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## **Edit, Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union Magazine, March, 2005**

DIT: Students' Union

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# edit



## Miss DIT Scandal

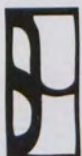
DITSU Update

Rag Week

Elections 2005



DIT students' Union would like to say thank you to Allied Irish Banks, Campbell catering, The DIT Cultural + Social Committee and everyone else who helped to make Rag Week 2005 so successful.



**DIT  
Students'  
Union**





# edit

MARCH 2005

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Production by Gabrielle Dalton and Daniella Miell  
Design and Photography by Colm Roche  
Advertising by Forsight Communications



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIT STUDENTS' UNION



# rag week

Hello Everyone! I don't think I have ever seen a January and February pass so quickly. Things finally seem to be falling back into place after a rocky start to the year. I would like to personally thank you all for sticking by us but also to let you know that a lot of very important work was done throughout the first semester and we should now be using that ground work as a platform to continue our forward momentum.

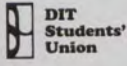
I would like to take this opportunity to mention a couple of things before we talk maths! I would like to thank all those who got involved by helping to organise and promote the week, those who attended the events, those who threw a few quid into the collection buckets, those crazy bungee jumpers who filled out their bungee sponsorship cards, those who stewarded the RAG Trip so exceptionally and so willingly help us pull off the RAG Hullabalooza and those full time members of staff, and my fellow sabbaticals in DITSU who interrupted their own schedules to conduct RAG activities as top priority at all times; or whatever way you managed make your own personal donation or showed your support, thank you. It is hugely appreciated and RAG Week could not be such a triumph without you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

We have raised an astronomically large amount for charity thanks to all your generous contributions. We're still counting but to let you in on an early estimation of my own, a cool figure exceeding €17,000 has been raised from your donations alone. Estimates that the RAG Trip made €10,000, Hullabalooza collections gathered €3,000, Bungee Jump offerings come in at about €2,000, collections and donations from local campuses total approx ?500 and then finally contributions taken from the generous business that hosted our RAG antics amounts to about €2,000 This is an exceptional amount to be raised and it's nearly treble what we managed last year. So, a big pat on the back for yourselves. It is a remarkable achievement, and a testament to your charity. Temple St Children's Hospital have expressed their sincere thanks at being the nominated charity and they look forward to the official announcement of the final tally.

Fair play, again, to you all for your contributions during the week. I hope you are proud to have been part of what seems to have been by far the best RAG Week in the entire country this year, or so I hear. A huge thank you to everyone who helped. Lets hope next year we see much of the same and try and break some more RAG records!!



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South side Rag Trip (A)  
Photos by Billy Walsh  
To order prints, please contact [billy@justwilliam.info](mailto:billy@justwilliam.info)



# rag trip

RAG Trip was a record breaker with 2,000 tickets selling out across all the campuses in under 45 minutes. This year's trip was without question our largest and most successful RAG Trip ever, and most professionally ran. Stewarding on the day by our own DIT students was A1 and thank you to them all for putting up with everybody's crap!! For another year, the Trip passed without any devastating incidence. Students noted in particular, the venues that had been chosen for the day. The final venue was the old Rockin' Robins just outside the town

of Carrick on Shannon, now named Passion, following new ownership. DIT had visited this venue 4 years ago and had an equally good time. The deceptively large nightclub was the perfect pit-stop for the RAG Trip and the Staff were exceptionally nice. The increasingly popular Wexford band 'Blue Moose' featured on the main stage area of the club and put on a fantastic show as usual. The response around the colleges in the aftermath of the RAG seems to be echoing best RAG Trip ever!! Well we are glad you enjoyed it!!





This Page: North side Rag Trip (B)  
Opposite: Sumo suits at the Rag Hullabalooza in DIT Aungier Street



# rag hullaballooza

Hullaballooza has set a new precedent for on campus entertainment in DIT. This first-time event was an awesome success against all the odds of the past. It is estimated that 4,000 to 5,000 students visited the Aungier Street campus to partake in the jam-packed array of activities and spectacles that were on offer throughout the morning and afternoon. It was a busy morning while thousands of euros worth of equipment was loaded on to the site, and the DITSU staff, aided by the numerous DIT students who made themselves available to help out worked furiously to ensure everything was set-up on time.

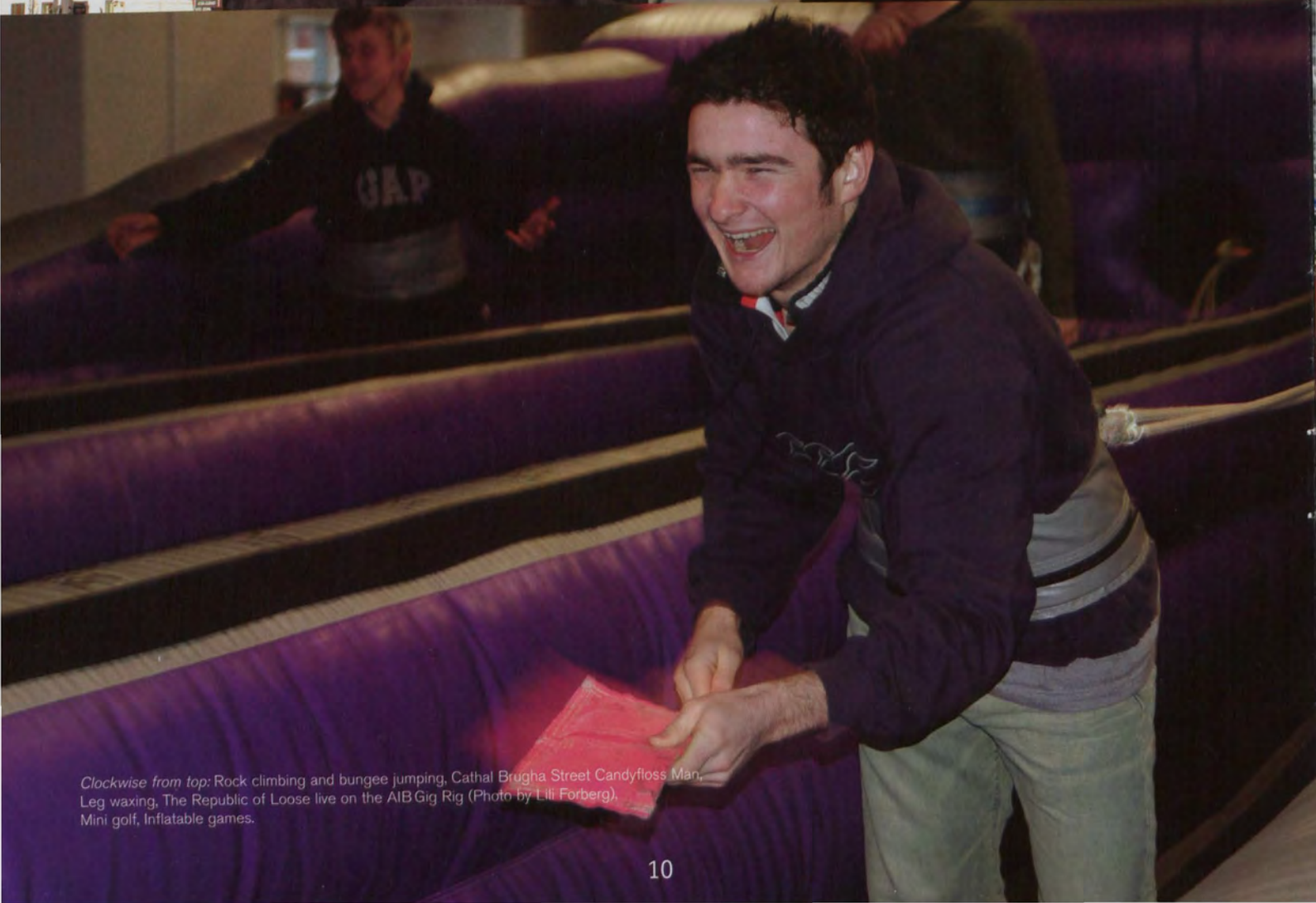
Come 12 o'clock the whole place was in full swing as eager participants picked up a copy of the site map and schedule for the activities of the day and wandered around until they got used to the temporarily refurbished environment. As lunchtime approached and students began flooding through the front doors of the college, immediately engaging in the activities

first seen in the 45ft inflatable obstacle course that dominated the foyer of Aungier St.

Revellers were seen to be thoroughly enjoying what was provided. For those of you who missed out, and it has to be stressed that you really missed out, other activities included: (big deep breath) gig rig stage which hosted the most popular attraction of the day, the 1st ever Miss DIT, Bands such as Catch 22, Playtoh, Blanchardstown rapper Mr.Y, and headline act the Republic of Loose and DJ throughout the day; DJ's also played inside kindly provided by the DJ Soc; there was giant inflatable twister, connect 4 and jenga; sumo suits and fat tart suits; bungee jumps and bungee runs; table tennis, a fitness corner, pool comps, an exercise bike provided by the brand new Kevin St gym; pillow fighting, a 30ft climbing wall, fair-ground games like knock-a-duck, crazy golf, the toilet throw, ring toss, horse shoe and skittles; hot-dogs and burgers, free pizza and tons of promotions from DITSU

Shops and Campbells Catering; DVD's, RAG Trip pictures, X-box comps and RAG T-shirts and all too cliché, much, much more!!

It is official that there was not a single bad word to be said about the entire day and we're sticking by that. The follow up event that evening was in the Redbox and marked the final hurra for RAG Week 2005. Hullaballooza collections alone raised over €3,000, with a further €2,000 roughly being collected through the bungee jump contributions. A thank you must go out to everyone who got stuck and tirelessly operated the different stands and games during the day, to DITSU staff particularly Dan, Colm and Viv who put a massive effort in behind the scenes for weeks before the event date, and of course the major sponsors AIB and Campbells Catering, and everybody else who I have not mentioned, your endeavours do not go unnoticed. All in all, a phenomenal achievement, and congratulations to you all. Thank you. Alan Mac Stiofáin



*Clockwise from top: Rock climbing and bungee jumping, Cathal Brugha Street Candyfloss Man, Leg waxing, The Republic of Loose live on the AIB Gig Rig (Photo by Lili Forberg), Mini golf, Inflatable games.*





Top: Live music in Bolton Street,  
Middle: Twister in Cathal Brugha Street, Rag games in Cathal Brugha Street, Sumo Suits in Bolton Street,  
Bottom: Rag games in Cathal Brugha Street, Keg Stand Off in Bolton Street, Sumo Suits in Bolton Street

# local events

## Local wrap up RAG Week 2005

Highlights of the local sites brought much of the usual clowning around we see from year to year that have now become synonymous with the word RAG. Sumo suits were to be seen around Kevin St, Rathmines, Bolton St and Mountjoy Sq, while a hypnotist put on a great display for Bolton St and Cathal Brugha St students. Aungier St enjoyed a mini carnival of its very own on the opening day of the week in advance of Hullaballooza descending upon the campus later in the week. As per history there was plenty of pizza eating gluttony, to be noted both on Northside and Southside.

The Square seemed to be missing the discontinued trip to Grangegorman that was swapped for Hullaballooza this year, so they planned on hosting their own 'alternative' sports day with events such as the Cadburys Crème Egg and Spoon race! Unfortunately it was widely agreed that the day after the RAG Trip might not have been the most appropriate arrangement and this event has been postponed to a later date.

Rathmines was the one of the few sites to actually carry out a local Miss DIT competition leading to one lucky winner who is to be rewarded with a romantic dinner with yours truly!!

The Woolshed and The Living Room bars on the Northside were the places to be for the hardcore who braved a night on the tear pre RAG Trip!! A more civilised table quiz event organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society was the attraction southside on the Monday night, after the Cornerstone had hosted a DJ in the early afternoon.

Bodkins provided €3-all-booze for Bolton St locals all day Monday and Wednesday with free pizza going between 3 and 6, to complement the free pool also available there. Other attractions were bands and DJ's in most of the other sites during the week with the odd comedian also being spotted in a couple of places. We had wandering magicians and impressionists who visited our campuses at random intervals, just in case you thought you knew what was going to happen next!! Bottoms up for RAG Week 2005!!

Alan Mac Stiofáin

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Ph: 4789816

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# charity all stars

## Community Learning Programme

Congratulations to Karen Slattery, Amanda Wall, Eithne Tighe and Kerry O' Leary. As part of the Community learning programme the girls organised a week of activity in Cathal Brugha St including seminars, information stands and fundraising games such as leg waxing. Altogether a fantastic €1,505 was raised, for The IRISH cancer Society.

## Bungee

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the bungee at the Hulabolooza. From all our fantastic jumpers the top three fundraisers were all from Cathal Brugha St, well done lads!!

Ralph Risk €734  
Mark Taylor €385  
Dale Kiernan €380

## Tsunami Disaster Response

When we all came back after Christmas we were all in shock following the tragic Tsunami disaster in Asia. Site collections took place for anyone who wasn't totally broke after xmas!

In total you raised €1,902. All the money went to Concerns Tsunami disaster who have teams in Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia.

## ASA Society

On Wednesday 19th Jan the ASA society held a 'slave auction' in the Outback Bar. Each year of architecture had 4 volunteers to be auctioned off on the night. The highest bidder won the raffle got a choice of 10 roles their slave must act out, including choosing what they wear for a day, general maid work, be private dancer for the night, masseuse for a week, etc. Towards the end, the night descended into chaos on the stage, and instead of auctions people were stripping, dancing, doing cartwheels and girls making out. After a day or two of money chasing, the society finally raised a total amount of €1250. All the money which was raised for charity, was donated to the Students' Union giving a grand total of €3,152 donated to the Asian Tsunami disaster fund. Many thanks to everyone in the Outback.

## Hanora Farrell

Congratulations to Hanora Farrell a final year music student who single handedly (well with a little help from her sister Catherine) organised an 'Evening Of Musical Entertainment'. The night was held in the Theatre in Rathmines and was well attended by over 70 guests who all paid €10 per ticket, with all proceeds going to the

Irish Red Cross Tsunami relief fund. The evening featured over 32 performers including guests from The Royal Irish Academy of Music and past DIT students the Dublin Guitar Quartet. The evening raised over €1,020 for the charity. Well done Hanora.

## Friends of Calcutta

Martin Quigley a first year Social Care student from Mountjoy Sq has been working hard helping raise the profile of 'Friends of Calcutta'.

Having lived in Calcutta for a year and now busy as a member of the committee. Friends of Calcutta is an Irish run charity which fundraises for several locally run charities in the greater calcutta area. It partly funds seven schools and a home for the elderly and helps in the development and running of other projects. It is committed to raising at least €16,000 each year.

[www.friendsofcalcutta.org](http://www.friendsofcalcutta.org)



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Gabrielle Dalton



Mary Scally

# *ditsu strategic review update*

Well I'm sure everyone at this stage knows all about the Strategic Review, unless you have been hiding out somewhere.

Back in May 2002, the Students' Union undertook to review its structures and activities and develop a better way forward for the organisation.

DIT Students' Union decided to continue and improve its services by setting up the following Departments:

- Academic Affairs Department
- Student Affairs Department
- Communications Department
- Events & Marketing Department

### **Gabrielle Dalton**

Communications Coordinator  
Phone: (01) 4969741  
Mobile: 086 8151472  
Email: gabrielledalton@ditsu.ie

On Monday 18th January Gabrielle Dalton, was appointed to the position of Communications Coordinator. Gabrielle will be head-

ing up the Communications Department along with Jarlath Molloy the President, Daniella Miell and Colm Roche. The department is to be located in DIT Kevin Street. Gabrielle hails from DIT Cathal Brugha Street where she worked as Union Manager and brings with her a wealth of experience. Commenting on her appointment Gabrielle said "This is a wonderful challenge but extremely exciting time for me. With the launch of our web site, the new text link service, Students' Union publications, to mention a few areas covered within the brief of the Communications department, I look forward to working with the team and creating an open forum of communications for our students"

### **Mary Scally**

Director of Student Academic Affairs  
Phone: (01) 402 4110  
Fax: (01) 8559842  
Mobile: 086 8151471  
Email: academicaffairs@ditsu.ie

DIT Students' Union is delighted to announce the appointment of Mary Scally to the position of SU Director of Student Academic Affairs. In this role, Mary will be responsible for developing and implementing an agreed academic services plan, in addition to advocacy and representation on behalf of students on all aspects of their education in DIT. She will work closely with the elected officers, specifically Sharon Hughes, Vice-President for Student & Academic Affairs.

This is a wide-ranging brief. For the students it will mean that they can seek advice from Mary about exam appeals; the class representative system; course and programme committees; DIT regulations; and the broader policy issues at national and EU level.

Commenting on her appointment Mary Scally, said "I look forward to joining the team in the DIT Students' Union at this critical stage of the fulfilment of the Review process. This is an exciting time for the SU and the DIT as we plan together for services for our members in the Grangegorman campus". Mary is originally from Castlerea, Co Roscommon and is a graduate of NUI (Galway). She will be based primarily in the Students' Union offices in DIT Mountjoy Square but will be available to meet students across the campus in any SU office.

As we go to press there are still two Department Heads (Student Affairs and Events & Marketing positions still waiting to be filled interviews are pending. Jarlath Molloy President said "Many of the new key services are now being implemented and he feels confident the remaining will be rolled out before Easter."

The Strategic Review and the new DIT Students' Union is well on its way, so as we look forward to new elections, a new way forward and eventually the new campus in Grangegorman we strive to continue to provide our members with a Students' Union and service that they will be proud to be members of.



## ***ditsu sabbatical officers***

### **Jarlath Molloy**

Students' Union President

Hi guys,  
Welcome to the second edition of the EDIT. We decided to produce EDIT between RAG week and the elections. So if your picture isn't in the election preview, it might be in the RAG review! As you probably know already, voting in the elections takes place next week. It's important to remember that if you don't vote, your voice doesn't count; someone else gets to make the decision on who represents you next year. You paid €87 for your vote (from your

Capitation fee) – you might as well use it!

The latest word from Minister Mary Hanifin is that the Grangegorman legislation should pass through the final stage of the Dáil by Paddy's Day. The SU participates in the planning process for the new campus; send your comments to [info@ditsu.ie](mailto:info@ditsu.ie). This is obviously a significant milestone in DIT's development. An agency will then be set up to master plan the new site and oversee the building of the campus. Estimated time for total competition is 2012, so come back with your kids...

You might not always see me in the corridors but I am working away at things! A student charter setting out basic rights for students within DIT and identifying a standard level of service from its services has been approved in principle by the college, subject to clarification & consultation on a few parts. This project began in 1998 but was only successfully negotiated by the Students' Union this year. Additionally, a co-operation agreement between the DIT and the Students' Union is close to agreement. This protocol sets out the relationship between the college and the Students' Union. It is

a welcome step in developing and maintaining the interactions between the students' representatives and the college authorities.

Many of you will have seen, heard or have been part of the national campaigns coordinated by USI (the national Student Union) over the year. The officers in USI have been working hard on many national issues including fees, funding, education, welfare and others. I have been involved with a review group trying to shake things up a bit!

It's not been an easy year for the Students' Union. We have faced many challenges since last July; DITSU Trading Limited being one of the big ones. A sincere thanks to all involved (on both sides) who helped sort the SU shops mess out. Thankfully they re-opened and are now back in business, for a long time to come (to pay back the loan!). Due to this problem taking so long to resolve, the main work and activities of the Students' Union was affected. For that we are sorry, but unfortunately it had to be fixed. However we are now firmly back on track and the implementation of the Strategic Review is continuing.

As many of you will remember, the idea is quite simple; you asked for professional services to be provided by the Students' Union – and that's what we are delivering! The elected Sabbatical Officers (President and Vice Presidents) will continue to lead the Students' Union and set the policy and the agenda, but staff will provide most of the services.

#### **And so the work continues...**

You won't be seeing my mug on posters around campus this week; I'm not re-running for President! I came to the Students' Union with many aims (SU reform, representing students effectively and the SU website amongst others). Our website ([www.ditsu.ie](http://www.ditsu.ie)) was finally launched in Term 1. There are on average over 2,000 hits per day on the site. Thanks to people who have sent in their suggestions and comments. I got side tracked last autumn with a problem not of my



making, but I helped get it sorted. I can and will challenge anyone who says it could have been done faster or better. I have consistently done my best to represent you within the college and beyond. It has been an immense challenge, but a very enjoyable one.

Whether you like or loathe the candidates running for election, please give them a chance to prove themselves at the Question & Answer sessions and of course use your vote! It not an easy thing to do, so be critical, but be nice too.

Happy Paddy's Day,  
Jay.

### **Sharon Hughes**

Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Well it has been a bit mad since the last issue of EDIT. One of the major turning points in the Union was getting the shop re-opened and the pool tables going again. Good to see a bit of life in the Unions again. We still haven't got our full cohort of staff but we seem to be getting there, so things are looking up. I'd like to thank all of the students for putting up with us during the changes, particularly the shops, and the shop staff, and hopefully we'll have a bit more of a positive 2005 than 2004! As this is the last issue of EDIT, it is as such my last time talking to ye all, so I do wish you all all of the

best. It's been a blast. I've heard and seen things no-one ever needs to hear or see, but its definitely been fun. I wish all the candidates the best in the elections and hope whoever wins has as much fun as I did.

I hate thanking people individually but I'll get shot if I don't. Thank you to the staff, especially in Head Office. You guys kept me sane, and on the straight and narrow and it was all much appreciated. Thanks mam and dad for feeding me and minding me and reminding me to get a 'real' job. Thanks to the girls who KNOW who they are. You guys kept me drunk enough not to take it too seriously! To all the Class Reps and people who've helped out over the 2 years, was much appreciated, so purple monkey dishwasher guys. And a BIG BIG thanks to Jay and Al the two guys. You two are chalk and cheese but its some craic watching ye argue! It's been loads of fun 'working' with ye! And remember, Karting Club guys are gorgeous and all the girls fancy them!

### **Ordinary Degree's and Diplomas**

This is the science bit lads. For those of you who are finishing a diploma course in DIT there's some good news. A decision taken at Academic Council has insured that all current full time diploma students will now have the option to graduate in November with Ordinary Degree's if they choose. It was a long battle as a number of Faculties had decided to continue issuing Diplomas until the end of the Academic year, but thankfully that has now changed. This is particularly great in the Faculty of Engineering as those graduating from what was a Diploma will now have the option to receive a brand new award called a Bachelor of Engineering Technology, (BEngTech), the first of its kind in the Country, so congratulations lads, all you have to do now is pass!

### **Accommodation**

Some of you might remember a case in the paper of the land-lady who evicted 10 students within 24 hours?! Well we've some

good news there too. We in the DIT Students Union contacted our solicitor who agreed to take our case to court pro bono, (free), in order to see justice done. The land-lady was been charged with having surveillance equipment in the house to watch students. We went along to court and things were going well and just after Christmas she settled out of Court. One of the students was awarded €8,500 and the McKenna's, (the landlady and her daughter), have to cover all legal costs. This should cost them €40,000 in total. It's a bit ironic as only 3 weeks before hand I'd helped to take the same woman through the small claims court and won too. She probably hates me.

### **Exams**

Not to freak anyone out, but it is exam time soon and I just want to remind you of a few things in relation to appeals. If you are ill during your exam, or something of a personal nature affects your performance, you must lodge your appeals form, (Personal Circumstances Form), before your exams finish, not when your results come out. The form, PC1, is downloadable from [www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie), with instructions for filling it out. If something happens during your exam that directly affects your performance of a non-personal nature, ie:the roof falling in, you can appeal after your results are released, but the 7 days specified is from the day results are posted on exam boards, not the day they're posted out to you. You also have 2 days to request a recheck. No forms are accepted after these date restrictions. Please remember that you cannot appeal an exam on the grounds that you think you did better than you did.

### **Free Money**

For those of you that are struggling financially and are worried about finance coming up to exam time, please remember that its not too late to apply for the Students Assistance Fund. You can apply for a single lump sum or help until the end of the year. This is based solely on your own income. It is not based on your parents

although some information is requested. The fund will reflect that you may have to quit work for final exams and will try and provide some financial aid for the coming months.

If you have to travel with your class as part of a compulsory school trip, you can apply for the Compulsory Travel Fund to help with your travel expenses. If you are a parent in full time care of your child, you can still apply for the Childcare Fund. This has been updated now so that it will allow the payment of a parent or relative to mind the child. You can also apply for help with dentistry or optometry expenses and also medication, which includes physiotherapy. Again all of these funds are measured off your own income

## **Alan Mac Stiofáin**

Vice President of Services and Trading

Hey everyone and a big welcome to you all to the Post-Rag-Mid-Elections-Pre-Paddy's Edition of the Edit Mag. I hope you all enjoy reading about all of the antics of Rag Week, but there is a lot more business on the Agenda of the Vice President Services & Trading than just Rag. Here's the low down on what is going on in a few other areas of interest.

I have begun the cycle of negotiating with relevant pubs and clubs to explore various avenues of providing quality, regular, diverse and cheap entertainment and activities to make socialising off campus more accessible. I plan to continue this negotiation with the shops, restaurants, cinemas, venues, theatres and ticket agents and begin building a database of possible entertainment options for students.

My aim is to have venues offering good craic where great friendships begin and continue!! I believe it is essential for us as students to find a variety of places we can call our own and use as meeting points and social centres, knowing we are being catered for in our best interests and not being ripped off.

The Ents and Events Committee has been running very well, and is another sign of these plans beginning to come together. I would like to say a massive thank you for all their involvement in the organisation and the success of RAG Week. The Ents and Events Committee is made up of 2 representatives from each of the 6 main DIT sites and also the Ents Officers from those sites too. This committee will now turn its attentions on to local entertainments programs and also a more progressive system for next years committee based on the experience they have gained to date, ensuring next years entertainment will go that one step further.

### **Issues and Concerns**

Key issues currently affecting the operation of your Students Union at this time.

### **Sponsorship**

Traditionally, Students' Unions have funded many of their activities with money made through offering sponsorship opportunities to business' who wanted to target their student membership. SU's were in a position to assess for themselves the validity and motives of each business individually and channel their interest to students in a controlled manner via events, poster space, campaigns, associating with the company's products and in many other ways.

Unfortunately it seems money available from businesses for sponsorship is limited with a question mark over the value of advertising and promotion in the student market. Our own situation is not helped by the DIT's lack of co-operation with who they want to allow on site. (There is a blanket ban imposed by the DIT itself on outside companies advertising on campus, - not that you would know walking through some sites). We are currently challenging the right to be able to offer company's access to you, if it is to your benefit. But even if we do achieve this, we still have the problem of the availability of funds in interested companies. We need



to harness our expenditure and be more particular about where we spend our money, to show exactly the strength of our buying power as students.

### **Socs Budgets**

This year DIT Student Services cut €20,000 from the budget allocated to the Cultural and Social Committee who assign the budgets for all societies, and also took €33,000 out of the under spend from previous years, and reallocated it to different student services in DIT. This left a massive shortfall between the amount requested from Societies in October and the amount available from the aforementioned budget allocation from Student Services. An EGM of the Guild was called and money was

scrapped in from different areas of student services to make up the difference. Societies have now been encouraged to ensure that they spend their entire budgets for fear that their overall allocation would be further reduced next year. The problem now, however, is that all of the resources of the societies office have been drained and there is absolutely no contingency nor room for the expansion of societies nor for them to fully reach their potential.

(ii) Further to this issue lies a deeper cause for concern. DIT Student Services is funded by your capitation fee. Initially your €750 goes to the government and is taxed. Then it is sent back to the college to be distributed as seen fit by the Institute to the many differ-

ent student services including medical, chaplaincy, student union, sports, disability, cultural and social etc. This year, capitation was allowed to be increased by the government from €670 to €750 but after this money had been sent to the Department of Education to be taxed the increase of capitation fee was not reflected in the money that was sent back to the DIT. The shortfall from what would have been expected by DIT was a whopping €500,000, which in many cases it had already been allocated to certain services in expectation of a larger sum than that of the previous year. That money should be yours and should be reflected in the services DIT provides for you. The Students Union is currently investigating both situations and developing a plan to tackle these issues most effectively for you. Don't worry about this one, we're on it!

**Sports Scholarships – Brand new issue:** DIT have decided not to fund the sports scholarship program the €28,000 needed to maintain the scheme. DIT's Sports Council, which for the first year ever has 2 full-time students as well as a sabbatical, on it has proposed that a Student Union rep go with one of DIT's Sports Officers to the President of the Institute and make a presentation that highlights how important sporting scholarships are to the future and promotion of sport in DIT.

### DITSU Shops

Having eventually secured the return of our Student Union Shops, it was great to see such an amazing response across the different campuses. Life finally began to creep back into the common areas that had remained so stagnant over the first semester. Vibrancy that had been sorely missed in Term 1 finally returned to the Student Unions and their shop areas. Thanks to all of you who have returned to us again. I would like to appeal to every student to do as much of your shopping in the DITSU Shops as possible. To keep our shops going we need to show them our support. Remember, as a member of the DIT Students Union, you effectively own the DITSU Shops.

### Volunteer Reward

The Reward Party for those of you who helped out during RAG Week is in the pipeline for Thursday the 3rd March. The Party is shaping up to be a free knees-up to reward the hard work of those who contributed their services during the immensely successful RAG Week. People entitled to avail of this event include: stewards for the RAG Trip, volunteers at the RAG Hullabalooza and helpers of the variety of local entertainments.

### My Contact Details

If you ever need to get in touch with me directly for any reason at all, please use one the following ways of contacting me (Please use e-mail where possible):

Head Office (DIT Rathmines)	01 4969741
My Office (DIT Aungier St)	01 4023110
Email (T'Internet)	vpsservices@ditsu.ie
Mobile (Omnipresent)	086 6031076



## DITSU SHOPS

Welcome Back!  
What you need, when you need them, where you need them

Aungier Street  
Kevin Street  
MountJoy Square

Bolton Street  
Cathal Brugha Street

Commuter Tickets, Stamps, Mobile Phone Top Ups, Stationery, Newspapers at student prices, Sandwiches and Rolls, Lab wear, Toiletries, Photocopying cards, Tea and Coffee, Confectionery, Drinks, Magazines, Trade Manuals, Computer Disks, Photoservices

## Bus Eireann

buyonline at [buseireann.ie](http://buseireann.ie)  
email: [info@buseireann.ie](mailto:info@buseireann.ie)

### Employer Pass programme

tax free

environment  
positive value



### Employee Benefits

- Annual or Monthly tax free travel tickets
- Huge Tax/PRSI savings
- Unlimited point to point travel
- Less queues - tickets sent directly to work-place
- Scheme can be joined at any time throughout the year

### Company Benefits

- Substantial PRSI savings
- A low cost benefit for employees
- A positive recruiting tool
- More car spaces available for customers

### Community Benefits

- Less traffic congestion
- Reduced air pollution
- Fewer parking problems

**For Information Telephone (01) 703 2460**

[www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie) [info@buseireann.ie](mailto:info@buseireann.ie)



# dit sports



Clockwise from top:  
DIT Rugby Club, DIT Girls Soccer (Dit 14 V Carlow 0)  
DIT Rugby Club, O' Byrne Cup DIT V TCD

**HEALTHY MINDS...  
...DESERVE  
HEALTHY BODIES**



### New Fitness Studio

Opening at DIT Kevin Street  
(adjacent to the swimming pool)

**Opening on Monday  
17th January 2005**

- boasts an extensive variety of high-tec exercise & fitness equipment so you will get a good aerobic workout no matter when you train.

- Modern, spacious & fully air-conditioned
- 24 pieces of world class equipment  
Treadmills, Steppers, Cross Trainers, Bikes, Rowing Machines and Weight Training Machines
- Free personalised training plans
- Expert nutritional and health advice

**Opening on  
Monday  
17th January  
2005**

**Gym Opening Hours -  
Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm**

Membership Rates	Student	Staff
Per gym visit	€2	€3
Monthly	€15	€25
3 monthly (January-March)	€30	€45
6 monthly (January-June)	€50	€75

For further details on how to join our new fitness studio please contact one of the following Sports Officers:

Niamh O'Callaghan	Tel. 402 4341 / 087 2985849	niamh.ocallaghan@dit.ie
Herbie McClelland	Tel. 402 4341 / 087 2245507	
Deirdre Mullen	Tel. 402 4341 / 087 2933442	deirdre.mullen@dit.ie



# dit societies

## The Clubs and Socs Guild

The Clubs and Societies Guild has begun to find its feet in recent weeks. After a sluggish and overshadowed start to the year the true promise of the Guild is showing itself very positively. Feedback and participation in the Guild so far has been quite overwhelming and it is great to see so much interest. The Guild was originally formed last April, following research into other colleges and certain forums that benefited their students. The Guild was deemed to be a good idea by our own students and there was certainly a strong desire to see it work. As this year was really its formative year, it was a learning curve for everyone involved. Ex-DIT student, now member of the Gardai, Ken Gallagher was elected Independent Chair of the Guild and more recently, Sharon Hughes Vice President: Academic & Students Affairs stepped voluntarily outside of her brief to become clerk of the Guild.

The Guild is essentially a forum for the sports clubs and societies to express and highlight their problems and concerns publicly making other clubs or societies aware of what difficulties they are experiencing and to bring these issues to the attention of the Vice President: Services & Trading. The forum is made up of the organising members of each club or society and each club or society has one vote no matter how large or small they are. Any member of a club or society is welcome to attend. The next meeting of the Guild is proposed for Tuesday the 8th of March. Check with your local student union office for confirmation of that date or visit [www.ditsu.ie](http://www.ditsu.ie)

There have been a number of issues which have come to the attention of the Guild this year, already some quite serious. An EGM of the Guild in January highlighted the budget crisis for societies, as a €20,000 cutback was made on its funding and a further €33,000 taken from its under spend over the past 3/4 years. The Guild reacted very fast to this situation and societies played their integral part in securing the shortfall was addressed and dealt with in a manner they saw appropriate. This was the first success recorded by the Guild and impressive one at that.

Other highlights have been Linnenhall Gyms' opening hours, the opening of the Kevin St Gym, the society awards, training facilities being taken over to accommodate exams, a review of the administrative structure of societies, funding, issues arising from the Social and Cultural Committee and Sports Council and the issue of participation levels among students. The Guild is a marvellous platform to nurture the development of clubs and socs in the best interests of students.





Opposite Page Top: Chinese New Year, Opposite Page Bottom: Juggling Society  
This Page (from top): Diva Night 2005, Debating, Drama Society, Paintball, Environmental Society, Drama in Aungier Street, Poker Society.

# election section

Here we are again, its Election time and we now know who the budding hopefuls are for the DITSU Elections 05/06. For the first time in years two of the positions are contested which hopefully will make for some exciting and imaginative campaigning as the candidates do the best to get your vote.

If you are taking the time to flick through this mag – even it is just for pictures of Rag Week, then just take the few minutes it will take to cast your vote next week. The Elected sabbaticals act as a representative voice for all students within the institute, that's why

it is important that you vote for the students who will do the best job of representing you. Read on to find out a little bit more about each of the candidates, if you want to find out more about them look out their election campaigns around college or log on to [www.ditsu.ie](http://www.ditsu.ie) for more info.

USE YOUR VOTE :  
TUESDAY 8TH MARCH 10AM- 8PM  
WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 10AM –8PM  
THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 10AM – 2PM

3.30 – 6PM ELECTION COUNT (STAGE AREA AUNGIER ST)

## Who do you want to be your....

### SU President

#### What will the President have to do?

The President of the Students' Union, is the main representative of all DIT students. They deal with student issues within DIT, internally in the DIT Students' Union and externally with the Government and other external bodies & agencies.

#### What other kind of work will he / she encounter?

The President is responsible for the Communications and Chief Operations Departments. The work involved includes the website, EDIT magazine, Text-link, H.R. finance, Grangegorman, management, and planning.

#### Key areas of responsibility and accountability:

The President must follow the guidelines, duties and responsibilities laid down for the position in the DIT Students' Union Constitution.

### SU Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs

#### What will the SU Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs have to do?

The Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs deals with all Educational matters, including course problems, lecturing standards and exam appeals. S/he is also responsible for non-educational aspects of student life, such as accommodation issues, part time employment, and health matters.

#### What are Academic Affairs?

Academic Affairs include educational matters, exam appeals, lecturing and course related problems.

#### What are Student Affairs?

Student Affairs mainly deal with all issues related to student welfare and well-being, financial problems students encounter while attending College, accommodation issues and employment protection.

#### Key areas of responsibility and accountability:

The SU Vice President must follow the guidelines, duties and responsibilities laid down for the position in the DIT Students' Union Constitution and contract of employment.

### SU Vice President for Services & Trading

#### What will the Vice President for Services & Trading have to do?

The Vice President for Services & Trading deals with all SU organised social activities throughout the year, DIT sports, DIT clubs, DIT societies and liaises with external companies to market the Union and secure commercial sponsorship. S/he also represents all students within DIT in regard to commercial activities and facilities, such as shops & canteens and DIT building facilities & maintenance.

#### Key areas of responsibility and accountability:

The SU Vice President must follow the guidelines, duties and responsibilities laid down for the position in the DIT Students' Union Constitution and contract of employment.

#### Who does the Vice President for Services & Trading report to?

The Students' Union Governing Council, the Board of DITSU Limited, the General Manager of DITSU Limited and the SU President.



## Bob Coggins

Running for:  
**Students' Union President**

Sell the Position.....

### What made you decide to run for Election?

The current state of DITSU compared to the way it used to serve the students. We have forgotten what we are supposed to be, a union and not a business. National politics and frivolous peripheral issues hold no great interest for me, I just want to lead a union to represent and serve the students of the DIT in the way a union should.

### What are you most looking forward to if you are successful?

A wave of new freshers to build the foundation of a new stronger union and the unbridled admiration of the masses....

### What is your biggest objective?

I want to bring the students back into the union, make it what it is supposed to be, a representative of the students, run by the students

### What will you do to combat student apathy?

If im elected, next years college year will start off completely different to the way we are finishing this one. Again, getting students involved in the union, and opening it up to their participation will counter the apathy seen this year. A huge promotion of clubs, societies and entertainments is on the cards to achieve this.

### What will you do to get students involved in their Union?

If and when we overcome the apathy issue, the students will realise how much we can offer from clubs and societies, through entertainments, welfare to education and academic issues. Its not that students don't care, its that they don't have the opportunity to show it.

### DITSU would be a better place if.....

I was the President!

Sell the person.....

### Favourite place in the world.....

Glencar ,Co Sligo(home) on a balmy summer evening/top of a snow covered mountain, strapped to a pair of ski's.

### If you could be a character from any film who would you be and why?

Turkish, Snatch. Because no matter how much s\*\*t he's in he always maintains his composure, brilliant character.

### What's your idea of a good night out?

The big tree on a Wednesday nite with sinto.gal, the rest of the karting club crew and Blue Moose live on stage, followed by about 2 hours running around drumcondra with a lukewarm can of dutch gold in hand looking for a party!

### Dream date?

My girlfriend, Sinead, out for a nice meal(Italian). And then a few quiet pints after. With Billy Connolly. And Tommy Tiernan.

### Most memorable college experience?

Winning DIT club executive of the year 2002/Realising at the end of the 2002 rag trip that I had a foot print in the middle of my chest and no idea where it came out of.

### Something that makes you really happy.....

A houseful of family and friends, having dinner, chatting and generally having a good time.

### Something that makes you really angry.....

Lazy people giving out about others doing well. The Irish mentality of knocking people who try something new or out of the ordinary drives me mad.

### Something that makes you really cringe .....

Old people wearing young peoples clothes. And The Office.



## Kieran Dineen

Running for:  
**Students' Union President**

Sell the Position.....

### What made you decide to run for Election?

The voices in my head and my invisible friend Lord Montgomery Longbottom

### What are you most looking forward to if you are successful?

Prancing around in the DITSU t-shirt

### What is your biggest objective?

To build a multi-coloured field

### What will you do to combat student apathy?

I will put a retractable roof on the multi-coloured field

### What will you do to get students involved in their Union?

Put heaters in the field and a trail of Dutch Gold cans to the aforementioned field

**DITSU would be a better place if.....**

the field had a lake and a lady in it, and if DITSU embraced nudist colonies

Sell the person.....

**Favourite place in the world.....**

Lord Montgomery Longbottom's multi-coloured meadow

**If you could be a character from any film who would you be and why?**

The "Bull" McCabe

**What's your idea of a good night out?**

Knacker drinking in the field and colouring in the field with markers

**Dream date?**

The lady in the multi-coloured lake (the lake will also be multi-coloured-pending government financial aid and paint availability)

**Most memorable college experience?**

I think I once saw the lady of the lake in Kevin Street's pool

**Something that makes you really happy.....**

Alan Tischmarsh in Groundforce talking about landscaping watched simultaneously with Art Attack

**Something that makes you really angry.....**

When fields conform to colour coordination

**Something that makes you really cringe .....**

Astroturf



**Bernadette Farrell**

Running for:

**Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs**

Sell the Position.....

**What made you decide to run for Election?**

...all the issues both I and my class faced this year. More can be done.

**What are you most looking forward to if you are successful?**

...doing a great job with a good team.

**What is your biggest objective?**

...communication with the student body.

**What will you do to combat student apathy?**

...talk to them!

**What will you do to get students involved in their Union?**

...strengthen class rep system, especially with first year students.

**DITSU would be a better place if.....**

...we used our assets to communicate more efficiently to students their rights and what they're entitled too.

Sell the person.....

**Favourite place in the world.....**

...Great Kepple Island, Queensland, Australia. Sunshine, sandy beaches...

**If you could be a character from any film who would you be and why?**

...all of The Incredibles, I want super-powers!

**What's your idea of a good night out?**

...cheap food, drink (It's never cheap), bring back student nights.

**Dream date?**

...25th December, I love Christmas.

**Most memorable college experience?**

...now available on VHS and DVD.

**Something that makes you really happy.....**

...chocolate.

**Something that makes you really angry.....**

...bus drivers

**Something that makes you really cringe .....**

...Big Brother contests.



**Carl Doyle**

Running for:

**Vice President of Services and Trading**

Sell the Position.....

**What made you decide to run for Election?**

The voices inside my head told me to do it

**What are you most looking forward to if you are successful?**

An craic agus ceol

**What is your biggest objective?**

To visit Portland row!!!

**What will you do to combat student apathy?**

Offer them lots of frebbies

**What will you do to get students involved in their Union?**

Run some decent events and get some life back on the campuses!!

**DITSU would be a better place if.....**

It was the playboy mansion

Sell the person.....

**Favourite place in the world.....**

The pub!!

**If you could be a character from any film whom would you be and why?**

Luke Skywalker so I could play with one of those glowey things!!

**What's your idea of a good night out?**

One I can't remember!!

**Dream date?**

17th of March

**Most memorable college experience?**

College???

**Something that makes you really happy.....**

My legal team advises me not to tell you

**Something that makes you really angry.....**

These questions

**Something that makes you really cringe .....**

Ahh nothing much not really a cringe person!!



**Alan Mac Stiofain**

Running for:  
**Vice President of Services and Trading**

Sell the Position.....

**What made you decide to run for Election?**

Well, in my case it's run for re-election! I did it because I love my job. I get to meet so many different people every day and often get a real sense of achievement when I see the Students Union doing what it is supposed to do, and that is help students. I have been very lucky to be in a position this year where I can actually make a difference. It's great to see people responding to the work you're doing and to see that work help students enjoy their time in college. Remember you won't be a student for ever and the minute you're working away in the real world, you'll be looking back wishing you were still in college.

I feel that this year the sabbaticals were given a bit of a false start with the difficulties there was with the shops, restructuring and staff shortages etc right from the beginning of the year, and it has been tough. But now with everything back in order and staff appointments slowly but surely coming through, I see a perfect chance to launch into next year with a bang; using the time I have left, with my experience from this year to prepare new plans for the coming September.

**What are you most looking forward to if you are successful?**

I would be most looking forward to seeing a local entertainments system properly set up so each local site can provide entertainments that are relevant to their students. This I feel would build a superb basis for our overall events as well. If local programs were well organized and regularly provided discounts and promotions to DIT students, confidence in DITSU's Events would rise and they'd be well attended, because students would acknowledge that their Student Union provided quality entertainment and events. This would have very positive knock on effects on campus, and activity levels would excel across all of our campuses. In turn you would have happier DIT students.

**What is your biggest objective?**

Among the many main objectives I have for next year would be the sourcing of some large, long term sponsorship for the Students Union. Large sponsorship and investment in the students union would be used to subsidise our activities. Effectively, the more capital we have coming in to the SU, the more services we could deliver at cheaper prices. Extra capital would also increase the amount of equipment we could purchase to develop our common areas and make them more engaging places for you to spend your free time. Extra Capital means more money! Money from sponsorship is very scarce at the moment as most business' don't seem to see the value in the student market at this current time. I have battled to change this view and slowly it may be coming around.

Many issues exist in this area regarding what the DIT will allow also, but obtaining it for you as students through your Students Union is essential in my view. Sponsorship was widely unavailable this year, and it would be one of the most challenging tasks that I could set myself for next year as there are major question marks over whether it can be obtained at all. I'm confident it can, and I will find it.

### **What will you do to combat student apathy?**

I don't believe that student apathy exists. Apathy means that you don't care, and I don't believe that if you ask any student what the Union could be doing better or what could improve student or college life they would say they don't care.

Students do care, but it is a difficult time for students, and Students Unions alike across the country, as they all struggle with this so-called student apathy. I feel it is more a matter of assessing how the students union communicates and how it is perceived by its members. I have no doubt that if the SU provided a more approachable, well organized and friendly environment, they would gain more respect from the student body, and participation levels would dramatically increase as students see how much potential lies in the SU, and the sort of exciting opportunities that are involved in college life, outside of the books and assignments!!

### **What will you do to get students involved in their Union?**

I plan to have easier structures set up for the various DIT sites so there is less set-up work for students interested in taking part in SU activities. With local entertainments databases and options in place, activity would be easier organized by local ents crews on campus, which would encourage people to get more involved.

Our message would constantly be out there in the promotion and activity of the ents crews that would be organizing the local programs.

Having a friendlier and a more welcoming atmosphere in our SU areas, where students feel comfortable is vital to the participation of students.

Promoting clubs and societies and letting students know the opportunities that are available to them. Budgets are allocated by the DIT to society and sporting activity every year and it is entirely up to students what they want to do with that money.

All students need to know that this money there for them and that if there is not already a club or society that suits their interest that they can set up their very own society that does.

Information for students on a better DIT based on participation and involvement may work in attracting people to help out and get involved. The idea of being part of a team or a collective of people with communal goals and needs would be paramount to how this might work.

### **DITSU would be a better place if.....**

Students didn't have to go to classes or pass exams!!

Sell the person.....

### **Favourite place in the world.....**

Las Vegas. Cars, gambling and women. And neon, neon everywhere! Vegas is the world capital of Shenanigans. Pure shameless debauchery!! Check out the film Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas as a reference. Just remember if you go to Vegas with a crew, make sure you all know the Golden Rule: What goes on tour, STAYS on tour!!

### **If you could be a character from any film, who would you be and why?**

Any character, from any movie eh? Obviously, it would be Rick Salomon in 'One Night in Paris'!! Or failing that, I would be The Dude from 'The Big Lebowski'. I just love that character, relaxed and easy-going, somehow perfectly balance within society. Neither in nor out; but untouchable and seemingly satisfied and ultra content. I like the odd White Russian as well. He makes them look like a very tasty drink, don't you think!

### **What's your idea of a good night out?**

Loads of action, spontaneity, surprise, all your friends and more to meet, loud music, free booze, sing-songs, drinking games, atmosphere, bit of grub, late night, bopping, sweat and spillages, craic and banter, strange places, house parties and not sleeping alone are

some words and phrases that usually contribute to a good night out for me!!

### **Dream date?**

36th of Smarch, 6073.

### **Most memorable college experience.....**

First Year. The whole thing!!

### **Something that makes you really happy.....**

Breakfast Rolls, sleeping in and sex.

### **Something that makes you really angry.....**

Cheapo breakfast rolls only half filled, governments, and anyone slagging Wexford.

### **Something that makes you really cringe.....**

Nipple piercings, American Accents and Rene Zwelleger.

### **DITSU would be a better place if.....**

"I was the President!"

Bob Coggins

"The field had a lake and a lady in it, and if DITSU embraced nudist colonies"

Kieran Dineen

"...we used our assets to communicate more efficiently to students their rights and what they're entitled too."

Bernadette Farrell

"It was the playboy mansion"

Carl Doyle

"Students didn't have to go to classes or pass exams!!"

Alan Mac Stiofáin



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