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DIT: Students Union

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Say Hello to my little friend!

Santa’s Little Helpers Wanted:

The Annual DIT Senior Citizens Christmas Party takes place on Thursday 11th of December.

We need volunteers to help make it a success. It’s always fun for all involved, and you get to make Christmas happen! How often do you get that chance?

There are loads of ways to get involved, to find out more visit ditsu.ie or drop into your local Union office.

ditsu.ie

dit students’ union
Hello & Welcome to our third slice of TOAST

We hope you enjoy our Festive Toasty offering. Don’t miss out on our tips for being green this Christmas (pg. 29) or the fab fashion available on your doorstep in WAWA (pg. 26). Also take note of the exam and assessment info by Tracey – you need to know this stuff!

For the season that’s in it, we have the RAG week sponsorship cards ready for you to pick up a bit earlier. So – get thinking about what you’re going to do this year and let’s make some serious money for CONSOLE - a very worthy cause indeed. For those of you who don’t know it, CONSOLE supports people affected by suicide. Sadly, lots of us will fall into that category at some stage during our lives so it’s vitally important we all get stuck in and do our bit to support CONSOLE.

Our VP – Dermot will be doing his bit, collecting for the charity, dressed as Santa – at all times – yes day and night (allegedly) throughout December. So, if you see him around pop some change into that santa sack and let’s get RAG 09 well and truly kicked off.

For those of you in final year or considering a change of scene next year- please note. You can nominate yourself to run for election as President, Vice President Academic & Student Affairs or VP Services and Trading earlier than ever this year. These 3 fulltime positions will be filled at Elections on Feb 24th 09. So, if you’ll be in the job market next year – this could be the job for you.

So – sit back, enjoy your seasonal slice of Toast and from all of us here in the Union -

Happy Christmas and best wishes to you all for 2009.

- the Toast Crew

Go On- Have A Bite

We are always on the look out for talented [or not so talented...] people to help out here at Toast. So, if you fancy yourself as a bit of a writer, gonzo journalist, photographer, illustrator or general piss-artist then we want to hear from you. Drop us a mail, toast@ditsu.ie

DITSU SHITZU SAYS:

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Clondalkin School Trip To DIT

DIT Students’ Union, in conjunction with the Clondalkin Partnership, was proud to welcome 34 students from St Kevin’s Secondary School to DIT Aungier St on Friday 21st November. These students were invited to Aungier St so they could see firsthand what college is like and also to meet a few students and staff and get to see that there’s more to college than what they may have previously thought.

The SU staff, officers and volunteers showed them a great time, helped to squash any preconceptions about ‘snobby students’ and hopefully made at least a few of them consider coming to study in DIT in a few years time.

The SU peeps kept them entertained and challenged all morning and the Careers service ran them through an exercise and gave them some food for thought. Then we gave them some food.

The students that came to DIT were a mixed group. Some had visited third level institutes before, and are part of the College club in school funded by “Access Clondalkin”. Others in the group would not normally get an opportunity to discuss further education. Some would be struggling to get through third year. The trip was extremely beneficial for these students. They were given the opportunity to think about different options, as well as seeing the different sides of student life. It was also a very fun and enjoyable day.

Hopefully the day helped to correct any misconceptions about college that the students might have had and maybe even opened up the possibility of college to a few students who were unlikely to consider it before now. Big thanks to the inimitable Shaz for organising the day, DIT Careers, the SU volunteers, Dj and Games Soc who all helped to make it a great day in.

Bring Back The Lunchbox!

With the so called “RECESSION” hitting DIT students in the pocket, we decided to roll out “Bring Back the Lunch Box - Finance Week”. DIT witnessed a Green Volkswagen Bus take over each site with over 1,500 lunch boxes. There was a mighty amount of free stuff knocking about with info on budgeting and how to save money. Students can save up to €45 a week by bringing their own lunch, crazy I know!! The small lunch boxes are still on the go and I have seen them about sites. Take good care of them, they will keep you safe during the rocky times of the Irish economy.

“I don’t know what a Capitation Fee is?” EXACTLY, do you know that fee you pay when you start college well that’s what we call a Capitation Fee. Finance week highlighted where exactly this money goes and how much each DIT department gets, from Student Services to Sports to the Students Union. To find out more log on to our web sites www.ditsu.ie.

We also pushed out the Student Assistance Fund (available to all full time DIT students) otherwise known as free money) across six sites. There are a number of assistance forms ranging from General to Rent to Travel assistance, please pop into your local SU office to pick one up and find out more.

Still waiting on your Grant? Questions about budgeting? Need some financial info or a listening ear during these tough times, please call into the local SU office or contact me!

Your Vice President,
Tracey Flinter

Grangegorman

The technical advisors for the detailed planning of DIT’s new campus have been appointed. In a close fought tender DEGW, who have great experience in the detailed planning of educational facilities, have been appointed to work on the Grangegorman project with the first results expected in the coming weeks.
USI

a. Fees Campaign
The National fees campaign is rolling on after protests across the country. The campaign shifts focus now to a voter registration and letter writing drive, all this happens in the run up to the All-Ireland anti-fees protest to be held in Dublin on February 4th 2009.

b. National Charity
USI has chosen its national charity for the forthcoming year. The National Charity is the Dyslexia Association of Ireland which USI will now be seeking to raise funds and promote to students throughout the country.

c. Eastern Council
DIT Students’ Union hosted the Eastern Area Council of USI on Friday 28th November. The Eastern Area Council is where all the eastern colleges come together to discuss current campaigns and debate pressing issues and USI policy.

Portland Row

Students of Fine Art in DIT Portland Row have recently received some great news after the DIT Space Management Committee approved extended opening hours for this small site. This will facilitate student access to studios throughout the week and into the weekend and will greatly benefit their chances of reaching their full academic potential.

Product Design

Students of Product Design within DIT are still without permanent studios from which to work. The students find themselves lacking facilities gifted to many of their peers in the institute and must travel between the DIT sites from day to day with their academic classes being held across the Institute and the city.

RAG Week

DIT Students’ Union Raising And Giving week is fast approaching with the date of March 9th set as RAG Week 2009. This year’s RAG charity is the highly deserving Console who deal with bereavement from suicide.

2nd Year Architects

The 2nd Year Students of the School of Architecture are still experiencing a severe lack of facilities with cramped working conditions and a room that includes holes in the wall, a leaking roof and a lack of heating as prime features.

Library Opening Hours

It looks likely that the libraries across DIT will be closing early again this Christmas season. With the college due to open on January 5th, the week before examinations, the libraries are currently set to operate restricted hours and be closed on the weekend running up to the start of Semester 1 examinations.

Canoe Club Pool Ban

The DIT Canoe Club has recently been informed that their regular training ground, the DIT Swimming Pool in Kevin St, is off limits. This is due to “damage” that the Canoe Club is likely to cause due to its activities despite using “soft top” canoes and the fact that many canoe clubs throughout the country use college pools for their activities.

School of Computing Games Design Workshop

The School of Computing is running it’s Games Design Workshop for the 4th consecutive year. The workshop invites students from 2nd level Institutes throughout the country to learn the tips of the trade with regard to Games Design from highly respected games developer and former Electronic Arts employee, Ernst Adams.
The Presidential Word

Fastyr Mie!
I hope you’re all doing well, I’ve been busy as a bee since the last edition of Toast, or at least I was until the dreaded lurgie struck me down. I’m sat sniffing like a drugs dog and chomping down on Panadol as if there’s no tomorrow but the work of the Union never stops! While you’re all wrapping up warm and pouring over notes and assignments ready for the relaxing Christmas break we’ve been working stupid hard to fix everything from a lack of heating to a swimming pool ban. So what’s been going on since you last picked up this rag you ask?

Well we’re all still working hard on the fees issue but it’s taking a different shift in the days and weeks to come. The protest season is taking a break and now we’re into full lobby mode so get your pens and paper out and write to your local councillors, TDs and Batt O’Keefe and starting demanding answers to the fees question. While you’re at it get the whole family to chip in and write a letter, sure it’s a grand thing to do around the Turkey at Christmas time! Worry not DIT protesters, the national protest date has been set as February 4th 2009 – plenty of time to come up with some cutting slogans.

The General Assessment Regulation (GAR) Review has started – try saying that ten times fast. Basically the word of God on exams and assessments is being looked at and tweaked. Fancy getting a free shot of tequila with every exam? This is the place where that will be decided. Every rule, regulation, practice, thought or idea in relation to exams and projects and the like is written down in the GAR. If you’re interested in having an input on what they change then drop us a line.

We’re going to be launching two new campaigns in the next few weeks and into Semester Two. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS aims to tell you all about your rights inside DIT and in relation to the Student Charter, did you know that you should get details of your assignments, including assessment criteria and the feedback you can expect, AT LEAST four weeks before it’s due. Shove that in a pipe and smoke it! Meanwhile the HOW WE WORK campaign will let you know, well how we work. It’s all about what the union is there to do and how we manage to do it from representation on your local site right through to the Sabbatical elections. It’s going to be more comprehensive and easier to use than a DITSU for Dummies book.

Plenty else has been going on around the place. We’ve had the successful LOL Week, the Clondalkin Partnership was in Aungier St with over 30 2nd level students, the students of Portland Row are enjoying longer opening hours, the Saw Doctors and Vengaboys have played to hundreds of DIT Students, detailed planning is starting on Grangegorman and plenty more!

There’s plenty happening on all the sites and in the union as a whole but as ever the only way to know about it all is to get involved!

Turn up in the office dressed as Santa and shout ho-ho-ho, it is Christmas after all.

Have a cracking Christmas,
Martin

Portland Row:
DIT Students’ Union is pleased to announce that following the Space Management Committee of Thursday 20th November the DIT has extended the opening hours for DIT Portland Row. The Applied Arts students have often been forgotten as they are based in a small site close to Croke Park. In the recent past these students have had to face challenges including a collapsing roof, hit and miss electricity, slow internet access, loss of their sculpture yard and even an invasion by drug addicts.

“All these students want is equity of access to their studios, in line with the opening times of many other buildings across DIT.” Said Martin Dunne, President of DIT Students’ Union “Many of the students need access to their studios so they can complete their artwork; they require access to materials, tools and space that they cannot get at home. The permanent extension of the opening hours for DIT Portland Row is a very positive step and will enable these studios to achieve their full potential while they study at DIT.”

Architecture Students:
DIT Students’ Union is disappointed to announce that students of 2nd Year Architecture are still suffering from wholly inadequate facilities. These students, who have suffered from uncertainty since the beginning of the year, are still struggling to achieve their goals and study hard whilst being left with lack of space and a potentially dangerous room. The students are based in Room 401, Bolton St. which boasts broken windows, holes in the wall and floor, a leaky roof and – until recently – inadequate heating as its prime features.

Martin Dunne, President of DIT Student’s Union, says “It’s unacceptable that these students must suffer from such inadequate facilities. They are based in a room that requires urgent maintenance works and have been taunted for months with the presence of a disconnected Plotter merely taking up space in their room.” The Students’ Union has been actively working to help the students and was pleased to see the formation of a group at DIT’s last Space Management committee meeting whose primary remit is to find a permanent solution to the issues faced by students of Architecture.

“The creation of this group is a very positive step and will help to resolve the issues these students face.” Martin says “We must remember however that these students have had an extremely difficult Semester One, in what is one of the most demanding courses in DIT. The issues they face must be urgently addressed and I hope that the group will press forward without delay.”

For more information contact president@ditsu.ie or communications@ditsu.ie

Martin Dunne
SU President
president@ditsu.ie
The Flinter Report

Hey All,

How this semester has flown, we are only a couple of weeks from Christmas so I'll take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! There has been plenty going on in the Academic and Student Affairs Department over the past number of weeks. As of last week you should all be feeling refreshed and ready to take on those exams come the New Year. Word on the street says that nobody has died from an over indulgence of Yakult so it has been a success! I hope everyone got the chance to get a free Indian Head Massage (my favourite) and availed of the free Fresh Fruit that was about all sites. Welfare Week was one of our largest campaigns and I hope everyone enjoyed and embraced it. As for our A to Z guide hold on to it, it will come in handy throughout the year! Also another little tip that I found out, if you eat a bar of chocolate and follow it by a glass of orange juice it releases a crazy amount of iron into your system for an added boost!! Wahay check that out!!

On the Academic side of things we have been working on the Review of the General Assessment Regulations, possible the most important document that DIT have. This document covers everything from exams to appeals and even rechecks. Our job is to make it more student friendly and let DIT know what the student perspective is. More info will be in the next issue, keeping you updated, that's my job!! A little document called the Student Charter is causing a bit of a stir also. This document covers everything from what students should receive from DIT be it lectures to standards to a warm class room! We have brought it up at Academic Council and it is being discussed throughout the Institute. More info can be found on our web site www.ditsu.ie and also in the next issue of TOAST.

There have been number of appeals over the past number of weeks, for those of you that want info on appeals, exams and rechecks you can find it in the Academic section of this mag. We helped 10 successful students take on DIT and progress into their next year of study! Whaoo, I'm bloody delighted!!

Great news also, we have elected a Class Rep on Sherkin Island off the coast of Cork. We have about 22 students studying Visual Arts, DT589 so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Michelle and wish her the best of luck. Any of the classes that don't have a Class Rep can you please call into your local union and let us know!!

Enjoy the Xmas break, make the most it!!

Your VP,
Tracey xx

The Jules Report

Hey all,

Howdy,

The biggest deal since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement has just been struck, albeit 10 years on. It's official DIT students can now avail of Free entry into Copper Face Jacks (no need for an address you all know where it is) before 12 o'clock on both Monday and Tuesday night from now on. So there ya have it, it's not all bleak in the recession..... puttin the Session in Recession, sure ya'd be losing money if ya didn't go!!!!

Whats the story with events and gigs?? Just about approaching the end of Semester 1 it was most notably dominated by the legends that are; The Saw Doctors. Yet again they didn't fail to disappoint the culchie driven audience, in what turned out to be one of the gigs of the year. Despite what many believed, it was in fact the Real Saw Doctors that preformed the gig and not a fictitious covers Band!!! Anyone that witnessed "The Legends" play, the atmosphere was surreal, I even saw a grown man cry!!! Anyone who missed out don't rule out a return in 09 of The Saw Doctors.

What next?? Well the Christmas ball but of course, the ball to end all balls, for 08 anyway!! Let's just say it might just be a SILENT NIGHT on this occasion. Plus endless on site events including bands comedians and just maybe the man himself... yea I mean Santy. So it's shapin up to be an Epic last 2 weeks!!

Yes kids it's slowly coming to that time of year again... RAG WEEK. Time to corner to distant relatives over the Christmas period to gain some much need sponsorship for either the Bungee jump or the 40ft swim, don't worry you can wear armbands for the 40ft should you be brave enough to undertake the challenge. Sponsorship cards are available through your Local Student Union Office. So yes indeed the ball has well and throughly begun rolling for RAG WEEK 09!!!

Your VP,
Dermot
The Brugha Report

Well Hello Again!
Hope you’re all keeping well and are well and firmly in the Christmas spirit!

It’s been busy in The Brugha since the last slice of Toast popped out of the Toaster. We had a manic and yellow Welfare “LOL” Week that went down really well, from Gospel singers in the SU to Bananas in the foyer. The whole aim of welfare week this year was to get you smiling so I hope you had a grin on your face at some stage.

It’s been great to see everyone getting involved in all our activities, whether it was getting a picture with the DITSU Money Bus out on Marlboro Street or giving the Wii a go in the basement.

Earlier this year DIT Sports ran an Inter-College exercise off between the different DIT sites and wouldn’t ya know it, Cathal Brugha Street won due to the champion efforts of Nathan Cox and Aíne Sheridan!!!!

Up for grabs was prize money to the value of €500 which we’re looking into spending on ye the students. In case ye didn’t know The Brugha won as well last year and that’s how we managed to get our Lovely Wii!

Take a look at the article I wrote further into Toast about the Senior Citizens Christmas Party and if you’re interested please give me a shout.

At the moment we’re all facing into the snow storm of assignments and after Christmas we all have the big heavy slog of exams so remember if you’re having any issues or problems pop into the SU office and we’ll be able to give you advice and help. And if we don’t know the answer straight away...we know someone who does!!!

Again, My office is downstairs in the basement where all the cool kids hang out so pop in and say hi or come along to one of the Class Rep Lunches!

Happy Christmas!
Peter

Hay Everyone!
It’s CHRISTMAS, WHOO... Congrats on making it this far!!! The year has been a little slow so far but I plan on upping the game next semester. We are starting back up our movie nights, so I want to see you all coming down on those random evenings to watch a movie with all the people from The Joy. We did it last year and we had some fun along the way!!! The night are usually themed with a list of movies to choose from so there will be something for everyone and every now and again we will even splash out and have some pizza or smoothies or something to keep you entertained even if the movie doesn’t!!!

Going to try and get a few more events happening on site next semester as well, we need to liven the place up a bit guys, anyone who wants any events in particular come on down to the union office and let me know!!! We have a loads of societies in DIT happy to do demos at lunch so if it’s a DJ to listen to at lunch or a juggling performance to liven the day up or a movie marathon to fill the gaps in class let me know and we can try and organise something for everyone!!!

On the Student Union side of things, Mountjoy is doing well... its actually doing the best if I’m to be a little big headed about it!!! We have all our class reps and all the positions filled we need to fill to have a good up and running democratic system, so a pat on the back for everyone at The Joy, Portland Row and now even Sherkin Island, so whoo!!!

Thanks to everyone who is a class rep, the classes for electing them, the people who helped out and Maebh and Mary in the offices in Mountjoy who pushed the whole thing along and help keep me sane!!! I know, sorry, enough of the Oscar style thank you speech I hear you all say...

But on a final note I want to take a moment to congratulate all the Portland Row students who got their desired opening hours and stood up for themselves!!! Fair play to you all for coming together and standing your ground!!!

On that note I’ll love ya and leave ya and say Happy Christmas and New Years and all that jazz...and keep watch for the x-mas festivities we will be having on site, its going to be fun!!!

Laters!
J

Peter Keegan
Cathal Brugha Class Rep Convenor
convenor.cb@ditsu.ie

Jon Hayes
Mountjoy Sq. Class Rep Convenor
convenor.msq@ditsu.ie
The Kevin Report

What's the craic?
Well it's nearly time to see your granny or
grand dad, if they are still with us or just
the aunt or uncle that you either love or
hate or just don't know what to say to them,
or maybe just that they never bought you
tsweets when you were younger (the feckers).
Who knows eh? Anyway folks its beginning
to look alot like Christmas....Yes, Christmas
sure for feck sakes we have been listening to
the feckin ads on the radio since September
this year and "where are we going
touring... tut tut tut."

Who is the person or why have they take to
give me wrong but in fairness
this year and "where are we going
by the Money Bus! (which has since under­
gone a facelift to become the Vengabus!)

Now as you are reading this you might be
a Kevin st student or a student from an­
other site, well the bad news is for all of the
students who are not from Kevin st it is that this
next bit is not for you, but the good news is
if you are a Kevin st then this is the bit you
are going to have a auld Christmas party and yes
you have guessed it it's going to be free yep
free and at lunch time so here we go...

A band, free stuff, Christmas tree, free stuff,
decorations around the place, free stuff, party
games, free stuff, etc and the big news is that the
fecker in the red suit is going to make an
auld appearance so ya can't do better than
that. Now in saying all of that we are going
to ask you the students to bring along a tin or
two of beans or whatever you can get your
hands, on I think we should help people that
are that little less well off than ourselves this
time of year and I know what you are saying
- it's going to cost us money - well one euro
is not that much to part with so please help
out eh?

So that nearly it from me for 08. OMG as
they say in Mountjoy square, it's hard to
believe that it's the end of another year
and the exams in January are around the
corner. Good luck to everyone by the way
keep it cool, don't stress and you'll get
through them. Christmas is a time to relax
and chill out but don't forget about the
exams please, its why we are all here after
all so get stuck in eh.

Anyway as you may or may not know we in
Kevin st have been very busy, no not playing
games or pool or but working in trying to get
things fixed and sorted in the campus ie the
swimming pool which looks great fair play
to all involved, I know a bit late but sure
better late than never eh! Now as I seen on
boards.ie the other week and as I have seen
around the campus we are having a little
poster campaign on broken things within the
campus from the phantom posterererer....
Who is the person or why have they take to
sticking up posters of broken stuff within the
campus, God knows, well in fairness I sup­
pose they are sick of having things broken
for years, yes years and that they want to

per week were practicing and
won't stress and you

The Aungier Report

Danger Danger!
The time has come again – the time to tell
ye all what’s happening in the deadliest site
in all of DIT, Aungier St!

So much to say, so little column inches, but
we’ll do our best! We’ve managed to
pack in Finance Week, LOL Welfare Week
and much more besides!

Finance Week came about due to the big
“R” word – recession! No sooner had we
returned from reading week than Aungier St
students were being bombarded with lunch
boxes, loaded with Lucozade and run over
by the Money Bus! (which has since under­
gone a facelift to become the Vengabus!)

LOL Week was packed to the gills with
events to make you laugh out loud, includ­
ing a comedian, the perpetually peppy lan
Eye Brow, the Salsa Soc strutting their stuff
and Game Soc rocking out with Guitar Hero:
World Tour. That was only the tip of the
iceberg – we had nail bars, head massages,
meditation with Sister Mary Flanagan, the
Samaritans and the counselling service on
board the good ship LOL too! I hope you
all had a great time, and if you weren’t
ROFLing, I hope you had a good LOL all the
same!

You guys are reinvigorating my faith in the
democracy of DITSU! Class rep meeting at­
tendances are consistently high, our Gover­
ing Councillors are among the most active

Eric Fitzgerald
Aungier St Class Rep Convenor
convenor.ast@ditsu.ie

Keep up the good work and good luck with the book!

Also congratulations to Lorna Geraghty on
being elected the new convenor in Rathmines!

Rock on!
Eric

Keep it real,
Sean

in all of DITSU, our volunteers are crazy,
engaged mentalists and ye gave me a muf­
fin for my birthday! Don’t forget, we’ve still
got Welfare Week Round Two, RAG Week
and SHAG Week to come yet!

Eric
Howdy!

Hi all hope your all keeping well and having a great sememter 1 . Thank god its nearly over . I dunno about you but man i have had a whole lotta work goin on but hey thats the name of the game why were all here like . anyway i suppose you could say that things have started off a little slow in the b st but as they say perfection takes time and were building a bit of momentum now . We have 100 class reps to date only 30 more to get . Remember its your voice make sure your class has a class rep and are actually going to the meetings because thats how we fix your problems . Anyway moving on from that we had the boys from iani brow here in the b street last week and what a band the are ay did you see them all in the white boiler suits and that music some of the craziest stuff i have ever heard “the monkey song” you should check that one out . those boys are in whelans each friday and saturday quality stuff from them boys .

As for bolton street in general were trying to get a great atmosphere around our campus so if your about come down have a chat with us and im sure we can find something fun for you guys to do . You would be surprised whats around us here at bolton street.

Were you all at the fees protest that was some amount of people in one place at one time wow “god love batt” cause he is defo in trouble . Remember guys the protest was great and yes we will do it again but to ensure that all of this changes and fees are not reintroduced you guys need to write a letter to your local tds and complain . Only when they are under pressure will the put batt under pressure oh and make sure you registered to vote .

As for the Laugh out loud week what a success in bolton street we saw Steve Cummins take to the stage with a stomach breaking show from all the laugh well lets just say we all got a sample of the air that steve breaths and boy is he a terrible singer .

On the 11th of December we shall see the old folks christmas party in cathal brugha street and its a highlight for both them and for all of us here at ditsu so we need lots of volunteers to pop down and give us a hand guys remember christmas is a time of giving but it doesnt mean that you cant have a bit of fun while you at it.

Christmas day in Bolton street is to be confirmed this year but we are definitely gonna have it possibly around the 9th of december(look out for the posters to confirm the date) were also gonna get santa and his kinkly little elf in for all you lads in bolton street as for the girls a fat man with a white beard will have to do .

So guys i probaly wont want to chat to yas all for a bit so pop down say hello and lets hope we can sort whatever is that needs sorting . Best of luck in the exams leading up to and after chrimbo and i hope santa is good to you even more so if youve been a naughty boy or girl .

Oh and remember if you cant be good be good at it ;)

Peace Out ,
Ian

The ‘Mines Report

Hello fellow DIT chums,

Lorna Geraghty here! Thought I’d spend the beginning of this article introducing myself to you...Well I’m the New DITSU Class Rep Convenor for Rathmines. I’m a second year Drama Student. My involvement with DITSU started last year, helping out where I could on various events. I’m also a former President of DIT’s LGBT society, and I’m currently on the USIF’s (Union of Students of Ireland) LGBT working group. I have been involved in student politics since I was about 11...running various local, national and international campaigns.

Well what will Convenor Lorna bring to Rathmines and DIT you say? Well I will make it a priority of mine to put Rathmines on the DIT map—we may be a small group and we’re all the way out in D6, but with all that flaming diaphragmatic breathing, we’ve a loud voice I tell ya! LOL. I really want to make Rathmines part of the DIT family, as we love ye all...and...go on...admit it...you love us too ;)

At the moment in Rathmines all the students are busy as ever, writing theses, warming up their voices and breaking their toes (or was that just me ? LOL). The drama students are keeping up the annual tradition of the 1st years putting on a play before the Christmas holidays (which you should all defo come and see, it’s always class), the second years are trying to understand the work of David Zinder (LOL) and are perfecting their lines for their in house monologues and scenes, and the 3rd years have even begun to start early rehearsals for their end of year production of Midsummer Nights Dream – to ensure another great show by their class.

As ever there’s a ton of stuff going on the music side of the tracks – ranging from the students recently doing scenes in the National Concert Hall to a recent screening of a documentary about the performance of ‘the magic flute’ which the students did a while ago. Twas really good to see recognition for all the hard work they put into such a great performance. Something I’d like to make you all aware of—the music students put on regular lunch time concerts in the Theatre in Rathmines, these are always high quality events and I would recommend everyone to come!

Now we love a bit of cheese out in Rathmines – come on we’re performing arts students – so what better than to round off the article than with a cheesy joke – ...so there are two olives sitting on a plate, one falls off onto the floor, the olive on the plate leans over and asks his friend if he is ok...he responds “olive”

Best,
Lorna
Students' Union Guide to filling in the PC/1 (Personal Circumstances) Form.

- Personal Circumstances Form 2008/09
- Form PVC

Please complete this form in legible, block letters (using black ink) or in typescript.

1. Name:
   Student Number:
   Home Address:
   Correspondence address (if different from above):
   Telephone Number:

E-mail: ____________________________

2. Year/Stage:

   DIT Faculty: ______________________
   School/Department: ______________________
   Course: ______________________
   Year: ______________________
   SEMESTER = the course is semesterised. Semester 1 = Sept to Jan. Semester 2 = Jan to May.
   SUPPLEMENTAL = if you are taking a repeat exam/assessment (no matter which attempt you are on).
   SESSIONAL = end of year final exams period for non-semesterised courses. (Check this with your tutor).

3. Details of personal circumstances

   a. Briefly note the nature of the circumstances with the Examination Board to consider and how you consider they affected your performance. (You may attach an additional sheet if necessary).

4. Additional written supporting evidence is essential. List the evidence which you include. Please keep a copy of all supporting evidence you submit.

5. Candidate's Signature: ______________________ Date: ______________________

   For Official Use Only
   Rejected by Examinations Office:
   Date: ______________________
   Signed: ______________________

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E.g. C12345678
This is on your DIT Student Card

It is ESSENTIAL that you can be contacted on this number, so if you give your mobile number make sure your answer service is switched on.

Your MOST USED e-mail. You need to check this regularly.

There are 6 faculties in DIT. Applied Arts, Built Environment, Business, Engineering, Science and Travel & Tourism - if you're unsure of which one you are in check www.dit.ie or ask your tutor or someone in the SU.

Include the course code as well as the name e.g. DT123 - This is on your DIT Student Card.

E.g. 1st year / 2nd year. NOT 2008/09

You must choose one of these:
1. SESSIONAL = end of year final exams period for non-semesterised courses. (Check this with your tutor).
2. SUPPLEMENTAL = if you are taking a repeat exam/assessment (no matter which attempt you are on).
3. SEMESTER = if course is semesterised.

Be REALISTIC & HONEST here. If the circumstances only affect a certain assessment or exam, just enter that subject/module.

Add an extra sheet if you need it and give as much detail as possible, but stick to the point. Don't ramble and make sure the information is relevant. Practice first on another sheet, check it and then rewrite it.

This is VITAL to your application.
If you are ill or in the event of a bereavement, get a note from your GP or from the DIT Medical Centre Aungier St. or Bolton St. (free of charge after consultation and production of a DIT Student Card). In the case of legal matters, a letter from a Counsellor or Solicitor will help.

DON'T FORGET to sign the form. Without a signature it is NOT valid.
A word from your VP.

Christmas is coming..............and so unfortunately are the Semester 1 Exams & Assessments.

Best of Luck to everyone, keep a clear head, eat well, rest as much as possible, study hard, meet your deadlines and give it your best shot.

The Students’ Union will be providing information for you on different aspects of the rules and regulations that govern exams etc. Don’t worry if you’re unsure of how these apply to you, this is where we can help you out as we’re here to give advice if you have any queries about the procedures. We’ll advise you on your rights and help you find the best way out of any difficulties you might have with any exam and assessment matters.

So watch out for fantastic ‘What If..’ posters that will answer the questions we get asked and lots of helpful information on the website www.ditsu.ie.

Good Luck,
Tracey

Bluffers Guide to the Q6A

Q. I thought parts of my course were crap last semester. How do I give feedback to DIT?

A. Use the Q6A form, of course!

Confused? Don’t be – the Q6A is the Student Feedback Form that all students should receive and fill out at the end of each Module. It’s your chance to express your opinion on how each module was taught – everything from teaching methods, module content to facilities like the lecture rooms and the Library.

Students are supposed to get a Q6A form for each module from the relevant Lecturer(s), in hard copy or by email to your student email address. It’s an important opportunity for you to have your say and improve your programme at the same time. So when you get the form please fill it in honestly. If you were happy with the way the module was delivered then say so. If you weren’t, then spell out what was wrong clearly and fairly.

The Students’ Union needs to know that all of you have had this opportunity. We are striving to ensure that your have a direct say in how your education is delivered.

So if you didn’t get a Q6A form for all your Semester 1 modules, will you please let your Class Rep know (they’ll pass it on to us), contact your local Students’ Union office or email Tracey at vpacademic@ditsu.ie.

So what exactly is plagiarism and how can I avoid it?

Plagiarism is the passing off of another person’s work as your own. It includes copying without acknowledgement from a published source (print or electronic), or from unpublished sources (e.g. another student’s essay or notes).

Plagiarism occurs when material is copied word for word, but not only in that circumstance. It also occurs when the substance or argument of a text is copied even with some changes made, such as paraphrasing or translation, without acknowledgement.

How do I avoid Plagiarism?

DO
• Acknowledge all the resources used in your work
• Reference all sources of information & ideas used in your work

DO NOT:
• Pass off someone else’s work as your own
• Ask anyone to do work which you claim as your own
• Buy or copy work from electronic sources which you claim as your own.
• Use another’s ideas as your own

Plagiarism can be either an intentional act whereby work is deliberately utilised and claimed as one’s own, Or it can occur unintentionally either through bad academic practice or simply not finding out the college regulations.

Plagiarism includes unacknowledged use of material from books or periodicals, from the Internet, from grind tutors, or from other students, without full acknowledgement of the sources. Plagiarism is not confined to written assignments, projects or theses; it incorporates all academic work, including practical workshops, demonstrations, three dimensional work and artistic practice.

The best way to avoid plagiarism is to be informed.

All DIT programmes have clear guidelines on Plagiarism so get the information from your lecturer and be sure you are using the correct referencing procedure for your programme. Ask them for guidelines.

Access your programme documents and the General Assessment Regulations (in the library) and be clear about the particular referencing system for your programme.

Above all, clearly acknowledge all sources of information you have accessed during your work.

For more info:
The Institute’s Library Services have several useful texts on plagiarism and Library staff provide Information Literacy sessions that include guidance on referencing and plagiarism.

The Dublin Institute of Technology considers plagiarism to be a serious academic offence. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be dealt with by following due process. For any more information on Plagiarism and help avoiding it – just contact Tracey at vpacademic@ditsu.ie and she’ll be happy to help.
Exams & Assessments: What If things go wrong?

After four years of sitting exams in this institute I am bound to know a thing or two, that’s over 46 exams in total!! With all the enjoyments of college life it’s easy to forget that assessment and exam time is just around the corner. Fear not my friends, that’s arrived in the post to your house.

To this end, I wish to tell you exactly what your rights and entitlements are as a student of DIT.

For instance if an exam or assessment doesn’t go your way you may have a right to an appeal or a recheck. Furthermore, if something was to happen that was out of your control and affect your performance you have a chance to tell DIT so this can be taken into account when marking your paper or assessment.

But and there are always buts, be warned there is a strict timetable attached to these procedures so take note of the deadline for each as once the time limit has passed you will have lost your opportunity and no exceptions are allowed – ever. The clock starts ticking once the results are published not when they arrive in the post to your house.

All the forms are available from the Exams Office or on ditsu.ie.

The three options are:

Personal Circumstances
Recheck
Appeal

a. Personal Circumstances
Exam Boards can make allowances for any personal or other difficulties you may have had that directly affected your performance – accidents, bereavement, it doesn’t matter what it is, if you believe it affected you, you should tell the Exam Board so it can be considered when determining your marks.

You must notify the Exams Office within 2 days of taking your final exam (which is obviously before the marking takes place).

Personal circumstances are not taken into account after the exam results have been issued. To apply you must fill out a form a P/C1 form, and drop it into your Exams Office.

With continuous assessments, you must submit the P/C1 to the Exams Office on the date the work is due. There is no charge for submitting a P/C1.

b. Recheck
The purpose of a recheck is to make sure that there haven’t been any mistakes in the calculation of your marks. It is not a remarking of your paper. If it turns out that an error was made in the addition of the marks, your Head of School will immediately notify the Exams Office so they can recall the Exam Board to reassess your mark.

It costs €15 per paper for a recheck; this is fully refundable if errors were made. You request a recheck from the Exams Office within 3 days of the publication of your results on the Exams Board. You do this by completing form A/R1, and submit it along with the fee.

c. Exam Appeals
You can apply for an Exam Appeal if one of the grounds specified in the General Assessment Regulations occurred, preventing you from performing to the best of your ability, through no fault of your own.

Grounds are:
- That the General Examination Regulations of the DIT not been properly implemented (e.g.; something happened in the exam/assessment that directly conflicted with the DIT’s own rules)
- A circumstance occurred that is not specifically covered by the Regulations
- New attested, documented and relevant information is provided that wasn’t made available to the Exam Board, i.e.; a lost answer book/assignment that wasn’t included in your marks etc.

You have 7 working days from the date your results are published to apply for an appeal. The form you need is an A/A1. It costs €75 to appeal, but your money will be refunded if you’re successful.

When you’ve filled out the form you must hand it in to the Exams Office.

If your grounds are considered eligible you will be requested to attend a meeting with the members of the Appeals Board to give them an opportunity to discuss the details further. You are entitled to have Students’ Union representation at that hearing.

Some Grounds NOT to appeal on:
- That the format of the exam wasn’t what you expected
- That someone who normally gets similar marks to you did better than you
- That you didn’t get pilot papers, no-one is obliged to provide this
- You scored better in your continuous assessments
- That you missed a lab or class that was relevant to the exam, unless extenuating circumstances apply
- That you ‘think’ you did better than you did.
Your Union, Your Voice.

Each year, DIT SU introduces new blood into the Union with the elections for President, VP Academic & Student Affairs and VP Services & Trading. The three Elected Officers positions are full-time, permanent 12 month jobs from July 09 – June 10. The Elections will be held on February 24th.

The Union is run democratically, and the people who run it are chosen by you, the student body. By holding elections, we are not only fulfilling a constitutional requirement, but also ensuring that we get as many people as possible involved in the Union. The more students we have involved, the more democratic and effective your Union becomes. So we need people to nominate themselves and run for office in 2009.

The nominations are open for the Elections from now until Feb 06th – which gives you a good chance to consider this as an option for next year. The only criteria for these jobs are that you a registered student of DIT and two – you would be willing and able to spend next year working for all the other Students of DIT.

Whether you are in final year or would consider taking a very interesting year off from study, please consider nominating yourself and running for Elections. You don’t need to know anything about the Union or have been involved with us before – as proven by the current VP Dermot, who appeared in a puff of smoke and fought a nail biting close election against 3 others to become the Vice President for Services & Trading.

So, for all the information from what exactly each job entails to how to put yourself in the running check out www.ditsu.ie/suelections or drop into any SU office and arrange to talk with Martin, Tracey or Dermot.

RUN dit students’ union elections ’09
**Scrooged**

Bill Murray is back among the ghosts. Only this time, it's three against one.

The classic tale of A Christmas Carol is set in the modern day and Ebenezer Scrooge is replaced by Murray's Frank Cross, a TV executive who has seriously lost his way. Hilary ensues as Frank is visited by the three ghosts — to add to complications his TV station is hosting a live musical version of A Christmas Carol at the same time. It has this elf's two favourite Christmas elements - a glittery fairy type ghost that decks Murray at every opportunity and the best Christmas song of all time - Al Green and Annie Lennox 'Put A Little Love In Your Heart'. And all is well with the world.

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**Bad Santa**

He's very nasty...and not very nice

Billy Bob Thornton is a cynical washed-up, foul-mouthed and quite possibly alcoholic safecracker posing as a Department Store Santa, who along with his elf playing partner in crime is waiting for their annual big score. His plans are slowly scuppered by a Santa fetishist (yes, it does exist) and an eight year old oddball who thinks Thornton's Santa Willie might actually be the one and only original fat man. It received a lot of unfair bad press on release because many parents choose to bring their little one to this. Idiots. It's an adult film, with adult themes and plenty of adult laughs.

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**ELF**

This year discover your inner elf

Will Ferrell stars as a man who was raised as an elf in Santa's workshop who travels to New York City to be with his biological father - a very mean James Caan. Ferrell gives one of his best all around performances in this film as it serves as a Christmas classic for a new generation. Not only will it appeal to those who loved his comedies such as Anchorman and Step Brothers, but this film has a heart and so it appeals to a wider family audience that love a bit of Christmas cheer.

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**National Lampoons**

There's no place like home for the holidays

For poor long-suffering Clark Griswold Christmas is full of magically possibilities. All he wants is to give his family a traditional christmas, with everything from perfect Christmas meal to lights that can be seen from space. Slowly but inevitably everything starts to fall apart once the in-laws to arrive. Then we get to see Chevy Chase injury himself in every possible way and even a few very improbable ones. But throughout, we're safe in the knowedge that come what may by the time the closing credits roll up, everything will be alright and enough cheese has been spread to cover a ton of crackers.

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**Nightmare before Christmas**

A ghoulish tale with wicked humour & stunning animation

Nevermind the boring tagline. Tim Burton's unique vision is not only beautiful to look at, but the story itself that is most engaging. Jack Skellington is the skinny ghoul who decides that he'd like to cover Christmas for Santa. So he kidnaps the fat guy and thus begins Jack's unique take on Christmas that can only be seen through the eyes of of a life-long Halloween town resident. Enjoy severed heads and giants snakes in your stocking this year. There's a few songs in it, but don't be put off - Danny Elfman does it with witty style and razor sharp lyrics.
At what stage does a leader become a bad leader? When it becomes the Longford leader I hear you say. HA HA, small literary joke there. But at what stage is it right to say enough is enough, it's time for change. One of the most recent of these instances was obviously the success of a certain Mr. Obama. For years people thought that the only way you could see a black man in the Oval Office was by popping down to Xtravision and getting the latest 24 box set. The Obama campaign was one of few that I can think of that was won on the back of a call for change, as opposed to some redneck saying that unless we vote for the guy with the straw hat, terrorists will be bombing pick-up trucks all across Alabama. In other words it was change that was used as the selling point and not the very common tool of fear.

"He is making bold decisions that may make a lot of people uncomfortable."

Whether Obama will actually bring about change is not something I would be prepared to bet on, but in truth it's irrelevant. What he has done is give people hope. The shit is hitting the fan by the bucket load, and many of our leaders across the world are making very predictable moves. They talk of cutbacks, and of tightening belts, they simply choose to take the fan away, causing the heat to rise on the ordinary Joe soap, but at least the shit isn't hitting the fan anymore. But Obama has a different approach, he talks of an American designed and manufactured shit retardant fan, and you have to admire his balls. He is making bold decisions, decisions that may make a lot of people uncomfortable but he was elected because people admired and respected his will to make bold decisions. He kept well clear of the road of populist politics and yet that move itself turned out to be extremely populist.

So what can our political establishments across the world learn from this. Well as Christmas is the time of year to reflect, one would hope that while our leaders are gorging on their mince pies and dipping their turkey sandwiches in their turkey soup, that they may realize that people admire balls and not just in a sexual way. As a country we are heading into uncharted waters, we have never been so high as just a few years ago and so never stood the risk of falling so low before. And while these challenging times are seen to need fresh thinking and creative solutions, we have scarcely seen one. Forgetting the whole world failure to prepare for such an unexpected downturn, one might expect that our B-List celebrities, devoid of much more than there assumed political abilities might get to work on these "creative solutions". Focusing on Ireland alone, as a nation we have some of the best-educated "thinkers" in the modern world, we have numerous Parties and yet they all are equally inept at dealing with the current crisis. Why would anyone vote for a Rainbow Coalition when it offers almost exactly the same as the current Government but with more party leader's names to remember?

To focus in on an even more local sphere of leadership, why is it that USI, our National Student's Union, and its associated colleges are equally short on solutions, as the self assumed future leaders of this "fine State" we live in. Our Students' Unions are still floating about their successes of the late 60's and early 70's, so much so, that they feel that their policies should not change and that they should react in the very same way to today's problems as to those of a previous millennium (that may be hyperbole, worthy of a tabloid, but it was the second millennium and this is the third). At least we can say they are consistent.

"It's your Union, so let's take back the reins. Let's call for change on our terms."

I would love to bore you to death with how our own representative bodies, the student's unions are losing their way and their cause, and I will return to it again, but for now I want to leave you with something to think about. It is appropriate that the name of this magazine is Toast. I don't know who thought of it - maybe it just popped into somebody's head, if you can excuse the pun but it gains a definite relevance now. I would like to propose a Christmas toast to the future of our very own USI Students' Union, to the great people who make up its staff and its membership. But to mark this toast, I would like whosoever reads this, and in some way agrees with it, to find your Class-rep Convenor (could be tricky), or your President or Vice Presidents and tell them what you think your Union should do for you, and how you think this union should march forward into these very uncertain times. Its your Union, so take back the reins. Let's call for change on our terms rather than be subjected to other people's fear.

CN.
Long, long ago the St. Vincent De Paul Society began a tradition in DIT Cathal Brugha St that continues today. With the staff and students of DIT Culinary Arts they laid on a fabulous Christmas feast for senior citizens, living in the area - to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to the local older community. Due to its enormous popularity, the Students' Union stepped in when the SVP stopped running the event and took over the reins! To date this tradition has continued year on year and I've been involved in it for the last three years!

As Christmas approaches we all start shopping for friends, family and the work mates Kris Kindle, But it's rare that someone stops and think, "How can I give back to the community this year?". This is your chance!!! Drop into your Students' Union and volunteer to come along and give a helping hand. There are many things you can do to get involved with the event. These range from coming shopping for presents (that's right...there's presents!), wrapping the presents, being on hand to greet the Old Folks, dishing out dinners and chatting to the seniors. You’ll get their life story, but sometimes that story can be interesting!!! Not really what you’d think of doing with your Thursday night eh?

Every year we have a few people who can manage to belt out a few good Christmas carols. This year the Gospel Choir Society have agreed to come along and sing for us, and the old folks tend to get up and commandeered the microphone too! If anyone can volunteer to play the guitar, drums, piano or even the spoons that would be amazing! If you have said instruments that would be even better, though I think we can get the spoons somewhere!!!

The DIT lay on a feast for the Old Folks and that hospitality extends to the people who volunteer as well!!! This means ham, turkey, stuffing, veg and croquettes (don't know what these are? Come and find out!). Every year the canteen in Cathal Brugha Street do a Christmas dinner lunch. This year it's being held on the 10th of December! Not one to be missed!

Because it's Christmas AND we're giving out presents it's only fitting that Santa be there to give the presents out! We have Ronan McNulty from the Brugha and Dermot Julian our VP for Services and Trading lined up to don the costumes!

Every year DIT Social and Cultural Committee give us a donation towards the event and so do the Students' Union then we go out and about with charity bins looking for donations towards the event! If you see anyone going around looking for donations for this event, please dig deep and see what's in your pocket to give to this worthwhile event!

We also need volunteers to help purchase and wrap about 170 presents! We might make a night out of this much like the poster night held in MSQ before the Fees protest! A big thank you has to be said to John Clancy from the Culinary Arts school who coordinates the students who cook the food and even sings a few songs himself!

If anyone is interested in giving us a hand in giving out some Christmas cheer, pop into your SU and let your Student Support Advisor know or give Sarah Coll an email on advisor.cbst@ditsu.ie.

So December 11th in Cathal Brugha Street is a date for your diary! Please add it and come along! It'll be worth it!!!!
DIT in Pictures

Were you there?

Clondalkin kids visit Aungier Street

The Money Bus rolls in! Pic: Eoin Tunney

Little and Large!

DITSU Green Hand turns up in Costa Rica!

Ian L. Brow joined by the Shitza! Pic: Eoin Tunney
Didn't you mo? Last month was Movember, the twelfth of the year officially set aside to celebrate the wondrousness that is facial hair of the upper lip. You wha? The moustache, silly!

What do you mean, you didn't hear about it?! It was all over the news, by which we mean it was in the Metro. November, it was reported at the start of the month, was to be set aside for growing and grooming the lovely lip-ticklers in support of prostate cancer charities, and on Wednesday, 26th, the Button Factory in Temple Bar witnessed the culmination of efforts in the shape of a Movember party.

Attendees may have been a little unpleasantly hairy for some tastes, but there's no denying that money was made for a great cause. According to Action Prostate Cancer (http://cancer.ie/prostate/), 1 in 11 Irish men will be diagnosed with this illness during their life, making prostate the second most common cancer in men. So you mo the moustache growing was all worthwhile.

You know we're big on getting involved here at the Students' Union, so you'll be glad to hear we played our part in Movember too! See the photographic evidence of the Toast crew's efforts... I think you'll agree, a handsome looking bunch!
Most of us are quietly going about our daily lives in the run up to Christmas, moaning about the collapse of the world economy, worrying about buying the right gifts and generally being distracted by all those little things that make us human.

In this issue of TOAST we wanted to look briefly at the work of our chosen RAG charity for 2008 – 2009. Console provides aid to families and friends that have been effected by one of the hardest type of grief – suicide.

Suicide is often referred to as the last taboo, even though it effects so many Irish families every year. Often leaving them to deal not only with their own personal grief but feelings of guilt and shame surrounding their loved ones death. The inability to talk openly and freely about this grief only leads to exacerbate feelings of isolation.

Over 500 people commit suicide every year in Ireland. That's 500 families. Five hundred best friends. The impact of suicide affects families and friends not only today or tomorrow but forever. In addition to this, around 12,000 people present themselves every year to Accident & Emergency Departments around the country through self-harm or attempted suicide.

Although suicide claims more lives every year than road traffic accidents in Ireland, it is shocking to learn that Government HSE funding for suicide prevention is only €4 million per year, compared with the €40 that is given to road safety.

Console is on the frontline helping families to deal with these issues and to give them the tools to cope with the devastating effects of suicide. They offer various services such as a national helpline, counselling, support groups and community outreach programmes.

It was established in 2002 by families that have experienced first-hand the grief of losing a loved one through suicide. So they know what they're talking about. The organisation has developed into a professional organisation over the years and has responded to the needs of those affected by suicide.

It is easy to get caught up in the trivial things in life, but anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one can only imagine the extra heartache that suicide must bring to families. Console is doing invaluable work by supporting those bereaved by suicide.

Most of us can only hope that we never have to contact them, but we can lend our support - have a look at the next page and see how you can make a difference through DIT Students' Union RAG 2009.
DIT RAG WEEK is about RAISING & GIVING.

It is a very special time of year for DIT Students' Union, its not only great fun but also a week where all students can make a difference, not to mention that its a chance to show your parents, friends, lecturers and the general public that students are more than just the cold beans eating, hangover inflicted sponger stereotype that is thrown around so readily.

Last year the students of DIT raised €20,000 for charity and this year we will be raising money for Console, have a look on the opposite page for a bit more detail about this hardworking charity. With the festive season creeping up on us its a perfect opportunity to get our skates on and starting the build-up for RAG Week.

So what are YOU going to do?

Come on, do it, no excuses, have a laugh, get involved - it'll make you feel great and you'll be doing something really worthwhile.

Your imagination is your only limitation; in the past we've had shaves, chest waxes, bed pushes, bag packers, kiss-a-grams, sponsored silences, bucket collections, eating competitions, men dressing as women, women dress as butterflies, superheros and supervillains. And that's not even a complete list. We also can't forget the DIT students two favourite crazy things to do all in the name of charity - the Bungee Jump and the 40 Foot Dive.

Sponsorship forms are available from your local Students' Union office NOW!

Grab one before heading home for the holidays and start taking advantage of your friends and families festive spirit while it lasts!

Even if you can't think of anything very exciting to do, just asking a few people to put their hands in their pockets is good enough for us!

So get down to your Student's Union office as soon as possible!
Of all our contemporary pop pin-ups, Brandon Flowers appears to be the one who spent the most amount of time, hairbrush in hand, in front of his bedroom mirror. Is there another star whose moves are so studied or global ambitions so transparent? And has anyone ever used the phrase “indie rock’n’roll” so guiltlessly in a song or cycled through image changes as a child might gleefully rifle through “Rock’s Great Dressing-Up Box”? But with 12 million international sales, it’s clearly working for them and stylistically Flowers has successfully piloted The Killers through pink neon bright synth-rock and blustery Springsteen-lite to third release “Day & Age”.

It begins with the emphatic, barking horns and lilte melody of “Losing Touch” before easing into recent single “Human”, wherein the employment of sometime Madonna producer Stuart Price is put to good use. Tugged along by a gentle 4/4 pulse and euphoric synths, it sounds like “Joshua Tree” era U2 put through a trance filter. It’s undeniably a cracking pop record and that it never quite explodes suggests The Killers may have discovered a new found subtlety and lightness of touch.

Although the rest of the album fails to live up to this track Flowers’ cut glass vocals, melodic nous and, ahem, star quality will win out and The Killers may yet inspire the next generation of preening hairbrush brandishers.

At last. Fifteen years and almost as many million dollars in studio time since the lacklustre punk covers album “The Spaghetti Incident?”, Axl Rose-as-Guns returns with the uber-anticipated “Chinese Democracy”.

Listening to the record, it’s easy to think you’re a Polydor head honcho, called in to hear the rough mixes: “OK guys, it’s 14 tracks and 80 minutes long. We need to sequence it properly, get rid of three tracks and send it back to the everything studios, mixing-downs and hired producer hands that have touched these recordings in the last however long have resulted in one of the worst-sounding albums of the 21st century. When a ballad such as “Sorry” out-blasts the everything blazing “I.R.S.”, heads should roll.

He may have legally taken the Guns name in the ‘90s, but he didn’t take all the talent. If he’d make peace with Duff, Izzy, Slash and Steve Adler, a true Guns return would be worth cheering. Given that “Chinese Democracy”’s most ludicrous moment sees him utilise the same “Cool Hand Luke” sample that opened “Illusion II” back in 1991, before a maelstrom of samples peaks with the hubristic appropriation of Martin Luther King’s “I Have A Dream” speech, we probably won’t be seeing anything like good sense coming from him for at least another 15 years.

Dido Armstrong’s path to pop stardom has hardly been as serene and smooth as her music might suggest. Critics argue her music is aural wallpaper, bought by those who don’t really care about music so much as some appropriate mood setting for their dinner parties. Yet her songs - laced with loss, heartbeat and emotional darkness - have always been particularly uneasy listening, even if their surface accessibility allows for a shade too much hearing-without-listening than can ever be good for an artist’s sense of self-worth.

“Safe Trip Home” has been hailed as an example of Dido’s “maturity” and “depth”, as if she’d been lacking in those departments.

After ten concise, perfectly wrought songs, it ends with almost nine minutes of “Northern Skies”, in which one of British pop’s most distinctive voices rides in ethereally on a hypnotic thrub of hushed, sweeping synths and hollow-sounding, gently rattled drums. The second half is hums, effects-laden wind instruments and the occasional single line - “I have returned”. In less skilled hands it would feel bombastic, but the effect is stately, spectral and affecting: so rather than ending with the kind of glib declaration her detractors might expect, “Safe Trip Home” gently and serenely lifts off, to head out above the earthbound and mundane.
Bomemians completed the league and cup double with a dramatic final win over Derry City. Eddie Corr takes a look back.

Firstly, I have to admit to a slight bias here. Since moving to Dublin I have lived in the shadow of Dalymount Park, which has seen me take to supporting the North City giants Bohemians. And what a year it has been for the club. The Eircom League was won at a canter. Few teams were able to stand in the way of the all-conquering Bohemians machine. And while some commentators tried to describe the Bohs style as 'stifling' or ugly' I think that a record which showed 27 wins out of 33 games and a goal difference of +42 told a different story.

An almost carnival atmosphere was created by both sets of supporters

But certainly football was the genuine winner at the end of the dramatic FAI Ford Cup final between Bohemians and Derry City at Dublin’s RDS on Sunday 23 of November last. An almost carnival atmosphere was created by both sets of supporters. And while the crowd of just over 1,000 fell a lot short of the heady days of 30,000 attendances in the early 90’s, every single punter got their money worth.

Both Bohemians and Derry City attempted to and succeeded in playing good football. This may come as a surprise for those dropping in on the match but the thousands who attend League of Ireland games each week are aware of the talent of the players. In the end the teams shared out 4 goals in the 90 minutes and had to be separated by the dreaded penalty shoot-out. Bohemians keeper Brian Murphy (reportedly being courted by Scottish side Hibernian) was the man who made an impact—saving two of Derry’s efforts. It was then left to Bohs Lithuanian International, Kalonas, to blast the ball home and add the Ford Cup to their league championship trophy.

All that was left was for Bohs skipper Owen Heary (32) to hold the trophy aloft in front of the Bohs support. “I’ve won six Leagues but this is only my second Cup win, and my first time to lift it as captain, so it’s fantastic,” said an exultant Heary. “It’s a brilliant feeling for the young lads especially.

"If they’re hungry enough they can go on and be successful throughout their career."

“I won my first double when I was 22 and you look at these young lads now and they’re the same age and they’re getting their first taste of silverware. If they’re hungry enough they can go on and be successful throughout their career.

And so closed the final chapter of the 2008 season. And while we can look ahead to Spring 2009 with a sense of anticipation there is also some foreboding the distance. The league will be without a title sponsor next season after eircom decided to end its close association with the league earlier this season. Added to the financial crises being suffered by the likes of Cork City and Galway United, it will make for some nervous moments as clubs fight to secure their squads and bank balances before a ball is even kicked.

But there are reasons to be cheerful. The promotions of Dundalk and Mervue United are positives for the league, not least for the geographical spread of clubs. The completion of Shamrock Rovers’ move to Tallaght is a boost not just for the club, but also for the league. All that remains is to say congratulations to Bohemians, the worthy Double winners. Roll on 2009...

The 2008 Season at a glance:

Eircom League Premier Division.
Winners: Bohemians
Champions League Qualifiers: Bohemians
Uefa Cup Qualifiers: St. Pats, Derry City and Sligo Rovers
Relegated: UCD

Eircom League First Division.
Winners: Dundalk
Relegated: Kildare County

Sports Shorts:

- The Rugby lads are more or less through to the All Ireland quarter finals
- The Rugby lads are more or less through to the All Ireland quarter finals
- The Rugby lads are more or less through to the All Ireland quarter finals
- The Rugby lads are more or less through to the All Ireland quarter finals
- The Rugby lads are more or less through to the All Ireland quarter finals
- The boxers won a gold medal last week. whoo hoo!
- The boxers won a gold medal last week. whoo hoo!
- The Siegersons cup Mens senior team beat DCU and UCD and are looking good.
- The Siegersons cup Mens senior team beat DCU and UCD and are looking good.
- The Soccer lads were narrowly beaten in a penalty shoot out against Tallaght IT in the Leinster League
- The Soccer lads were narrowly beaten in a penalty shoot out against Tallaght IT in the Leinster League
- Senior ladies GAA qualified for the colleges cup
- Senior ladies GAA qualified for the colleges cup
- The Intermediate Hurling team beat a very good UL team in Limerick
- The Intermediate Hurling team beat a very good UL team in Limerick
- GAA Freshers beat DCU by 4 points while the intermediates are traveling to Jordanstown
- GAA Freshers beat DCU by 4 points while the intermediates are traveling to Jordanstown
**Martin Dunne takes a look at the world of 'responsible tourism'.**

The winter is here and it's miserable so time to think about summertime, foreign countries, exotic holidays, sandy beaches and stunning sun. Then comes the winter again with the cold and the rain and the miserable weather but soon it's summertime, foreign countries, exotic holidays, sandy beaches and stunning sun.

Another winter rolls in and again we're thinking about what to do during the summertime, foreign countries, exotic holidays, sandy beaches......sounding familiar? Heading abroad for some fun in the sun can be great craic. Going to the same old places; lounging around on the same old sun beds; drinking the same old drinks. Do you ever think it's all getting a bit repetitive? Looking for something different? Then maybe you'd be interested in the latest craze to sweep the lands – responsible tourism.

Responsible tourism involves more than your average fortnight of sun, sea and sangria. The concept is based on making a difference with your time away, whether it's through supporting local businesses, learning more about the culture or minimizing environmental consequences – your holiday can take lots of forms. Many people choose to go down the route of “eco-tourism”, striving to minimize the environmental impact of their activities through carbon off-setting (minimizing the amount of CO2 your holiday causes) and spending much of their holiday in places of natural beauty learning about the local environment and customs. For those of you who don't like all things green but still want a warm fuzzy feeling there's the option of supporting locally run and owned establishments or even pitching in through “volunteer vacations”.

Volunteer vacations involve doing a bit of graft and looking to achieve something with your time away. Whatever skills you might have can be used to the benefit of locals, usually in places of extreme poverty and hardship. When you plan your vacation, whether it be through a charity, company or off your own back, you can tailor the tasks to suit your interests or skills. There are usually a wide variety of activities that you can get involved in ranging from teaching local children, helping with building projects (from wells to schools), assisting in local businesses or setting up micro-businesses and more.

DIT Students’ Union has strong links with the concept of responsible tourism and particularly volunteer vacations. Numerous previous elected officers have finished off their terms of office by travelling out to Banda Ache in Indonesia to assist with the ongoing recovery and re-building operations since the devastating tsunami in 2004. The Students’ Union also offers a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme, offering funding to those who want to go out and make a difference in the world. Previous projects have included childcare in a Brazilian orphanage, building wells in Malawi and disaster relief in Indonesia.

If you’re not quite ready to give up your entire holiday for good causes then you might want to go with a responsible tourism travel company. One such company offers two week holidays in places such as India and Nepal. The first week is spent seeing the sites and staying in top notch accommodation while the holiday is rounded off in the second week with building projects such as schools and orphanages in some of the poorest areas of these countries. The company founder says “We offer more than just a holiday; we help people to have an enriching experience through their journey to India or Nepal and give them the opportunity to put something of themselves into the community they visit. For us, these are journeys with a conscience.”

With Christmas round the corner plenty of people are already thinking about their summer holidays and planning for what to do with their few spare months. Maybe this year it's time to take a break from the sun lounger by the pool and have a positive impact on the world outside the holiday resort. For more information on ‘responsible tourism’ just mail me on president@ditsu.ie MD.

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In 2004/2005 DIT Students' Union introduced a Corporate Social Responsibility programme to sponsor students who want to volunteer abroad. All registered DIT students are eligible to apply for funding under this programme. For more information please log onto our website www.ditsu.ie or contact Maura Cunningham on 4022941.
There have been some strange goings on around the Kevin Street campus lately. Enter Graham Hayes to give us the low down...

Only in Kevin St.........

Well, so the past few weeks in Kevin St. have been interesting. The arrival of the “phantom” fixer of things, rumours of Dr. Who sightings (at least of his ship...) and a potential smoking ban!

The phantom appeared about 2 or 3 weeks ago, with random posters of things that have been broken and not fixed. At first everyone thought it was another SU drive for things to be fixed, but a thread on boards.ie seems to have debunked that idea. The phantom himself (or herself, but in Kevin St. the ratio of male : female makes it much more likely its a dude) has created an account on Boards, sparking a debate about who they are... even sparking the interest of reporter for the other DIT publication the DIT News.

"This time instead of trying to get DIT to do their job, he did it himself."

Then on either Monday night or the early hours of Tuesday morning he struck again!! This time instead of trying to get DIT to do their job, he did it himself. The boys toilets by the snackery, all had their locks fixed!! He also put posters around the annex to advertise the fact, but it seems the porters didn’t like being shown up by a masked 1990’s cartoon character.... most of the offending posters were removed. We are sure the relevant DIT authorities are running a detailed analysis of the picture of phantoms thumb trying to get his thumb print, instead of fixing water fountains, desks or lights. Sure its only students that need lights, or desks!!

On a slightly weirder note, there have been sightings of a Tardis... with another broken chameleon chip... this model looks like a server rack. Whoever the owner is, it seems they are making a bit of cash off it, for a small fee of €2, you can travel the Time Vortex. The last 2 students who went however still haven’t been spotted... if anyone sees two dazed and confused students wandering around Dublin, muttering about Darleks, please return them to the porters at Kevin St. Also, tell them that I will let them off the €2 they owe me.

The partial smoking ban that was introduced last week seems to have been ignored as quickly as it arrived.... The sight of “No Smoking” signs with cigarette burns in them is highly amusing.... So as a response, the DIT authorities are considering banning smoking anywhere on DIT Kevin St. property... I am sure that pissing off smokers is more important than the facilities in the college.

So, only in Kevin St do we have a 90’s cartoon character fixing things, a Tardis, and porters chasing smokers. Must be a Time Lord around here waiting for those last two students to get home, and is now just having a laugh...

Damn Time Lords..... GH.
Hi there,

1 in 10 people identify as LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered).
With over 20,000 Students in DIT, that’s a lot of people! We here in the LGBT society try to cater for everyone!

This year we are holding our annual Rainbow week starting on the 2nd of February 2009 - Fun and frolics are guaranteed! We’ll have guest speakers, nights out, workshops and the return of Diva!!!! Diva is a night for students to showcase their hidden talents whether it be performing in Drag, break dancing or just getting up on stage and giving us a song or two! A lot of people do mime though!!!

Keep an eye out on campus for posters during the exam period and make sure to get your tickets for Diva, as it’s sure to be a sell out!
See you soon campers!

Jenn
LGBT Society Secretary

Hi there,

The protest season may be giving way to mince pies and Christmas crackers but the fees campaign still rolls on – albeit in a different format. It’s time that the lobby machine gears up and we make politicians throughout the land finally fear the student vote. How can this be achieved you may ask? Well I’m glad you did ask because I’ve prepared an answer!

It’s going to take a lot to get members of the Dáil worried but we can all do our small part.

1. Register to vote in your local elections
   • You can check if you’re registered at http://www.checktheregister.ie/
   • If you’re not follow the online instructions and sign up to vote!

2. Lobby Batt O’Keffe, your local TD and candidates in the local elections
   • Pop into your local TD’s clinic and demand they answer questions on the fees issue
   • You can find a sample letter to send to them all at http://www.ditsu.ie/cmsfilesystem-action/docuploads/usiletteredited.pdf

3. Talk to family, friends, randomers on the street and ask them to lobby their local elected representatives about the fees issue.

4. Keep informed!
   • Check out the fees section of www.ditsu.ie
   • Find more information in the campaigns section of www.usi.ie

The National Protest, when every active student in Ireland will converge on Dublin, is coming up on February 4th 2009. Thousands of students will gather and make sure their voices are heard in the fees debate but that doesn’t mean that you should sit back and relax over Christmas. It’s only with your support and as a united front that we can defeat the introduction of tuition fees, stop new post-graduate taxes and reverse the 67% increase in the capitation.
In 2003 we stood united against fees and we won. Will you get involved to make sure that in 2008/09 we stand united again and win the debate once and for all?
At Hibernian Health Xpress Med, students can walk in and be seen without appointment for €55 (fee for non-student is €105), whether insured or not. Xpress Med is open 7 days per week until 8 pm.

Xpress Med uses Consultants in Emergency Medicine to deliver its services. This means that patients are managed by specialists with over thirty years of emergency medicine experience between them.

Xpress Med avoids the queues and stress frequently associated with attending Hospital Emergency Departments.

Xpress Med also offers patients on-site advanced diagnostic facilities, all in the same building, eliminating the need to attend facilities elsewhere. This reduces waiting and, in most cases, allows comprehensive treatment to be delivered in a single visit, but patients can be referred onward if necessary.

Hibernian Health Xpress Med can cater for a wide range of health concerns from sports and minor injuries, fractures and cuts to people suffering from acute illness and infections.

Xpress Med is conveniently located in Smithfield in Dublin's City centre and is ideally suitable for busy students living and working in Dublin city. Xpress Med is only 10 minutes from Connolly Station and 5 minutes from Heuston.

Access to Xpress Med in Smithfield is easy via the Red Luas Line at Smithfield stop, or by car from North King Street with ample underground parking.

Where to find Hibernian Health Xpress Med Urgent Care Centre


The Centre is centrally located in Smithfield Market, Dublin and can be readily accessed:
- By foot from the city centre
- By bus from the city centre (Aston Quay) no.90, (Wellington Quay) No. 25, 25A, 66 & 67.
- By Luas (just off the red line, Smithfield stop)
- By Car

Opening Hours
- Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm
- Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 10am – 8pm
- GP after hours service 8pm – 8am

Courteous, professional treatment within one hour. After hours (8pm – 8am) simply call 01 657 9000 and you'll be directed to our GP out-of-hours service.

What conditions we can treat

Injuries
- Broken bones/joint dislocation
- Ligament sprains/muscle & tendon tears
- Sports Injuries
- Wounds, bites, burns
- Back pain/slipped disc
- Chest/rib injury
- Neck & back injury
- Head injury/concussion

Urgent Illness
- Chest pain
- Breathing difficulties of mild to moderate severity
- Limb pain/swelling/ suspected leg clot
- Infections and abscesses
- Joint swelling/ acute arthritis
- Abdominal pain
- Headaches (other than suspected haemorrhage/meningitis)

What we do not treat:
- Children under 4 years of age
- Pregnancy related conditions
- Psychiatric conditions
- Extreme illness cases where patient is collapsed or needs hospital admission

Student Rate €55

A NEW CONCEPT IN URGENT CARE

In the heart of Smithfield
- Consultant led urgent care
- For minor injuries and illnesses
- Treatment within the hour

Hibernian Health Xpress Med, Smithfield Market, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 657 9000
Open daily until 8pm

Looking out for you

Hibernian Health Xpress Med is a member of the Irish Medical Organisation (IMO)
Fashion for the Street

Christmas Style...

Main Image:
Shift Dress - €10
Scarf - €3
Belt - €2
Bag - €5

Opposite Page:
[Top]
Dress - €6

[Bottom-left]
Faux Fur Coat - €30
Shirt - €6

[Bottom-right]
Cream blazer - €12
Navy Slip - €4
Scarf - €3

All featured clothes from WaWa

Photography:
Maebh Lyons-Murphy

Stylist:
Una O’Boyle
with Ciara Egan & Louise Ryan

Model:
Felicity Pear
Christmas pressies needn't be about breaking the bank. Fiona Condron tells us how to still give great gifts on a budget.

Ah, Christmas. The presents, the decorations, watching The Wizard of Oz and Mary Poppins for the sixth thousand and twelfth time. The complete and utter insanity of spending several small fortunes and a king's ransom on one little day.

It's especially painful, of course, when you're a poor student, and need to spend most of your hard won money on such frivolities as, I don't know, eating and somewhere to live. Mammy and Daddy tell you not to bother with presents for them this year, sure can't you make up for it when you get that high flying job after you graduate (what do you mean, you haven't told them you're taking a year out to go travelling yet!). But you know the slightly disappointed look they'll have on their faces when there's nothing underneath the tree for them will make you feel too guilty to enjoy the turkey. So you scramble underneath the sofa cushions for the spare change that must have fallen down there and you get yourself into town, where you wander round Penneys and the two Euro shop desperately trying to find something that doesn't look too much like it came from either.

But never fear! The folks at your Students' Union are a thoughtful bunch, and we couldn't stand the thoughts of your tired little feet traipsing around the streets of Dublin, searching vainly for a bargain. So we've come up with some ideas to help you get Mammy, Daddy and the rest a decent present, without having to give up food for the whole month of December.

Feeling crafty? No, not the twiddling your moustache, evil genius type of crafty. But if you watched a lot of Blue Peter as a child, and you're a bit handy with pipe cleaners and loo roll holders, you can put together a few presents yourself without breaking too much of a sweat. And even if you're not the most creative banana in the bunch, your unsuspecting family will either be so impressed with your efforts, or totally mystified by wondering what it is you've actually made, and you'll be able to tuck into the turkey without a care.

Buy a blank calendar - or even recycle the free one you got in the door - and fill it up with personal stuff. Pictures of your lovely self, photos from holidays and even your own artwork, and write in any dates of significance to the recipient (make sure you know their birthday!).

Make a memory box - pick up a box cheaply, and decorate the outside with things that will remind the recipient of good times. Photos, tickets from gigs you went to together, even images from their favourite mag. Glue all securely in place and paint the lot with a couple of coats of thinned out glue.

Personalise stuff - you can use the photo idea on a whole host of stuff, such as magnets, notebooks, a handheld mirror, a picture frame; anything you think the recipient might like.

Not good with glue? Maybe you're a whizz in the kitchen. Pick up a couple of cheap containers, and bake yourself up a couple of batches of biscuits, or even bake a nice apple pie if that's your thing. Print off some personalised labels on your PC, or even make them by hand, and you'll have a present that's unique and yummy.

And even if your baking skills aren't worthy of other people's taste buds, then whip up your biccies in festive shapes, decorate, and coat with a layer of varnish - now you've got cool Christmas ornaments! (Warn unsuspecting relatives not to eat them though... otherwise you'll be footing some steep dental bills in the new year!)

Is your Mammy or your sister always buying jewellery? Then impress them with a handmade necklace or pair of earrings. Craft or bead shops sell the various clasps and hooks you'll need quite cheaply, and you can pick out a selection of beads in your recipient's favourite colours. It's not too difficult to put the bits and pieces together, and you'll be bailed by relatives as the next big designer. If you're a bit of a knitter, then whip out your needles, and make a couple of scarves for a similar reaction.

So you're not into making stuff, and the thought of flowing creative juices makes you nauseous. Don't worry - it's not hopeless! Remember standing in the two Euro shop last year, and lamenting that nothing was really good enough to give on its own? Then make your own stocking! They usually have them in the two Euro shops, otherwise, just pick up a cheap gift bag or basket. Then all you have to do is pick up an array of the bits and pieces your relative loves - from their favourite bar of chocolate to that shampoo they use that makes them smell like apples - and you have a nice present that is actually guaranteed to get used.

And if all else fails, remember that sales are a student's best friend. You might not find too many bargains in the weeks coming up to the big day, but it's a good excuse to get out into the January sales. At least you'll be well prepared for next Christmas!
Green Christmas
How to be responsible this yuletime...

Christmas has a lot to answer for - overeating, killer hangovers, about six hideous jumpers that you wouldn't be seen dead wearing, and, according to Repak, about 80,000 tonnes of used packaging. You might not be able to do much about the unwanted presents (except for dropping hints about maybe getting a gift receipt next year), but by making a few changes here and there, we can try to do something about all that waste.

You might not be responsible for picking out the Christmas tree, but if the old parents ask for a hand in getting the thing into the car, then be sure to give them your two cents as well. You might think that choosing a fake tree is best - after all, you'll be able to use it from year to year - but the various chemicals that go into the production of artificial trees make this not such a green choice. Choose a real tree from a local supplier (to reduce the amount of waste produced in transportation), and go organic (grown without the use of pesticides) if you can. Don't be afraid to ring around and ask a few questions before you buy. Make sure you know what you're going to do with your tree when the festivities are over - local authorities arrange tree-recycling (see www.repak.ie for details), or even research planting it in your garden (be sure to check this out first, though, as not all gardens will be suitable). The greenest option is to go without the tree altogether - there are lots of other ways to be festive! Decorate an existing outdoor tree, jazz up one of your house plants, or even get your crafty hat out and make a tree out of some recycled paper!

While the creative juices are flowing, you might want to rekindle that long lost childhood and try making some of your own decorations! This can be a lot of fun if you have little nieces or nephews - and the parents can consider your spending time with the kids as part of their Christmas present! It's even a bit of a laugh to try making some paper chain when you have a few friends round for the evening. Get out the scissors and sellotape and have some fun...

Whether you choose the real tree or not, you'll probably have some nice festive lights up somewhere. Try to pick up some energy efficient ones - these can use as much as 90% less energy than traditional lights! Don't go overboard, and try to keep lights to a minimum - they do say less is more. And remember to switch them off when you're not enjoying them.

When helping out with the food shop, try to pick food that's been grown locally, and go for organic where you can. Buy your fruit and veg loose, rather than in lots of packaging, and reuse the tins and jars that your cakes and biccies come in. Remember to bring your reusable shopping bag to pack the whole lot into when you're done.

Choose greener presents too - so many charities offer presents that give to others, so maybe think about sponsoring a child or buying a nice goat! These presents are also nicely clutter free too, and won't waste space sitting unused in your house somewhere. Gift tokens for something like a nice massage are another way to give clutter free presents, as are cinema, gig or theatre tickets; you could even offer your services yourself - things like babysitting for a busy parent or walking a dog are invaluable! Oxfam offer a range of Fairtrade products too, if you'd rather give a physical gift. If you do purchase more traditional presents, be sure to include some rechargeable batteries with anything battery operated, or add a battery recharger into your loved one's stocking.

Use less packaging when giving gifts, and try and recycle wrapping paper when you can. Making your own gift wrapping using recycled paper, or even newspapers and magazines, is a fantastic way to really personalise a gift, and make sure you send e-cards rather than paper ones to help cut down on waste.

Speaking of paper, make sure you avoid excessive use of it where you can by using cloth napkins and tablecloths, and don't use disposable cutlery, cups or plates at parties. Don't wrap your leftovers in tinfoil or cling film, put them in reusable containers instead. Recycle or compost anything suitable - if you don't have a compost heap yet, then add it to your list of New Year's Resolutions! Bring your bottles and can to your local recycling centre - www.repak.ie has details of these.

'Christmas' and 'responsible' are not two words we usually like to see together, but it's really not that difficult to be a bit more green during the festive season. Make a few small changes to your usual traditions, and go to bed on Christmas night with a belly full of turkey, and a greener conscience! RC.
Dear Abby,

This, like, recession is totally bumming me out. Daddy said that we can only have one ski holiday and we’re going to Bulgaria! I mean its a communist country, isn’t it? I mean O.M.G, I will never live is down, it is totally humiliating, what about France or good old looking Aspen? I mean, like what do I say to my friends, its the skiing today and goodbye to the botox tomorrow. My life is falling apart?? Please Abby help me get through this? Should I start applying for my own goldcards now? Daddy said I should try getting a job, but I’m not sure what that is.

Yours, Very Afraid

Dear Scardey Cat,

I chose to respond to your letter because I truly felt your pain, it genuinely wasn’t printed purely for other peoples amusement. Yes the “R” word has people nervous and anxious about what the future holds, but I think its fair to say your worries a truly unique, and special, like you. Have you spoken openly and honestly with your parents about how this like recession is like totally fooking you up? Maybe if you were open and honest with them they might be able to help you in this difficult and confusing time. Alternatively and I suggest this route) take the silver spoon out of your botoxed mouth, get a job (where you exchange menial manual labour in exchange for cash) and grow the hell up. I’ll carry on wondering if my job is safe and if I can afford my mortgage and feed my car and you carry on wondering how many Louis vuitton handbags you can afford this month that should make us even!!

Yours (genuinely) poorly,

Abby

Dear Abby,

With the exams coming up I been studying. I can’t say that I’ve been the most attentive student, cos I haven’t. I’m panicking a bit, I’ve been pulling all nighters, all dayers and everything in between and still I don’t seem to be getting anything done. This is what happens - I’m sitting there and me mate comes in and wants me to play one game on the Xbox and the next minute its 5 o’clock in the morning. I’ve eaten 7 centra pizzas, 15 cans of cheap cola and sure I couldn’t go asleep even if I wanted to and well, the constipation is another thing altogether. Please help!

Yours, Blated

Dear Blated,

All students have been known to procrastinate in one form or another over their academic times, but you are an excellent case. I would suggest at this point you haven’t a hope in hell of catching up with your class so why not kick back, enjoy what delicacies centra have on offer this week and kick your friends proverbial at Call of Duty 4. While this may not be the most professional advice I’d hazard a guess you won’t even get up long enough to grab this mag and read my column and if you did you wouldn’t listen to me anyway, so I’m just going to tell you what you want to hear!

Yours Faceiously,

Abby

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DITSU SHITZU SAYS:
Compiling your magazine can be ruff work! All the help I can get is greatly appreciated.
If you fancy writing some articles, about whatever you want. Then get in touch with us.
Or maybe you run a club or society, send us on your latest news. This is YOUR magazine!
toast@ditsu.ie
One of our own recently took up a place in WIT. She decided to become our 'mole' on the inside. Here is her story so far...

I've grown up in Dublin; all my friends are there, everything I know is there. But this September I moved my life to Waterford for college. Admittedly it wasn't my first choice but when it came down to it, I felt I'd had my fill of Dublin. Like most people starting college I was scared. The most ominous question being, will I make friends? And like most people, I did. It started with "have you any idea what's going on?" and now we sign each other in for lectures, copy notes and have drinks in each other's apartments before heading out. These are people who got to know me know me through the insanely long hours we spent in lectures together.

"I wasn't aware that growing up in Dublin was such a terrible affliction that it couldn't be slagged!"

In general, it's a different story. People hear my accent or that I'm from Dublin and immediately their attitude towards me changes. I've been given abuse from strangers on nights out. I'd be getting on with someone and then "you're from Dublin" it has the same effect as slapping them in the face. I was even accused of walking posh. I didn't bother to explain that the way I walk is due to a limp and not being born in a place with a post code! Most people I've met in college don't come from Waterford and all have different accents and generally they all get slagged for them but if anyone takes a dig at mine, nobody really laughs and most of the time it's quickly followed by a pc retraction, much the same as if someone just slagged a disabled kid. I wasn't aware that growing up in Dublin was such a terrible affliction that it couldn't be slagged!!

After months of this, I still don't understand what the problem is. I've been called a stuck-up snob from Dublin by people whom I'd been getting on well with before they knew where I was from. I don't wear make-up into college, designer clothes or fake tan. If their only problem with me is where I'm from, does this not make them the shallow judgemental ones? cw.

RAG Week 2009
Get Collecting NOW!
All proceeds to Console Ireland
Pick up a sponsorship form at your local SU office or see ditsu.ie for details
hat better to go with Toast than a nice cuppa Tea...

Much and all as we would like to, sometimes we can’t cram as much as we would like onto our slice of Toast. And that’s where a nice big cuppa Tea comes in. Tea is a whole section of our new website dedicated to the wierd and wonderful, and always with an eye for your entertainment.

Because college isn’t all about study you know...

Come and see what’s Freshly Brewed...

Movies that you should see but might not get the chance if it weren’t for me

Our resident Movie Buff gives the low down on movies that you just haven’t been cool enough to have seen... until now!

First genre up: Sci-Fi

I listen to bands that don’t even exist yet, and I prefer their early stuff...

Our music guru is considered the next Dave Fanning. Compliment or not, this guy certainly knows his music, and has decided to share his knowledge.

First up: Obscure Side Projects

Union movies that we host on the always fabulous youtube...

From Freshers’ events, fees protest and class rep training. It’s all there, in one easy to find section. Now, can you pass the popcorn please?

Nominate your faves

The Ultimate, Totally Necessary, so-good-you-must-read-this A-Z of Student Life...

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Volunteering

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