Bolton Street Students' Union, End of Term Mag, 1992

DIT: Students' Union

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To date a number of different action have been used in the campaign to combat against the introduction of means testing of the ESF maintenance grants. The actions thus far included:

Jan 6th - Irish Times leaks Davers proposals to means test ESF.
Jan 15th - 2,000 students take to the streets in Athlone.
Jan 16th - 3,000 students demonstrate on the streets of Cork.
Jan 23rd - 6,000 students demonstrate in Dublin in the biggest student march seen in a long time.
Feb 19th - Fine Gael 'private motions bill' was defeated in the Dail.
Brennan announces grants review.
Apr 4th - USI Congress stronger campaigning strategy.
Apr 8th - Day of Action. Occupation of Department of Education.
Apr 14th - Day of Action II. Judgement Day. Occupation of Department of Education AGAIN.

In the mean time while these actions were being carried out lobbying tactics were being pursued.

This included the lobbying of all TD's through letter writing and the issuing of post cards from unhappy parents and student to their local TD's.

There's Jeremy he is the big Pres. He really thinks the office is his, But what he really doesn't know, Is that he doesn't run the show.

Then there's Doug the Deputy, We know he smells; But does he, To mention wash is a curse, He never has money in his purse.

Then there's Stephen the chairman, And of him I am a fan, He's down to earth and matter of fact, And confidence he never lacked.

There's Clare she is the secretary, She's great that's plain to see, She keeps the minutes with such ease, With that mini skirt she's such a tease.

Vera is in charge of Ents, She also looks after the gents, Trash bands are her cup of tea, Sometimes they are hilarious to see.

Helen is for Womens Rights, She doesn't need any shining Knights, Welfare in U.S.I. she'll be, Oh fair play to you girl, said he.

Jillian is the P.R.O. This we all know, Her posters are works of art, Her ideas are pretty smart.

Sports Officer is unknown Carret, I think he is actually a carrot, Next years won't be such a prankster, Even if it is a hamster.

Jimmy runs the shop all year, He puts the staff in fifty gear, He is from Meath we all know, Maybe that's why he is so slow.

Maura in the Manageress, This is THE person I guess, She's the woman who runs the show, This is the truth, that we all know ....

DERMOT MAHON

AFRICA
Hitching to Portugal, getting a boat to Libya or Morrocco & possibly crossing the continent to Kenya or Nigeria. I am looking for someone to come with me, in either July or September.

If interested, contact Keith at 978904

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**SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**

A shame against women and in indictment against the men who practise it.

Sexual harassment continues to be a problem for women students in Bolton St.

Sexual harassment can mean different things to different people - it is the person on the receiving end who will decide whether it is harrassment or not, not the harrasser.

Sexual harassment comes in many forms, from severe i.e.

- letters or phonecalls of a sexual nature.
- pressures for sexual favours
- touching, leaning over, cornering
- following or bumping into on purpose.

and less severe i.e.

- pressure for dates
- suggestive looks or gestures
- sexual teasing, jokes, remarks etc.

This all serves to undermine and intimidate the person enduring the harrassment.

What to do...

1. **ON THE STREET**
   - Don't ignore anything you think just might mean danger.
   - Don't walk with shoulders rounded, head down, eyes on the pavement and ears muffled up. Look alert and stay alert.
   - Be prepared to walk the long way round if it means avoiding dimly lit, deserted streets.
   - Do steer clear of doorways, bushes and alley way entrances when walking on the pavement.
   - If you think you are being followed and see a poly, service station or other public premises open, go in and phone the police and or friend. Tell anyone who may be able to help.
   - Don't scream! Yelling "No" or "Fire" will arouse more interest from passers-by than the traditional cry for "help!"
   - Be prepared to bang on the door of lit houses if you think you are in danger.
   - Don't carry keys in your bag - keep them on your person - the chances of them being stolen will be greatly reduced. They can also make a useful weapon to show in an attacker's face. Have them ready to use when you arrive home so you don't have to hang around on the doorstep.
   - If you are unfortunate enough to have your keys stolen, get your locks changed as soon as possible.
   - Do carry a personal rape alarm and have it readily accessible.

2. **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**
   - Do try and avoid isolated bus stops
   - Do try and sit near other women, the driver, or gates on a bus or train
   - Do make a fuss straight away if you are bothered.
   - Do not be afraid to pull the emergency cord on a train.

3. **HITCH HIKING**
   - Never hitch-hike alone.

Some reasons why women have abortions

- I was raped
- My parents would kill me if they found out I was pregnant
- I can't afford to rear any more children
- I was warned by the doctor that my health would be seriously at risk if I got pregnant again
- My contraception failed
- I was a victim of incest
- I thought that I couldn't get pregnant while I was breastfeeding
- I thought I had reached the menopause
- I needed chemotherapy for my cancer - which would have killed the foetus
- I tested HIV positive
- I believed the propaganda said women who had abortions could never get pregnant again

**PROTECT YOURSELF**

Apart from being unrealistic, it is quite useless to tell women to stay off the streets. We have to attend college, meetings, work etc and have a right to entertainment and a social life all of which at some time, involve being out late at night. Many women live alone and anyway flatmates, whether male or female, cannot always be on call. Because of financial restraints few women have access to a car, motorbike and many cannot even afford to use irregular and ineffective public transport facilities. For these reasons, women often find themselves having to walk through dark and dangerous streets, along and vulnerable to attack. Given the inevitability of this situation it is possible, and indeed sensible, to take precautions to reduce the risks we face.

**IF YOU ARE ATTACKED:**

Do report any assaults, no matter how trivial it may seem. If you don't wish to go to the police report the event to the Women's Officer Welfare Officer in your college. This can be done anonymously in writing. If you so wish.

The information may be useful to the police in establishing a pattern, and maybe tracking down a criminal.

These precautions are not meant to scare you but it is important to remember that women are attacked because there are men intent on attacking women, by following these guidelines it will reduce the possibility of your being attacked.
Myself and Jeremy would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make Rag Week this year probably the best Rag Week the college has seen in many a year. Thanks to the executive, rag committee and anyone else who helped in any way and also to our sponsors who were:

1. Bank of Ireland
2. Allied Irish Banks
3. Ulster Bank
4. Campbells Catering
5. Irish Permanent

All monies raised during Rag Week went to a number of named Charities. These were as follows:

- Rape Crisis Centre £500
- C.A.R.I. £500
- Friends of the Elderly £75
- Heart Foundation £75

A presentation was held in Cathal Brugha Street College on Thursday 30th April at which all the DIT Rag Week cheques were presented to the charities sponsored by the colleges. A big thanks was given by all charities to all the DIT Colleges for their generous support.

This year, like every year, all the student union delegates from all the unions around the country descended on the Talbot Hotel in Wexford for 4 days from 2nd April to 5th April 1992.

Congress is, for those who don’t know, the ultimate policy making body of the Union of Students in Ireland. As usual there were many contentious issues which gave rise to some good ‘debate’. There’s a copy of the motions discussed in the Union for anyone who is interested in going through them. It’s at Congress that the delegates from the local unions represent the students of their college to the best of their ability and vote for them as they are mandated to do and if a mandate does not exist they will vote as they see fit to the best advantage of the students they represent.

It goes without saying that when over 100 student delegates get together for a conference, in a hotel down the country, it’s not all work and no play and so a lot of play comes into it as well. The political differences between people were left in the conference hall and a good time was had by all at the bar.

There’s a certain dedication and commitment held by the people of student unions that would be hard to compete with.

So here’s to students and student unions and all they represent and fight for.
USI SAFE SEX

BE SAFE TAKE CARE

Bolton Street Students Union, in conjunction with USI, Dublin Aids Alliance and the Lesbian and Gay Health Caucus have launched its safe sex campaign. A series of five posters promoting safer sex practice, have been distributed to all colleges around the country and will appear in pubs and clubs.

The posters are designed to create an awareness of the dangers of HIV/AIDS and other STD's, whilst conveying a positive image of sex. Each poster is designed towards a different group of people, the risk categories being heterosexuals, gay men, lesbians, women's health and drink or drug abuse (and a persons ability to make safe decisions about sex).

The use of condoms is encouraged by the posters and an effective means of protection against transmission of disease.

There is also an information leaflet available which gives information on HIV/AIDS, making sex safer and making drug use safer. These leaflets are available from the students union so don't be ignorant, please educate yourself and read the leaflet.

AND REMEMBER IF ITS NOT ON - ITS NOT ON

ELECTIONS

The Elections which were held on Thursday 26th March ran smoothly and successfully. Although only two positions were contested, which was disappointing, and the fact that a hamster got elected as Sports Officer, the executive committee of the union next year looks promising. The executive will consist of the following:

- President: Doug Scully
- Deputy President: Pat Delaney
- Secretary: Clare White
- Entertainments: Ronan Dunne
- Women Rights: Melissa Rosenberg
- Chairperson: Chris O'Reilly
- Public Relations: Fiona Kelly

The position of Sports Officer has to be filled with nominations being taken early in the first term of next year. Further information on submission of nominations and election dates will be available from the Union early next year. So could anyone interested please fill in a nomination form (available in the SU) and return it to the Students Union. If the position is uncontested the person will automatically take up position and an election will not be necessary.

HEAD

The week of 11th May to 15th May saw an exhibition of sculptures by various sculptors, in the college social area. It was organised by a group of people, who came together 9 months ago and formed HEAD. It was opened on Monday night by Dave Dowling and a reading of a poem by John McNamee "Taking the Rap" which I thought was so good I decided to print it below.

I'd like to thank Dave for choosing Bolton Street as the first college to host the exhibition on its worldwide tour and to receive the large quantity of beer which was generously donated by Heineken.

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I have been sitting out, hang-out, ship-epiced, And washed up, Pout-out, did up, and tidied up. I have been down in, and out, Around, between, forward and inside, And fell out to try, Peed-in the bath, Been-graphic, been mellow and mild, Angry and cold, Amored up-set and fload.

I have been under guidance, surveillance, And kicked up, I have been with girls who were-ssoming, slimming and swimming I have made love to women, Who saw, While they were slimming, Been drunk, been brave, In a bank, and smkh.

Like a shark, Been right, been wrong, Been to blame, lost my aim, Felt shame, thought people were all the same, Forgot people's names, Felt at home, felt it did not belong, Loved certain songs, Been thieved up, been brought down, Been put down, brought people up, Only to see them slide down slow and again. Been in pain, known Pain, Felt the rain, Known like starts, kick starts, And played small parts. Slept on couches, beaches and mountains, Inside river, down alleys, On chairs and stairs, Been blessed with luck fortune and Karma, Been cursed, hated and rejected, Kilt unwound, cast off and passed off, The road ahead has been blocked off, Closed off, barred and spikad, Been turned off, turned out, Turned over and kicked out, Been hopeless, friendless, Penniless, homeless and jolly+ and feckless, I have been holy, Christian, Religious and said prayers quickly and slowly, I have heard stories about men, Who drank whisky and broke up bars, Started gambling, lost fortunes, Became poor, and found God, I have had friends who blew their minds on love, Others who just pushed and show, I have been examined, tested, Delinied, and disfracted, I have eaten in hotels, pension s Convents, the Sally Anne, Shock hands with Vicki Sane, I am still on the go, Still putting along-a happy song, You keep your engine going, Use your brakes, And don't waste you time with fakes.
TRAVEL INFORMATION

In the Student's Union there is a variety of travel information available. The list of which includes:

- Summer Work in France
- Summer Work in Germany
- Summer Work in Britain
- Summer Work in America
- Information on J1 Visas
- Summer Work in Canada

and also additional travel information on fares etc..

A publication by Dublin City University Students Union on working in Europe "Obair Europe" is now available in the Students Union Shop for £2.50 and is a must for anyone working in Europe this summer.

The book covers all aspects of working life in all European Countries. For those not travelling abroad this summer, there is information on Social Welfare Schemes available to students, "Per Chance" you don't get a job here.

As Deputy President of the Students Union this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me throughout the year especially Maura and Jimmy who really had to put up with a lot. I had a great year and thoroughly enjoyed myself and we got great work done putting the union back on the map again.

I know you are now all studying for exams at the moment and I would like to wish you all the best of luck with them.

As most of you may already know I will be back again next year as President of the Students Union. Next year should prove to be a very interesting year and hopefully will be as successful as this year. I am looking forward to working for you now again next year and with the new executive.

I'd also like to thank Jeremy for a great year, we worked well together (in more ways than one). Whatever you do with yourself, best of luck and no doubt we'll stay in touch.

Doug
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