DIT News, 1st-31st. of October, 2010

DIT:Students Union

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Registration fee to double

By Stephen Bourke

The student registration fee could rise to €3000 next year. The fee, which has increased by nearly 700 per cent from an initial €190 to €1,500, is part of the reason students will be protesting on 3 November.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) is planning a series of protest marches nationwide in order to convince politicians that students are not a “soft target”. The first of these marches will take place 3 November and DITSU president Ciarán Nevin is urging all students to take part.

“The budget will be debated by the cabinet at that time,” said Nevin, “We want them to think twice before they make cuts to our student services”.

DIT News understands that the Government is planning to cut more than €440 million from the education budget, including a seven per cent cut to third level education. The USI says that registration fees could be doubled to €3000 next year as the cuts take effect.

The Croke Park pay agreement means that the government will not take money from the wage bill which makes up three quarters of the education budget. This means that the cuts will be concentrated in the remaining €1.8 billion of the budget.

Student grants will be cut by five per cent while the non-pay budget for colleges could be hit with a 25 per cent cut. The Student Assistance Fund,...

Continued on page 3

Grangeegorman gets the official go ahead

By Luc O Cinneala

The Government has given the green light for the €486 million project which will see DIT relocated to the new Grangeegorman site. Although plans for new super campus have been ongoing for several years, the official go ahead was only given last month.

The announcement was made by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen at the site on 21 September 2010.

It is expected that over 4,000 full-time construction jobs will be created over a six year period and that over 1,000 more permanent jobs will be created upon completion.

It is planned that 70 per cent of DIT students will be studying at the 73 acre site by 2016. Student housing is a big priority for the area and will take up 28,000m².
DIT's food department is now under the one roof for the first time in the college's lifetime.

Cathal Brugha Street has seen the installation of new bakeries, open to all students this semester. When finished, the new bakeries will boast state of the art facilities.

Speaking to the DIT News baking lecturer Eugene Kane explains how the new bakeries will have a sixteen student capacity which means a possible 48 new recruits for 2011. There will also be new granite worktops, mixers, cake depositor, chocolate tempering machine, cream whipping machine, two brand new ovens and storage facilities.

The first bakery in the spotlight will be the completed confectionary bakery where there are facilities for cake, pastry and cookie and chocolate making. The second bakery will be the bread bakery, due to be finished in January 2011. Depending on availability, the new bakeries will be open to Culinary Arts students, with the possibility of seminars and special courses.

The people involved with the project include Eugene Kane, Joe Erraught and the maintenance section of DIT. Invitations to an official opening ceremony will be sent to everyone in the bakery industry, senior management of DIT and many more an in late Spring 2011.
which provides emergency support to students for rent, heat and even food will be halved.

"Colleges have been under-funded for years," said Nevin, "We’re under-resourced as it is."

"Students don’t vote -- we’re an easy target. We have to get out there and prove we’re a force to be reckoned with."

The march to the Dáil will start at Parnell Square at 12.30pm on 3 November. Marches will take place in Galway and Cork the following week. The USI is also directly lobbying TDs for support.

DITSU will hold rallies in each of the campuses in the lead up to the Dáil march.

"These cuts are going to be savage and we need to get absolutely everyone out," said Nevin. "Students don’t vote -- we’re an easy target. We have to get out there and prove we’re a force to be reckoned with."

Following this national march, a number of regional marches will also be held by USI in Galway and Cork cities on 18 November and 1 December respectively.

Grainne Quinlan is a mature student in her third year of a Photography degree in Temple Bar. She depends on the Student Assistance Fund for her rent.

"I missed the Back to Education Allowance because I was living in the UK before coming home to study. My grant and the Student Assistance Fund are pretty much all I have to live on.

I live in a studio on the North Circular Road. I pay about €500 a month. If I lost my rent assistance I would have to move out and probably end up sharing.

The thought of having to give up living alone at my stage in life -- it’s not something I want to have to do. I’d be gutted if I had to move in with housemates.”

DIT Annual Fund now accepting applications

The DIT Annual Fund is now accepting applications.

The €10,000 fund, which relies on donations by graduates, staff and friends is paid out on an annual basis by the Annual Fund Giving Team.

Every October applications are invited by students, staff, societies and clubs.

The fund is given out by the DIT foundation, a registered charity.

Funding priorities are wide ranging and include clubs and societies, projects associated with the new campus at Grangegorman, community projects run by students and staff, teaching and research.

Applications will be considered based on a number of criteria by the Annual Fund Giving Team which includes representatives of donors, academic staff, students union and graduate network.

The submission deadline is Friday 22 October and application forms can be downloaded from www.ditfoundation.com

Conditions for application

- Applicant projects should further DIT’s key priorities
- Projects should have the widest benefit for DIT and surrounding communities.
- Projects should meet a clearly expressed student, staff or overall DIT need which cannot be met by core funding.
- Priority will be given to those applicants who have already raised, or intend to raise, part of their project cost from alternative sources.
- Applications should be for ‘once-off’ contributions to support unique activities, or to provide ‘start-up’ funds for new initiatives.
Self service makes library more efficient

By Sophie Cairns

DIT Aungier Street library is now offering students the facility to check books in and out with a new self service system.

The system was launched on 4 October and allows students to independently take out books, renew them, and put them back. "It's based on the same idea as a supermarket self service checkout, the student scans the book’s barcode and then either takes the book away or places it on the nearby shelf," said Anne Jennings, Senior Library Assistant.

Because of substantial cuts across the board in DIT, including the library, a more efficient service became more apparent and the new system became a clear priority in the eyes of library staff. "We are now free for more in depth queries and interesting roles and this is transforming the library into a more open and vibrant environment," she said.

"Despite cuts, our emphasis is on delivering a greater one-to-one service. Furthermore, with freed up hours, we have more time to mend equipment, catalogue our incoming books and expand the library through ordering new titles," Anne said.

The students of DIT seem to be taking the changes in their stride, and Anne says, they are getting on "brilliantly" with the new system. She said there haven't been many problems with the new service so far because there are straightforward instructions provided in the library.

"Our real hope is that the system creates a more interactive library, where students will be free to manage their accounts at home and on site," said Anne. "Who knows, in the near future we could be providing a 24 hour library service."

With over 350,000 books on the shelves from Accounting to Zoology on the first floor and journals of over 35,000 in number on the second, this system is designed to make things run more efficiently. Whether you wish to read up for an assignment, check up on your emails or hold a group study session, you can do it all with ease and comfort in the attractive and open area of your Aungier Street DIT Library.

New Garda scheme will affect students getting served

By Aisling O’Sullivan

A new scheme was launched 21 September 2010 by Mr Dermot Ahern, T.D. to combat the purchase of alcohol by underage persons.

The system, which came into effect 1 October, allows a member of the Garda Siochana to send a person who is 15, 16 or 17 years old into licensed premises for the purpose of purchasing an alcohol product.

This scheme is likely to affect students who go out with friends during and after college as licensees are becoming more stringent when asking for ID. A survey conducted by DIT News, showed that 99 per cent of students bring a form of identification to college with them. However, only 11 per cent bring their passport and 39 per cent bring their Garda age card. This means that the remaining 50 per cent of students bring an invalid form of ID.

Owner of Solas Bar on Wexford Street, Bernard Molloy explains that he wants students to work with them and bring a valid form of ID when looking to purchase alcohol.

"This is something we want to work on, along with the students, just bring your ID and we will serve you. Of course we want the student business. Don’t make it hard for us."

Bernard understands that carrying a passport isn’t always safe so he urges everyone to get an age card. “It’s only a little card, it’s easy to get and it’s a nominal price to pay”.

In his statement, the Minister for Justice said that it is not a ploy to trap licensees. “I want to stress that the objective of this scheme is to ascertain whether a licensee is complying with the law, not to trap an unwary licensee into committing an offence.”

He also outlined plans for further test purchasing schemes which would cover both home deliveries to under 18s, and also deliveries to any person where payment is accepted on delivery.

Fashion show looks for models

The castings for the DIT Alfa Romeo Fashion Show are taking place Wednesday 3 November at 5pm in Aungier Street Students Union. Last year over 100 DIT students auditioned for a place in the fashion show. The castings is always a great evening with goody bags, refreshments and an opportunity to meet new people. The evening gives DIT students a chance to strut their stuff for a panel of judges, some of whom are very well known in the fashion industry. Everyone is encouraged to come along this year (in jeans and a white top), even just for the atmosphere. You never know, it could be you on the catwalk this year!
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Grangegorman gets the official go ahead

It will also provide state-of-the-art mental health facilities, as well as a variety of public amenities, to be built on the grounds of St. Brendan’s Hospital in Grangegorman in Dublin 7.

The Taoiseach described it as a “significant project in terms of generating jobs and providing a key piece of infrastructure for education and to develop our knowledge economy.”

Mr. Cowen also highlighted the “absolute priority” of residential mental health patients of St. Brendan’s Hospital, located on the site, as well as praising DIT’s goal of admitting more students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan was also in attendance and emphasised Mr. Cowen’s point that the super campus is very much part of Ireland’s smart economy. “What is being created here at Grangegorman is the kind of learning environment that will enhance the development of every student enrolling in DIT. The value of our human capital has always been our greatest asset and the students graduating from this campus will play a crucial role in advancing our society and improving the quality of life of our citizens.”

Speaking about the massive project ahead, President of DIT Students’ Union, Ciarán Nevin said, “This should be a great inspiration to all of us working towards what will be an amazing campus.

“It was a massive day for us. There were a lot of high profile politicians at the event like the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and the former Taoiseach and they didn’t beat around the bush saying that the project is going to go ahead.”

The HSE also welcomed the announcement. St. Brendan’s Hospital, which provides a service to approximately 80 residents, has been identified as one of the psychiatric hospitals in need of major redevelopment.

Bertie Ahern, an alumnus of what is now DIT Rathmines, got a particular mention from the speakers at the event who noted the work he put in.

“I’ve been involved in the project for almost ten years,” he told DIT News. “A lot of work had to be done because it took longer to get approval for the land. It was a long battle but it was worth it.”

DIT’s two biggest societies, BAM!Soc and BanterSoc collaborate to bring students a launch party like no other. Purty Kitchen’s top two floors have been booked exclusively for ticket-holders, where there will be Oktoberfest-themed games to keep the banter rolling. Tickets should be purchased in advance to avoid disappointment. Contact BAM! or BanterSoc for sales, see poster for contact details or check out either society’s Facebook page.
**DIT Smartphone app tops charts**

By Aisling O'Sullivan

The DIT iPhone app has topped the download charts for free educational applications with 1,800 downloads.

The app, which is available for download on Android and iPhone was launched at the beginning of the semester by Minister for Communication, Eamon Ryan. The first of its kind to be introduced by an Irish third level institution, it gives students access to tools such as online learning, email, the library catalogue, maps of the campuses and much more.

So far there have been 1200 downloads from the iPhone app store and around 600 from the Android store. Manager of Campus Life, Brian Gormley told DIT News about the plans for the future. “We’re working with the developers on an update to the app to improve it, and we hope over time it will become even more user friendly and useful for students.”

The application was launched the same day as two other initiatives. Firstly, the Facebook inductions, where first year students can meet and interact via facebook and secondly, a starrrcal movie promoting students to ‘get wild about DIT’ which has received nearly 9,000 hits on YouTube.

Irish model and DIT alumnus Sarah McGovern spoke about the difference between communication now and when she was student union president.

“Everyone has iPhones and the likes these days, so to have an app like this is just brilliant. To be able to access email and to know what’s going all the time is a great thing. We hardly used computers when I was in the student’s union so to go that far in ten years is unbelievable.”

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**46a route gets chopped**

By Barry Lennon

Dublin Bus’ decision to reroute certain services affects students and staff of Montjoy Square.

A local business group warned DIT feeling that this change would impact upon business and students alike.

The route in question is the 46a. The changed route now runs from Don Laoghaire to its new terminus in the Phoenix Park. The bus formerly travelled to the square. Inconvenienceed users of the bus must make travel alternatives at the beginning of this academic year.

The class rep convenor for Montjoy square, Kieran Keane said that those who use the bus were fed up with having to walk to and from O’Connell street instead. He said “the impact on students may be worse in a month’s time closer to exams”. This may be awkward as well as being inconvenient for students with large art portfolios.

Kieran said that DITSU would approach Dublin Bus about these changes if student disapproval was substantial.

Students can give feedback by contacting DITSU or commenting on a boards.ie posting on the issue. Feedback is being welcomed on the issue and students are encouraged to speak up if they feel the need. It seems as though the route immortalised in Bagatelle’s hit “Summer in Dublin” may not be remembered so fondly after this change.

Manager of Campus Life, Brian Gormley said “The daily commute has a huge affect on a student’s experience. If a bus service is not flexible students may not part take in extra-curricular activities.”

A recent pole by DITSU shows that nearly 40 per cent of DIT students use the bus to get to college every day. This demonstrates the dependence of students on bus routes throughout the city.
The last month in pictures...

It's been a busy first few weeks for everyone in DIT, from the launches of the smartphone app, to Fresher's week, to the official launch of the Grangegorman Campus and we had a camera there to catch every minute of it.
The Big Debate

Is social networking making us more or less social?

The release of the new movie *The Social Network* got a lot of people talking about virtual reality. We began to question ourselves, is Facebook making us more lonely? Is Twitter forcing us to become less social? Gillian Middleton and Stephanie Fennell argue it out.

**LESS**

I'm socialising... LOL, I'm alone with my computer. Have you ever wondered how people survived before Facebook? Sit down because this may come as a shock to you; they actually talked to each other. Having 200 friends on Facebook means nothing unless you are quite the prolific stalker. You may know what plenty of people are up to right now but that's very different from having a meaningful interaction with a single one of them.

It could be argued that talking to friends on Facebook strengthens friendships, but how often are you talking to your friends in comparison to the amount of time you spend looking at photos from the nights out of people like Timmy from the Gaelacht in 2006? Facebook events are mostly a barrage of lazy marketing from clubs in which genuine invites are lost.

In the case of Twitter, this medium is one fuelled by the egoism of its users. Those who follow you are doing so primarily in order to be read themselves. Laboured-over tweets disappear down your homepage in a matter of seconds, and really, within 140 characters who is likely to have said something enlightening enough to warrant a scroll down? Even if someone did bother to sift through the list to find you, the never ending stream of tweets appearing on the page make it like swimming against the tide. Those celebrities using Twitter can afford to tweet constantly because they have a vested interested in appearing in the timeline, but for the casual user trying to engage it is practically impossible.

It has often been suggested that those among us who are less fond of face-to-face interaction can benefit greatly from the use of such mediums. However, while these sites can create the illusion of a social life they are certainly not a substitute for one. They enable a fantasy in which people can believe that they are making greater strides socially than they really are.

Don't get me wrong, Facebook has many uses but let's not pretend that it is anything other than it is: the publicly acceptable home of vanity and voyeurism. It encourages us to pretend that we're more popular than we are instead of getting out and making real connections with people beyond the shallow nonsense of pronouncements such as Mary likes 'backhanding disobedient gingers'.

**MORE**

For most of us, it all started about five years ago. Log-in shortly became ritual and love-sharing came round three times daily. Let's face it, at one stage in our teenage memories, we were all hooked. Bebo began to take over the world. Or at least the virtual world of our teenage lives. But surely this statement is a little dramatic?

Social networking is no longer a 'new invention' or something we need to 'get the hang of'. So why slate the people for embracing the future? 'Unsociable' behaviour seems to be the main outcome of this argument. As a regular, (perfectly sociable) Facebook-er myself, I feel it is my duty to argue this point.

If anything, social networking has made us more social in the real world than ever before, in my opinion. With 500,000,000 registered users on Facebook today, and 10,000,000 of those logging in daily, it almost makes it impossible to not keep in contact with our friends and family. The likes of Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Netlog and Youtube are excellent ways of developing and maintaining friendships and relationships these days.

Social events such as parties, reunions, meetings and even nightclub events are organised online on these web pages today. They bring people together faster and easier than ever before (that is, unless you're too sucked into your laptop screen to actually attend, but hey, I can't speak for everybody here!). Business, club and society web pages is the new Golden Pages as I see it.

For those who have moved away from home, Skype becomes the new Bible for them and those at home missing them dearly, along with the ever reliable Facebook and MSN Messenger. People are never more than a click away from being contacted.

So to conclude my rant, yes, we are becoming 'virtual individuals' in a sense, but its doing more good than harm. We are not living in an unsociable era because of it either. This is the way the world is growing and I really don't see any problem with that.

So watch out all ye non-virtual humans out there ..... and prepare to be VIRTUALISED !!!!

**What do YOU think?**

Facebook is amazing for organising events and keeping me updated as to my friends birthdays, so I'd have to say it makes people more social.

Isabelle Cernan

It really depends! I'd say less, because sometimes people will add you on Facebook but in the real world they'd never dream of coming up and saying hello.

Kie Carew

Gillian Middleton

Stephanie Fennell
Opinion

`Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains`

By Andy O’Dwyer

Am I free. In my decision taking, and actions? I thought so, yes. Once, I met those superior to my abilities. And I found it to be a good opportunity to do something together, and have fun doing it. Write software. So we did. I was offered a contract. An environment full of challenging tasks, and a pile of money.

I had few days to consider the terms of contract prior signing it. I took this part very seriously and was struck by one of the subsections describing intellectual property and non-disclosure rules. It literally said that everything I invent, create, write, discover while employed in the company, belongs to the company. And that I must inform the latter of the fact that I did so. Here, mind the words ‘while employed in the company’. This means not only hours from 9:00 to 17:00. It says 24/7. Now I was coming from the social rounds of libre mind-set. And throughout my life, imposing such requirements on me was absolutely not acceptable. At the time, I did believe that rules proposed were:

1) Restricting communication and creativity - I could not freely talk about or discuss what I am working on with anybody outside the company.

2) Limiting self-development - by working only on the projects within the company, you will inevitably go blunt. Even moving from one project to another is not sufficient for self development. You still want to take part in the bigger world.

3) Denying competition - you literally are becoming a spy for a company, and a threat to everybody outside of it. You don’t talk about what you’re working on. But what you hear you must eventually bring into the company. Good ideas you’ve heard, or techniques you’ve learnt. You must inform your employer about it.

4) Contracting you into a non-ethical existence. You can’t contribute. Nothing besides your company exist there. And no other software developer, engineer, hacker, manager, accountant, whoever… should trust you.

Knowing all this, I still accepted the contract. I really was excited about the job, and the pay. Especially the pay, yes. Months passed, and we were doing good work. None of the employees were fired during the recent financial crisis. But all the way down, I knew what was wrong. I knew that the basis for my employment was not right. I didn’t felt like I was offering my service to my employer. I felt like he bought me. That he has an absolute right on me. And especially, thinking of how many people are forced into the contracts like this made it even harder on me. I had no freedom anymore. It was time to make decision. And take actions.

More than two years past, and I put my signature on the resignation papers. Organisations who put forward contracts like this, are cradle of distrust. And I cannot see how I could go into the agreement like this ever again. The sad point is, that being a student myself I haven’t heard our lecturers discussing, and putting the accent on, personal freedoms. The freedoms on an individual, as of a creative person and a professional worker. The ethical being. You, our mentors, are preparing us for employment, and not for employing. I see it is alright to talk about Copyrights and Patents, and Trademarks and the rest. But you should tell us how to treat each other. Teach us the ethics of human relations, teach us common sense. Teach us how to respect and protect one another, the workers, the employees.

These are the things we must stand for no matter what. We will learn the hardship of doing business later. My story, is an example of western companies doing business. Today, the Information Technology sector is greatly influenced by the West.
Opinion

"A slut is a person of any gender who has the courage to lead life according to the radical proposition that sex is nice and pleasure is good for you."

By Honey Jewel

What's the deal? I ask ya....

I'm on the bus on my way home from college, which, by the way, is now my second home since being back. Sitting in front of me is a girl, and a rather hot-looking guy. His nose is rather large, but Hey! We'll forgive him that. However, I digress.

They're all excited about an upcoming party. Discussing who's hot, and who's not. When, all of a sudden, this girl comes out with a statement, or rather a tirade of abuse, about another girl who is in the same circle of friends: "That girl is such a slut! She sleeps with anyone and everyone."

"Now, I'm all for calling a spade a spade. However, I am not in favour of women using language that is just downright insulting and degrading to women."

Lucky girl, thought I at first. At least she's getting some. But that's enough about my private life.

The guy was delighted about the news, naturally, but he really didn't seem to have an opinion one way or another. However, this girl just kept going on and on and on, slating this poor slut - oops, sorry- GIRL.

Now, I'm all for calling a spade a spade. However, I am not in favour of women using language that is just downright insulting and degrading to women. All women. Women over the decades have fought long and hard to have women's rights actualized in all areas, including sexual rights.

The right to say NO or, the right to say YES! YES! YES! Oops! Sorrereee.

I do hope that the girl on the bus was just venting out of jealousy. Or maybe she had some self-esteem issues. Either way, I would hate to think that this way of thinking is leaking into the psyche of young women today. Although my first hand evidence is leaning sadly to the contrary.

So this got me thinking. Where did the word "slut" come from?

I have it on good authority - Wikipedia - that the word "slut" has not always meant "woman of loose morals".

It was first used in the English language to mean "a dirty, untidy, or slovenly woman. A lazy cow to you and me. That was in 1402!

A line I love from Samuel Pepys' Diary says: "Our little girl Susan is a most admirable slut, and pleases us mightily". It makes "slut" sound so cute. Like you just want to pinch somebody's peachesy little cheeks.

It all fell apart by 1450 though. That is when it came to describe a "sexually promiscuous woman". Woo Hoo!

I will end my little rant on a quote from a book called The Ethical Slut. That I will definitely be buying. Even if it is just for the name.

"A slut is a person of any gender who has the courage to lead life according to the radical proposition that sex is nice and pleasure is good for you."

So put that in your pipe and smoke it. Cos' I am proud to be the slut on a bus...
Halfway From Home

This summer John O’Brien knew the traditional J1 destination was not for him. Deciding to follow the music, he went from Nashville Tennessee to Memphis, New Orleans, Austin, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and California... and found the real side to America.

Nashville, Tennessee. The name does not immediately strike the same chord as Boston, New York and the West coast as a J1 destination but as I soon found out, you will have no less of a good experience.

Immediately upon reaching the southern states of the US you notice that any preconceptions you had of Americans were merely, well, preconceptions. The cliched Southern hospitality is no myth, they genuinely are the friendliest people I have met, going out of their way to help you. The reasons for going to Nashville in the first place were all music related, whereas I had a vague plan of avoiding traditional J1 destinations to sample something of the real USA. We all managed to find jobs in an Irish bar as servers, but be aware that you will rely solely on tips in southern states unless you think $2.13 an hour will be enough to get you by!

Nashville is known by its other name 'Music City USA'. There is live music everywhere every night including open mic nights and more consolidated performances. While I was there I attended a 4 day ‘Bonnaroo’ music festival in a neighbouring county, headlined by some natives of Nashville; Kings of Leon, Dead Weathers (Jack White, Nashville;); and several other huge acts. The defining music of Nashville, however, is country music so you’d want to be prepared for an onslaught of that! There are plenty of places to head out for those of us who do not enjoy country music though. Living in a hostel, as we were, a steady stream of people passed through; and the majority of these people were musicians. The depth of musical talent in Nashville was truly incredible.

Having spent over two months in Nashville we bought a RV for $1100 and embarked on a cross-America journey with California as our ultimate destination. First stop Memphis with our feet ten feet off of Beale, Graceland, Gibson guitar factory and Sun records. From there are next stop was to be New Orleans, reached by driving through the State of Mississippi and crossing Lake Pontchartrain via a 40km bridge. New Orleans, recovering from Hurricane Katrina, is incredible; the atmosphere, the music, the people, the history and the food. The journey continued through Austin to Roswell and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Four Corners monument is the meeting points of the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona and is worth a look particularly as it is on the way to Monument Valley, which is shared between Arizona and Utah. We continued through Arizona to the Grand Canyon, which is an incredible sight to see and on our way to our penultimate destination; Las Vegas. There is nothing I could tell you about Vegas that you have not already heard and having left there after 3 days our long suffering RV died in the Mojave desert after 2,700 miles across America!

A real Bon Voyage

By Blake Boland

One of my reasons for choosing my course was the Erasmus year abroad. The opportunity to move to another country to study for a year was too good to resist. I had studied French at school and did an exchange for three weeks. I had such a good experience then that I was sure a longer version while in college would be as enjoyable. It was.

Many DIT students have the option to go on Erasmus for one or two semesters and undoubtedly, it is an opportunity not to be missed. You get to step outside the comfort zone and go for it with few ever regretting the choice.

My Erasmus year took me to Lyon. I was placed in Lyon with two other students who I had only met a couple of times. Luckily, we all got on well and it made for a great year. Each of us managed to find our own apartments and so didn’t live together. We saw each other every day in college and were able meet up in town anytime so we were never lonely or short of someone to go for a drink with. Living apart helped to get to know other people and really opened up the year.

Obviously, living in France was quite different from Ireland and I was determined to do loads of different things that I couldn’t in Ireland. Lyon is less than two hours drive from the Alps and so we made a few trips up to go snowboarding. For €50 you can rent the board, take the bus from Lyon to the resort and get your ski pass. The bus leaves from the city centre at 6.30am and drops you back for about 7.30pm. It’s a long day but great fun and a good chance to meet some other Erasmus students if you get a group going.

Another highlight of my time in Lyon was going to see the football team play. I went to nearly 10 games throughout the season where I saw Lyon beat PSG, watched them grab a draw against Liverpool and best of all, saw them beat Real Madrid 1-0. I got to see Gerard, Torres, Ronaldo, Benzema, Kaka, Lisandro, Makelele and Alonso amongst others - and all only a short metro ride from my apartment!

I can maintain a conversation in French, snowboarded in the Alps, drank wine by the Rhone, seen a Monet, gone to football matches, made some great friends and learned so much. Would I have preferred to have done a year in Dublin? No way. Would I do it all over again? Yes, in a flash. Take the opportunity if you can, it most likely won’t come around again.
TOP 10 MOVIES TO WATCH IN COLLEGE

When you’re not in the mood to go further than the kettle and you find yourself in a situation where a DVD-couch day is far too good to resist, reach for one of these movie classics that all college students must see. Glenn Fitzpatrick writes.

1 BACK TO THE FUTURE

One of those rare, almost forgotten, pieces of pop culture that, surprisingly, draws little attention to itself. You won’t find a movie other than this one that provides such a huge dose of fun and it has the desirable quality where you are able to see something new each time you see it.

2 OLD SCHOOL

We know that Irish college life isn’t as exciting as this and the chances of us driving around in a convertible, smashing mailboxes whilst blaring Master of Puppets is unlikely. Nor do our societies come close to the banter that the fraternities of American colleges appear to have. We can all dream though...

3 FERRIS BUELLER’S DAY OFF

Even though, you have to admit that it’s a bit unrealistic that it is broadcast throughout Chicago that Ferris is “dying” and no one notices that he’s singing in the Chicago parade, you just have fun and cannot stop laughing. So sit, back and enjoy. “Yup, life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and take a look around once in a while, you might miss it”

4 EURO TRIP

Bondage, boobs and brownies; this movie has something for everyone. In this list ahead of Road Trip thanks to Vinnie Jones’ cameo role as a football hooligan. Laughs from start to finish and an interesting insight into the American view of Europe.

5 THE BIG LEBOWSKI

Generally, anything by the Coen Brothers is going to satisfy your needs but performances from Jeff Bridges and John Goodman make this one of the most original and entertaining comedies ever made and a genuine modern classic. As far as one-liners go, Goodman’s character Walter takes the gold medal.

6 THE OUTLAW JOSEY WALES

There’s nothing more escapist than a good Western and this is one of Clint Eastwood’s finest moments. He’s the perfect anti-hero on a quest for revenge and you’ll be rooting for him every step of the way in this timeless classic.

7 INTERMISSION

This one goes under the radar. A lot of Irish people haven’t seen this. Colin Farrell, Cillian Murphy and Colm Meaney all give strong performances in arguably the greatest ever movie to reference Greenhills. It captures perfectly Irish humour. Brown sauce and tea anybody?

8 TRAINSPOTTING

Often classed as the movie of our generation. If you’ve not seen it yet then take a day off college especially for it. Danny Boyle’s adaptation of the Irvine Welsh novel fast became a frenzy among students with many citing it as a glaring example of wasted youth or to put it lightly; A kick up the arse.

9 HEATHERS

Long before her days of Kleptomania (or at least before she got caught), Winona Ryder stars in one of the best teen movies of all time. You might get a few ideas on how to deal with not fitting in from this one.

10 FIGHT CLUB

In the Limp Bizkit song ‘Livin’ It Up’, Fred Durst raps how he’s seen this about 28 times. There’s a good reason for this. Ed Norton and Brad Pitt feature in another must-see. Violence has never been so much fun.
Want some Milk and Cookies?

By Cassie Delaney

Ursula K. Le Guin once said “There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories.” And, while I haven’t a notion who Ursula K. Le Guin is, I agree wholeheartedly with her pearl of wisdom. We tell stories everyday; whether it’s a tipple about the drunken embarrassment endured in The Palace, a raving rant about our parents or just a moment of nostalgia – our lives are made up of stories.

In October 2009 a collective of quirky, enthusiastic and possibly bored people established Milk and Cookies Stories. The idea was to organise structured story-telling events in Dublin where people could sit, listen, eat, laugh and most importantly; share stories.

Now, one year and 11 events later Milk and Cookies is a permanent feature in The Exchange, Dublin. Running on the second Tuesday of every month, it becomes a cozy environment for wide eyed story-tellers and their tall tales. This month the theme was “Traveller Tales”. The large audience sat happily eating the free cookies, brownies and general assorted treats as featured story teller Clare Murphy recounted traditional folklore. Danny O Leary told the hilarious and heart-warming tale of being held at gun point in South America (it was funny I promise). However the real charm of the evening was in the open mic section when members of the audience began to share their crazy, inspiring and down right mental stories of their worldly travels.

In the three hours I sat in the exchange I was transported from Dublin to Auckland, Tibet, South America, Thailand and France. I heard everything from being held at gunpoint to being kidnapped on a boat to the experience of earth-shattering heartbreak. I listened to the tales of the people I had just met, and marvelled in a shared sense of awe at their stories. Never was I forced to tell a story or even feel pressured into speaking. On the contrary I was encouraged to enter a complete state of relaxation and merely listen to the tales of those who spoke.

At three hours the event did seem quite long and though the space utilised in The Exchange is full of charm with duvets and cushions - it did get quite stuffy and uncomfortable. That said, the endless supply of tea and cookies was more than adequate compensation for the slightly uncomfortable conditions.

Make me some money!

By Jenny Whitlean

Some of us 4th year can still remember a time when the average student could work in a cushy high-street shop. We had staff discounts and PAYE perks galore. For some, one position could see them through the heady days of being a Fresher to their Grad Ball.

The realities of funding student life have changed. The jobs market is a mess for everyone, so enterprising students are left to find alternative ways to keep the cash flowing. What are a few of the choices?

Giving grinds is always an option for the brains amongst us. All you need is a specialty and a few loyal students. You can be flexible with the schedule and it keeps your own skills sharp. The only major drawback is that you have to know your stuff. Giving French grinds when you’re still struggling with the passé compose probably isn’t the best idea. If you do think you are up to it, print some posters and get down to your local library.

The latest money making trend is being a club rep. As money-making schemes go, it’s pretty rock and roll. You are given a stack of fliers and get a small return on every one handed in at the door. Normally, one flier is worth one euro. The return depends on your ability to get people excited about your night. It’s a handy gig if you’re the trendsetting life-of-the-party-type. For more mortals, you might find it’s a lot of work for some spare change.

A lot of people find themselves in casual bar or restaurant work. Private sports clubs are great for this, and you can usually find them through friends and family. There might not be a written contract, but you are thrown a few hours pretty regularly. It can help bulk out a CV, chances are you won’t be working with a complicated cocktail menu and you can expect a few tips from doting regulars.

But not having a contract is the tricky bit. Unlike giving grinds or being a club rep, you don’t get to be your own boss but you have job protection from a bad boss. The law does not do much to protect casual workers. There is very little you can do if you’re being underpaid or taken advantage of. If you are going to go the route of casual work, make sure you know exactly what is being expected of you and try to get some small thing in writing.

If you do find yourself in a tense situation at work but you have no contract, you can still make complaints to National Employment Rights Authority. You can download a complaint form from citizensinformation.ie. Any issues regarding health and safety or tax problems can and should be reported too. The laws won’t get any better if we just shut up for the sake a few quid.

No matter what you do to keep your bank account healthy, be smart about it. Know what you’re regifting into and weigh up the pros and cons. Ask questions, do the research and then do your thing.
Pretty in Print

Fashion by Siobhan Lam,
Photography by Ray Boileau,
Hair and Make up by Evelyn Lam,
Models: Aine O Sullivan & Vincent Lam

Right: Angora Jumper by AWESOME £30
Rose Harness
Dress by AWESOME £50
Cameo Brooch
Part of set by H&M £7.95

Left: Ruffle and Lace
Dress by AWESOME £38
Ray Ban's (Styl-
atic's Own)
Vintage Dior
Blazer by Esby
Clockwise: Dress by Emme Boutique £140
Tights by H&M £7.95
Sequin and Lace Jacket by Emme Boutique £35
Military Dress by Emme Boutique £112
Pink Embellished Tights by River Island £6.7
Lace Tights by River Island £23
Grey Lace Dress by Emme Boutique £60
Paisley Scarf by Emme Boutique £35
Floral Tights, Hat and Shoes (Stylist's own)
From Catwalk to Campus

By Siobhan Lam

I have a confession to make, while most were frolicking in the intermittent sunshine that summer in Ireland provided - I dreamt of dark nights, sumptuous velvets and heavy coats.

For me, the summer was just a countdown to Autumn/Winter - not the constant rain and the daylight that lasts for an hour a day but the fashion - the exquisite fashion. Fashion is always darker, more dramatic and more desirable in the depths of the winter.

This season, the fashion gods have decreed that the 1970's and 50's are back and there is an intense fascination with the simple silhouette. Now, instead of suggesting a complete trend immersion this season, this is college not the catwalk after all - why not take a few choice items from the trends and work them into your wardrobes.

Prada and Louis Vuitton focused on highlighting the female form, taking their cue from TV show 'Mad Men' and the crazy curves of Christina Hendricks. These collections focused on nipped in waists with tight figure hugging corsets, kitten heels and full skirts. To be honest - I don't know how practical this trend is - for starters, corsets are instruments of torture and in my humble opinion, kitten heels are the most ferociously unflattering and awkward shoes ever. But the details that Miuccia choose to accessorise her vision were great - knee high socks are practical, cute and sexy. Wear yours over a pair of black tights and team with a short skirt for casual chic. Topshop have some well-priced 'rib over knee socks' in grey and black for €8. Miuccia also embraced the skinny belt this season, skinny belts are ideal for bringing a layered outfit together. They don't distract from the clothes due to their slimness but give an outfit a unified look. ASOS have a practically identical alternative to Prada's and for only €8.

Celine's collection was a lesson in simple austerity and was largely based around a dark palette and it left me with an overwhelming desire for skinny black trousers. Of course we have all embraced the skinny jean at this stage but this season is all about trousers - and skinny trousers are one of the most important trends. They look best when teamed with volume on top, be it a voluminous blouse or basic tee's with the addition of a chunky knit - get your skinny trousers from Whistles, they have a fab pair called the 'Anne Marie' with zip detail at the ankles for €110.

Unsurprisingly Burberry was leader of the pack when it came to coats, but this year Bailey introduced a new 'must-have' to our Autumn/Winter wardrobes - the aviator jacket. These shelving jackets, with all their belts and buckles - look as if they've just come off set from a WWII film but somehow still manage to be the most desirable piece from the catwalk this season. Bailey teamed these tough jackets with ultra feminine lace dresses and leather boots. That contradictory combination of soft and strong works fantastically and is exactly how these jackets should be worn - so keep those pretty summer dresses out but just make sure to layer them with an aviator jacket, ASOS have a great selection of jackets from €145.

Style versus Fashion

Fashionista and style icon are captions that we constantly see printed in our favourite fashion magazines. Whether underneath a celebrity photo or one of your average Joe, both titles appear to have the same meaning. However, without a doubt, there's a huge difference between style and fashion.

A fashionable person isn't necessarily stylish and vica versa. Fashion is determined by the current catwalk trends and often celebrities. Becoming slaves to fashion prevents us from displaying our quirks and individuality. Fashion forces people to conform by restricting creative freedom. As my Dad would say "that's not what the men of 1916 fought for!"

Another undesirable aspect of fashion is the fact that it's a money making scheme. Designers have the power when it comes to creating new fashion trends. Unfortunately, these trends are seasonal. Each is like a time bomb. People follow them as it ticks but once the season changes, the bomb explodes. Those military jackets that we once cherished are being abandoned, accused of being 'so last season'. We're soon swarming into Topshop, scrambling over one another like savage animals, attempting to seize the latest key pieces.

I'm beginning to wonder, is fashion a negative thing? Becoming a strict trend follower can rob us of our freedom, money and our dignity (depending on how competitive we become when fighting for the last 'it bag' in store!).

Being fashionable takes nothing more than a hefty bank account and access to the latest magazines. Style is a more personal thing. People use it to express themselves. Although developing one's style requires some effort, it is very positive and worthwhile. A person's individual style makes them unique, separating them from the crowd. Unlike fashion, it has no boundaries. We can incorporate the trends that suit us into our own style without having to follow all of them. Style can be influenced by anything, allowing us to be as crazy and creative as we desire. Anne Keane, magazine stylist for 'Tailer and U' magazine among others, agrees. "Style can be influenced by anything," she says." From art exhibitions to books to travel."

Good news broke students: you don't need to be loaded to remain stylish. In fact, recessionary times are encouraging people to let their own creativity and style flourish. "The recession has encouraged people to be more creative with their wardrobe," says stylist and Irish Independent fashion writer, Courtney Smith. "You see girls wearing their mum's old clothes, recreating looks from Penneys to make them more personal, or people buying in charity stores. People are less dependent on designer or high street looks"

Although I've a huge passion for clothes, I think a world without catwalk trends and skinny models would be bearable. Style has a much more important role in our world; it makes people interesting and unique. I urge you all to embrace your style, whatever it may be. As the French designer Yves Saint Laurent once said "fashion fades, style is eternal." Keep this is mind and you'll soon realise that style is for life, not just for Autumn/Winter 2010!

By Amy Lewis
The Music Issue

Interviews
Venue Guide
Reviews
& more..
Hard Working Class Heroes Festival 2010 has been and gone, with 100 acts playing seven venues over three days from the 7-9 October. A celebration of all the varied acts in Ireland that you could file under the broad heading of ‘alternative’. From Rock Gods, to Electronic Mavericks to Indie-Pop Princesses, the festival had it all, cramming a years worth of gig-going into three days. Kevin Donnellan out a few of his favourite HWCH acts to watch out for.

Halves
With a debut album out later this month (29 October) you’re going to be hearing a lot more about these purveyors of post-rock blissed-out electronica (they’re far, far better than that sounds, I promise). They’ve collaborated with Amy from Stars and the Kilkenny Choir amongst others, and their live show is accompanied by some amazing visuals courtesy of Slipdraft.

Next Dublin Show – 30 October – Workman’s Club

Sweet Jane

Released one of the best Irish rock albums of the year with debut ‘Sugar For My Soul’. Loud, but measured, they’re capable of producing the kind of hypnotic, uplifting live performance that gets you believing that tomorrow could be the day when you actually do perform a Rocky-esque study montage. Of course the beers you drink as you’re watching them will put paid to that, but still...

Next Dublin Show – 31 October – Sweeney’s, November 13th – The Village

Cast of Cheers
This year they were the new favourite Irish band of the type of egrets (like me) who follow music with a little too much fervour. Next year they’ll be the favourite band of everyone else. There’s still time to get in early though. Catch their tight, loud rock at the end of the month before they support Two Door Cinema Club in December and get stuck on a load of ‘ones to watch’ lists in the New Year.

Next Dublin Show – 29 October – Button Factory.

Nouveau Noise

We’ve made it easy on you with the first three bands but this lot have no dates scheduled at the moment so you’ll need to keep an eye out. Their debut album ‘Paraphrase Accolade’ shot them straight to the forefront of the Irish electronic scene. And, no matter what your musical taste, how cool does the sentence “Yeah I saw a great electronic act last night” sound? No? Just me?

Funeral Suits
Do you know Yes Cadets? They had that ‘Canada’ song out earlier in the year. “Canada... ooh ooh Canada, Canada”. (Sorry, I can’t even sing properly in print.) Anyway, they played a decent gig in Crawdaddy a while back, but Funeral Suits were the support act and they blew Yes Cadets away. So this is a roundabout way of saying; this lot are one of the best live acts in Dublin. They played a great set at HWCH and should be back tearing up Dublin in the New Year. Unless you wanna pop over to Belgium for a December show...
Just Horsing Around...

Hoarsebox are a Dublin indie-pop fourpiece who are set to take the world by storm in 2011 with their debut album. But first they have to finish up recording in Mississippi and play a homecoming gig in Whelans on 11 November.

Kevin Donnellan sat down with them for a chat.

So you’re away in Mississippi at the moment to record the album, how’s Mississippi treating you guys? (I hear you got to sleep in Muddy Waters bed.) Have the accents changed yet?

It’s great over here. I was a little apprehensive at first going to the deep south of the US. I just figured we’d get beaten by the Ku Klux Klan for having man bags and saying ‘football’ for ‘soccer’. But we’ve actually had a lot of fun and made quite a few friends (none of whom are in the KKK).

The accents haven’t changed too much but I am looking forward to getting home and saying ‘shite’ instead of ‘shit’ and ‘boot’ instead of ‘trunk’. Plus everything cool over here is described as “awesome” by the locals, when its clearly not “awesome”. We do all have tons though so that’s good.

You said (jokingly I assume) on your website that you expected to get the album recorded in a weekend but it’s actually taken 12 months. Were there any problems or did you only really realise what was involved when you got down to work?

No, we didn’t think it would take a weekend but maybe a little less time than a year. It’s a combination of factors that have led to it taking this long. Personal stuff in the middle - Phil our guitar player had a baby, we needed to go home to tour a single - plus Dennis Herring, the producer works at a different pace. We were kind of naive to think, it would only take two months with him as most of the successful albums he’s done recently have taken between six months and a year. That’s the process. But the world in general moves that little bit slower in the deep south too.

Your producer Dennis Herring has a pretty impressive CV, what’s he been like, how did you hook up with him in the first place?

He’s an extremely good musician, guitarist by trade, and his CV is impressive in the sense that he has worked with a real mixed bag of musicians and bands. I cried blood when I first saw the studio. It’s amazing. We hooked up with him initially through a record label who figured we’d make sense together. And we have so far. There’s still two weeks to go though so we may still have a huge blow out and rewrite the whole album from scratch and get Enya to produce it...

What can people expect from the album? For established fans is it a departure from Cuckooland? For those who haven’t fallen for Hoarsebox yet, why should they be keeping an ear out?

The same fundamentals are present with the new album as with our older material - dance-y up-beat music coupled with a lot of vocal harmony and vocal acrobatics. But Dennis encouraged us to explore instruments beyond the guitar, bass drums and piano. So we have used some electronic beats, as well as an array of synthesizeers, whatever we can get our hands on basically. Shit like that.

Does the album have a name yet?

No the album does not have a name yet. There’s a few working titles in the pipeline. But if any DIT student wants to make a suggestion, feel free... Nothing equine-related though. And the dirtier the better.

And what’s the plan once the album’s launched? Tour of Ireland? UK? Europe? The World!!

I would say once it’s released we’ll tour Ireland then come back over and tour the States. We get a great response over here, particularly in New York. So we’ll try our luck with the Yanek before we take on the French and the Danes and all dem udder bleedin’ foreigners.

For anyone in college who’s maybe starting out in a band what advice would you give them?

Opinions are like arseholes, everybody’s got one. But most of them stink. So don’t listen to everybody’s advice. Keep at it, even if you’re shit. Look at Miley Cyrus, she went from being on Glorclare to having her own Disney Show and she can barely speak let alone sing.

What are you guys listening to at the moment? Any recommendations for DIT students? Songs to hear, bands to see?

Right now I’m listening to the sound of my toilet overflowing. But my iPod is currently playing Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Fela Kuti, The Sonics, Stereototal.

WIN
You heard Johnny, he wants to hear your ideas for what the bands debut album should be called. The two entries that the lads like most will receive guest passes to their eagerly awaited homecoming gig in Whelans on 11 November. Email entries to editor news@soced.com
This year's *Freshers Ball* boasted the biggest line up in DIT history, all hosted in the Wright Venue. Was it epic or was it too ambitious? *Jenny Whelan* went along to find out.

The Wright Venue was a departure from our usual city centre events. Normally, it's a place worth avoiding. Its attempts at glam and exclusivity just come off as tacky. However, the crowd and live music made a massive difference for this year's Ulster Bank fresher's ball (although not much could be done with the décor).

Having two stages worked really well for the line-up. The big names kept to the main stage while the Purple Room was more indie. The highlight was T.K.O, who easily could have suffered by being on at the same time as Delorentos but didn't. Their fresh, funky and eclectic sounds beat the indie chart darlings by a mile.

Bluemoose delivered their usual solid mix of funk and covers. They even managed to inject a bit of soul into one of the Script's songs. Superblondes were a nice discovery too (their blurb describing them as electro-rock set of some alarm bells). There are enough MGMT wannabes knocking around as it is. Refreshingly, these boys lean more towards the rock side of things with great guitar work and vocals.

Rubberbandits provided top quality laughs to low quality hip-hop downstairs. The brash Limerick comics pleased their old fans, made some new ones and insulted everyone left over. Perhaps shouting "let's get wrecked on bags of glue" to a room of 18 year olds border on the irresponsible, but there is no doubting the comedic value.

The only real disappointment of the night was the DJ. Only there to keep the music going between bands, but a total refusal to take requests or play the crowd-pleasers was a silly move for a student gig. The freshers weren't there to discover your art house techno, they wanted some fun. The hint to change the track should have been the near-empty dance floor.

The band to see was Fight Like Apes. They have a rep for playing an amazing live show, and standard did not slip for us. Much to the annoyance of the Wright Venue managers, crowd-surfing and moshing were on the menu. It was the kind of rock show that student gigs are made of, loads of energy, a bit messy, a bit wild and a lot of fun.

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*Mick Monaghan* from Guitar Soc sat down with *English band You Me At Six* to talk about their recent success and plans for the future.

**What genre would you consider your music to fall under and who would your main influences be?**

**Chris:** Rock! Rock-pop

**Dan:** At the start, the first album, like pop-punk. We were quite young, and we thought we wanted to be a pop-punk band kind a thing, you know, we love pop-punk obviously. But then I think the second album is more rock rather than pop-punk. I mean, it's rock with some sing along chorus. It's the best kind of rock!

**What has been the biggest challenges as a band, and how do you overcome them?**

**Matt:** We done a tour called 'Warp Tour' in the states. It's two months long and you know your lying with each other for two months and everyone always gets a bit aggy.

**Chris:** Fifty seven shows

**Matt:** Yeah it's the hardest thing we've ever done. We also played about fifty shows in America and we did it all in a van.

**Dan:** Yeah I mean we were on tour non stop for three or four months without any break in between. It can put a strain on your friendship a bit, but we had a really good break over Christmas and then we all came back loving each other again.

**Matt** turns and replies: Not hating each other again.

**Dan:** It's more of a brotherly thing you know when you just get a bit pissed off with your brothers or your sisters? It's kinda like that.

**You supported Paramore the last time you were here, what was it like playing in the 02?**

**Chris:** It's a completely different ball game really, 'cause when we come over we do smaller shows and then to go to a massive arena, we definitly noticed the benefits of playing that show, 'cos now were playing these shows in Ireland which are a lot bigger then we've ever done. It's great to see so many kids coming back again and supporting us.

**Dan:** I think show like this are more fun the arenas though, arenas are weird shows.

**Matt:** You lose a lot of the vibe 'cause the PA is so far from you're basically playing on a stage with your ear piece in...

**Dan:** It's really quiet for us as well, it's kind of eerie.

**What is the next step for the band? Is taking on America on the agenda?**

Dan: I think we'd all love to break America. It's a really hard thing to do. Just the fact that we get to go over there and go on the warp tour was like a dream come true anyway. So even if we don't break it, we've had fun trying. But everthing seems to be going in the right direction at the moment. It's going in the right direction in the UK and we've grown so much that we kind of think to ourselves, "why couldn't it happen in america?", why not ya know?

**If you were to describe the band in one word what would say?**

**Dan:** Sexy

**Chris:** Fun

**Matt:** Epic

**Chris:** Epic, sexy fun!

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You Me At Six play the Olympia on December 19th
Our Entertainment Editor, Kevin Donellan, talks to Eoin Glackin about dropping out of college and going on to chase his dreams of becoming a singer-songwriter.

Eoin Glackin released his debut album ‘Not Lost’ over the summer and is part of the strong Dublin singer-songwriter scene. But the road to this point, as with all decent stories, wasn't particularly straight.

Perhaps the following story shouldn’t be repeated in a student newspaper, but the catalyst for Eoin Glackin’s burgeoning music career was the day he marched into the students admissions office of UCD and quit college.

“I started in UCD and lasted about four weeks...Damien Dempsey was playing a gig on campus so I snuck into the soundcheck and gave him my demo,” explains Glackin.

“Two weeks later he got in touch and I got to support him for a few dates”.

The following Monday after the Damien Dempsey gigs Eoin officially dropped out.

“I had this romantic idea that I’d found my path” he says.

In an E! True Hollywood story this would be where we go to a montage of glowing newspaper headlines and sold out show signs but the romantic idea didn’t quite translate into reality. “Of course I ended up in an office crushing boxes and stuffing envelopes for the year” he laughs.

A spell in Ballyfermot Rock School followed. “A good course and all but it just didn’t work for me”.

Then the romantic in him reared its head again with the decision to go over to London and make a proper go of the music. With no contacts or leads it must have been a big step to make?

“Ah London was mad, scary. Looking back I can’t believe I stuck it, I don’t think I could do it now. I think I’d be a lot thicker skin then,” he says. “I was living off little victories every week, whether it was a gig or encouraging phone call.”

The year was a grind but it helped him build up some contacts and helped him get his current management team. He moved back home after the year and with nine to five drudgery looming once more he began writing with a bit more haste.

Since then it’s been an irregular routine of splitting time between Dublin and London, including a two month stint working on the album with producer Ian Grimble (Manics, Travis, Chili Peppers).

The experience of working with such an experienced producer was a positive one, the only fly in the ointment being a missed encounter with Mumford & Sons.

“He [Ian] took a week off because he was working with some other band and I could have hung around for the week but I didn’t bother,” he explains. “It was only afterwards I heard people talking about Mumford & Son and realized who they were, so kicking myself a bit for that!”

The album has been given a slow build-up since its release, with good word of mouth helping it gain some traction over the last few months.

“If things keep building slowly over the next few months I’ll be happy, I have a fear that tomorrow everything will just stop but so far so good,” he says. UCD’s loss has been music’s gain. Of course he’d never have dreamed of dropping out of DIT...

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Wanna see a band tonight?

Where to go, where to go? Of course no college experience is complete without a few trips to Coppers and the like. But what about those nights you feel you should be broadening your horizons? When you want to see a live act or, at the very least, a DJ who knows music beyond Black Eyed Peas? For that you need to know a few venues around the city. So, in no particular order, the ‘Best Live Venues in Dublin for Broke Students’. Of course you’ll probably still end up in Coppers, but we tried...

Whelans

It used be a case of Whelans or...er, Whelans when it came to seeing live acts in Dublin. But the Wexford Street venue is still going strong. It tends to get a slightly older crowd so special offers rarely extend beyond a cheap brand of beer or two. And the older crowd means that acts can be a little run-of-the-mill. But, in fairness, it's still the best bet for catching good, solid rock bands. Plus the front (free entry) part of the pub is rarely empty so even after catching a horrendous act, the night can still be salvaged.

Crawdaddy

Over at the top of Harcourt Street is Whelans’s younger, trendier, though slightly more pretentious, brother. Less worthy singer-songwriters, more overuse of synths and ironic facial hair. More likely to do a few special offers at the bar and the venue hosts a few good (if painfully hip) club nights during the week.

Workman’s Club

The new kid on the block, the Workman’s in down on the Wellington Quay, adjacent to Temple Bar. The seating in front of the stage has a ‘Ballroom of Romance’ style translation, it feels like a 1950’s dancehall. But the setting actually adds to the occasion for most gigs. A younger crowd than Whelans’s but more rock-oriented than Crawdaddy. The upstairs section is starting to get a crowd in for a cheap beer night on Thursdays.

Academy 2

The main Academy venue will generally be in Vicar Street/Olympia territory in terms of ticket prices. But the downstairs section of the Abbey Street venue generally has a good selection of up-and-coming Irish bands and slightly obscure foreigners. It's also got that slightly seedy, low ceilinged, dark basement feel that makes you feel like a whiskey soaked rock and roller - even if you're sipping orange cordial because you might have an assignment in the morning and your throat a little scratchy.

Honourable mention:

The Grand Social (formerly Pravda) - Liffey Street - New/Refurbished Northside venue with good club nights.

Sweeney’s (Le Cire) - Dame Street - Occasional upstairs venue, a good location but always hard to find out who's playing there and when.

Odessa - Dame Court - Private members club but you can pay in most nights, occasionally serves up a live treat.

Twisted Pepper - Abbey Street - More dance-y than it's neighbour, The Academy, three floors give you a few options.

Buttner Factory - Temple Bar - Most likely place your mates band played in, good location, regular gigs.

The Village - Wexford Street - Gets a real mixed bag of acts but occasionally throws up a gem.

The Cobblestone - Smithfield - Traditional Irish music out front, live venue out back with fairly eclectic listings.
**The Social Network**

*You Don't Get to 500 Million Friends Without Making a Few Enemies*

David Fincher's *The Social Network* is a fantastic film. Intriguing, intelligent, and as addictive as Facebook itself, it is arguably one of the best films of 2010.

Jesse Eisenberg stars as Mark Zuckerberg, a moody and lonely sophomore of Harvard University, who creates Facebook as an attempt to get noticed by the in crowd and secure an invite to an elite secret society.

Based on the book *The Accidental Billionaires* by Ben Mezrich, *The Social Network* not only tells the tale of Zuckerberg founding Facebook from his dorm room in 2004, but also the trials and tribulations that happened after it, including two lawsuits he subsequently faced. Andrew Garfield plays Eduardo Saverin, the co-founder of the social network Facebook, who later is deceived at the hands of his best friend Zuckerberg and files a lawsuit. Simultaneously he is sued by the Winklevoss twins - who originally asked Zuckerberg to build a social website for them - as they believe he has stolen their idea when he creates Facebook.

Eisenberg is brilliant as Zuckerberg, as he humourously portrays the angst and insecurity of a social outcast with perfect performance. Garfield also gives a stellar performance as the sidekick who suffers an ultimate betrayal, while Armie Hammer, who plays not one but both Winklevoss twins - who originally ask Zuckerberg to build a social website for them - as they believe he has stolen their idea when he creates Facebook.

It follow Ree Dolly, a young girl in the Ozark Mountains, left by her mother and raised by her father, who is serving time in prison. The story follows her journey to get to the railroad station so she can take the train to Omaha to join her mother.

Though not the most challenging film and aimed at a slightly younger age group perhaps, *Winters Bone* is a must watch. It’s worth can be appreciated by all. It will make you cry when you realise the incredible journey they had, but most importantly it will make you think.

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**Africa United**

*An Extraordinary Tale of Five Ugandan Kids, All Sorts of Backgrounds, Who Have One Goal, to Go to the World Cup 2010 in South Africa*

*Africa United* is an extraordinary tale of five Ugandan kids, with all sorts of backgrounds, who have one goal, to go to the World Cup 2010 in South Africa.

Deciding to take matters into their own hands and with their own ingenuity, they embark on a great adventure walking 3000 miles to get there.

At first I couldn’t help but feel I was at kids movie...tales of football and adventures aren’t the most appealing for a college student but after the first half an hour you realise there is a lot more to this film than meets the eye. It has a simple story with a basic narrative and a lack of subplots; but it’s this exact basic narrative that allows the director (Debs Gardner-Patterson) to address all the issues that this film indirectly deals with. Child soldiers, Aids, Prostitution, Education (or lack thereof) to name but a few.

The kids themselves are delightful to watch and though Dudu is the lead it is the quiet Foreman George who is most intriguing. As the film progresses their characters grow and you can’t but love their team. They’re constantly making the audience laugh. By the end you feel you know them and you want their dreams to come true as much as they do.

It’s a visually pleasing film where each frame is overflowing with vibrant colours and each character is overflowing with personality. It was the first feature length film from this director and I’ll be interested to see what she can do next.

Though not the most challenging film and aimed at a slightly younger age group perhaps, *Winters Bone* is a must watch. It’s worth can be appreciated by all. It will make you cry when you realise the incredible journey they had, but most importantly it will make you think.

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**Winters Bone**

*Not one for the faint of heart, Winters Bone is a hauntingly visceral tale shot deep in the heart of Missouri. It follows Ree Dolly a teenager who, due to an absent meth cooking father and a mentally unstable mother, is forced to care for her two siblings despite the crippling poverty they face. As if things couldn’t get any harder for Ree, (Jennifer Lawrence in a wonderfully restrained Oscar worthy performance) she quickly learns that her father, who has long since abandoned the family, is wanted by the police, and his failure to show will result in the confiscation of the Dolly’s house and surrounding land. What unfolds is a thrilling adventure set in the most desolate part of an America which time seemingly forgot, where old customs, lawlessness and hardened family gangs reign supreme. Resolute and alone, Ree is armed with very few options but to defy social convention and ask the hard questions which nobody would like to answer in the vain hope of keeping her family together. More often than not, doors are slammed in her face and threats of retribution follow close by as she tries to piece together the puzzle that is her missing father. It is her stoic determination that results in a brutal and unrelenting beating by a local group of terrifying sisters, however it is that same determination that ultimately leads her to the shocking truth.*

From the get go you get a sense that every single scene in *Winters Bone* has been fastidiously scrutinised over until perfect, the tone of the film never changes which adds to the growing tension and the wonderful landscape evokes a real sense of grit and authenticity. Each character in the story delivers a subtle and moving performance which really makes this picture a highly deserving winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival this year.

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Everyone is familiar with the War of the Worlds, whether it is the recent Hollywood film starring Tom Cruise, the original novel by H.G. Wells, or Orson Welles wreaking havoc with his news broadcast of a Martian invasion in 1938. One man who saw this particular story in a whole different way was producer and composer Jeff Wayne, who encapsulated the unfolding drama in a concept album of the same title in 1978. The album has since spent 510 weeks in the UK charts and has sold 15 million copies worldwide. As he prepares to launch another tour of the mind-blowing stage show, Jeff talks to me through the new show.

The narrative progression of this story involves a spectrum of media forms over the last few decades, including animation and computer games, and sees the show become even bigger this time around. ‘There’s one I loved, a hologram of Richard Burton, it’s a combination of motion capture and holography. We have a one hundred foot wide screen, it’s about 25 feet tall, and it shows an animated feature film based on the original paintings that accompanied the album. We have the Martian fighting machine. It hides in the lighting rig for the first half an hour of the show, then suddenly it starts to descend on the stage; it’s about 35 feet tall, it weighs about three tonnes, and as its landing on the stage, its scanning the audience with its bug-like eyes and the audience sees themselves up onscreen as if they themselves are the next victims of the Martians.’

‘Jeff talks excitedly of engulfing the audience in a windstorm in a number of ways including surround sound but stops himself before he reveals too much. ‘I don’t want to spoil it. Part of the fun is just discovering what’s in the show.’

Taking us back to the start of his own War of the Worlds adventure, Jeff tells me exactly how the incredible music score came to be.

‘As a composer and a producer I was looking for a story that could inspire me to create some passion, to take on and to interpret as a musical work. My dad hands me this book H.G. Wells. It blew me away. So I said that’s the one. I could hear sounds; I was ready to start working on it immediately.’

When asked what influenced the young Jeff Wayne growing up, he states that, ‘I wasn’t into science fiction as a genre, I was always interested in good stories, things that set the imagination off.’

He elaborates on how he felt this story needed to be told and brought to further audiences. ‘Orson Welles’ Martians with tentacles were really taking a pop at the expanding British empire; the tentacles of power. What he was saying underneath this fantastic story was that even if it’s your own nation, and you’re using power in a wrong way, it’s wrong. It doesn’t matter who’s using the power. And I thought that’s very relevant, that I was relevant in the 1890’s, it was relevant in the 1970’s. Look at the world we’re living in today.’

Jeff sees the long-lasting relevance of the story and its prevalent themes as a reason why the today’s audiences are still as enthralled as they were on its first release. He explains, ‘the character of the parson, HG Wells was taking a pop at religion. Look at religion today. Wars are fought from one faith to another, there’s the invasion of one nation onto another.

Anyone who has heard this musical work can realise that it is the blend of musical genres and unique way in which the story is told through narration and sound effects that makes this such an engaging musical work. Always talking about his work passionately, he describes his influences at the time. ‘When I composed the War of the Worlds I was living in an era when disco was king of the dance floor, so one or two of the main themes are disco based in their grooves even though on top of them is a soprano string orchestra. Today if I was doing the same composition it would be R’n’B or Drum’n’Bass or whatever is the groove of the day is. I was a young musician at the time influenced by all that was around me and that would be no different today.’

When pressed on this subject, Jeff reveals that he has been approached to re-record the album. ‘I have been asked to do what they call a new generation recording of the War of the Worlds with all new guest artists and modernising grooves and I’m thinking about it. I think there’s been enough time where sound has changed, it’s tempting, I don’t know yet, I’m living with the idea but it’s a firm offer there for me now to say yes or no to.’

With his continuing tour, talk of the release of an animation and no sign of his enthusiasm for the story waning, for Jeff, it just seems to be a case of finding the time to do it.

Jeff Wayne’s War of the Worlds comes to the O2 Dublin on 29 November 2010. Starring Liz McClarnon, Jason Donovan and Rhidian. Tickets from £34.
Senior Footballers bring down Sigerson hosts UCD

The DIT Senior footballers recorded an opening Division One League win over UCD 2-14 to 0-14 in Belfield on Wednesday 13 October.

UCD, without their Kilmacud Crokes contingent ahead of the Dublin County final, could still boast county players such as Laois’s John O’Loughlin, Antrim’s Paul McGourty, and Kildare’s Robert Kelly.

DIT’s midfield pairing of Ciaran Reddin and Gerard McKerrnan chipped in with one goal and three points between them. Although quiet for a large part of the match DIT and Mayo’s Alan Freeman managed a goal and two points from play. Engineering student Kevin McLoughlin worked hard at the back for DIT and turned over UCD possession on a number of occasions. He was ably assisted by Monaghan and Kevin Street’s Colin Walsh.

Under the watchful eye of their manager, former media arts student Michael Hannon, the team faces Maynooth away in their next league match (21/10/10). With places in this year’s O’Byrne Cup to at stake the league has taken on an increased relevance this year.

DIT Sail Team are first Irish students to enter World University Championship

By Rachel Guy

From the 5 to the 11 of July DIT sent its sailing team to the World University Match Racing Championships in Crete. It was the first time an Irish team has entered this event.

The event was attended by 14 teams from 11 different nations, including Great Britain, Poland, France, Denmark, Italy, Australia, Singapore, and Greece. The event involved an opening ceremony, a training day, a round robin lasting three days, knock out stages lasting two days and a closing ceremony.

On the first day DIT were due to race six times. They won five of these six matches with the only loss coming from a close encounter with GBR. The match with GBR2 involved a few wiping out penalties and various lead changes. GBR came out on top by about four or five inches, which is not very much on a 24 foot boat.

The second day saw a postponement for the morning session as everyone waited for wind to fill in. DIT’s first race of the day was to be against GBR1, an opportunity to make up for the loss to GBR2 the day before. DIT won the start of the race, and it was neck and neck for the first lap and a half of the race course. Unfortunately DIT’s Richard Bruton slipped in a frantic downwind gibing battle, and ended up with a clean through knee. Worried event officials sent him off for x-rays which turned out to be alright. DIT’s manager Dee O’Rourke was given permission by the event committee to take his place until he was able to rejoin the competition. The team battled on without the club captain to win two of the next five races.

DIT ended the round robin on seven wins out of 12, this was enough to automatically qualify for the quarter finals without having to endure the repechage. In the quarter finals DIT were back to full compliment and were drawn against Singapore. This match was to be decided on the best of five races. Singapore’s faultless boat handling gave them race one, while DIT capitalised on Singapore’s penalties in race two to even the match overnight.

The match was to be completed the next morning, which turned out to be the windiest day of the event; this worked to DIT’s advantage and ended the match with a 3-1 victory for DIT. DIT were to race GBR1 in the semi-finals. This was to be a best of 3 encounters as time was beginning to be an issue to get the finalists decided before the last day. DIT suffered from a few boat handling errors and couldn’t find a way back into the match. GBR1 won the tie 2-1. GBR1 went on to win the event.

The final day saw GBR1 beat Australia 1 in the final 3-1, and Australia 2 beat DIT 2-1 in the 3rd/4th place play-off. DIT entered the event ranked 4th from the bottom and ended up coming 4th from the top.

DIT were Marty O’Leary(helm), Simon Rattigan(trimmer), Richard Bruton(pit & 2nd trimmer), Bryan Byrne(bow) and Dee O’Rourke(team manager)

The DITSIC is up and running this year with their first team racing event last weekend 16/17 Oct, over in Clifden. DIT had two teams competing against 10 other colleges and almost 300 students will be attending from around Ireland. Training has started in Dun Laoghaire using Firefly dinghies and emails will be going out with details soon. There are many more events planned over the coming season including a freshers weekend away in the spring.

Senior Hurlers brought down by injury time goal

DIT 0-14 to St. Pats 1-12 Drumcondra

In a game which DIT dominated from start to finish a killer goal from a never say die Pat’s team swung the league points for the student teachers. Pat’s opened brightly with a point from the dangerous Canice Maher. However DIT soon got to grips with the game and chipped in with points from the impressive Michael Murphy and Neil Kelly. The DIT backs under some pressure began to dominate by the close of the half. With Wexford’s Padraig Donnelly commanding at corner back and Dublins’s Tom Brady controlling at centre back. Pat’s were opened up twice in the first half, firstly by Peter Kelly whose shot was saved then by Harry Kehoe who shot wide. DIT would later rue these misses, only carrying a two point lead into the second half.

Pat’s started the second half brightly with Kilkenny’s John Joe Farrell troubling the DIT half back line. Dublin U21 Captain Finn McGarry was forced into two point blank saves to preserve the DIT lead. Another goal chance fell to DIT’s Neil Kelly but he was bottled up and had to settle for a point. Late points from Lucan’s Peter Kelly and from the unerring Michael Murphy from Erics Own in Kilkenny kept the DIT lead to two, until a long speculative drive in the dying minutes was pounced on by Canice Maher and rifled to the net. The following puck out signaled the referees whistle and killed off DIT’s hopes of an opening win. The Seniors who only unveiled their new manager Tipperary’s Vincent McKenna after the game now face DCU next Wednesday (20/10/10) at 4pm in DCU in their next league match.

Senior 2 Footballers get off to a winning start

DIT 0-19 to TCD 2-10 Ringsend

The DIT Intermediate footballers completed a hugely successful opening week for the DIT Gaelic Football Club. The fifth win for the club from its six teams which saw action was quite impressive. So was the nineteen point scoring haul the team displayed over the Trinity College Trench Cup team. A late addition to the DIT team St. Lomans Shane Flynn set the game alight with a personal hall of five points from play from full forward. DIT manager also had food for thought from the display of Ross Hazley from St. Sylvester’s who battled well at midfield, while Na Fianna’s Ronan Breen was solid at centre back. The Senior 2s next next face Dundalk IT’s trench Cup team up in Dundalk next Wednesday (20/10/10) underlights at 7pm.
FIT2GO CLUB IS A STEADY RUNNER

By Eimear Rabbitte

DIT’s Fit2Go club have credited increased advertising, special rate offers and a fitness class timetable which caters for a variety of different interests, for the increase in usage this year.

Students can now purchase a ten euro card which will allow them five visits and entrance to any of the fitness classes, use of the gym facilities and use of the recently renovated four-lane swimming pool at DIT Kevin Street.

The Kevin Street based Leisure and fitness centre employ four full time fitness instructors who now run an average of twenty classes per week as opposed to just three classes per week last year.

Staff believe that it was “just a case of people not knowing about it” and with a fitness class time table and a recently refurbished swimming pool on offer, they are hoping that more DIT students will choose to avail of their services.

“It has gotten a lot better”, said fitness instructor Derek Crowley. “The classes have been a lot busier this year and we would have between ten and twenty people at each session. We do spin classes, aerobics classes and the cardio kick box and yoga classes have been very popular this year.”

Manager of the Kevin Street center and sports officer Niamh O’Callaghan says that the DIT sports team are “rebuilding and rebranding ourselves again” after the forced temporary closure of the fit2go club last year due to government legislature.

“We have all our programs advertised around the colleges, but it is difficult when the main base for fitness and pool facilities is only on one campus” Niamh believes. This problem will be addressed with the proposed building of a state of the art sports facility on the new Grangegeorgan campus which will unite all DIT students for the first time.

Students can purchase annual gym and pool member ship for €120 or alternatively they can pay €80 for six months and €50 for three months.”

Rugby Club Kick Off

DIT Rugby Clubs first competitive match of the season will take place this Wednesday, 20 October, away to Athlone IT.

All members of the panel are being urged to attend training, which is on every Monday at 6 o’clock in Grangegeorgan.

DIT Rugby Club has been growing in popularity in the last number of years, and was voted DIT’s most popular club in 2009. It is due to this fact that it is now one of the largest clubs in DIT, with three men’s teams, freshers, first and second years. The club has an inviting and inclusive ethos according to the clubs Public Rep Darren Buttle, “We welcome both students that have played before, and students that want to start fresh”.

According to Buttle “Over the last few years, the Rugby club has progressed and grown beyond expectations”. The club had a stand at the recent ‘Clubs and Socs’ week around a number of different campus’s, and received over 130 signatures from new students wishing to sign up. There is no need to fear if you haven’t already signed up, with Buttle adding, “If there are any students that were not around for the sign up days, just let us know at training and we will sign you up”.

The clubs inclusivity of a number of forms of the game is highlighted with inclusion of a women’s team, plus the addition of tag rugby training, which takes place on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9pm in Belvedere College Sports Hall.

For more information on matches/ training times etc, visit the clubs Facebook page ‘D.I.T Rugby Club’ or any questions can be sent to rugby@d.it.ie.

Club PR man Darren Buttle concludes by adding, “We are serious about the rugby side of things, but the social side of the club is equally as important... after games we hit the town and craic is had”.

By Colin Higgins

This year, DIT Equestrian Club will have the honour of hosting this year’s IURCA (Irish Universities Riding Clubs Association) Tetrahion Intervarsity Championships.

The event will take place in Kells, Co. Meath, and will run from the 12th to 14th of November. Trials for the DIT team will take place on the 23rd of October.

Although sounding familiar to certain Olympic events such as the Decathlon, the term Tetrahion is sure to bemuse many people. The event itself combines four disciplines including shooting, swimming, running and horse riding.

The weekend is not just all games as the proverb would suggest; there is also fun to be had as the weekends proceedings are topped off with a fancy dress Gala Ball. Those who wish to come along and lend their support are very welcome, as there will be plenty of side activities taking place.

For further information on the club and the above events go to their Facebook page ‘DIT-Equestrian-Club’.

The club will also be looking forward to this year’s Equestrian Intervarsity Championships, being hosted by Waterford IT. However, DIT are the reigning champions, and as such are hoping for a repeat performance from last year.

The club is wishing to send a team to compete in three different events, with trials being held before Christmas, so look for notice around campus if interested.

There is more exciting news, as the club hope to organise a new scheme to provide regular riding lessons at a feasible price for interested students. The club is hopeful of reaching an agreement with a number of riding schools based in the city, whereby if a member of the club wishes to book a lesson, they can do so by paying a nominal fee of about €10, with the club paying the remainder of the fee. The aim is to allow students to book lessons cheaply at their own convenience, and in groups if the wish so.
DIT student John Smith made the trip to China this September to represent both college and country at the World University Archery Championships. John was the sole member of the Irish team, so expectations lay heavily on his shoulders. However, John dealt with the pressure reasonably well, delivering a string of fine performances, before bowing out at the quarter final stage of the Compound Bow event, securing a seventh place finish.

John achieved a place on the team by competing in a number of events that took place throughout the country in the months leading up to the championships. The qualifying scores set in these events very high, with the goal of finding the very best archers who could compete at the highest level.

As the final qualifying date arrived John was the only archer to have achieved the necessary scores. So with qualifying achieved, the real work to prepare for the main event had to begin.

The event took place in China, a country that comes with its own special challenges. Amongst these were applying for a Chinese visa and preparing your mind and body for the dramatic change in climate, as well as receiving a number of inoculations.

John's manager Martin Cunningham, who accompanied him to China was keen to share his experience of the journey. "After a marathon 12 hour flight from London we arrived in Hong Kong. From this point we were aided in the challenge of crossing the borders and multiple checkpoints between Hong Kong and China."

Once there Martin fondly recalls how the Irish contingent became very popular amongst the locals. "It was as we had a coffee in the lobby of the tournament hotel that we were approached by a reporter for the local Chinese newspaper. He wanted to follow us at the competition and write an article on the Irish at the World Championships in Shenzhen."

With things going well in the field, there was still the matter of qualifying for the first round to worry about. After the initial qualifying session, John placed 28th out of 30 competitors, meaning that he would meet the 5th place shooter in the first round proper.

In the first of the head-to-head, John defeated 5th seed Hamzeh Nekouei of Iran. With a tied score after the first four rounds it was down to single arrow shoot off to see if John would progress. With both John and his Iranian opponent hitting the centre it was pushed to another as arrow shoot off. This time John shot another great centre while his opponent was not up to the pressure as he missed the centre by an inch.

The second knockout stage (round of 16) saw John take on the Italian competitor, Matteo Uggeri. John found his form and dispatched his Italian opponent in only four sets. This put John into the quarter finals where he came up against the 4th place qualifier, an experienced Belgian archer. In a very tight match the Belgian beat John by the tightest of margins ending his run, leaving him in 7th place overall for the championship.

The event proved that Ireland can compete in the sport at a world level, with coach Martin Cunningham quick to pull positives out of the trip. "The volunteers at the China event were some of the very best I have ever met and it was a great result for John, well shot."

Want to get involved?

There are those whose only semblances of Archery consist of a foxy Robin Hood squeezing his way to victory in pursuit of his beloved Maid Marian. But this is no Disney fairytale and the modern day archer is faced with a far more complicated looking piece of equipment. There are two different forms played in the modern day game, and they are compound archery and recurve archery.

A recurve looks much like a traditional bow except at the very ends the tips curve forward. These tips transfer a little more power to the stored energy in the bow limbs.

A compound has a series of off-round pulleys or cams at the ends of the bow limbs that stores energy in the string itself as well as the limbs. The cam or cams (in a double cam) create far more power than the same length limbs in a recurve. At present the recurve version is the only version competed for at the Olympic Games.

If archery sounds like your thing, DIT does of course have a club for it. DIT Archery Club caters for all level of archers, right from their first shot up to international level. All students and staff are welcome to come along to training during the year and have a go. Training takes place in Belvedere College Sports Hall on Mondays from 5-9pm and Tuesdays from 5-7pm. For information contact ditarcery@gmail.com.