive the pub was, and said that they had been asked by staff to change their seats, which they found an unusual way for a pub to treat its customers, especially considering that it was quite empty at the time.

When DIT News called in to the Cornerstone to investigate there wasn't a student let alone a customer in the pub. They weren't prepared to hold any student parties or private functions and no longer run their once famous drink promotions and special offers.

On a whole The Cornerstone's new policies seem to be solely to discourage students from drinking there.

This is a completely different pub to the one many of us have enjoyed as a substitute student bar for the past few years. The Cornerstone used to be a very enjoyable place to relax, drink and unwind in after, during, or even before college and was always packed with DIT students. This year, many students have been put off because of the cold and unwelcoming atmosphere, and the vibe that students just aren't welcome there.

Meanwhile, for DIT students on the North side of the city, their favourite off-campus hangout continues to welcome them. Students described Bodkins fondly as "an old man's pub for students." This is exactly what this pub is in the best possible sense.

Bodkins has a welcoming atmosphere from the second you walk in the door. This is helped by the cheap drink, the pool table, the friendly staff and seemingly permanent groups of helpful engineering students drinking there.

There was none of the same reluctance with the bar staff as there was in the Cornerstone. They were more than happy to hold student parties even offering to provide free food. People had nothing but good things to say about it as a pub.

One of the most enthusiastic students was Regina King, a 2nd year auctioneering student. "It's great. Such craic and it's like 90% lads!" providing even more incentive for students to go, even just to balance out the gender ratio.

There really doesn't seem to be any comparison between the two pubs. Bodkins is embracing its student customers while the Cornerstone is becoming increasingly less student-friendly.

In this particular case, and as far as student pubs are concerned the North side is beating the South side hands down.
Mountjoy Square: 100% recruitment rate

By Eric Fitzgerald

Only 60% of classes across all DIT campuses have elected class reps, according to recent figures. These figures, combined with a lower attendance at this year’s class rep training day than last year’s event, paint a worrying picture of overall class rep recruitment efforts. “There were way more people here last year”, commented one attendee at this year’s class rep training day, which was held at the Royal Dublin Hotel on Tuesday 16th October.

However, one campus has managed to buck the trend. DIT Mountjoy have reported that a commendable 100% of course groups there have elected a class rep. Richard Healy, class rep convenor for the Mountjoy campus, attributed this phenomenal figure to the hard work of last year’s convenor, Rebecca O’Neill. “It was 75% when she left, all I had to do was look after the other 25%!”

One of the difficulties surrounding the recruitment of class reps is the sheer size of some campuses. “Mountjoy is a small campus with small classes, so everyone knows everyone else there and the classes are really close”, commented Healy, adding that it was this factor that primarily contributed towards Mountjoy’s perfect recruitment rate.

Aungier Street, one of the larger campuses in DIT, currently holds a 67% recruitment rate. Raymond Garrett, class rep convenor for the Southside campus, was optimistic about increasing this statistic. “Recruitment is still going on and we are very hopeful of equaling last year’s figure of 100%”, Garrett said, “Obviously our overall aim is 100% for every campus”.

He remarked that with classes being so spread out across all of Dublin, it was difficult for each class to recruit a rep immediately, but stressed that “a big campaign will begin after reading week. We’ll be specifically targeting those classes who have yet to elect a class rep.”

Soaring living costs fuel accommodation problems

By Aisling Mockler

Many DIT students are in the grip of an accommodation crisis and some feel they are not getting the support they need. The combination of rising rents and accommodation shortages means that students across Dublin are struggling to find a place to live and, in desperation, they are resorting to living in hostels, sleeping on friends couches or, alternatively, commuting from their family homes.

In 2006, the estimated monthly cost of living in Dublin for a student was €930, with rent accounting for almost 50% of the cost. The price of utilities, such as gas and electricity, have risen almost 25% and some students are struggling to work long hours to subsidise their living expenses. Another alternative is to take out a student loan but high interest rates means the average student would struggle with repayments.

Some students feel landlords are taking advantage of the accommodation crisis. Students are being pressurised into signing year long leases to secure accommodation. If the contract is broken, the student loses their deposit, which can be as high as €1000. This is particularly detrimental for third year Erasmus and work experience students as they cannot guarantee they will be able to live in the accommodation for a full year.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) staged an all-night protest in front of Leinster House in late August in protest of the lack of accommodation available to students in the Dublin area. DITSU organised a meeting in September to help students who were struggling to find housing.

However, the situation remains unchanged and a number of students are being forced to take measures which may negatively affect their studies.
Former DITSU Vice President in race for USI leadership

By Katie Teehan

After a tumultuous start to the year, USI has been temporarily left leaderless. A vote of no confidence resulted in the resignation of former President Richard Morrissroe during a dramatic national council meeting in October.

DITSU President Andy Doyle has nominated former DIT student and DITSU Vice President Hamidreza Khodabakhshi, for the un-envious position. Khodabakhshi currently holds the position of USI Education officer and is currently the only candidate for election.

Speaking to DIT News, he outlined his hopes. “We need leadership for the union. We need to get all members together and make sure that we are standing strong once again. At the moment we don’t have that.”

Following the dramatic events of last month, a USI spokesperson welcomed Morrissroe’s resignation saying it was necessary for the long-term growth and development of the organisation, calling the upcoming election a “springboard to the next phase of vital work for the Irish student movement.”

DITSU President Andy Doyle was among those who voted for Morrissroe’s resignation, citing the former President’s lack of leadership as a major factor in the decision. “When USI and DITSU officers slept outside the Dáil to highlight the accommodation shortage, the President of USI was nowhere to be seen. The national student movement has been without a single strong voice so far this year.”

Given that DITSU pays €66,000 in yearly subscription fees to the USI, it is unreasonable to expect some return on investment. However after the recent spate of disasters to hit USI, perhaps it is time to reconsider our membership of the union.

In recent years both UL and DCU have disaffiliated. Doyle has not ruled out the option. “If a strong candidate takes the presidency, it can be turned around. If it can’t, I don’t see how DIT student can justify spending €66,000 per year on membership. If USI does not use this opportunity to reform, it will soon die.”

The last few months have been an incredibly tempestuous time for the USI. Unrest was rumoured to have been brewing among the ranks of the Officer Board for weeks and spilled over to the public domain when an anonymous member of the USI Officer Board posted a call for President Richard Morrissroe’s resignation on politics.ie.

The tension culminated at the national council meeting of the USI when Morrissroe was labelled the ‘captain of a sinking ship’, lurching from one PR disaster to another. A motion of no confidence was later passed by a significant majority.

The focus is now on who can save the struggling organisation. Khodabakhshi will present his plans for USI at the elections to be held in Trinity College Dublin on November 3rd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of October. I started college three weeks late, and I still hadn’t received my registration documents by the deadline.

At the moment, repeat exams are held in early September. This causes a problem because the start-date for many programmes has been moved back to the 12th of September, around the same time as the repeat exam boards are held, causing a clash. As a result, “It is quite likely that a lot of results wouldn’t be available maybe until late September,” said a DIT source.

Re-convened exam boards can be another cause for delay. The decisions are sometimes put back because of individual student circumstances. A DIT source explained, “If there is an appeal we will always try to sort it out. We would go back to the exam board on behalf of the student and explain that the student was ill, or distressed, or had a family bereavement and ask them to reconvene the exam board and consider the new facts.”

In this case, and if results haven’t already been issued to all other students who sat the exam, then a short delay could be caused in posting exam results.

According to one student, the problems began back before the first sitting of the exams, in June 2007. Gillian Herlihy went through major stress waiting for her results. When she checked her exam results online after the May 2007 exams, she saw that she had failed two, but they were both within the 5 per cent limit to pass by compensation. In fact she failed one of them by just one per cent. There was no comment on the transcript to indicate a pass or fail, the matter having gone to an exam board.

When the results were posted to her house, she was informed she had failed. However, Herlihy said that by the time she got the results the re-check deadline had passed. She had to repeat, and encountered the same problem when checking those results. She had failed one of them, again within the 5 per cent limit.

“I really thought I’d failed. I was trying not to cry. I went into the office and asked, and the woman in there rang the exams office for me. I burst into tears. She then told me the exam board had informed her that I had passed by compensation. But because I didn’t see that on the online results I was convinced I had failed. I was so relieved.”

It was not only repeat students who are affected. One American exchange student, Mollie Pickens who is studying for a Masters in PR, told her story. She paid her fees at the end of September, after applying late. At the time of the interview, over two weeks later, she had not received a receipt or the ‘student packet’ which allows her to register.

“Without registering, I cannot get my student visa [and] without that permanent student visa, I cannot go to social welfare to get a PPS number to work, and I also cannot open a student bank account here. I do not get access to the library or student discounts.”

Commenting on this situation, a DIT source said: “Such students pay their fees to the International Office based in Rathmines Road who issue a receipt as promptly as the banking system can manage. A registration pack with confirmation of fee payment, visa details etc. is then sent to the local Registration Office by the International Office. When the student calls into us in Aungier Street we register them immediately on the basis of the pack. Very occasionally, the pack has not come to us and we immediately contact the International Office and get a confirmation as to when it will be available and then inform the student.”

These problems which students encountered meant that coming back to college this year was more stressful than usual.

By Clare Cullen
Dublin Bus - what a nightmare

By Sascha O'Toole

We've all done it: slept in for too long after a night out, rolled over and ignored the alarm, or just plain slept through the alarm. Lots of reasons can lead us to miss our buses, and all we can say is that we have no-one else to blame.

But what about all those times you DO get up on time and rush your breakfast to get down to the stop on time, and you still miss the bus? This happens all too often to students, and it doesn't look like there's going to be a change very soon.

A few weeks ago, after one particular service didn't arrive for the third week in a row, I emailed Dublin bus to complain. Days later, the response was a mix of excuses and half-hearted apologies. One day the driver didn't show up, another the service did run, just not on time or forty minutes later either...

For anyone living on the 46A bus line, stop reading now, because none of this moaning applies to you. 46As come in convoys, less than ten minutes apart, and I’m not the only student to confess to a loathing of the service. In the space of time it takes my one bus to arrive, at least 4 of those Dun Laoghaire buses have gone by – all of them brand new might I add. Surely the extra buses from that line could be transferred to other lines more in need?

Beyond marching on the O'Connell street head­chers in mob formation with torches and pitch­forks, there doesn’t seem to be much that will make Dublin Bus sit up and take notice. Maybe a mountain of complaints isn’t enough to open their eyes, but it’s a start...

Rival bus companies are around now, such as Circle Line, and in Wicklow Finnegan’s buses. If Dublinbus don’t clean up their act, those companies will grow and take over. They can’t say we didn’t warn them.

What do you think of the service?

Sadhbh Connor

“Tá an duine sin cás de bharr leis, ní féidir liom thiar de chuid iad a dhaltaigh, fós. Thiart leat a dháilteadh a chur ar fáil, ní féidir liom fíche bharraí a bhaint go dhorachtaí freisin.”

Louise Tierney

“There are too many of some buses like the 46A and not enough of others, like the 83 that I take. They should even out their services.”

5 fáth nach dhéanfadh Meiriceá ionsáí ar Burma

Le Ronan Cannon

Rinne George Bush (an mástín beag gleoithe sin) ionsaí ar an Iarlaí ag úsáid saoirse daonna an tír mar leisceal. Cén fáth nach dtarlaidh an méid céanna i Burma, áit go bhfuil mínuit naíon ar na gceantar don saoirse céanna sin faoi láthair? Seo chuidigh cúith cuid fáth: 1) Nil aon aite i Burma. Sin é le rach nach bhfuil aon dárbhui, bhfuil aon sórt eile le fáil ann. Ní bhíodh aon buntaiste eacnamaíochta do Mheiriceá Burma a ionsaí. Chun a bhíteach macánta go hion­lán, réidhithe, nó níos fearr díobh mha fhianann an Ún Jintana i gceannas. Is féidir cibid cibid go bhfuil an t-aon dárbhui a d'fhorbairt as aon áit, ní féidir liom thiar de chuid iad a dhaltaigh, fós. 2) Ní bhíodh aon aite i an teacht as an áit. D'fhorbairt an t-aon dárbhui in an 1989 nuair a thugadh “Union of Myanmar” air. Ní féidir liom thiar de chuid iad a dhaltaigh, fós. 3) Ní bhíodh aon aite i an teacht as na daoine in Oisín Aontaithe (UN) in ainm seo. 4) Ní bhíodh aon aite i an teacht as an t-aon dárbhui a d'fhorbairt iomlán i gceannas. 5) Ní bhíodh aon aite i an teacht as na daoine in Oisín Aontaithe (UN) in ainm seo. 6) Ní bhíodh aon aite i an teacht as an t-aon dárbhui a d'fhorbairt iomlán i gceannas.

The right word

By Kevin Byrne

Ais Bertie Ahern left the tribunal, brain­less Fianna Fáil sheep of all ages were waiting to cheer on their leader. He had accepted large sums of money from businessmen, making him a hero in their strange minds. The scene outside the tribunal reminded me of the scene in “The Sopranos”, where Uncle Junior is acquitted and the family gathers to celebrate.

The huge problem with Irish politics is that the two largest parties, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are too alike. They’re centrist, populist and say whatever the heck the opinion polls tell them to say. They’re like identical twins with different histories.

Irish politics, for the most part is not based on normal political ideology. The biggest parties are not left-wing or right-wing as is the norm in for example British politics, which is far more interesting than Irish politics as a result. Fianna Fáil or Fine Gael may as well adopt the slogan for the hit gangster film “Goodfellas”. “A new generation carries on an old tradition”, because let’s be honest, that’s all they’re doing.

Civil war politics should have died years ago. The two largest parties are only interested in power. They lack vision, ideas and principals. It is for this reason that we get events like “Bertitage”, Taoiseach’s like Haughey and Ministers like Michael Lowry. Civil war politics is a political ticket for crooks.

But it’s not their fault — it’s your fault! It is you, the electorate who keep this pantomime going. The rogues didn’t rob the seat — you elected them to it.

I’ve lost count of how many times I’ve heard students say they’re a “Fianna Fáil man” or a “Fine Gael girl” because Mammy or Daddy supports the party. That is a pathetic reason to vote for a party. You may as well cast your vote blindfolded.

Those parties are just different faces playing the same old boring trumpet. Then again, I suppose its better they’re playing trumpets than firing guns at each other like they were back in the 1920’s.

The acid test is, try to plot Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael on a political ruler. If anyone can see any genuine ideological differences between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, please email me on the above address.

Back to where I began: Bertie accepting £30,000 from a businessman to refurbish his house. Of course, this is perfectly acceptable for our Prime Minister, right?

In that case, I’d love a few grand to refurbish my house. So, if there are any generous souls out there, please feel free to lodge some funds into my account at the AIB Bank on O’Connell Street. 30,000 or 50,000? Euro, Sterling or Dollars? It doesn’t matter because I won’t keep a record and there’s absolutely no way I could remember withdrawing an amount of that size. I want to be an accountant just like Bertie.

kevin.byrne2@gmail.com

Bertie granting financial assistance to the tribunal chairperson to get back on the O’Connell street head­chers in mob formation with torches and pitchforks, there doesn’t seem to be much that will make Dublin Bus sit up and take notice. Maybe a mountain of complaints isn’t enough to open their eyes, but it’s a start.

Rival bus companies are around now, such as Circle Line, and in Wicklow Finnegan’s buses. If Dublinbus don’t clean up their act, those companies will grow and take over. They can’t say we didn’t warn them.
Irish Anti-War Movement: “well-known and utterly misunderstood”

By Fergal Reid

The Irish Anti-War Movement (IAWM) claim to oppose conflict in the Middle East. They organise meetings and protests across the length and breadth of the country; they lobby politicians to support them in their opposition towards selected international conflicts. They invite terrorists and their supporters to Dublin, where they are given a microphone, an audience and a round of applause. In my opinion the IAWM is a whore in saint’s clothing.

On October 13th, I took myself along to their conference in the Royal Dublin Hotel in Dublin. The day was an education in the motivations and beliefs of a movement that at once is both well-known and utterly misunderstood.

The Irish Anti War Movement is best understood as a cult. It is a small and unorthodox organisation with a body of members who cling to what essentially is a set of immutable laws. They see themselves as being the vanguard for some form of 21st Century proletariat that have been trodden on by the “elite” and are now revolting against the state of the globe. Professional activist Richard Boyd Barrett exclaimed how the conference was, “an act of defiance against empire,” but the picture that formed in my mind was of a group of people who imagined themselves to be a mob hammering at the palace gates demanding to be heard, whereas in actual fact they are merely a rabble that have been led to the palace railings where they bemoan the status quo. If only they would move from their position just a little, they would notice that the gates are open and entrance to the arena of governance in a democracy is barred only to those so extreme as to have excluded themselves.

Some of the issues concerned are indeed both true and worthy of note, but the hardcore beliefs of this organisation have warped these facts into a twisted world view that leaves no room for those who prefer the middle ground, who prefer sense above sensationalising or who seek to act in a manner judged by these self-appointed moral guardians of the world to be wrong.

For me, the most repugnant episodes of the day concerned representatives of those who are resisting in the Middle East. During the talk about Democracy and Resistance in the region, a member of the Al-Sadr group from Iraq and a supporter of Hezbollah sat on the dais with some of the leading lights of the IAWM. These organisations, who have been reported as being responsible for acts of mass murder, kidnapping and the ferment of civil unrest, were lionised at the conference.

The supporter of Hezbollah at the podium defended his group’s rabid homophobia on the basis that his was a Muslim organisation and therefore it had to be homophobic—in the same way the Catholic Church was. The phrases “I am anti-gay, as a Muslim” and the accompanying laughter and applause from the audience will remain in my memory as a fair yard-stick of the level to which the IAWM have descended in their loyalty to every half-shot organisation that totters out of the bloody sands of the Middle East and declares its opposition to the Great Satan across the waters. When I asked the entire panel whether they all supported Hezbollah, I was told by each that it was so.

I am conscious, when writing this, that my views are not shared by everybody and that for many people the United States is viewed with greater wariness than any other nation on the planet. I am also aware that the behaviour of Israel in the Middle East has at times been and continues to be a matter of opposition for great numbers, both at home and abroad. I do not criticise those opinions.

However, surely there is a tipping point between legitimate criticism of the behaviour of these selected states and the unconditional fraternity that exists between the IAWM and organisations that any right-minded individual would hold to be terrorist in nature? The IAWM has yoked itself to an indefensible line of opposition to all acts committed by the US, Israel and the United Kingdom, and it in turn promotes fanatics, murderers, homophobes and kidnappers. In a democratic society, to ally oneself with people of such monstrosity almost beggars belief.

The point is that if you march with the IAWM, you march with Hamas. You march with Hezbollah. You march with the supporters of terrorism in Iraq. That is not by accident, it is by design. The IAWM is dressed up in robes far too fine for an organisation with so ignoble a stature. In my opinion, they are worthy of our contempt not our support.
With these tips from our health guru you'll be able to hit that hangover where it hurts and get on with your day...

GO BACK TO BED
You drank hard: you deserve a good rest. This is especially good if you can find someone to wait on your every need.

WATER, WAITER
Your body might have been 90% water before you went out but it feels like 20% now. Get your dried-up prune body over to the tap and drink, drink, drink. Drink 'til your stomach's so full it hurts, then wait. 5 minutes later your mouth will be parch dry again and ready for more; two minutes if you smoked ciggies.

PLAY IN THE HAY
When you've tried all else (even better than the last tip before) settle down to a good old fashioned romp. The exercise pumps your blood. The rest, well you know what that does. And at the end you can down a big drink of water and slip back into a peaceful slumber. Ahhh...

DRINK SPORTS CORDIAL
You know, like Lucozade and Powerade? You wee'd out all your needs sugar to break down alcohol and more. Naturally, the liquid refreshment will do you good too.

KEEP DRINKING
You've heard it before, but guess what? It works. See alcohol contains ethanol and methanol. Methanol makes your head sore and ethanol stops it working its evil magic. New drink = new ethanol = delayed pain. And more fun now.

THINK JUICY THOUGHTS ...then drink them. The water in juice rehydrates your body; the fructose (sugar) it contains helps burn up the alcohol, leaving you feeling just peachy.

QUIT FOR LIFE
Smoking doesn't just kill; it makes hangovers a lot more miserable along the way. Quit and your hangovers will be 50% less nasty. Guaranteed.

EAT YOUR BEANS
Eat your rice, grains, cereals, peas and nuts too. They're all stuffed with Vitamin B1, or Thiamine, which helps you metabolize the grog AND stabilizes the nervous system. Lack of B1 is often what causes the infamous DTs, or Delirium Tremens.

HAVE A VB WITH YOUR VB
A Vitamin B before beers will make a keg load of difference in the morning. Vitamin B2 is good but B1 is the best.

THE ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Not just good for getting pissed at, good for getting well again the next day, too. Through extra virgin olive oil and the liberal use of fresh ripe tomatoes, Italians have learned the secret of getting real plump without getting heart disease whilst curing hangovers all at the same time. So while the wine gives you a hangover, dinner gives you the cure. Pure genius.

MONKEY BUSINESS
So I've heard a banana helps revitalize your body after a hard night out because of the potassium. Better make a pit stop at the supermarket V8 IS GREAT
It's better than great, it's the best. Stacked with the mother of all hangovers—tomato juice—then sprinkled with every veggie known to humankind, one drop of V8 is said by legend to contain an entire bowl of vegetables. If only it tasted like Coke. Available at health food stores.

KUDZU
Not strictly healthy but close to nature, Kudzu is a Chinese vine used for curing hangovers as early as 200BC. In 400AD it was written into the Chinese Pharmacopoeia as a kick-arse cure and it's still being used today, possibly as close as your local health food store.

THE CLASSIC CURE
Keep that body hydrated with lots and lots of water. There is nothing better for your body than plenty of water after drinking; it will make you feel tons better in the morning.

SWIM IN THE SEA
The cool lapping water soothes your throbbing head. The exercise will get your blood pumping. And the positive ions given off by a massive body of water will help settle your body and head.

Ain't no angry like an angry culchie
By Eric Fitzgerald

Welcome along to the inevitable 'Angry Culchie' column. Fear not; I'm not going to rant about how one can't find reasonably-priced bacon and cabbage in the Big Smoke, or how "quare" the LUAS is. My concerns are far more pressing.

The public transport system is somewhat fascinating to me, having come from a town where my sole outlet thereof was the bus to-and-from Dublin. Naturally, within my first few days here, it was a case of piecing together the different areas of Dublin, like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle. This necessitated asking several bus drivers to inform me of when we had reached a specific destination.

Ah, the bus driver, such an odd breed. They don't seem to be like you and me. Perhaps they are grown at Busáras, because they all seem to share certain characteristics. There's the surly, world-weary grime that suggests a gentle soul, hardened by the monotonous job that they are subjected to.

There's an ability to converse in a system of grunts and sighs (possibly cultivated in those dark, speechless days spent growing in a bus depot), which seems odd given their curious talent of conversing with any drunks which board their buses.

Some even have the power to use their phones and drive their buses simultaneously, contrary to the laws us mortals must follow. Perhaps the bus has become an extension of themselves, or are they an extension of the bus itself? Philosophers—answers on a postcard please.

My relationship with bus drivers thus far has been amicable at best, but I feel I should reconsider any request for their assistance. It is as though I have placed a huge burden upon their shoulders when I ask to be informed of when we have reached a certain stop.

For those of you wishing to calculate the extent of the burden, divide the decibel level of the sigh let out by the bus driver by two, add seven, and subtract the amount of time you've wasted performing this calculation.

There's the odd outburst from them, perhaps brought about from ringing the bell too many times, or some other infringement. Maybe it's a struggle for human contact—a cry of frustration? Naw...maybe it's just them being crabby.
The student accommodation crisis in Dublin is a widely-recognised problem which is experienced first-hand by students—and it’s only going to get worse.

Orna Cunningham asks you about your experiences finding accommodation this year.

Section 50 of the Finance Act, 1999 provides tax incentives for developers to provide students with affordable rented accommodation. However, the first wave of rented accommodation under the provisions of section 50 will expire in 2010, meaning huge implications for students looking for a place to live that they can feasibly afford and that meets their basic expectations.

As Ireland’s educational epicenter, Dublin has to meet the demands of an exponentially growing number of students every year. Students originally from outside Dublin require accommodation as commuting can take up to two or three hours otherwise.

Clare (19), from Kildare, tried commuting for her first semester of college in DIT Aungier Street, but soon realised it was not a viable option. “I had to get up so early and came home late every day. I was constantly tired and I hated always having to impose myself on friends if I wanted to socialise with people from college in Dublin. I had to move out.”

While some students’ rent is paid by their parents, others cannot afford this luxury and most students have part time jobs to cover general living and social expenses.

David (22), who works in a large retail store, finds his pay barely covers his rent, let alone electricity and gas bills, the cost of food, clothing and a social life. He is house-sharing in Castleknock, north Dublin, and finds it hard to hold his finances together. “I started walking to work to save money. It takes me around an hour and a half, depending on the time of day. My friends and workmates think I’m insane, but it does make a small difference.”

The Union of Students Ireland (USI) has recommended the forming of a taskforce which “would examine the shortage of accommodation affordable and available to students and devise solutions to this problem.”

Brendan (19), is skeptical. “The place I was living last year was a hole. I don’t think that any taskforce is going to be able to combat exploitative landlords.” When told about section 50, he expressed surprise. “I’ve never even heard of it. The only way I think anything could really be done about the problem is extending Section 50 in years and housing numbers. It’s nearly impossible to find a place that doesn’t cost the earth in Dublin.”

According to USI’s ‘5 Star Future’ plan for change, for the 62% of us who rent in Dublin, the rising costs of rented accommodation and devaluation of student grants contributes to “material hardship” and acts as a “practical disincentive to accessing higher education.”

Here in DIT, the students union staged the “Vent in a Tent” campaign to highlight the issue of student accommodation in Dublin. Tents were constructed on all the DIT campuses and students were given the chance to voice concerns about problems with accommodation, troublesome landlords, deposits and so on. These complaints were recorded and the videos sent off to Leinster House. The reaction was much stronger in the Northside campuses than the Southside ones. There was much media coverage of the USI-sponsored overnight student protest outside Leinster House.
where around thirty students camped out in tents to make their concerns heard.

USI Eastern Area Officer Paul Lynam said: “Thousands of students are still struggling to find affordable accommodation as we near the start of autumn term. Last year many hundreds were forced to commute to college for two or three hours daily because the housing closer to colleges is prohibitively expensive. Hundreds of other students slept on couches, in temporary accommodation or in dangerously overcrowded units. It will happen again unless the Government acts quickly.

“Happy campers are absent tonight—ours is a desperate gathering. We await dialogue and action.”

Having trawled through many websites, one finds little fare that seems suitable for students—either inordinately high rent or inadequacy of facilities are two recurring themes as far as flats and apartments are concerned.

Gillian (19), lives in Temple Bar. “My apartment is amazing. We were so lucky to get it, especially at the price we’re paying. It’s not student accommodation though—it was really scary signing over on all these forms. To think one slip-up with the rent could affect my credit rating frightens me—especially since I have to depend on other people to pay the rent every month, too.”

The USI's taskforce seems like an easily to implement talk shop, but one hopes that's not all it is. Protests are needed on a much grander scale during the college year, the very time people generally experience difficulties with accommodation.

However, all is not in vain. Luck is the name of the game and trawling through websites can occasionally yield a gem like Gillian’s ideally located home-away-from-home.


The DIT students union home page, www.ditsu.ie, offers advice on how to go about renting, all the measures the average student needs to take and how to go about covering yourself should future problems crop up.

Happy searching!
DIT Fashion Show returns

By Ian Kearney

The college year is well underway, as too are the preparations for the fifth annual DIT Fashion Show.

For the past five years a bevy of beauties from across the DIT campuses have taken to the catwalk with each show proving to be a bigger extravaganza than the last and this year’s is shaping up to be the best yet.

Following a presentation made by Maureen Bulger, from Teen-Line Ireland in Aungier Street on October 10th, the show’s committee voted and decided that this year’s show would work in conjunction with this extremely worthwhile new charity.

Model week starts on the 5th of November, where prospective models will be given the chance to sign up at the stands in both Angier Street and Bolton Street and casting for the show will take place in Angier Street on Wednesday November 14th.

For more information on the show or if you have any questions make sure to visit DITFASHIONSHOW.bebo.com

Club Profile: DIT Ski

DIT ski club is a fun and exciting club which boasts a large membership base. It is primarily involved with the running of the annual ski trip but also organises regular trips to the dry slopes in Kilternan, and runs a number of social events throughout the year.

This year’s trip will be taking place in Val Thorens, which lies in the French Alps and is unique in that it is the highest ski resort in Europe. For anyone who likes to try different things, socialise with 100 other students and have a lot of fun, this is a week not to be missed.

Groups of DIT students will take over the slopes, some learning to ski, while the more experienced perfect their techniques.

My own interest in drama was not the only reason I joined the drama society. The fact that ‘The best society in DIT’ was slapped across the posters also got my attention. This is now my second year as a member of the drama soc I am well aware that it has won Best Overall Society in DIT, not once, but three times since 2001. 2007/2008 promises to be another eventful year for the drama soc.

Drama Workshops have begun, led this year in Angier Street by Sue Mythen. The workshops aim to teach students basic acting skills and stage manner and are open to everyone, amateur or professional. The theatre games and ‘creative’ manner of the students provide great craic and get rid of any nerves. The recent ‘Stage Combat’ class was a huge, if not slightly painful, success.

Others activities of the soc include theatre trips, award ceremonies and a weekend away in Conemara - which I am told is not something to miss! The One Act Wonder Festival and the Overall Production give members from all campuses the chance to write, produce or star in plays. This year DIT Drama Soc is to host the Irish Student Drama Awards in April in our very own Blackbox theatre (Angier Street) giving us the privilege to play host to Drama Society’s from all over Ireland.

The Drama Soc is a great way to meet other people out of your course, and other DIT campuses. You don’t have to be the next Brad Pitt or Julia Roberts either, there’s the chance to get involved in production, lighting and backstage as well. I’m really glad I got involved in the Drama Soc, it adds another dimension to college life and I’m really looking forward to the many upcoming events this year. New members are always welcome!

Soc it to me

By Aoife Ni Glacken-Riain

This year’s DIT Societies Training took place in a stuffy conference room in the Trim Castle Hotel, Co. Meath. The participants expected a riotous piss-up and they got one, but only after sitting through seven hours of lectures on Friday and four more (sore heads and all) the morning after.

The various speakers were upbeat and interesting, keeping the attention of the room with a few free Wispas, debates and outrageous demonstrations. Brian Gormley, manager of Campus Life, resourcefully demonstrated the importance of time management using a jar, some rocks, pebbles, sand and water.

When a voice in the crowd shouted it was illegal to take sand from the beach Gormley admitted his crime, adding, “And there was a turtle laying an egg on the sand and I killed it.”

The rocks were important things like passing exams; the pebbles, visits to the pub; the sand, hours whiled away on Bebo; and so on. It was a good lesson to those running societies. Bad time management — giving too much to your society and socialising without any proper balance with college — means there’s no room left for the big rocks because you filled your jar with crap.

Societies need a lot of work to operate, however, and without a dedicated chair and committee they can wither and die. Also, if a society has no one to take over after the current committee graduates or moves on, it simply disappears. Societies are expected to perform, get students involved and get them to care so that they’ll take over. Health and Safety is a huge issue, event management can be tricky, and finding sponsorship can make budgeting much easier.

Carmel Doyle, who set up the PR company Gemini Consulting, spoke of the importance of PR, branding and advertising for a society. Having a memorable logo like the Drama Queen or “TRADFEST” makes a big difference.

Colm McGivern spoke about dealing with controversy (or downright useless) soc members who are difficult to work with; and how to utilise the skills that your more useful members have.

The night out was deadly, and yes there was bonding, boozing, dancing, and an angry knock on the door of Party Room 181. But the most worthwhile part of the trip was the lessons learned from the lectures. No, really!
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Halloween Ball in Break for the Border

Sinead McCann & Denise Smith

Forget goblins and ghouls, there were far more scary things on show at this year's DIT Halloween ball in Break for the Border. All the stops were pulled out this year, as paedophile priests and zombie playboy bunnies trawled the dance floor, and with good reason as proceeds from this year's event went to RTÉ's People in Need. With live music from 'The Big Generator' and everyone in high spirits the atmosphere was truly electric. Few dissed the dress code as everyone made some kind of effort at a costume. Some worthy of mention were Little Britain's Andy (I want that one!), a very convincing Jake Stevens, Harry Potter and a human poker table. Meteor provided a phone as top prize for best dressed, and everyone gathered around the stage as student union vice president and "yummy mummy" of the night, SU Vice President Sean Gilsensen, called four finalists to the stage. The crowd's cheers decided the winner out of the four finalists Amy Winehouse, that naughty priest, the Moulin Rouge girls and eventual winner "Dobby the milk carton".

As far as socials go, it was certainly a night to remember as everyone flew, crawled and broom-sticked it off to bed.

Clubs & Socs round-up

We profile some of the coolest clubs and societies DIT has to offer...

Taekwon-Do

This soc is glad to accept new members at any time, although it is advisable for beginners to start as early in the year as possible. At present the club's instructor is Mr. Cormac Llewellyn, fourth degree black-belt, who started his Taekwon-Do career in this very institute. We train on Tuesday (8.30 to 9.45) and Thursday (7.00 to 8.30).

Taekwon-Do is fun and a great way to get fit so get in touch if you think it is for you!

Email: contact@dittaekwondo.ie
Website: http://www.dittaekwondo.ie

Intercambio

This society aims to integrate Erasmus students into the Irish student community in DIT. We can help you to get a better grasp on English while we put our degree to the test and improve our own language skills in a fun and friendly environment. Trips to Galway and Dingle are organised, along with nights out in different venues every second week.

We have an arrangement with the IFI for international film screenings once a month, and ticket prices will be paid for in part by the society. There will also be table quizzes, tournaments, competitions and much more.

Contact: intercambiosociety@socs.dit.ie
Website: http://intercambiosociety.socs.dit.ie
Dance

The aim of the Dance Society is to provide members with a range of dance classes. There will be hip hop classes on a weekly basis and workshops every few weeks in a range of different forms of dance. At Easter we will be visiting the Pineapple Dance Studios in London for a few days. We hope to offer members a fun way to exercise and get fit!

Website: http://dance.socs.dit.ie

GAA Football

The club fields a variety of teams, catering for a variety of levels from Junior Club right up to Senior Inter-county. We are always on the lookout for new members and players. If you are a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate DIT student or you are doing an apprenticeship on your phase 4 or phase 6 period of study in September and January, you are eligible to play for the club. We have players from every county in Ireland on our books, and some of the best socials in town. If you want a really good standard of football, the best of gear or just the chance to get involved to take part in running your own club just give us a call on 087-2245508

Website: http://dit.gaa.ie

Cumann Gaelach

The Cumann Gaelach provides a fun, pressure-free forum for people to speak Irish. Socialising through a language is the best way to learn - think about it, if you wanted to learn Spanish, you go to Spain, right? It's a bit of craic too. There are fortnightly trips to Sult, regular visits to the Club Conrath na Gaeilge pub, attendance to 'Glo' each month, a trip to the Oireachtas Festival in November, a Christmas party, a concert, a big festival day, a trip to Rinn, and loads more!

If you'd like to get more info or join in with any of the activities, just contact us!

Website: http://cumann-gaelach.bebo.com

Fit2Go

Fit2Go is the state of the art fitness suite with world-class techno-gym equipment at DIT Kevin Street and Bolton Street College Campuses. There is also an 18m four-lane swimming pool at DIT Kevin Street College and a Multi-activity sports hall at DIT Bolton Street College. The sports facilities at DIT Kevin Street College are also currently being revamped to make provision for two dedicated exercise studios for fitness and health-based activities and programmes. The prices are amazing in comparison to any other gym in the locality!

Info on joining at: info@ditsports.ie

Website: http://www.ditsports.ie

Poker Ast

This society aims to promote poker in DIT and to organise regular, friendly, low-cost poker tournaments. We aim to meet at least once a month during term time, but with no more than one tournament per week. The society also aims to compete against other colleges in Ireland and to highlight and debate the consequences of addiction to gambling.

Contact: pokerast@socs.dit.ie

Website: http://www.ditpoker.com

Stars in the city

By Aoife Ni Glacken-Riain

The DIT Movie Stars Ball was a fantastic night for all who attended. The costumes ranged from blatantly lazy to obscure, interesting, fantastic and back again. There were plenty of 'extras', three Audrey Hepburns, four Bravehearts and some real surprises. Bananaman made a dramatic return and even Jesus came by to check out the great drink promos (and was allegedly seen turning water into wine).

Everyone had their eye on the Best Costume prize, but first prize went to Beetlejuice, complete with stripes, mad hair and porridge stuck to his face. Second prize went to Bo Peep, complete with inflatable sheep, and all would agree that both winners truly deserved it. There was even a chant of "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice Beetlejuice!" throughout the crowd before the winners were announced.

The venue, Break for the Border, was perfect. It seemed fairly barren when we first arrived but in a blink it was packed to capacity and the band, Big Generator, had taken the stage by storm.

Big Generator played an incredible set, pleasing everyone by alternating between Heavy Metal, various levels of rock and modern indie faves. The crowd moshed, swayed and boogied until the DJ took over with floor fillers as old as the Proclaimers and as new as Rihanna.

The band are regulars of Break for the Border, and are keen to play again soon. All four agreed the gig was "fantastic! We thoroughly enjoyed it!" and Frosty (guitar, keys, vocals, shocking hair) and students are definitely "the best crowd to play for", being both "crazy" and "exceptionally nice."

That's what we like to hear!
Inter-railing has long been a popular holiday choice for students during the summer months or gap year. The programme began in 1972 and has grown in popularity ever since. The idea behind inter-railing is that you see Europe - a lot of it - cheaply. A four week inter-railing ticket costs €399, a lot cheaper than the usual two week away in Crete. The other cost to consider are the hostels which average around €13 a night if staying in Eastern Europe. If venturing around central Europe expect to pay a bit more, €20 minimum. Some backpackers advise cochettes, which are night trains. Laura describes the difficulty of sleeping on a train. From the heat, to the noise, to “rooms the size of wardrobes” she reveals the less glamorous side to running around the world. However, it means you kill two birds with one stone, and no hostel costs. Another curse is the constant passport and ticket checks that are to be expected when crossing borders.

Indeed, there are many things to consider when traveling. The highest on the list is safety. Films like “Hostel” in which young backpackers are violently murdered by psychopaths do little to calm any fears. But Laura says she felt “blissfully unaware” of the dangers that lurk in foreign cities. “Its not like we wore bum bags, we didn’t look like tourists.”

Maybe naivety - in the right context - can be a virtue with this type of holiday. Rose-tinted glasses may come in handy and allow you to get the most out of your trip. But the number one piece of advice that any inter-railer would offer is to travel in numbers, and never leave anyone alone.

These dangers aside, the highlights of the trip are likely to overtake the lowlights. Laura’s preferred option to night trains were hostels, which are a great place to meet fellow travelers. She recommends the Pink Flamingo or Tutti Frutti if staying in Krakow, Poland. If going to Vienna or Austria stay in The Wombat, while in Bulgaria, Laura says Gregory’s Backpacker Hostel is the place to be.

With the six of her fellow travelers, Laura decided to take a detour to the mountains of Zakopane in Poland. Here they stayed in a log cabin hostel called Goodbye Lenin for an amazing €9 a night. This was Laura’s personal highlight of the whole adventure. The long sunny days, mountain paths and lakes made the stay unforgettable. However, it was the group of friends they made in Krakow that followed them down which made the visit. This is the best part of inter-railing; you’re free to take detours if you’re the spontaneous type.

Hopping from one mountain to another, the group moved on to Lake Bled in Slovenia. The combination of natural wonders, unique culture and history attracts many travellers. Among the most frequently visited locations, the Alpine Lake Bled area ranks first. The castle, dating back to 1111, and the pletna rowing boats are two of the many attractions. Laura lapses back into her memories as she describes the clear air the silky water of the lake. She recalls the rowing, tobogganing and water rafting. Her word to express her stay in Lake Bled is “perfect.”

If you’re beginning to wonder where the drinking, drug taking and all other activities associated with inter-railing took place. Fear not, there is always Prague. Situated on the River Vitava in central Bohemia, Prague has been the political, cultural, and economic centre of the Czech state for over 1100 years. It has recently become a hotspot for stag weekends away. Due to this, Laura advises travellers to avoid visiting this city at the weekends, although if you like hairy, middle aged drunkards...

However, there is one place where anyone who visits Prague must go - Karlovy Lazne. This is not a hostel; a city or a restaurant. It is a five-story nightclub next to King Charles’ Bridge and overlooking the Vlatava. Be prepared though, for serious crowds and serious drug taking, unless that’s what you’re into.

On return from a summer inter-railing in Europe, students should be overloaded with culture, drink and at least three bebo albums worth of photographs. But be prepared to start working the minute you’re back to pay off the loans!
Bright rider

By Andrew Gillick

Next time you’re having a mundane conversation with some of your friends drop the idea of a “mood-training steering wheel” into the mix and see what happens. I should forewarn you though as the outcomes may include: a lot of furrowed brows pointed in your direction, plenty of verbal abuse, gradual social distancing from your mates and/or being permanently branded as an absolute ‘nutter’.

However, mention the mood-training steering wheel at a Toyota design meeting and you will be received by a standing ovation along with a four year contract.

Meet the new Toyota concept car RiN. Inspired by the “deep rooted and tall growing Japanese Yakusugi cypress tree” this organically conceived vehicle made its debut at the Tokyo Motor Show in October. The name of the car is self-explanatory – it’s very strange – and unless you’re a Japanese art and design student most features and ideas in the RiN seem absurd and in some cases totally pointless.

Take for instance the steering wheel that monitors how the driver is feeling by displaying his/her psychological state on the dashboard which – unless you happen to be David Hasselhoff who enjoys intimate relationships with talking cars – is nonsense.

You can’t accuse Toyota of not trying to make the world a better place though. Aiming for zero emissions appears to be one of their primary targets and there are motorists friendly ideas in this little enigma of a vehicle once you can decrypt Toyota’s press jargon.

The “increased comfort” the press release rambles on about is just rhetoric for seats that are ergonomically shaped to support the back and maintain a safe posture. The green tinted windows not only look cool but they also serve to block out those harmful UV rays and this in turn makes the cabin space seem bigger and brighter. The extended glass doors are also a neat idea – if not a bit adverse to safety standards – serving, in Toyota terms, to “create a feeling of harmony with the surrounding environment.”

So, some morning whilst chewing your organic muesli with linseeds and before going to the 6.00 am Yoga class you may decide you need to complement your “healthy and serene lifestyle” with some “well being” transport. When this time comes you can rest assured that in the Toyota RiN you’ll find your motoring Zen.

In fact, you may even suggest to Toyota a “Yoga inspired car” with inbuilt Buddhist Temple and win another four year contract! Nuttas.

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Denise Smith check out the hottest looks for college, as worn by you

Sadbh Connor (18)
1. How would you describe your style? Quirky and eccentric.
2. What are you wearing, and where is it from? My trainers are from Office, my jeans are Tommy Hilfiger, my t-shirt is H&M, and the waistcoat is from Heatons.
3. Who influences your style? I have a lot of different influences but they are mainly films, people on the street and music.
5. What's your favourite shop? Retro, Ichi and little boutiques where you can pick up really unique items.
6. Who do you think is the best and worst dressed celebrity? Carl Barat is the best dressed I love his style, Paris Hilton is by far the worst she looks like a poodle.

Clare Cullen (19)
1. How would you describe your style? A mix of high street fashion and my own quirky style.
2. What are you wearing, and where is it from? My skirt and Ugg boots are from Penney's, the black t-shirt and zip up are from Catch, the necklace is my Mam's.
3. Who influences your style? I look to magazines and my friends for style tips and my mam was a fashion designer.
4. How much do you spend on clothes a month? I spend around €100 to €200 it depends what's left over from rent and food.
5. What's your favourite shop? No-Name and Penney's.
6. Who do you think is the best and worst dressed celebrity? Sophia Bush is always well turned out. Britney Spears is the worst dressed she's atrocious.

Hannah Quinn (19)
1. How would you describe your style? Modern with a retro twist.
2. What are you wearing, and where is it from? My shoes and jeans are from top-shop, the jeans are Dorothy Perkins and the scarf is from Georges Street Arcade.
3. Who influences your style? Kate Moss and Mischa Barton their style is different and effortlessly cool.
4. How much do you spend on clothes a month? Up to €100, it varies.
5. What's your favourite shop? Top-shop it has everything you need under the one roof.
6. Who do you think is the best and worst dressed celebrity? The best dressed would have to be Kate Moss, the worst is Jodie Marsh she's showed us ten different ways how to not wear a belt.

Sparkle & Shine

The seasons are changing and that means fashion as well as weather. Bold, black colours replace the prints and patterns that adorned the summer catwalks. Purple is taking charge along with complementary jewel tones and metallics are once again shimmering in our wardrobes. Black is back and monochrome is here to stay. Neutrals like grey, cream and olive are also in and orange and pink made appearances.

Shiny, reflective materials are gracing the runways. Leather, PVC, patent, satin, silk and velvet are all being used. River Island do particularly nice leather bomber jackets and Penneys have some great fakes. Topshop have gorgeous flat ankle boots for €91 in a variety of colours. Satin is seen in dresses and blouses everywhere and Warehouse do a stunning velvet mini-dress for €99.

Oversize knits are the most fashionable way to keep warm. Dunnes and Urban Outfitters have some of the best knitwear around. Pair them with a dress, black opaque tights and Mary-Janes, the shoes of the season, available in Sasha for €45.

Another big trend is the hourglass figure. This can be achieved with pencil skirts, high-waisted trousers and waist-clinching belts. Check out Oasis for all of these.

Berets are the headgear to be seen in and can be bought in Penneys for as little as €3. For extra cool points don a sequined one. Oversized bags are as big as ever – very handy for carrying all those books.

Always incorporate your own style into an outfit, don’t go head to toe in trends. Keep an eye out for mid-season sales and of course always remember to bring your student card when shopping; you wouldn’t want to miss out on any of those discounts!
Strange thoughts can enter your head when you’re nearly broke, trying to avoid yet another by-the-book weekend of boozing and wasted mornings. One weekend the strange thought for me was, “let’s do the Wicklow Way”...

By Frankie Whelan

Strange thoughts can enter your head when you’re nearly broke, trying to avoid yet another by-the-book weekend of boozing and wasted mornings. One weekend the strange thought for me was, “let’s do the Wicklow Way.”

The Wicklow Way (WW) is a self-guided long-distance walk way that starts in Marlay Park, meanders into the Dublin and Wicklow uplands and finally ends in the village of Clonegal in Carlow, 134km later.

This idea cropped up after some Thursday night antics, so at the crack of noon on Friday only three of us turned up at Marlay Park, ready for an unusual weekend.

The start of the Wicklow Way has you amongst the joggers, giving a false sense of security, but once under the M50 the path tilts vertically and it’s uphill until Two-Rock Mountain and Glen-cullen and it’s up, up and away.

We soon reached a certain stage on our route where we found ourselves completely lost. Assuming we knew the local part of the course was the first mistake of many.

We had pre-planned to camp in the often-occupied area of Crone Wood, 22km into our hike, but as we got there we encountered a number of drunken revelers preparing to trash the site so we pressed on.

From Crone Wood we snaked our way towards Powerscourt Waterfall. At this stage it was getting dark and post-Thursday-night-bodies were getting weary, so we basted out some tunes. After working through a forest in the dark, we descended into a valley, crossed the Dargle River and made camp. Too tired to attempt a fire, we set up our two tents in the least lumpy location. In bed and trying to get asleep at 10pm on a Friday night? How strange.

We woke up with the dawn and everything was cold and wet. We had a token breakfast and climbed up to 650m to go around the East shoulder of Djouce Mountain.

We walked until we reached a car park with an amazing view of Lough Tay. A lot of the scenery on the Wicklow Way is glacial, so there are dramatic u-shaped valleys and beautiful lakes all over. But as we walked, dissent in our ranks grew and ideas of a bus home were raised, but when we reached the turning point at 38km, only one of us actually gave up and took the easy option.

With only two of us left on the trail, the weather decided to improve our mood with some constant rain. The rain was the special Irish-brewed type, neither a mist nor a nice downpour, just constantly present and seemed to get in everywhere. When we realised the rain had somehow gotten into our waterproof pockets and destroyed our phones, we despaired. With food just and no contact we decided to go out of our way to grab some food near Glendalough. Two rolls and a packet of Tayto later, we were in much better moods.

We reached Glendalough as it was getting dark, so rather than doing the dangerous thing and trying to cross a mountain in the dark, we went for the illegal option and camped in the area. We found the furthest point away from “the man” and then camped under a “no camping” sign, right next to the lake. We were quite nervous about camping, especially when we heard two loud gun shots from across the lake. As we stood and listened a truck came racing up towards the noise, headlights on full and though it was highly unlikely we felt like the beams were locked on our little silver tent.

We woke up at six a.m. and got on our way, arousing some suspicious looks from the park wardens as they saw us hike out of the Valley. We climbed the mountain with a “we got away with it” surge of adrenaline and then pushed our luck by entering the closed section of the WW, hoping the logging operations wouldn’t be going on early on Sunday morning. After yet more climbing and bog-crossing in an early morning mist we descended into the Glencar Valley where we were nearly run over by a cycling club. Finally, though, we ascended Sleave Mann.

By this stage our bodies—especially our feet—were worse for wear due to the previous day’s non-stop rainfall. We managed to take both our phones apart and combine them to get an operating model so we could call for an evacuation from the military road.

The weekend was good fun, but Monday morning found me with more aches than a night dancing in Doyle’s. With some more preparation and better supplies the hike would be a welcome change to the usual schedule and trust me: nothing tastes better than that first post-hike Guinness!
Ever wondered what the building you study in every day was built for? In our *History of DIT* series, we take a look behind the class rooms and libraries to discover the true stories of DIT buildings. This month: Aungier Street

By Rachel Ryan

Mikado or Kimberly? Cream Crackers or Tuc? These questions are vital to those who like nothing better than a good cup of tea, unless it’s a good cup of tea and a Jacob’s biscuit. Some prefer the melting taste of a Coconut Cream, while for others it’s that chocolate tasting stuff in the middle of Club Milks that really completes any hot beverage. When next deciding which delicious snack to devour, spare a thought as to where this treat came from. For it just could happen that cream and crackers were first put together in the very building you’re standing in.

DIT’s Aungier Street campus was in fact built upon the site of the famous Jacob’s Biscuit Factory. In the mid-1850’s two Quaker Brothers from Waterford, William and Robert Jacob moved their biscuit business to Dublin. Here they occupied the massive triangular factory facing onto Aungier Street (formerly Bishop Street) and occupying much of Peter’s Row.

Here the business grew and flourished, Cream Crackers were invented in 1885 and by the early 1900’s factory employed over 1,300 people, many from the surrounding areas. A second factory was opened in Liverpool in 1913. Jacob’s is notorious for the part it played in the 1913 lockout, locking out factory girls and then forcing them into demeaning acts to return to work.

In 1916, the factory secured it’s placed in history when it was taken over by a battalion of rebels, under the commandment of Thomas Mc Donagh. The factories two towers provided good positions for sniping at the Portobello barracks and the men Mc Donagh positioned in Camden Street and Aungier Street made the site difficult to attack. Among the men in the garrison were Michael Hayes and Peter Boland composers of the national anthem.

Although little damage was done to the factory during the Rising, it seems some of the young volunteers could not resist baking some of their very own Jacob’s biscuits despite being told not to touch the machinery. The biscuits, although burnt to a cinder, were displayed at an old Dublin Society’s exhibition in 1961, the company name still legible.

The Jacobs factory moved to Tallaght in the 1970’s after merging with Boland’s biscuits. A fire destroyed the factory in 1987, and it eventually became home to DIT’s media, business and law students in 1992.

Today, in the centre of Abercrombie-clad students, TV studios and computer labs there remains one discreet link between our modern institution and its historic past. A single stone with the title W&R Jacobs lies in DIT’s courtyard, dating back from the factory’s foundation. When you next past it imagine what you could have discovered had you stood there 100 years ago, you may have been able to solve the mystery that’s boggled the Irish for centuries, how did they get the figs in the fig roll?
On the NME website Sickboy are described as “three lads from the north side of Dublin, with a passion for music, drink, drugs, women and avoiding the rat race at all costs”. One commentator on their MySpace page praises them as “three disturbed youths that makes Damian Rice look like the real idiot that he is”.

J.P. O’Malley caught up with two of the Sickboy faithful, Brian Giles and Dan Doherty in the quiet snug of Kennedy’s pub to see for myself what the band are really about.

The band released “THE ATUNE” back in June where it stayed at number one for several weeks in both Phantom FM and Tower Records charts. I start by asking the lads how the single went: “It got serious radio play on phantom and spin and also on 2fm.” The success of the single also earned them a 2fm session with Dan Hegarty.

They are eager to move on however and are currently in the process of recording a five track EP which they hope to release mid-February. “The last single was a good learning curve but we hope to do more touring and hopefully get more advertising behind the next EP,” says bassist Colm Giles “now we're going in with tunes that are finished, most of them being Dan’s, and working on them.”

When I ask them to describe their sound they are careful not to be pigeonholed. “I wouldn’t like to think that we're going to say this is what we are and draw a line around it”. The band’s sound is energetic and raw, especially live, on record however there are echoes of My Bloody Valentine, The Jesus and Mary Chain and Underworld.

We discuss the current state of record companies and the independent route versus the big label. The general consensus is that going independently is fine in terms of recording but for money and marketing a label certainly helps. “I would like to get signed to a smaller label cos it seems that everyone who signs to a bigger one gets screwed over... smaller labels seem genuinely interested to push you as a band,” says Dan.

Disagreements ensue over the state of the Dublin music scene with Dan getting the last word in “Look, Dublin is a massive black hole for music. Bands come and go in this country and are never heard of again.” They say they would like to move abroad as there is not much of a market for their sound here with “safe bets like Paddy Casey getting signed”.

I finally ask them for their most memorable moments and get several answers “Supporting Gang of Four”, “London and Berlin”, “Two of the lads and one bird in the same night”...

Sickboy play Eamon Doran’s on the 17th November.
By Eric Fitzgerald

There are precious few bands that can create a truly immersive live experience nowadays – so thank God for Arcade Fire. Their performance at the Big Top in Phoenix Park on Wednesday October 24th was at times ethereal...

From the opening strains of 'Black Mirror', the starter track from the Canadian ten-piece’s second album Neon Bible, the ten thousand strong crowd knew that the trek to Phoenix Park would be richly rewarded. A superb lighting display, coupled with the sheer musical brilliance we know Arcade Fire are capable of, combined to produce a memorable evening.

'Neon Bible' examines the impact of religion on the lives of ordinary people, which is ironic given the almost religious nature of tonight's performance. The crowd chanted, sang along, reached at with a fleeting desire to reveal a cocktail dress. Whether the outrageous costume was by no means superior, however, to their warm-up acts. Le Bien, the Dublin-based electro-pop duo, showed the early comers what electro should sound like, while the Australian Operator Please funked out on stage and gained a whole new set of fans.

The memorable night ended with Wainwright returning to the stage in a dressing gown for the four-song encore before throwing another glittery spanner in the works and stripping off to reveal a cocktail dress. One could question whether the outrageous charm of this persona is really just another tool in making the 'sound of cash registers', which Wainwright desires so strongly, even louder. Perhaps the songs would stand up alone, but Rufus the performer, the gay icon, won't give us the opportunity.
We've never had someone to call 'our own', but the emergence of John O'Callaghan as one of the leading lights of the trance music scene has challenged this.

He has been touted as being one of the most promising new names in the industry. Earlier this year two-time world number one DJ Paul Van Dyk called him "one of the most exciting producers in the world today."

After hearing O'Callaghan's remix of Thomas Bronzwaer's track 'Constellation', Van Dyk immediately approached him to remix Filo & Peri's 'Anthem'. Both tracks were massive hits in 2007.

Fans of John O'Callaghan were eagerly anticipating the announcement of this year's DJ Mag 'Top 100' poll, and had reason to be optimistic - five of last year's 'Top 100' named him as their major tip for 2007, however he managed only to reach 107 - a nonetheless monstrous achievement for a DJ as young as himself.

His former claim was further strengthened by his transcendent performance at Planet Love in Fairyhouse Racecourse this summer. O'Callaghan has also made some ground breaking performances over the past 18 months, headlining events in places as far a field as Poland, Germany and Argentina.

This month he is set to play alongside the likes of Paul Van Dyk and Eddie Halliwell for Goodgreef's 7th birthday in Manchester. However, Irish fans will be pleased to know he will grace the stages of the Tivoli theatre alongside international trance heavy weights Above & Beyond on the 15th of December.

Whether O'Callaghan will be the spark to fully ignite Irish interest in this genre is yet to be seen.

Trance music revival
By Aisling O'Sullivan

Rave music in Ireland has never had much of a following in Ireland. This could be put down to the fact that...
Movies movies movies...

By Laura Garvey

As the title indicates, this film is set in the sleepy town of Barrow, Alaska during that time of year when the city is thrown into complete darkness for an entire month. Having somehow been made aware of such seasonal changes, the 'Nosferatu' (commonly known as vampires) kick up their heels in delight and head for the Arctic Circle to prey on the unsuspecting denizens of Barrow without fear of sunlight. The local sheriff, Eben (Josh Hartnett), and his wife, Stella (Melissa George), take it upon themselves to shepherd the few remaining villagers to survival – daylight.

The vampires are ferocious looking and with a blatant absence of remorse or morality, they tear through the village uttering bone-chilling screams and savaging anyone that they can find. 30 Days of Night keeps the audience paranoid. The violence, gore and shock tactics used by Slade have elevated this film above many other horrors of recent years into one that is truly sinister and unnerving.

By Katie Teshan

Set under the cloud of threat of the Spanish Armada, this film looks at Queen Elizabeth's relationship with Sir Walter Raleigh against the backdrop of her duties and dilemmas as the monarch of a divided England.

The protestant queen must overcome the tide of Holy War sweeping across Europe under the instigation of King Philip of Spain, a hugely devout Catholic. Cate Blanchett is spectacular in her role as the formidable virgin queen, command the screen with enormous strength, while Clive Owen is delicious as the smouldering explorer Raleigh.

The story provides plenty of entertainment culminating in the sea battle to protect England from Spanish invasion in which Elizabeth emerges in full armour to inspire her troops. A lavish and grandiose lesson in English history, this enjoyable tale is almost worth seeing for the sumptuous costumes alone, but don't go expecting historical accuracy.

By Shane Prunty

Well crack my skull and scoop out the grey lunch within, this zombfest is a delectable offering from director Robert Rodriguez well worth the student ticket price at your local cinema. Planet Terror is an exercise in how much gore, explosions and general lunacy can be fit into an hour and three quarters. The answer: an assload.

After a U.S. engineered bioweapon becomes airborne, the inhabitants of some backwater Texan town mutate into zombies and wreck the gaf, so to speak. Not all hope is lost though, a group of survivors lead by the enigmatic El Wray (Freddie Rodriguez) and Cherry Darling (Rose McGowan) plan to make it to Mexico and keep their backs to the sea.

In similar fashion to Rodriguez' Sin City, Planet Terror has a real comic book feel to it, especially in the direction of photography and the sharp one-liners like "As useless as a pecker on the pope". This film is not for the easily offended but I would recommend it to any fans of the B-Movie/Zombie genre.

Aine Corby reviews this month's bestseller

Ian McEwan's novel Atonement has crept back onto the bestseller's list once again due to the release of the recent motion picture. The book is split into three sections, telling the tale of the privileged Tallis family in 1930's England through the eyes of three different characters. I found it to be very intriguing that each section is so different; they could all belong to different books.

Thirteen-year-old Briony is the youngest Tallis child. She has a great mind and spends much of her time writing stories. She is wrapped up in her own fantasy world and only returns back to reality to wallow in her own melancholy. Her over active imagination is to be her downfall. On the hot summer's day of 1935, Briony witnesses an exchange between older sister Cecelia and the gardener Robbie. She cannot understand what she has just witnessed so Briony's vivid imagination leads her to spin a tale that result's in her sister's life being changed forever and family friend Robbie turner being cast away in disgrace. The crime of her over active imagination will haunt Briony forever. She can never atone for the damage she has done.

Ultimately, Atonement is a tale of two lovers being torn from one another and all they must endure to one day be together again. It also deals with the harsh realities of war. McEwan is brilliantly descriptive, both in his descriptions of things beautiful and in his descriptions of the horrors of war. He gives little away at a time so it is very difficult to put the book down. Not just one for the girls, I would recommend this beautifully written, tragic tale to anyone.
“Welcome to the new face of 21st century news. If you’re tired of up-to-date, 24-hour, easily accessible, fair and balanced news coverage then this is the programme for you...”

DIT NEWS brings you behind the scenes at the recording of the season finale of Rapid News, the show that claims to be the best reason to look forward to Mondays, with Dublin’s best-kept secret, the comedy duo Mark Canton and Nick Murphy.

By Katie Teehan

You’re listening to Rapid News! A catchy jingle kicks off the latest installment of the 25-minute spoof news sketch show, Rapid News. Like The Onion for the podcast generation, Rapid News takes current news stories and Irish stereotypes and pokes fun at them in a series of witty sketches.

Using the talent of a small group of actor friends, comedy writers Canton and Murphy record and broadcast Rapid News every week in the tiny backroom of a friend’s office, facing out on to St Stephens Green in central Dublin.

The duo welcome me in to their headquarters to observe the recording of the eighth and final episode of the first season. A ramshackle assortment of blankets, bed sheets and bubble wrap suspended from a series of clothes lines sections off a minute corner of the tiny room for a recording studio. The ‘digital quality bed sheets’ as I’m ensured, provide soundproofing as well as a very intimate atmosphere. So intimate in fact, that this tiny nook, affectionately dubbed the ‘sweatbox’, is melting point hot even on a chilly evening in mid-October. This is where the magic of Rapid News is created every Friday.

Tonight just one special guest voice is here to record. Mary McCarthy plays an assortment of voices from Angela, the D4 dolly turned cocaine dealer to Betty Shields, the mammy-voiced Rapid News reporter.

The comedic team of Canton, Murphy and McCarthy switch effortlessly from voice to voice, moving fast between sketches. Sometimes discussions will break out as to which voice is best to use for a certain sketch. Betty Shields interviews Tony Balbone, the ‘representative of the U2 Corporation and chairman of buildings division and egg-shaped recording venues’ who is voiced by Canton.

While Canton wants to play the character in a South African accent, Murphy argues for an English one. After several attempts, the South African wins out. Poking fun at the plans for U2’s new tower in Dublin’s Docklands Tony and Betty debate the virtues of egg-shaped recording structures. “Dairy products in general have great acoustics,” claims Balbone.

The pair are no strangers to comedy writing. After meeting through the Drama Society in Trinity College, they began writing as a team and spent over four years trying to get a foot in the door of the industry. “We’ve normally specialised in comedy writing, but as it turned out we specialised in failed pilots,” quips Canton.

After chasing TV stations and producers without success, they are happy to finally have control over what they do.

Canton explains: “We got sick of doing an endless stream of pilots so we decided to do something which we could actually get on the air, via the Internet.”

The Internet is the perfect outlet for their show and they are using it as both a broadcast medium and a promotional tool. Canton explains how they’ve put the show on iTunes and YouTube to try and raise its profile. “We’re just trying to think of every way of getting it out there. Sucker people in for free now and then we’ll rip them off. Get them hooked. Get in for free now and jack up the prices later!”

Back in the studio, Murphy is recording links that will slot in between longer dialogues. Businesslike and straight to the point, he marches in, instantly in character, reads his lines twice through and barm-finished. All this is recorded in a stream, leaving Canton the unenviable task of editing it in to a slick 10 to 12 minutes of new material each week.

Canton and Murphy are ambitious for the future and plan to become rich and famous. “We’d love to do a TV show and live shows are great fun to do,” says Canton. Murphy adds, “The most immediate goal is to have this thing generating some income so we can spend all our time on it.”

Rapid News has 200 subscribers to the free web site at the moment, plus people who listen occasionally. Feedback has been mostly positive and the web site is gaining a loyal fan base. “Canton’s mum loves it. She’s in better humour now each week because of it,” Murphy jokes. Like all the best-kept secrets, this show won’t stay under wraps for long.

Check out the first series of Rapid News at www.thisisrapidnews.com
Down The Gears

By Enda Healy

This month will see Ireland host a round of the World Rally Championship (WRC) for the first time in the history of the sport. No doubt it will be Ireland's biggest motorsport and sporting event of the year. 150,000 spectators are expected to head North-West to catch all of the flat-out action. All eyes will be on Ireland in November as the event is expected to bring €30+ million to the Irish economy.

The event, which is the penultimate round of the year, will take place on November 15th-18th in Sligo, Donegal, Roscommon, Leitrim, Fermanagh, Tyrone and Belfast with the latter being the start of the rally with a short Super Special Stage (SSS) around the grounds of Stormont. All stages are free with the exception of the SSS in Belfast. Tickets will also be needed for the Service Park.

If you cannot make it to the event you can still catch all the action on RTÉ which will have live coverage and daily round up shows. Information on programs, entry lists, tickets and ride facilities can be found at www.rallyireland.org.

WRC 2007 - The Story so far...
The WRC 2007 season started off with reigning 3-time champion Sébastien Loeb taking victory in Monte Carlo. His main rival of 2006 Marcus Grönlholm fought back with a second round win in Sweden. After a disastrous rally in Norway for Seb, a rally which Mikko Hirvonen won, the French man went on to win a hat-trick of events in Mexico, Portugal and Argentina. This gave him a clear lead.

But then a crash in Italy turned things upside down. Marcus took the win and continued the winning streak in the two following rounds in Greece and Finland. Marcus set a new record with seven wins at his home event.

However, Loeb fought back with a dominant win in Germany. Grönlholm lost valuable points on the final day with an off after being distracted by a cow on the stage.

The following round in New Zealand demonstrated why rallying is such an exciting sport as Marcus beat Seb by just 0.7 seconds. Three days of hard competition and less than a second apart making it the closest event in the history of the WRC.

The rounds after, in Spain and Corsica, were both won by Sébastien and Loeb who reduced Marcus' lead to just four points. At the time of writing one round in Japan remains before Ireland, so the title lead could change hands before the teams land in the country. The winner of the WRC 2007 could be decided in Ireland, so don't miss it. See you on the stages.

For more information about the WRC see www.wrc.com

Eircom League Promotions

By Finbarr O'Sullivan

Being a student is great for cheap nights out and cheaper drinks. Lots of nightclubs give concessions when you flash your student card or lay on special drinks promotions to make that great night out slightly easier on the pocket.

But nightclubs are not the only business that offer promotions to students. Soccer clubs are another.

The Eircom League season is currently winding down. With only a few games to go, Drogheda are leading the way to their first ever title. But why pay €15 to spend your Friday or Saturday nights watching football when you could be down the pub availing of great drink deals?

Well for one, most of those student nights are mid-week so come the weekend you may be low on money and a night out may be twice as expensive. Also you might be surprised by what special offers some soccer clubs offer to students.

In early October, UCD soccer club allowed free entry to all students, not just UCD ones, for their games against Bray Wanderers and Cork City. At the Cork game, vouchers for a free pint in the UCD student bar were also handed out. Earlier in the season for a match against Derry City, UCD gave free entrance to any person who turned up in a Leinster rugby jersey.

As the UCD team are generally associated with the student population and share the name of the college's campus on which they play, student promotions there may not come a surprise. However, they are not the only ones.

Monaghan United offer special student rates.

Bray Wanderers ran a promotion for their game against Shamrock Rovers where two students from the Bray Institute of Further Education could get two tickets for only €10.

Galway United, in conjunction with the Galway United Supporters Trust, advertise their home games in NUIG.

The Cork City Supporters Society in Cork Institute of Technology had an offer for the Shamrock Rovers game where a society member would pay only €10 of the €15 ticket price.

Check out your local Eircom League club for any such promotions. The Southside campuses can choose from St. Patrick's Athletic in Inchicore, who won three league titles in four attempts from 1996 to 1999, and UCD, who won their only FAI Cup in 1984.

For the Northside campuses there are three teams: Bohemians, who play in Dalymount Park in Phibsboro. The stadium was once home to Ireland internationals. Shelbourne play in Tolka Park. In 2004 they held Deportivo La Coruña 0-0 in Landsdowne Road in a Champion's League Qualifier. And then there's Shamrock Rovers, the most successful club in Irish soccer.
DIT Sailing team wins intervarsity race

By Conor Byrne

The DIT Sailing team upset the natural balance after beating 26 teams to win the first college team racing event of the season held in Wexford on October 20th & 21st.

The new team on the scene narrowly beat UCC1 in the final - the team that recently returned from the Team Racing World Championships in Spain sailing as Ireland 2.

The best-of-five-races final was brought down to the fifth race, UCC winning the first two and DIT the final three.

UCC were ahead in race five with a safe 1st-4th-5th combination, until Marty O’Leary and Hannah Herlihy (DIT) in 3rd position successfully pulled off a daring port/starboard manoeuvre on both UCC boats of Alex Barry and Andrew Woodward at the last mark.

Conor Byrne and Emer McNally (DIT) were able to slip from 6th to windward of Woodward (UCC), to take 5th place on the first beat, Johnny O’Dowd and Julie O’Halloran (DIT) crossed the line in second, while O’Leary and Herlihy held onto third for DIT to win with a 2nd - 3rd - 5th combination.

Third place overall was taken by Geoff Tait’s Trinity team, who are travelling to France next week to defend their title as Student Yachting World Champions. Trinity beat Bryan Byrne’s DIT2 team over five races in the 3rd / 4th play-off.

UCC3, under club captain Caoimhe Burns, won the silver fleet final.

DIT Seniors run DCU Academy to a point

DIT 1-10 : DCU 1-11 10/10/07

The DIT men’s Senior Gaelic football team opened their league campaign against the 05/06 Sigerson Champions DCU at home in Grangegorman. In what turned out to be near perfect conditions for Football, the game swung in the balance right up to the final minute of injury time, where eventually DCU clung on for a one point victory.

The early exchanges saw Senior Intercounty forwards David Kelly from Sligo and Ciarán Hanratty from Monaghan test the DIT rearguard of Robbie Glynn from Dublin and Fresher Kevin Mclaughlin from Mayo. DCU quickly ran into a two point lead. DIT got their first score on the board after Mayo forward Aidan Kilcoyne was brought down. Cian Ward duly stood up and converted the free.

DCU went on to take the lead & maintain a point advantage. Although defeated the DIT seniors can take a lot of heart from this display and will feel confident they can challenge further on in the competition.

DIT Senior Footballers collect full points in Dundalk.

DKIT 1-11 : DIT 3-11 16/10/07

After a performance but no league points against DCU, the Senior footballers travelled to Dundalk. On firm dry conditions with a slight wind DIT opened with a free from Cian Ward. Dundalk answered with two points on the trot. DKIT’s Cian Mackey from Cavan and David Farrell from Meath were dominating the DIT half forward line. Despite this a point from DIT midfielder Gerry Gallagher and a quick goal from Billy O’Loughlin soon calmed any DIT nerves and following more points from Cian Ward and Brian Ennis and a goal from Robbie Glynn DIT went on leading by six at half time.

Despite a Dundalk rally at the beginning of the second half DIT weathered the storm. Cavan’s Fergal Slowey playing well at corner back, while Aidan Kilcoyne now operating as an inside forward with Ward began to ask questions of the Dundalk rearguard.

The final score came deep in injury time when Kilcoyne raced through to setup a listed goal for the on rushing Alan Landy.

Hurling

The Senior Hurlers have got off to a winning start with a Div 1 league win against UUJ up in Belfast. Trails by four points at half time they turned the game around to run out six point winners. Kilkenny and Electrical Engineering student Willie O’Dwyer hitting a number of important frees to ensure victory.

The Senior B hurlers playing in two competitions a Senior B league and also a Intermediate championship a title which they won last year. In the league they were beaten by Maynooth but defeated IT Tallaght, they have UCD left to play. In the Championship they defeated Maynooth setting up a semi Final show down with GMIT or Athlone IT.

The Fresher have yet to start competitive action, but will have to get by the Challenges of Athlone IT, UCD and St. Pats to make the last eight. The management team of Adrian Cummins, Mick O’Keefe and Niall Kelly have organised a series of Challenges in their teams build up.

Ladies Football

After a cracking season last year which saw the team get to the Donaghy Cup final, high hopes rest on the shoulders of Mick Roddy and his crew to go one step further. They accounted for Marino comfortably in a Div 3 group game. However they face rivals Cavan College next week at home in Grangegorman. The team backboned by girls from the Dublin GAA club, together with Dublin’s Sinead Aherne and Meath’s Jane Dolan will be hoping to make a serious impression in the league before Christmas.

Further info contact Emma on 087-9420374

Camogie

DIT Camogie has polec’d off with two training sessions out in Ballyboden, a Challenge versus Cabra Convent, a challenge versus Maynooth and Carlow IT. The team see their first competitive outing next week when they face UCD under-11s out in Belfield.

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DIT Soccer club booted out of Collingwood Cup

By Finbarr O'Sullivan & Katie Teehan

After losing an appeal to the FAI on October 22nd, the DIT soccer club have been kicked out of the Collingwood Cup.

The move by the IUFU (Irish Universities Football Union) to evict the DIT team came as a huge blow to the team and managers.

DIT have played in the Collingwood Cup, a competition run by the IUFU, every year since 1999 when they were invited to join.

The Cup is for university teams, but DIT was always the exception to this rule. "Year after year they would send us correspondence regarding the summer meeting, the draw for the Collingwood Cup, emails about fees etc. The same as every other team in the competition," recalls DIT Soccer Club manager, Tony O'Connor.

However leading up to and during the competition last February, rumours were spreading that DIT's place in the cup was not certain.

On September 5th Padraig Murray, secretary of the IUFU sent an email to the DIT manager informing them of their changed status: "In order to compete in Collingwood Cup in the future they (DIT) would have to apply for guest status on a yearly basis."

The email went on to suggest that to avoid this, the team could apply for full membership, allowing them to compete in all IUFU competitions but only on the condition that they first resign from the CFAI.

Having talked unofficially to various managers of other university members if the IUFU, O'Connor found that DIT were later voted out of the Collingwood Cup by a majority of 6-3 in a secret ballot in a meeting held in September this year. This annual meeting, which DIT had always attended before, went ahead without their knowledge.

As the vote to kick them out of the contest was taken at this meeting in their absence, co-manager O'Brien feels it went against natural justice, while the very fact that they were not informed shows that the decision to evict had been made in advance of the meeting.

"We were always invited every other year. They had already decided to kick us out by not inviting us," he says.

DIT soccer has an excellent reputation for discipline and have never received a red card during a Collingwood Cup match. O'Brien doesn't tolerate bad behaviour. "We are very strong on discipline. The team has the best record on and off the field. The players never cause trouble anywhere we go to stay."

As well as having a great reputation for discipline, DIT are also one of the top three college teams in the country.

There are several youth internationals on the side, and the IUFU brought three OIT players (Paul Whelan, Killian Gallagher and Stephen Roche) to Thailand for the World University Games.

"They (The IUFU) should be protecting a member like us, not discriminating against us," says O'Connor. O'Brien accuses the IUFU of "trying to move the goalposts," in their treatment of OIT this year.

The players are very upset by the decision as DIT have done well in the tournament and feel they should be in it.

Captain of the DIT team, and Monaghan United player, Paul Whelan says it should be about the football, not intervarsity politics. "A lot of the players are disgusted as the Collingwood Cup is the tournament they want to be in. No one can believe what's happening," says Whelan.

He suggests other teams may have been wary of how well DIT were playing. Trinity, one of the founders of the Collingwood Cup, are believed to have been highly vociferous against the acceptance of DIT into the 2008 Collingwood Cup, which is organised by the IUFU and is run on an invitational basis. DIT were the only CFAI team to participate in 2007.

Whelan believes DIT earned a place on merit after their fine performances in 2007. A 4-1 victory for DIT over Trinity on October 17th proves this form.

After the unsuccessful appeal to the FAI, DIT management are considering their next move.