DIT Independent, 1st.-30th. November, 2001

DIT: Students Union

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Protocol for dealing with suspect packages posted on DIT website

By Aisling Casey


The protocol includes a number of characteristics that could identify a suspicious package.

- These are features of packages or letters such as excessive postage, handwritten or poorly typed addresses, protruding wires or aluminium foil and oily stains or discolouration amongst others in the list of suspect characteristics.

- Excessive security material such as masking tape, string, etc, visual distractions, a ticking sound, a parcel or envelope marked with restrictive endorsements, such as 'Personal' or 'Confidential' or that shows a city or state in the postmark that does not match the return address.

- If such a package or letter is discovered by staff or students, the college recommends that the package is not opened and the Gardaí are immediately called on 999 or 112.

A full text of the protocol is available at the website of the Department of Health and Children at www.forgieva.

In terms of a possible evacuation in the case of an attack biological or otherwise, the college has individual safety statements drawn up by the Senior Management in each faculty.

Also as a government funded body, DIT would follow any recommended procedures outlined by the government in relation to issues of national safety and protection.

By Aidan Casey

PLANS to hold an internal abortion referendum have been rejected by DITSU.

Council to the dissatisfaction of some of its members. After a constitutional review of the abortion referendum, it was proposed at council last month that DITSU be legally obliged to give information on abortion.

The proposal stated that the Union will have a neutral position on abortion and policy provision for providing information on abortion.

By Aisling Casey

Union split on abortion referendum

DTSU Overall President, Margaret Fitzpatrick informed Council that “With this neutral position, although not everyone would be totally happy it ensures that far more members will be less dissatisfied with the Union’s abortion policy.”

After the motion was put to a vote, it was carried by a majority ruling, with the decision not to hold an internal referendum within DIT. Speaking at the meeting, DITSU Cllr Hugh O’Reilly said: “A Union is not a political party. This is like SIPTU mandating the government. In my view if we have a referendum and it is carried, I do not believe that my view is being represented by the Union.”

He added, “If DITSU want to find out what the feeling is on the ground among their students, why not throw in a question in one of their surveys the Union conducts each year which would deal with the abortion issue.”

The internal referendum was to be held in an effort to establish a political consensus among DIT students. The call for a referendum on abortion was agreed to by DITSU Council at the end of the previous academic year. The decision was taken after the abortion issue was raised by delegates at USI National Congress last year; when DIT could not comment on its abortion policies without the consensus of its students. Continued on page 5

It has been suggested that the DIT Independent should be renamed the ‘Aungier Street Independent’ in the light of our first issue and hearing about O’Brien’s Middle East experiences: page 10

Editorial comment: This is your paper!

I for one am happy to learn of such a development. As this paper is based in Aungier Street, it is inevitable that there is going to be more coverage of that site above the other DIT’s.

It is the nature of any newspaper that features several stories relating to the area in which it operates.

Secondly, we’re going around to all the sites with posters outlining contact details and the like, little or anything was received in the way of feedback thereafter.

Thirdly, if those officers who are so concerned by the situation want to air their grievances, then any letters to the editor will be published forthwith. All contributions to the DIT Independent are welcome.

This paper is for all the students of DIT and it is our collective responsibility to make this publication as representative and informed as possible.
**DTU report vital to Government child policies**

MINISTER for Children, Mary Hanafin, T.D. recently launched the National Report of the IEA Preparatory Project, entitled Seven Years Old: School Experience in Ireland, in DTU Rathmines.

It is part of international longitudinal study, which DTU, through the Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER) has been part of since 1995.

The Minister commented on how vital this report would be in assisting in the development of child-related policies and programmes.

The project has received considerable interest based on a number of important findings.

For example, the study found average family income was significantly lower in families of children attending disadvantaged schools ($12,000), than those attending non-disadvantaged disadvantaged schools ($21,500).

The percentage increase in income of families of children attending disadvantaged schools, between Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project was 9 per cent, whereas for families of children attending non-designated disadvantaged schools, it was 32 per cent.

The study’s findings directly support those recently reported by the ESRI, in terms of widening relative income gaps.

The project carried out by Neirin Hayes and Margaret Kernan of the CSER also found that boys in designated disadvantaged schools scored lowest on cognitive, language, and academic development.

However, they did score slightly higher on social and emotional development.

The project was designed to assess the need for, and the utilisation of, early childhood care and education, along with the quality of childcare experiences in these settings.

The project focuses on the development status and the school experiences of a national-wide sample of children, who have been tracked by the research team since they were 4 years old.

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**DIT maps the changing face of Dublin**

The Department of Geomatics in Dublin Institute of Technology and Skerries Community College has commenced a joint venture to produce and market a topographic mapping of Skerries and other towns, as a demonstration of the potential for developing new geographic information and skills necessary for modern map revision.

The project proved successful in demonstrating the major developments have impacted on the currency of the initial map developed in 1997, namely the development of Skerries Rock, Kelly’s Bay residential areas, and Skerries Town.

DIT is delighted to get involved in this project and is particularly excited that the original map of Skerries, fresh off the printer and with the support of DIT teachers and students, will be brought up to date. Skerries Community College and DIT have agreed that its students will work on the production of a new map.

Lecturers complete further training

By Aisling Casey

A NUMBER OF DTU lecturers have completed the first post-graduate Certificate in third level Learning and Teaching.

The course was devised by Brendan Goldsmith who directed the programme for the Learning and Teaching Centre in Upper Mount Street, the first of its type. It was specifically for the third level sector in the Republic of Ireland.

It is aimed at both new and experienced lecturers who would like to develop further learning and teaching methods.

The course also allows for specific areas of interest in learning and teaching to be explored.

Available to all lecturers in all institutions of the third level Institutions, the course explored topics such as distance learning, problem based learning, or research in higher education.

The course was held at the Learning and Teaching Centre in Rathmines.

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**DTU Constitutional Reform: What do you really want?**

By Jarlath Molloy

As Brendan Goldsmith likes to remind us, "DTU is the largest higher education institute in the State." If one likes to believe propaganda from a political appointee, does this mean that size matters and biggest reaps most? But that may be undervalued true, but of the DTU, but unfortunately the same does not apply to the DTU Students’ Union.

Although since the inception of the DTU Act of 1992, the Students' Union has provided an encompassing dedicated service through its hard working staff and many officers, DTUSU has at times lacked clarity and coherence.

During the last academic year the democratically elected Student Union Representatives chose at DTUSU Council, to undertake a full constitutional and strategic review of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students Union.

Part of this process involves, obviously the views, opinions and feedback of the student body of DTU. Hopefully your ideas will help us change the structure of the Students’ Union to better reflect the needs of its clients.

So here it is again, plain and simple: What do you really want from your Students’ Union? Any ideas, thoughts or suggestions can be sent (anonymously if wished) by fax to DTUSU Headquarters at 01-4969545 or email to president@dtusu.ie, or to me directly at u.cangetme@hotmail.com or post to Constitutional Review Committee, DTUSU, Department of Geomatics, DIT, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

Any submissions will be treated equally and with full confidentiality.

I do hope that some of you will take a little time and let us know your feelings relating to this issue.

Jarlath Molloy is the Chairperson of the DTUSU Constitutional Review Committee.
Caterers deem salads unprofitable

By Clare Stronge

Students in DIT Mountjoy Square have found cuttable salad as the common room’s biggest problem for a healthy lunch.

The salad bar has been repeatedly rejected from Mountjoy Square after it was decided by caterers to be unprofitable.

The catering company Campbell’s (who also operate in DIT Bolton Street) said they had to axe the salad bar as there were problems in controlling the size of portions and due to inadequate refrigeration, the company were throwing away salads at the end of each day.

However, Mountjoy Square students are now feeding only DIT students with no salad option on their canteen menu.

Students in the college are concerned for their health: “It’s really not fair, there’s nowhere locally to get a fresh salad if you don’t want stodgy food, other DIT’s don’t have this problem,” a third-year student commented.

A spokesperson for DIT said that it had no direct control over the company’s menu, as any of its canteens is the contract is leased to the caterers.

However, the catering company does have a policy of meeting consumer health needs; for example there is always a vegetarian option and fresh fruit is available daily.

On the other hand, the company felt it was sufficient for the salad bar to have ready-made salads from Freshways.

An employee of the company however, did say in an interview with the DIT Independent that a ‘Pay and Weight’ system where portions would be regulated could have saved the bar.

Jarlath Molloy urged councillors to vote in favour of the amendment to the constitution as the last two elections cost £10,000 each and there would be a practical step forward.

Common room facilities secured for Rathmines

DIT Rathmines has been the subject of a campaign spearheaded by Overall President Marguerite Fitzpatrick.

“We’ve been doing our best to secure better facilities for Rathmines, which seems to have been a largely forgotten part of DIT in the past few years,” she said.

“At the moment there is no common room in the college and we have been trying to secure an alternative venue for the canteen for use as the common room and that is now being actively addressed.”

Concerns were also raised by Jarlath Molloy that Rathmines was being unfairly treated and that perception in the future.

The aim of the IRAH is to encourage graduates to take the role of the transport and haulage industry in Ireland and ultimately provide feedback at influential levels to consistently build and improve standards in the industry.

Commenting on the awards, Sean Daly, President of the IRAH said: “This is a move towards what the IRAH see as the future of the industry in Ireland. It is young educated people who will serve to build this industry and add value and increase incentive and necessary changes needed to ensure an efficient and streamlined transport system in this country now and in the future.”

Representing Haz Chem Training Limited, Seamus Clear said: “I believe that contributing at third level is the most important steps for the industry. "I am delighted Haz Chem can contribute to the development of graduates in the transport industry at this level by offering this bursary. "This is a significant development for the future of the transport and haulage industry here."

DIT student wins prestigious award

By Aiding Casey

The Irish Road Haulage Association (IRAH) has awarded two DIT students a bursary fund to encourage students into the haulage industry.

The bursary, which is jointly awarded by the IRAH and Haz Chem Training Limited is awarded to degree students, to fund their studies in the areas of Transport and Engineering and Management.

The recipients were Rosín O’Leary, who attends Brugha Street and Orla Leavy, Auris Street, who have both completed their first year at college.

Rosín from Carlow, participates in her family business O’Neill Haulage and regularly contributes to the IRAH’s Knights of the Road newsletter.

Orla’s family also owns a haulage business in Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry, and was delighted with her parents for choosing transport as a field of study. "I believe that the Irish haulage industry’s contribution to the economy is under valued and I hope to change that perception in the future."

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Students must stand up and be heard

DIT students scoop design award

DIT's decision to red light a proposed internal abortion referendum was a correct and logical decision, with the State Referendum on this most divisive issue just months away. There is a real danger that the issue will become a media show before students have the opportunity to make their opinions known to the rest of the Irish electorate.

By Dermot Keyes

A CD-ROM created by DIT students, entitled one family's fight for survival in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl Tragedy, has won the top prize at this year's Institute of Designers in Ireland Annual Exhibition. According to Neilson, the CD-ROM project has received enormous praise for its excellent design and the high level of scholarship that has gone into it.

The CD-ROM entitled 'Sviatlana' was produced by Paul Markham, Neilson, Rory Coveney and Melanie McDonagh. According to Neilson, the project has received widespread praise and was chosen as an exhibit in the 'Black Wind, White Land' exhibition held at the United Nations headquarters in New York last April. The project aims to highlight the 15th anniversary of the accident.

The DIT School of Media Studies along with the Faculty of Arts congratulated Shakra, Rory and Melanie on the development of such an outstanding MA project and extended a particular word of congratulations to Shakra for winning such a prestigious award.

USI seeks e-vote for students

THE National Student Voter Registration Week was recently launched in colleges to maximise the student vote at the next general election.

The fundamental goal of the campaign is the promotion of democracy, according to USI President Richard Hammond. "By ensuring that students are registered and by encouraging all students to vote, we hope to deliver the biggest turnout of the 18-25 vote ever," he said.

Recent research indicates that 14 per cent of people aged 18-25 are currently not registered to vote. USI is aiming to have 100 per cent of students registered for the upcoming election.

The first phase of the campaign involves students in college campuses throughout the country. The next phase will involve educating students about what the political parties stand for, Information leaflets and posters on campus are being considered.

Issues such as campus ballot boxes, Sunday voting and Internet voting feature among the ways Mr Hammond believes student participation can be increased.

The USI have sent submissions to the Department of the Environment concerning electronic voting and counting equipment. The Department of the Environment is currently examining the possibility of using electronic voting and counting equipment.

A lot of times politicians ignore student issues because they believe not enough of them vote - we're going to make sure they can't ignore it next time," says USI President Richard Hammond.

Major concerns about Internet voting are privacy, voter identification and ballot integrity. The possibility of viruses is a very real one, and could render the submission of electronically altered ballots impossible. Fear of the site going down on voting day and voters losing their PIN numbers are some of the other concerns. Advocates argue that if billions of pounds can be traded safely every year over the Internet to buy shares, there is no way to prevent the manipulation of the internet system.

The concept of online voting for students has already been explored in some German universities for internal elections. The fact that this is a voluntary national election - a voluntary and unofficial election by USI students a week before the presidential Election Day on November 7th last.

The aim of the project was to encourage students to take part in the presidential election.

The DIT Independent is produced by

And printed by The Meath Chronicle, Navan, Co Meath

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply to anyone who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students' Union.

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FOCUS ON ....

Portland Row in a row

By Debbie Flood and Aoife Stokes

DIT is carrying out a full report into the condition of the colleges Fine Art building in Portland Row following an inspection of the campus by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA).

The college was served with an improvement notice by the HSA after the authority noted a lack of a safety plan and a lack of maintenance in the Portland Row building.

The building, which is used by Fine Arts students, was closed for three weeks in September after toilets on the first floor of the building were found to be leaking through to the rooms below.

Speaking to the DIT Independent, Anita Groeber, Course Co-ordinator and health and safety representative of Portland Row, said that staff and students had been instructed by their perspective unions not to enter the building once this leakage had been discovered.

DIT Co-ordination and Services Officer, Michael Marnane, said that whilst there was a problem with water seeping into the section of the building which DIT leased, this was a problem with one of the other tenants and that the matter had been resolved by the landlord. "We've made good any damage done", he said.

Ms Groeber said that as health and safety representative in the building, she was not satisfied that the situation was adequate saying that previous problems with leaking sewage had been patched up but there was no guarantee that it wouldn't happen again.

She also described waste pipes and manholes in the building which are exuding a bad smell.

Mr Marnane said that officials from Enterprise Ireland had checked out any sewage problems and that it was now absolutely safe.

Describing the area in which the Portland Row building is situated as "less than desirable", Mr Marnane said that given the nature of the work they do, Fine Arts students need large open spaces to harness their creativity which is why the building was originally selected by DIT some eight years ago.

However Ms Groeber expressed concerns that a health and safety report had never been issued on the building.

"We're initiating action from DIT but we haven't seen anything yet", she said.

Students at Portland Row feel badly effected by the three-week closure of the college last September, experiencing particular pressure in completing their projects for their Christmas assessments.

Head of the school of Art and Design and Printing, John O'Connor said, "The report is a cause for grave concern and I am hopeful that the buildings office in consultation with the school is addressing the situation with urgency".

Another major problem facing the students is the notable absence of canteen facilities.

Over a hundred full time students go to Portland Row but their canteen is a small bare room with four tables and only ten chairs.

Up until last year Campbell's Catering supplied fresh sandwiches and pastries to the college but Mr Marnane said the situation had proved uneconomical for the college.

Instead management have installed a confectionary dispenser and drinks machine.

Ms Groeber described this lack of facilities as some-thing that she is not happy with also highlighting inadequacies in relation to fire exits and stairs.

She feels that there are a lot of problems to be resolved that the "staff have put up with it for years for fear of jeopardising staff and students".

One factor that may have bought this issue to the fore is that Portland Rows local building manager, Mr Paul McMurphy, moved to Cathal Brugha Street in September leaving this position vacant in Portland Row.

The position is only now being interviewed for.

The improvement notice issued by the HSA to the buildings office of DIT runs out on December 16th.

The college was served with an improvement notice by the HSA after the authority noted a lack of a safety plan and a lack of maintenance.
DIT must end University 'Obsession'

By Aedin Donnelly

DIT should stop its obsession with becoming another university and concentrate instead on developing its own strengths, according to a former president of the Dublin City University (DCU) Dr Danny O'Hare.

Speaking about the issue, Dr O'Hare said many people in institutes of technology were obsessed with getting university status.

He said, "There is no reason why, given the right conditions, universities and institutes of technology should not be recognized as centres of excellence". He added that ITs and universities should not be competing with each other but rather offering distinguished services in their own distinctive areas.

However, President of DIT, Dr Brendan Goldsmith, refers to this as precisely the same argument Dr O'Hare used when seeking university designation for the then National Institute of Higher Education in Dublin (NIHE).

He added, "It is also interesting to note that NIHE raised only very minor amounts of money from private donations whereas DCU has been the recipient of generous benefaction. Further evidence, if any is needed, of the importance in an Irish context of the name university." In 1998, DIT applied for university status but was rejected by the Higher Education Authority. However, the Authority was told that DIT could be established as a university if and only if the full provisions of the University Act 1996 not be applied to DIT and if that happened what would be the legal means of doing away with the title of university?" he said.

Commenting on this, Dr Brendan Goldsmith said, "Dr O'Hare seems to believe that a common name implies a common nature; thus he speaks of MIT as if it were an institute of technology, in the Irish sense of that name." He added, "MIT's website (www.mit.edu) describes it as "a co-educational, privately endowed research university."

In effect MIT is an elite, research-led university, whereas DIT's mission is to be a mass education, research-informed, intensive university. For DIT to aspire to be an MIT would be a serious mission drift and in effect would be imitating universities in precisely the way that Dr O'Hare (correctly) says is so undesirable."

In conclusion, Dr Goldsmith said that he would agree with Dr O'Hare on one point, "DIT and universities could be equal but different if the correct level of autonomy of the two bodies was present. By DIT's admission this is difficult given that we are in an area of the country surrounded by universities but we are a step up from the other ITs in the country and a step behind the universities."

However, further attempts to gain university status will not be looked on for likely for the status third level college, following scathing criticism in May of DITs bad management and poor internal communications. As a member of the governing body of DIT, Margaret Fitzpatrick commented on the findings of the public accounts committee saying, "We should be confident that the governing body of DIT is currently addressing the problem outlined by the committee."
Further Ireland-France research encouraged

The Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, has invited 20 students in Ireland to visit the campus for a brief tour. The 20 students represent one of the largest groups of students to visit Singapore. The students will also have the opportunity to meet and network with their counterparts from the Nanyang Technological University.

Online medical studies site launched

The medical faculty at Trinity College, University College Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has launched an online medical studies site. The site is designed to provide students with a taste of all the Institute's courses.

Canteen Boycott at Trinity

TRINITY College Students' Union recently organized a boycott of the four college catering outlets, and the Trinity Canteen, in protest at the 12 per cent price increase which came into effect at the start of October.

The NUS-USL has issued an "urgent reminder" to college students: "We are currently considering pursuing legal action against Trinity College..." The students were concerned about the price increase of 12 per cent.

The NUS-USL has also called for a "mandatory free lunch" to be introduced in all colleges. The union has proposed that a free lunch be provided on the day of examinations, to encourage students to eat healthy food.

The union has also called for the introduction of a "low cost meal" scheme, which would provide students with a meal for a nominal fee.

The union has also called for a "no cost" scheme, which would provide students with a meal for free.

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For more information drop into:
Bank of Ireland Camden Street - Student Officer, Susan Geraghty, Ph: 4784766 email: susan.geraghty@boimail.com
Bank of Ireland 34 College Green - Student Officer, Bernie O'Reilly, Ph: 6793777 email: bernie.oireilly@boimail.com

* Terms & conditions apply ** Leading college terms and conditions apply
By Carl O'Brien

Islamabad. September 18th

So where's all the action? There are no street protests, no sign of violence. Bar some bored looking soldiers, all is a picture of serenity. A look at the map shows Islamabad is around four hours drive from the border. Not that the news anchors from CNN, BBC or NBC broadcasting form the rooftop of the plush Marriott hotel. On TV it may look like they're within shooting distance of the border, but the main priority seem to be staying within reaching distance of room service. The hotel has been transformed into a three ringed media circus, as hacks yak loudly into mobile phones and technicians cram their hotel rooms full of satellite gear, and news anchors battle space for the roof.

President Musharraf appears on TV in his combat gear and tells the nation he is throwing his support behind the US and calls for the nation to unite. Everyone gulps in fear, expecting that civil war could erupt within days.

Who built this place? The city is divided into a crazy grid system, intersected by long straight avenues which lead up to the parliament. It's a strange, sterile, vacuous kind of place. It's definitely time to move on.

Rawalpindi. September 19th

I find a driver and a translator and we head for the sprawling city of Rawalpindi. I go native for dinner and eat with the locals. A dead cockroach in one of the chicken dishes doesn't put me off, but I manage to prevent myself throwing up spectacularly over the food. This is a different place altogether. The walking of maqabs drifts across the city can be heard from every street corner. Hordes of people and spluttering motorbike taxis compete for space on the manic streets.

Some imposing looking Islamic fundamentalists are on the march. They tell me they plan to call for a nation-wide strike the next day in opposition to Pakistan's alliance with the US.

Not everyone feels the same way. Over a cup of green tea some carpet sellers say they have had enough of war. All they want is a peaceful solution. The Catholic owner of a shoe shop is so frightened of reprisal attacks he brings me to a backroom so I won't be seen and says he wants to get out of the country as tensions begin to mount.

Peshawar. September 20th

The border is a dangerous, turbulent, unpredictable place. A bit like South Kerry, in a lot of ways. The closest city to the border is Peshawar and after a three hour journey I arrive into a maelstrom of street protests and police road-blocks. An angry crowd of around 15,000 fundamentalists surge through the narrow city streets, like a raging river of anger. They stop to listen to one of the religious leaders, "Jihad is our way", "Bush will die" and "Death to Americans!" shout the crowd. One of the more vocal protesters roars at the top of his voice, but accidentally steps on a US journalist's foot. "Sorry mister, sorry mister!" he says to the reporter. Just don't step on their toes.

In reality the protesters are a minority. The middle classes and shopkeepers watch the protest with a jaundiced eye and say they have been hijacked by opportunistic political parties.

Peshawar. September 23rd.

That dodgy curry with the cockroach comes back to haunt me. Voltaire once wrote about the world falling out of his bottom. Now I know what it's like to have the bottom fall out of your world. This is a severe dose of the backdoor trots. The newsdesk at the Irish Examiner don't have much sympathy, however. When I tell them the most violent thing I've come across is the whiff from the jacks they are not amused.

The Khyber Pass, Pakistan

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Peshawar. September 29th

That dodgy curry with the cockroach comes back to haunt me. Voltaire once wrote about the world falling out of his bottom. Now I know what it's like to have the bottom fall out of your world. This is a severe dose of the backdoor trots. The newsdesk at the Irish Examiner don't have much sympathy, however. When I tell them the most violent thing I've come across is the whiff from the jacks they are not amused.

The city of Peshawar Pakistan

A Pakistan friend rings up and tells his aide that I am from Ireland the country which is fighting Britain for independence and is sympathetic to the plight of the Taliban militia. Incredible, he agrees to do the interview. High up in the white dusty mountains we meet. The firebrand leader says he had an army of potentially thousands who are willing to cross over the border. Most have already gone that's why the missionaries, or religious schools, are empty.

The countdown to war is looming.

Peshawar. September 29th

The police don't like reporters going to the border. It means the conditions refugees are forced to endure is highlighted. Still, there are ways and means of getting to the border. My guide tells me I'll have to dress up in traditional Muslim gear so I won't be spotted by the security forces as we try to cross the checkpoints.

The buggy troupes and prayer cap fit well, but I can't get the rope to fasten my trousers together, so I put on a belt discreetly. This all goes very well for a few minutes until I passer-by helpfully points out that my trousers have dropped to my ankles.

In order to try and bypass the checkpoints we drive off the main road, through fields and dry river beds. Once off the high way the border area is controlled by tribal militias. Fortunately my guide is known among the tribe we cross.

After a few judicious bribes, some Kalashnikov wielding soldier hops into a truck and gives us an armed escort to the border. The landscape is almost like Ireland with white boulders and vast dusty plains.

Drove e jagged ravines and steep gorges, the armed men are tricking through, carrying all their worldly possessions on the backs of a motorcycle.

They know borders are sealed and this is their only hope to avoid the impending war. One man says he has lost seven at home to guard the house. But here they have nothing here for his five young children with them. Here, in the first year of the 21st century, a man and his family escape the midday sun behind a moddut wall with no food or water.

Peshawar. October 4th

Sending copy back to the newspaper is tough enough at the best of times. It gets easier when I discover a basement Internet facility run by some young Pakistanis.

Dressed in traditional dress and playing cards, they press their faces close to their screens. As I pass, I notice they are all looking at porn. Cover up your women in public, but we can look at them in private, seems to be the message.

The homepage on the computer is set at xbxhotgirls.com but no one seems to mind that I've stumbled into their parallel universe.
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Running away with the Cirque

Last week when the DIT stairs became a little too exhausting and the guilt feeling that comes from extending lunch breaks into the wee small hours, one DIT student, who shall remain nameless, decided to pack it all in and run away with the circus. Apparently it used to be quite common.

There was a time when a pub lunch in Ireland consisted of an Easi-Single between two slices of bread and a packet of Tayto crisps. That particular gourmet experience has been replaced by an explosion of puni- nis, ciabattas and various liquid fruit concoctions, although there are still a few more traditional lunches to be had. We decided to try some of the capitals finest (and not so fine) pub lunches.

The coffee bar experience

The Modern Green Bar, Wexford Streeet, 7/10

This is one of the many trendy bars to have sprung up in this area in recent times, and lunch here is extremely popular. The menu is a mix of salads, pastas and stir-frys, as well as the ubiquitous pintxos. Old favourites such as the BLT and the cheeseburger also make an appearance. The food is generally good and reasonably priced. I had a caesar salad, which was tasty, if over-dressed, and my companion had chips n dips with sausages. The ideal starter-upper for that liquid lunch. Our only gripe was the constant presence of little flies over the plates.

Do say: Decaf double shot lane please. Don’t say: Do you have any Chef Brown Sauce?

The country style pub experience

Devil's Corner, Camden Street, 7/10

This one is a more traditional pub, which is reflected in the menu. It consists generally of various toasted meats, and staples such as lasagne, chicken curry and sushi-like. Not a pastrami in sight (although toasted sandwiches are available). On this occasion I tried the lasagne, which was more like savoury mince, but nonetheless quite satisfying. My co-reviewer had the burger, which was a ball of mince and onion, served on a bun with chips and coleslaw. The burger had the air of something which had been cooked for some time. Nonetheless, the plate was cleared. Most main courses are between £3.50 and £6.

Do say: A pot of Lyons tea please. Don’t say: Are these potatoes organic?

The ctyavern experience

Onelife, Suffolk Street, 5/10

This is one of the most popular lunch venues in the city centre, and most days has a huge queue of people along the ctyavern counter. As well as the usual hot food, there also is a salad and sandwich counter. I find it very difficult to get excited about self-ser-

vice ctyavern, so in the interests of objectivity, I brought along a fan of this particular style of dining. He had lunch with an assortment of vegetables which he declared to be bloody good. I had chicken of some description, which was fine if unexceptional. If ctyavern lunches are your thing, then this appears to be the place for it.

Do say: Can I have extra gravy with that please? Don’t say: Excuse me, can you take our order please?

The divine experience

Fellows, The Coombe 10/10

Make no mistake about it this is without doubt the best lunch in Dublin. The secret here is simplic- ity, because the menu consists of soup and toasted sandwiches. Not very exciting. I hear you say, but

Dubsinos finest pub lunches
A car pulls up near an abandoned house. A young man opens the door, dips his head into the dooryard which has not gone well. Only it hasn't been just that day, but months and years of personal problems which have blighted both the life and that of his family. Gambling has become the bane of Jim's life and there appears to be only one solution. (name changed)

"I tried to commit suicide," says Jim, sipping his mug of tea. "I had a bucket and a lead for a tape recorder and I saw a tree nearby, I felt that I could end the pain; I wasn't thinking of anything. I kicked the bucket from under myself. In that instant the pain disappeared but for some reason God was looking after me. I was actually on the tips of my toes and stayed that way for about 10 or 15 minutes. It was like an eternity but I eventually got down, got into my car and went off home. Life is now looking after me. Jim's bony-ness is comfort to a complete stranger to have been hounded from the hundred of Gamblers Anonymous (GA) meetings and sessions at the Table Lodge in Cork, which also assists recovering gamblers. It has been over a year now that Jim has placed a bet and he states smiling, "It's good to live life.

Jim's gambling became a serious problem when he started university. "It began one day when I joined in a game of poker," he said. "I played poker all day and I began to miss days of lecture and were a big thing at the time," he said. "I bought a tenner's worth of those scratch cards and I got four of the letters which made up the word voting. If you get the whole word you won a hundred thousand pounds and I thought that I'd win the prize no problem; I thought that beating the system wasn't going to be a problem. I ended up spending a thousand pounds that day alone trying to get the other two letters. I thought the system couldn't beat me. Inevitably, it did and as Jim's addiction intensified, so too did the problems that accompany such an illness, one Jim himself describes as "the silent illness."

Jim's secret addiction was finally revealed to the local branch bank manager when he contacted his mother in relation to a number of forged cheques which had been issued in her name. At first Jim denied it, but he eventually admitted his guilt, claiming he had tried to beat the system. Earlier that day, he had placed a substantial bet on a horse and when his distraught mother had left the sitting room, he switched on the teletext to see if he had won. He had lost and she seemed a bit stunned. She told me that I had a problem and I was there thinking to myself, what do you know, you're a woman; you've never gambled before, it's a male assertive thing to think like that."

The gambling took over completely," he said. "I used to bring a change of clothes with me in the car so I wouldn't be caught out at home. I bought bottles of feebreeze and kept them in the car too. I was totally focused on how to get money; Making money was never an objective for Jim; it was merely what he required to feed his habit.

"I never bought anything for myself out of winnings, I just needed to continue my gambling."

After his failed suicide attempt, Jim admitted himself to hospital but 'had no interest in living' as he reached rock bottom. It was recommended that he attend Table Lodge for assessment, something he found difficult to accept. "I stood on the cliffs down there and I felt like jumping off," he said. "I eventually went to (Table Lodge) and the doctor told me I couldn't come back the following day. I went home efficacy and blinding at the world and I had no intention of ever going back there."

Jim was brought to Table Lodge and he returned to Table Lodge. He was found gambling and recovering. "I was there for me and now I have to be there for someone else. I hate what (gambling) does to me. Hopefully in 20 years time I'll still be in the rooms."

To those who have a problem but have yet to tell anyone, Jim has a simple message. "Get in contact with people. If you get on to most churches or doctors they will know how to get in touch with people, be it addiction centres or GA. Jim came close to giving up on life, but has seen the light thanks to his family, GA and the various support services."

Jim's life has seen the light thanks to his family, GA and the various support services designed to help those who need it.

Gambling: the silent illness

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Under Potter's spell
by Darragh Clifford

IF BY now you do not know who Harry Potter is, you have probably spent the last six weeks hiding in a cave in Afghanistan. For the rest of us, the name Harry Potter brings to mind some of the most prominent merchandising around at the moment. The 12 year old boy with the John Lennon-style glasses and a flying broom (a nimbus 2000 to be exact) has already conquered the world's hearts with four children's novels. On November 16, Harry Potter could enter cinematic history as being one of the most successful movies of all time.

Harry Potter was born in a small Edinburgh café five years ago to the then unknown author JK Rowling. Stories of how Rowling would sit over one cup of coffee for hours on end because she couldn't afford a second cup are now legend. Over 100 million copies in 46 languages later, Rowling is the United Kingdom's second richest woman in the world. Her only ambition five years ago to the then 25 year old was to write four children's novels. Recently, Rowling has put together a very impressive cast. While Steven Spielberg was more interested in the Harry Potter film franchise than the novel franchise, he did find a director in the shape of Chris Columbus. Columbus auditioned 60,000 children for the part of Harry Potter all share the same birthday on July 31.

Security mix-up at Stab Ball
By Karen Creed

The organisers of the Stab Ball were delighted at the number of people who showed up in fancy dress. The event was organised by the Student's Union, the security mix-up was the only thing that went wrong. By ten o'clock, the bar was jammed with students who had been waiting to get tickets for the event. Some students were still entering at ten o'clock. The queues formed outside the bar as early as possible to avoid the long waiting list. Karl Bonar's reaction to the breakdown of communication between Shooters bar and the Students Union was, "Shooters bar never informed us that the bouncers would not arrive until ten o'clock. If we had known this we would have been more prepared."

However a staff member of Shooters bar explained that it was not only their responsibility to organise the security for such an event. It is a student event and the Students Union should have been more involved and aware. Once the bouncers arrived they tried to get everyone out of the bar and to queue again, this time paying the entrance fee of £3. This caused many complaints from the students already waiting to be let in. By ten o'clock there were 600 people in the queue. Soon after the security refused to let anyone in from those outside whom had spent so much time getting ready. Karl Bonar's reaction to this was that "in future students should come to the event as early as possible to avoid being refused." He admitted that similar problems occurred at the Freshers Ball in the Beacon nightclub a few weeks ago. "Over 200 students couldn't get tickets for the event," he added.

Security refused to let anyone in from those outside whom had spent so much time getting ready. Karl Bonar's reaction to this was that "in future students should have been more involved and aware." However a staff member of Shooters bar explained that it was not only their responsibility to organise the security for such an event. It is a student event and the Students Union should have been more involved and aware. Once the bouncers arrived they tried to get everyone out of the bar and to queue again, this time paying the entrance fee of £3. This caused many complaints from the students already waiting to be let in. By ten o'clock there were 600 people in the queue. Soon after the security refused to let anyone in from those outside whom had spent so much time getting ready. Karl Bonar's reaction to this was that "in future students should come to the event as early as possible to avoid being refused." He admitted that similar problems occurred at the Freshers Ball in the Beacon nightclub a few weeks ago. "Over 200 students couldn't get tickets for the event," he added.

Despite the disruption at the start of the night, the Halloween party received good reviews from the students. According to Aungier Street's Clubs and Societies officer, Connor McDermott, "many students were so drunk they didn't even remember the night." The bar was chaotic with everyone trying to a veil of the cheap vodka and red bull. It wasn't long before the thirsty students had cleared the bar dry of vodka. The lack of cheap alcohol later on in the night didn't seem to bother most students as everyone was in great form. Almost everyone made an effort to get dressed up. Some students' creativity resulted in fantastic space costumes and 60's outfits. The prize for best costume deservedly went to the boys who dressed up as the Teletubbies, Not only did they look great but they survived the intense heat from their costumes all night. Second prize went to Lisa Durnie, Aungier St, who's costume and make up made her unrecognisable as Dracula. Many of the girls were unrecognisable in their costumes dressing up as schoolgirls, French maids and bunies. However their revealing costumes were a hit with the opposite sex. The male students were more innovative. D'Unbelievables, Tarzan and Bob Marley were some of the best. Throughout the night the students were able to flaunt their fancy dress outfits in front of an Internet camera which was installed in a side room of the bar. These pictures will be displayed on the college website in the coming weeks.
Nice Kittser shame about The Frames

By Debbie Flood

MUCH was expected from home-grown act The Frames, in their recent sold out gig-fest at Vicar Street last week.

Would their show change or would only the supporting acts be different?

Mundy and upcoming band Turn did the honours, entertaining the impatient audience with their uptempo beats until Glen and the gang walked on stage.

Their performance at Witness and their current album For The Birds, have clearly introduced The Frames’ music to a new and wider audience.

They opened the night on a high note with a beautiful, lush rendition of Lay Me Down.

This song sees Glen’s distinctive voice reach new heights as he is accompanied by Colm Mac Iomaire’s moving violin playing.

The Frames trademark violin adds a layered, textured quality to all the songs it is featured on.

Throughout the two-hour gig lead singer Glen treated the audience to a performance of twanging and jumping on stage which made him appear not unlike a crazed Duracell bunny.

His on stage antics were as entertaining and engaging as ever, and included Glen sharing a lollipop with the audience, as well as wearing a silly, oversized hat that made his head look like a giant mutant pumpkin.

The Frames belted out Revelate effortlessly and performed a blissful performance of Disappointed.

They slip easily between their rock-trad (or should that be trad-rock?) classics such as Fitzcarraldo and Pavement Tune and the dreamy ballads of Giving Me Wings and Sana Maria. The climax of the night was their shimmering, soft rendition of What Happens When The Heart Just Stops.

The only crime Glen committed was the slow torturing of Star, Star. The sampling of Glen’s screeching swamped this little gem of a song and reduced it to a migraine inducing mess.

Colm’s violin playing could reassure the song to the elevated heights it deserved.

For the encore, the members of the Frames swapped instruments and played an impressive, uptempo version of Headlong.

For the second encore, Glen brought fellow musician, David Kitt on stage.

Kitt, with his pint of Guinness still surgically attached to his hand since his own gigs at the Olympia, I was more than happy to hand out a few shekels for the privilege.

However the gig in the Olympia was a different animal altogether and was a tale of the unexpected. The band that took the stage on Wednesday 9th was not the polished eight piece with string section that, together with Dave Friedman, carved out the little daisy that is Rock Action.

This was old school post rock. Although the band opened with their first track off Rock Action, it was followed by five songs from the 1997 album Young Team. This may not seem like any big cheese to the average music fan, but the majority of Mogwai songs are over six minutes long.

On the night there were only three songs off Rock Action, which is a major surprise, given the fact that it is their latest and by far the most accessible of the bands albums.

The band went all out on the guitar front and went through a set list that wouldn’t be much different from four years ago. Only one song from Come on Die Young, and three from Rock Action, made this a nostalgic Mogwai trip down the musical memory lane.

There were no strings on stage and the band was all about guitars.

The sound was initially poor, and the high end frequencies in the drum samples at the beginning of the set were almost perfect, but this improved as the night progressed, becoming more intense and exciting with each song.

One of Mogwai’s trademarks is they way they slip from near silence to an all out wall of noise on a heartbeat, and this night was no exception.

Highlights on the night were the omnipotent Helicon I, the almost-pop Two Wrongs make a Right, and the mammoth 20 minute encore, My Father, My King, which is now available on vinyl.

Mogwai once again surpassed themselves in the volume stakes, putting out the loudest gig I have ever heard, but at times it was uncontrollable and raw.

Whilst this worked spectacularly for the aforementioned tracks, the rhythm section was drowned out by the lead guitar, which at points was out of time and out of tune.

The energy displayed on stage was nothing short of olympic and guitarist Stuart Braithwaite broke all six strings on his guitar during one song.

This was not Mogwai at their finest, but it was one of the rowdiest and most intense live performances you are likely to see. Even when they are not at their best they still leave most bands far behind on the live stage. If only I could get the drum ringing to stop in my ears.

By Laurence Mackin

EARLIER this year Mogwai played what was the gig of the year and one of the most phenomenal shows I’ve ever seen in the Red Box.

The band themselves were bold to claim it was their best gig ever, and on the evidence of the two hour set, I would definitely agree. So when I heard that they were going to play a second gig in the Olympia, I was more than happy to hand out a few shekels for the privilege.

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Mogwai field a younger team

...
They'll be back

The Godfather

George Lucas, who has never truly been settled is whether the first Godfather movie is better than the second. While I am unable to solve this great old debate I am delighted to see them return to our shelves in yet another digitally re-mastered work of art. The box set, which includes a bonus disk containing extra footage and deleted scenes, is a must for any household with DVD capabilities. Al and the family are guaranteed to keep you glued to your sets for the whole 11 hours, some men fell indeed.

The classiest of gangster movies are re-mastered and are brilliant fun, and at £44.99 for all four disks a great stocking filler for that uncle who oves a favour to.

Star Wars trailer hits the web

The most famous sore throat in cinematic history has made its return to screens big and pixelated as the countdown to Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones has well and truly begun.

The half-minute long teaser trailer entitled 'Beneath' is silent except for the iron lung of the soon-to-be Darth Vader. The lone character is Jinn (Jason Biggs) searching for sex and trying to rid himself of the bad name gained in the last movie.

Of course there is a laundry list of embarrassing situations for Jinn to get into which, believe it or not, are hilarious.

The gang of five, Kevin, Oz, Jim and of course the always entertaining Stifler, return home after a year in college and find out that home is too boring.

They decide to do what any self respecting college student does and move to the beach, painting houses for a crust. The beach is filled with gorgeous women and with the imminent return of Nadia (Shannon Elizabeth) things quickly heat up.

If the first trailer is anything to go by, Lucas and co. have taken a big step back to the type of dark brooding mood of The Empire Strikes Back, the most critically acclaimed Episode to date.

For such a short trailer, there is so much to see and get excited about including:

- A computer generated Yoda looking scowling and together with Mace Windu.
- The emotional undertones are set with Kevin struggling to 'just be friends' with his ex-girlfriend Vicky, who has returned with a new jock boyfriend.
- The movie picks up where the last one left, with the main character Jim (Jason Biggs) searching for sex and trying to rid himself of the bad name gained in the last movie.
- The emotional undertones are set with Kevin struggling to 'just be friends' with his ex-girlfriend Vicky, who has returned with a new jock boyfriend.
- The movie is greatly clichéd and at times drips sentimentality but is also great fun.
- The return of Michelle (Alison Hannigan), the flue toting band dork, is great and takes Jim to more three stooges like encounters. As sequels go this one is good and well worth the £3.25 you will pay as a student in UGC.

The trailer also appeared on the big screen in the United States.

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There’s no escaping the growing Star Wars fever in the DIT Independent editor’s office (he’d love to have one!) as the Episode II teaser trailer hits the web.

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Entertainment

By Laurence Macklin

THINGS are not as entertain­ ing as they used to be. Every month I weigh up the odds, look at the weather, consult my tarot cards and try and decide what is worth going to see and do this month. But it's getting harder and harder each month. So instead of going out to a band that like your mate hasn't seen but he saw the cover of the album in his brothers room and it like looks really cool, just stop and have a think about what your doing.

Don't immediately go run­ ning off to the bar with your money to burn, don't run up to the over priced posy night club with the huge window at the front so that they can see you coming. Just look at what's around you and appre­ ciate it. Make yourself a nice meal. Seriously, if you can't cook then learn, it's really easy and it always impresses the girls. Cooking is simply the application of heat to food, what could be simpler than that.

Go and buy a decent cook­ book, something by Nigel Slater for example. Instead of getting messy drunk and try­ ing to push a crane into the ground, go easy and it always impresses the girls. Cooking is simply the application of heat to food, what could be simpler than that.

Your just carrying plates, I'm sure you could teach a monkey to do it.

Anyway, enough work, the stress is play­ ing hell with my skin. Until next week, au revoir.

FRG

City Sounds

By Fiachra Rocco-Goveny

Dublin is not as cosmopolitan as it would like to believe. Despite the pretensions it has to being a city of culture, I do some times wonder if we're civilised at all.

The other night I was going to meet my VBF Nadia in what considers itself one of the more high-class eateries in Dublin. So I get there and firstly, the table is all wrong. It is in the corner, in what could only be described as a dungeon-like corner. I mean, the lighting was all wrong and I couldn't see a thing. And if you can't see I mean don't these people read the papers?

At times like these you really do have to be cruel to be kind, so I dismissed her with a wave of my hand and remarked that "I would have an attitude problem if I was only earning £2 an hour as well".

At this stage I'd had enough and my appetite had been completely eroded by incompetence and the time delay, so I just ordered a salad. It was instantly forgettable, which is more than I could say for the wholesomeness of the restaurant. I mean, how difficult can it be toIWV tables.

Your just carrying plates, I'm sure you could teach a monkey to do it.

Anyway, enough work, the stress is play­ ing hell with my skin. Until next week, au revoir.

FRG

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DIT GAA FOOTBALL CLUB
The boys are up and moving for the new sea­son and training regularly. The seniors have played one challenge match, losing to Maynooth IT. However, two thirds of this team is good and the players are looking for­ward to competing in the Sigerson Cup after Christmas. For information the team con­ tact Des O'Donnell at 0872245508.

DIT GAA HURLING CLUB
A mixed month for the hurling club, as their good work continued to the end of the term. They beat 2-18 to 0-3 by the more experienced Belfield side. Nevertheless the side remain in great spirit and are eagerly anticipate next weekend's matches in the Fitzgibbon Cup and Higher Education College League.

DIT LADIES GAA FOOTBALL
Like the men the ladies are looking forward to the start of the new season and are training every Tuesday night in Belvedere Gym. With a regular training session of 15:30 along with all new players are welcome. The team is due to play in the 7-a-side blitz in Galway on the weekend of 25th October and it is also scheduled to compete in the Harley Cup. The league season begins on the 5th November and the forthcoming fixtures are:

- Thursday 15th November: home V Carlow IT
- Thursday 22nd November: away V Loughlin IT
- Thursday 29th November: home V Athlone IT

DIT KARTING CLUB
Preparations for the new season are under­way and the club is currently organising future competitions. Two days of karting have taken place with each DIT karting team and some promis­ing new drivers have been discovered. Training has gone well and the team is confi­dent of retaining their All-Ireland title. The DIT Championship is due to take place in the next few weeks although no date has been set. Meanwhile the team would like to thank Frank Coggins for his tremendous work on behalf its members.

DIT SOCCER
The Mountjoy Square men’s first team played two fixtures in the Colleges Football Association this month. After a mixed month. After a bad 5-0 defeat to Sligo IT on Wednesday 31st October they redeemed themselves with an impressive 1-1 draw against the National College of Ireland last Wednesday. The second team meanwhile started their season well, defeating Griffith College 2-0 and losing to University College Dublin 2-1.

There is no good news from the Aungier Street team for October as they were defeated twice. In the first game they were heavily beat­en away to Carlow IT by 7 goals to 2. In a happier game at home to the Garda Training College they eventually lost 3-2. Their final match against Tallaght IT was scheduled for Wednesday 7th November but the result was unknown at the time of going to press. The Aungier Street Indoor Soccer Tournament is also due to begin on Monday 19th November. All matches will take place at YMCA Aungier Street.

Meanwhile trials for the Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFAI) Representatives team concluded for December 12th at VEC Terenure. The side’s manager is DIT Bolton Street’s sports officer Mickey Whelan and DIT students are encouraged to try out for a place on the prestigious team. The CFAI side plays annual fixtures against AIB, the Army and the Universities team.

DIT RUGBY
The Rugby Club kick off their season on Wednesday 14th November in the Irish Colleges Rugby Union league with a home game against Portobello. Plenty of action is to be seen this season with the senior, fresher and inter-DIT teams all taking to the field of play. For further details contact Niamh O'Cailhachain (Sports Officer) on 087- 2985849.

DIT BADMINTON
The team played their first league fixture in the Dublin Badminton League against Dundalk. The CFAI badminton club will also compete in the colleges bad­minton leagues this year. The club is always looking for new members so students can feel free to attend any one of the training times list­ed below:

- Monday 12:30 to 2pm in Y.M.C.A., Aungier Street
- Tuesday 7 to 9pm in Belvedere College Gymnasium
- Wednesday 9 to 10pm in Belvedere College

DIT ATHLETICS
The first outing of the season is the Maynooth Road Relays and is due to take place on Saturday 17th November. Any poten­tials interested for either or both of these events can contact Herbie McClelland at 0872245507.

DIT BASKETBALL
Both the men’s and women’s A and B Teams are competing in the Irish Colleges and Irish Student Sport Association Leagues and the Dublin Basketball Leagues respectively. If you don’t feel up to playing basketball competitive­ly there is a recreational hour allocated every Tuesday evening from 5:45 to 7pm in Kevin Street Sports Hall.

DIT Wudo-Ryu Karate
A team of DIT students competed in the All­Ireland Cup at DCU in October. They per­formed well, finishing in second place. The team is trained by Tyrone Perdue, who him­self won the individual tournament.

Wudo-Ryu is a traditional Japanese Martial Art, its roots are in Kendo, Ju Jitsu and Karate. The DIT club is affiliated to the Wado-Ryu Karate-Do Academy of Ireland, whose President and Chief Instructor Y. Iwasaki sensei 6th Dan, is the only Japanese instructor resident in Ireland.

No charge is levied on students for normal training undertaken within the college, however to grade students must attend a once a month training course under the Wado- Ryu Karate-Do Academy of Ireland.

Students wishing to participate may attend their first class in tracksuit bottoms and tee shirt. However it is necessary to purchase a proper karate suit for attendance at any subse­quent class.

Classes take place at the sports hall in DIT Bolton Street. Michael O’Callaghan and Colin Geraghty, both members of DIT staff, are involved in the club and can be contacted at Bolton Street in rooms 791 and 201 respective­ly.

YOGA
Classes will now take place every Wednesday from 1 to 2pm in DIT Cathal Brugha Street Room M104. Keep an eye on the Sports Noticeboard, as a new yoga class will commence soon in DIT Mountjoy Square.

AQUAEROBICS
Students can go along for sessions on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Larkin Swimming Pool. A novel and enjoyable way to maintain a good level of fitness.

OLYMPIC HANDBALL
One of Ireland’s fastest growing sports is Olympic Handball and any student wishing to get involved can go along on either Monday nights from 7:45 to 9:45pm in Larkin College or Wednesday from 5 to 7pm in Belvedere College.
DI T caving club — it's alive!

By Bernadette Connors

Oh yeah baby! I'm speakin' the truth! The DI T Caving Club has been revived. It's limpin', frail shell has been filled with lively young bodi­ties who break out in a cold sweat at the mention of get­ting deep down and dirty!!! Minn deep down! Minn dirty!

On the 19th of October last, the club embarked on its first weekend trip of the year to Doolin. Co. Clare, to do some quality caving, have some fun and sample the local pub culture at the same time (all of which were done to perfection!). We were fortunate to have been invited to travel down on the bus with University College Dublin Caving and Potholing Club (UCDCPC), and stay in the house with them also, which was mighty craic! Thanks UCDCPC! We love you!

We left UCD that Friday evening to begin the tortu­rous six-hour bus journey to our destination. If you can survive that, you are guaran­teed that trudging through a cave for three hours will be a piece of cake!

We made our usual 'tasty and tempting' food stop in Ballinaclash on the way, the visit to the off-license was to ensure that the rest of the journey would be less painful and we eventually reached Doolin near mid­night.

There was a respectable rush to grab a bed for the night but even as we were pushed onto the floor, point­ed at and laughed at respect­ively.

Saturday arrived abruptly, when we were all told to get our "asses out of bed" at 8am. But it didn’t matter, because two hours later we were on the way to the underground, to the world beneath our feet.

Thankfully, Mr. Rain decided to stay away, so there was nothing left to worry about except getting to the cave, getting in and then getting back out safely. Getting to our cave, Poll Dubh, was a challenge to say the least. It was fun wrestling with the ground in an attempt to keep our wetsuits on our feet and trying to defy gravi­ty and stay vertical was lots of fun too!!

Once we got into the cave, we were fine. It was a remarkable cave, which required a bit of crawling, climbing, and crouching, but it was visually striking, with lots of formations adorning the ceiling, sides and floor of the cave. The other group went into Poll Dubh, and from the feedback we got from the novices, they really enjoyed it.

The appeared to be quite impressed with the whole cave thing.

They enjoyed having the opportunity to see the beauti­ful formations that exist down there, like stalact­ites, stalagmites, helictites, and curtains. They also liked the feel of the cold, wet mud on their bodies (so they said anyway).

After returning to the house for lunch, we had the opportunity to go caving again, and all DI T caves were more than willing to do it. This was a good sign, they'd been bitten and had caught the bug (followed by exaggerated eeeevil laugh). The caves on the list this time around were Cullaun 2 and Pollaniggall. I have never heard so much grunting, moaning, whining and panting as I heard in Cullaun 2 that evening. We decided to take a route not often taken through by cavers, and halfway from Cullaun 2, I forgot to ask them what they thought.

The remainder of the night was spent washing ourselves, eating and of course, drink­­ing!!! Minn beer!!! We defi­nitely achieved our aims. We made it to Clare, we spent a whole day underground, we had loads of fun on Saturday night and we made it back safely on Sunday!!

The DI T Caving Club has been revived. Its' limp, frail shell has been filled with lively young bodies who break out in a cold sweat at the mention of getting deep down and dirty!!

Calling all sport fans!

By Brian Healy

A true sports fan will always tell you that to really appreciate a sporting event you have to be there in the flesh, to see the sights, to hear the sounds and to smell the smells.

We have heard the stories of the length peo­ple went to go to the World Cup to see Ireland play, some going so far as to re-mortgaging their houses. No doubt the same type of loyalty is evi­dent in most sports.

But what is so good about being a spectator?

Look at what a spectator has to endure.

He or she has to fork out for the tickets, travel miles only to get a parking spot that's in a differ­ent time-zone to the actual event, put up with all types of weather; and just when it can't get any worse an abnormalley tall man in the way anything exciting happens.

Meanwhile I'm sitting at home, with my can of beer and my 12-inch Hawaiian pizza, watching it all on TV. I don't have to endure the likes of giraffes to get a glimpse of the action, I'm changing the camera angles with my remote.

Things have to sit down for hours and risk scro­n from the referees and players if you so much as bat an eyelid. In your guff you trundle up and down fairways, following you favourite golfer, sulking stray shots only to have a caddie shave a side in your face telling you in a nice way to shut the hell up.

But some sports people to acknowledge the spectator. Oh look its Eric Cantona, and hes just watched the latest Jackie Chan movie.

It is fair to say that the sports depart­ment in DI T towers is in need of a lit­tle redressing. DI T is a college rich with sporting talent and after a collec­tive knocking of heads (it hurts) we've decided to relaunch the sports section starting from next month and we aim to make it as comprehensive and rep­resentative as possible. Be it hurling, soccor, badminton, we aim to get it covered as well as we can.

Getting around to matches and the like has so far proven impossible but we hope that this is all about to change. And it is in that respect that we hope we can look outside our Ivory towers in Aungier Street and get our feet dirty? That's where you the sports lover come into play, if you so wish.

If you want to contribute to the sports pages of the DI T Independent, please leave a message at the Aungier Street Newsroom at 402.3071 or by email to dildilocf@.hotmail.com. We want to provide as extensive a service as possible and with the co-operation of DI T's sports clubs, we aim to make our pages as informative for the remainder of the year.

So if you would like to:
• travel with a team on a day trip
• compile a match report
• take photos of the big action
• offer your views on DI T sport
• write about the sport you love,
we would love to hear from you.

Our sports department is the smallest within the newspaper and we need as much help as we can get. If we as staff and you as the sports loving DIT pub­lic can work together, then we can make a great success of our sports pages. We would also like to establish a results service each month to chart the progress of all our teams and indi­viduals and to achieve this we need your help. So let's get the ball (or schie­tar) rolling and make the December issue a bright new start for sports cov­erage in the DI T Independent.

Yours in sport, Dermot Keyes and Miguel Delaney.

Spectators — who needs em

By Brian Healy

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