The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union November, 1994

DIT: Students' Union

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Row Erupts Over DIT Faculty Plans

A row has erupted in DIT Kevin Street over the move of the Food Science programme to DIT Cathal Brugha Street under the institute's proposed new faculty structure. The dispute has arisen only weeks after the publication of the faculty structure report by the DIT's governing body.

A petition signed by more than 600 students from DIT Kevin Street, most of whom will not be affected by the move, has been delivered to Dr Brendan Goldsmith, President of the DIT. It requests that the Food Science and Food Technology option of the Applied Science degree be part of the Faculty of Tourism and Food Science. The governing body recommends that the Food Science and Food Technology option of the Applied Science degree programme should be transferred to the Faculty of Food Science and Tourism. The decision has caused concern and anger among staff and students.

"I've spoken to students and they are very very angry about it," said Ciarán Crobie, President of the Students' Union in DIT Kevin Street. He said that they had a number of worries, relating to the future status of the degree and qualification would be adversely affected by the move to the new faculty.

John McEvoy is a lecturer in the Food Science programme and has been closely involved in recent years with the placement programme for its final year students. "Cathal Brugha Street has been doing Food Science over the years, developing the catering side and Kevin Street developed Food Science on the science side. They are going to have to be amalgamated without a doubt. How to amalgamate them is really the problem."

We here feel very strongly that Food Science, as the name implies, is a science and think that it should be amalgamated with the science faculty. We feel very strongly about that, so much so that when the consultative group came here we were as a department unanimous that Food Science should reside in Kevin Street."

He said that the feeling in Kevin Street was that the course was decoupled from Science it would eventually not be seen as a science, that it would be seen as part of the faculty of Tourism and Food Science. It is not clear what sort of physical move will take place from Kevin Street, if any, and that seems unlikely at the moment given the lack of physical resources available to the DIT. But a new building is to be constructed on the Marlborough Street site and the concern remains regardless of the physical location of the course. "If there was no food science in the college at the moment and you suddenly say, this is an area we should be getting into, where would you put it? That's really what I'm asking. This is a science and technology and that's really what you want to develop."

Both Cathal Brugha Street and Kevin Street have excellent courses he argued but was adamant that Food Science belonged in Kevin Street."

He said that he understood the need for the placing of some structures but felt that the "nitty gritty" had not been thoroughly thought out. The lobbying on the issue would continue, he said.

Mr Frank McMahon, acting Director of DIT Cathal Brugha Street, told the DIT Examiner that the issue was a matter for the Governing Body and that he had no function with regard to the decisions taken. He believed that the department to which a course was attached would be more determined by its nature than the faculty. He likened the situation to a student in UCD doing economics who was in the same faculty as someone doing Greek.

Dr Brendan Goldsmith has said elsewhere in this paper that the document on faculty structures was not intended as the "grand blueprint for the future of DIT." He said that he was willing to listen to issues from both sides on a number if issues. "I have an open mind and if people can convince me that it should be different then I will be happy to recommend it to Governing Body that it should be so, but I expect them to put forward rational arguments."

At time of going to print there had been no response regarding the petition from DIT Kevin Street.
The DIT Examiner
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A Sight for Sore Eyes

Over the past month we have seen not one but two example of an event that could accurately be now termed a phenomenon, or, if you’re feeling nasty, an aberration, such has its irregularity become in recent years. Even the most optimistic of us could not have foreseen the enthusiasm and sheer size of the students’ demonstrations that took place in Aungier Street and then, two weeks later, in the middle of Dublin-City. The organiser might not have said so publicly, but in the nervous moments leading up to November 17 in particular, there were moments of great uncertainty and cold fear. It could easily have been a disaster had the students not turned out in the numbers that they did – rarely have the people who organised the event spent so much time looking at weather forecasts for there can been little doubt that had the rain come down in the manner it normally does there would have been some red faces in USI and in students’ unions across the country. But it didn’t, and they came in number that no-one predicted. It was a peaceful and good natured affair and was certainly deserving of a great deal more publicity than it received. Had the Government not chosen November 17th as the day to implode, the event would surely have made the television news – it was actually mentioned as ‘coming next’ item but the astonishing events in the Dail were, in fairness, even more fun to watch.

It was international students’ day, a date chosen to remember the death at the hands of the Nazis of nine Czech students. It was designed as a day of solidarity within the student movement, a show of strength but while the strength was there in numbers the event lacked the killer blow of an issue, a single issue which would have given an added relevance and impetus. Still, that is a quibble; what is important now for all students unions and USI most of all is that the moment is not permitted to slip away to become nothing more than a fond memory of one day in one year. A start has been made, energy must be focused and directed at moving forward from there. But no matter how committed the students’ unions are, the real power lies with the students, those who came out on November 17th and those who did not. Don’t make it a one off.

The effects of a concentrated demonstration were startlingly felt over in the newest DIT site at Aungier Street when more students than anyone could have hoped for (or dreaded in the case of the college authorities) plonked their arses first on the lobby floor and then on the street in angry protest at the lack of operational facilities for the Communications and Journalism students. It was a ridiculous state of affairs in this superbly equipped building and the demonstration was a last resort and an expression of frustration. The students immediately affected were there, of course, but what was so encouraging to see was the number of students from other courses who displayed a solidarity that seemed to have gone by the wayside. And then there was the support from other colleges, and not only DIT sites. NCAD was there, at Trinity and DCU. One day of committed protest was impressive enough, but they came back on Friday. In the morning. And they stayed, happy, noisy and peaceful. And they got results.

Faculty Structures

The President of the DIT, Dr Brendan Goldsmith has said that the faculty structures document cannot be the blueprint for the future of the institute but already it is causing concern, among staff and students. This is not surprising, not only because change and movement is difficult, but because all sorts of conclusions are being drawn as to what the new structures will mean. In a climate of uncertainty, they are inevitable. The long term ramifications of the proposed structures are huge and far reaching for the DIT and there are good reasons for some degree of amalgamation but with such resistance being displayed so soon after the publication of the document, it does not auger well for the immediate future. There are tough times ahead for the DIT and the current and very serious problem emanating from DIT Kevin Street is certainly not the last. At this time of the year, the last thing students need to be doing is worrying about where they are going to be and what kind of degree they will eventually have. It needs to be sorted out.

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STUDENTS UNION SHOPS

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Clarifications

Should you encounter anything you feel is in need of clarification in this, or any other issue of the DIT Examiner, please contact the editor and any such matters shall then be clarified in the subsequent edition.
DIT Students go to the Polls Again

Referendum will be held throughout the Dublin Institute of Technology on December 7th. The following changes to the constitution of Students' Technology on December 7th. The following changes to the constitution of Students' Technology insert "Technology" insert "Technology" after the words "competent within"

Article 1
Delete all "Rathmines College of Commerce" insert "DIT Aungier Street"
Delete all "Kevin Street College of Technology" insert "DIT Kevin Street"
Delete all "Catering" insert "DIT-Cathal Brugha Street"
Delete all "College of Design" insert "DIT-Mountjoy Square"
Delete all "College of Music" insert "DIT College of Music"

Article 2
(5) Insert "non-directive" after the words "to provide"

Executive Committee
2(a) Delete "The President" insert "The Overall President"
2(b) Delete "The Convenors" insert "The Site Presidents"
2(c) Delete "The Deputy Convenors" insert "The Site Deputy Presidents"

Elections Supervisory Committee
1(a) Insert "or his/her nominee" after the words "The President of D.I.T.S.U."
1(b) Delete "the General Secretary of D.I.T.S.U." and insert "A member of staff appointed by the Executive Committee"

Insert (9) "Any member of E.S.C. who stands for election automatically resigns from his/her post on E.S.C."

Trading and Commercial Services Committee
Delete 1(b) and renumber accordingly.

Schedule 2 - Regulations
7(1) insert "in any one office and three overall" after the words "shall be two"

Schedule 3
4(b) delete "six months" and insert "two years" after the words "competent within"

College Committees
4(1) insert "ensuring that the views of apprentices are fully represented to the college authorities and that the Union is kept fully informed of matters affecting the welfare of part-time students" and renumber accordingly.

Delete 4(c) and 4(f) insert "Irish Language Officer" who shall be an Irish Language speaker, shall be responsible for:
(a) The development, fostering and nurturing of the Irish language among the students of the DIT.
(b) Translation of all documents and publications into the Irish language, wherever practicable.
(c) The implementation of the Union's bi-lingual policy.
(d) Liaising with relevant external bodies and renumber accordingly.

Women's Affairs Committee
Delete all "E.S.C."

Delete all "1(b) and renumber accordingly.

Delete 1(b) and renumber accordingly.

Delete 4(c) and 4(f) insert "Irish Language Officer" who shall be an Irish Language speaker, shall be responsible for:
(a) The development, fostering and nurturing of the Irish language among the students of the DIT.
(b) Translation of all documents and publications into the Irish language, wherever practicable.
(c) The implementation of the Union's bi-lingual policy.
(d) Liaising with relevant external bodies and renumber accordingly.

Nobody offers D.I.T. students a better coach service from Dublin.

Sample Student Monthly Return Fares

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<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
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<td>GALWAY</td>
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<td>CORK</td>
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Buy your ticket in the college

Tickets available in the D.I.T. Student Union Shops at Kevin Street, Bolton Street, Cathal Brugha Street, Mountjoy Square, Aungier Street.
For group bookings and travel information call Busaras (01) 836 6111.
Remember, you need an LS.I.C. Card with Travelsave Stamp to avail of Student Fares.
Ask about reductions on other services with LS.I.C. Card.

You're better off on Bus Eireann
Mamet’s Mind Bomb

For David Mamet, a film moves along using pictures, whereas a play moves along with the use of dialogue. With Mamet’s play “Oleanna” due to be released as a film, it will be interesting to see how he transfers the play version, which depends on dialogue, into a film.

It has been said that when leaving the theatre after a Mamet play, one realises that it has exploded in your brain. This quite aptly describes the after effect of seeing “Oleanna” which has just finished its runs at the Gate Theatre.

Good Ideas From Bolton Street

Three Architecture Students from DIT Bolton Street have won second prize in the 1994 Zephyr European Architectural Ideas Competition. The award was made recently at Bartlett School of Architecture in University College, London.

The students, Hugh Kelly, Gavin Duffy and Patrick Harrington had, as had the other entrants, to design a mixed use building located in an area which would have a predominant need for cooling. Competitors could select their own site anywhere in the Southern EU or use a site in Athens for which information was supplied in the extensive competition documentation. The competition was divided into two sections, one for architects and one for students. In all, 183 completed entries were submitted, 94 from architects and 89 from students. All were appraised during the summer by a team of technical assessors. The award comes with a prize of 5,000 ECU.

An exhibition of all the entries will be held from Monday, 16 January to Saturday, 21 January 1995 at the School of Architecture, University College Dublin and a book of the competition is in preparation.

Throughout the play, there exists an ambiguity about what the characters say and mean. John says “we can only interpret the behaviour through the screen we create”, which suggests that we take meaning from the perspective we “create”.

Both actors capture very well the subtlety of human emotion. Dana Bledsoe, as the student, credibly conveys the helplessness of not “understanding” her course work, felt by most students at some stage. Yet she develops her character into a threatening, potentially damaging force later in the play.

Stanley Townsend manages to act the sensitive lecturer who harbours a brutish force until the last scene. He empathises with Carol by recalling his own past yet, in a less controlled state, he poses a physical threat.

For Mamet, the ability to write dialogue takes the ability to “split oneself in two”. In “Oleanna”, the spectator is “split” between Carol and John’s differing interpretations, as John objects to the claims of sexual harassment, saying that his behaviour contained “no sexual content”.

As in Mamet’s other works (Glengarry Glenross, Speed the Plough, The Cryptogram, Mamet’s latest play highlights the difficulty of language as a means of communication. Each character interrupts the other’s sentences and phrases are repeated. This results in fractured dialogue, making it difficult to gain a clear sense of what the characters are trying to say.

At both characters seek “understanding”, they seek control. Carol is upset when she does not “understand” her course work: “What do you want from me? Who should I listen to...?” John, too, seeks to understand Carol’s accusations when she says, “Do you know what you have worked for? Power? For Power.”

Oleanna is a thought provoking play, where one attempts to understand the fractured, yet highly charged, dialogue. It will be interesting to see if the film version of the play is as explosive.

by Emer Devery
There used to be such mystery attached to hypnotism. There was something kind of weird and sexy about the idea of it; using hidden powers to force others to do your bidding; in films it was almost always used by nefarious sorts to further their plans for world domination. And the audiences bought it; they knew little about it and were willing to accept it, in a less judgmental era, as part of the magic of the movies; the art of hypnotism turned up frequently in horror, drama and later featured often in cliff-hanger serials.

In this sophisticated and media saturated age, such simple mind trickery has lost its spookiness, and therefore its ability to convince as a plot device. All you have to do is turn on the TV and there it is, practiced by a quick talking, grinning loon on other shows and in varying states of indignity. Familiarity has indeed bred disdain and the last film I can recall using such mind control being used in the manner of old is Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, which was of course inspired by the old Republic serials.

The main character in Russell Mulcahy's new film, The Shadow, uses such mind control. The eponymous hero, played by Alec Baldwin, employs his mysterious gifts to aid him in his never ending fight against crime. The Shadow is located firmly in the now slightly camp pulp novel/radio show/comic book world (Orsen Welles played the character on radio before he became a genius). Even the name is evocative; a modern crime fighter with the old story as its basis and借着 it up in natty special effects. It looks like a big film, (credit to the designers and special effects people), was brilliant - and he tends to bring that to all his roles. He is certainly handsome enough to be a semi-superhero crime fighter but his slightly thuggish good looks are again, more suited to suave crooks.

Penelope Ann Miller is undervalued, but at least the little she gets to do does not involve a damsel in distress scenario. For a feisty dame her character, Margo, doesn't really spark with Lamont. They aren't given enough time together and so their romance is very much by the way. There is one quick fire exchange between the two but all it does is serve as an indication of what could have been. Mostly she gets to wear great dresses.

The Hudsucker Proxy

After the darkness and menace of Barton Fink, the Coen Brothers go for a much lighter feel with this funny, affectionate and great looking 40s style film. After the bizarre death of Mr Hudsucker, President of the eponymously titled huge company, Tim Robbins, a supposed dol, is dragged from the mail room and made President by a Machiavellian Paul Newman. The plan is that he will cause shares to drop so much that the board will be able to buy up the whole thing for half nothing. But the idiot has an idea and a tough talking reporter (Jennifer Jason Leigh) smells a rat.

It's the sort of 'simple guy takes on for all the wrong reasons, then there is something seriously amiss.

Pulp Fiction

It's all been said before of course but I'm more than willing to say it again. Pulp Fiction is a stunning piece of film making; funny, clever, stylish, knowing, literate, assured and though violent, it's no bloodfest. It's got a great script, a clutch of first rate performances (Samuel Jackson and John Travolta take a bow, Bruce Willis, try to do it more often) and a visceral, in your face style that is impossible to ignore or forget.

Quentin Tarantino pulls out all the stops in this, only the second film he's directed. Three tales, apparently separate but finally interlinked, make up this riveting film. There's nothing original in the actual plots but it's what Tarantino does with them that makes him special. The squirmish among you should set your jaws, square your shoulders and make the effort.
Perhaps it was the novelty aspect of the whole exercise—after all, there hasn't been a decent disruptive student sit in for years. Or, possibly, the choice between attending classes and being bolshie and boisterous was no contest at all. Or maybe—do we even dare to whisper it—just maybe, the collective move back inside, happily and quietly, decided an ambulance, the assembled masses ging that seems to have marked the...
Sound Structures?

It was inevitable that the Faculty Structure proposals for the Dublin Institute of Technology would be the source of debate, suspicion and, probably, acrimony. As the Institute strives to integrate further the various sites and to encourage a single identity for the DIT, certain problems were sure to arise. When a document is leaked, as the DIT's faculty structure document was, then you can be sure that interest is high and that people are worried. Change is a very difficult thing, as Dr Brendan Goldsmith, President of the DIT, is no doubt intensely aware. He is very keen to make one thing very very clear regarding the document, something that sounds quite startling, but really shouldn't.

"One of the issues I want to make clear to people is that no one should see this small document on faculty structures" - he holds up the 34 page report by the governing body on faculty structures and drops it on his desk, "as the grand blueprint for the future of the DIT. It is not intended to be and it falls very short of the margin if it is being judged at that standard. If you like, its very much the laying of a skeleton, a part of the development of the DIT and there are much wider issues to be addressed."

Dr Goldsmith's determination to clarify this matter suggests that there has already been some criticism of the document from within the institution.

"Some people have written in and said they were very disappointed that they haven't addressed this, this, this and this. In that sense they are missing the point: this is a limited report with a very limited objective. It's merely starting us off." It has been criticised as being unbalanced and it seems clear that this is just the beginning of the objections, for it seems likely to raise hackles, through real or imagined slights. Already there have been representations made with regard to the school of modern languages which is listed in the faculty report as being part of the faculty of Applied Arts and Culture. Some have argued that it would be better suited to the Faculty of Business. Dr Goldsmith argues that nothing is yet set in stone. "I am willing to listen to arguments from both sides and the same hold for a number of other areas. I have an open mind and if people can convince me that it should be different then I will be very happy to recommend it to Governing Body that it should be so, but I expect them to put forward rational arguments, not just 'I don't want to move, I don't want to be with Joe Bloggs.'"

Reading between the lines there is a strong feeling that resistance to the proposed changes could be formidable. "The whole thing was written with the view that this is the first step along the road, the next step of getting senior people on board is going to be critical. One of the issues I am most conscious of is that in the old document there is one reference to technicians; that's not to say that DIT regards technicians as unimportant; indeed they are key players in the whole scene but they will be addressed at the next step down the road and the same holds in relation to other, say, academic issues. Some of the things in this document are developments of the IPA report because it seemed appropriate to leave them in, but real academic issues will be thrashed out when we have a couple of key players on board and I think its important that people realise that. This document could not be the blueprint for the future of DIT and it was not intended to be."

The faculty structure document suggests that the DIT should be restructured into six faculties and a Centre for Continuing Education. The titles suggested for these faculties are: Science, Engineering, Built Environment, Applied Arts and Culture, Business and Food Science and Tourism. Over an undefined period this will require much movement of courses and students from one site to another and it is certainly a move that cannot be rushed. Dr Goldsmith acknowledges this.

"I don't envisage movement to any new sites right away because there is not the physical capacity." Importantly, he adds that there "may be some small movement."

He believes that the amount of movement will be quite small, not for the individuals involved but on an institute wide level. Practicalities dictate that this will take some time. "There are some things that are desirable but are just not on, maybe for a number of years, depending on the physical movement."

The date given on the document for the implementation of the new structures is, surprisingly, September 1995. Is this not rushing the process? Dr Goldsmith doesn't think so.

"It depends totally of course on us getting the go ahead at a fairly early stage. If it drifts past the dates we have suggested by any amount we'll have to let it slip back by about a year. The last thing we want is to end up with a kind of a half way house; that would be a disaster. I think if we get directors and faculty administrators appointed reasonably early next term then I think they can do the necessary groundwork." The faculty directors are due to be appointed in January and the Administrators in February of next year. This raises another important question, whether or not the current site directors will automatically become faculty directors. The answer is that where an individual was a principal at the time of the DIT (1992) Act coming into force, he will be guaranteed a directorship. This means that Kevin Street's director, Frank Brennan, and Jim Hickey (Aungier Street) are guaranteed directorships under the new structure whereas in the other DIT sites, where there are currently acting directors, continued on page 8
there will be open competition for the positions. In all cases the posts will be held for a fixed period, not yet decided, though the report suggests five years as a possibility. It has not yet been decided whether the Centre for Continuing Education will be a faculty, nor has a location been agreed for it. "Some solutions may emerge from the physical development plan that we are hoping will go ahead very soon. We've been given permission by the department to proceed with this and we are currently taking submission from a number of companies. The governing body will make a decision as to which one to appoint."

"Little mention is made in the report about the student body and the prospect of a move is certain to cause concern. Dr Goldsmith feels that the immediate impact for them will be minimal."

"From the student perspective in the very short term, they probably won't be aware of it. In the longer term what we would hope to see happening is a better bringing together of students. It will be tapping into a wide range of resources within the institute that heretofore. One of the issues that I aware of is that the college situation for many reasons, most of them historical, hasn't necessarily allowed cognate disciplines to pull together; in many cases it has been the opposite."

Dr Goldsmith has a grander plan in mind for the very long term and the faculty structure is but part of this.

"Quite honestly, my objective would be to see DIT evolve towards essentially into a two campus operation, by which I mean a north and a south city campus. I would regard Aungier Street and Kevin Street as a south city campus and there are possibilities for development there. On the north side it is a little more difficult. Bolton Street and Cathal Brugha Street are a reasonable axis for us. We are inclined to think of those two as quite a distance apart because the city intrudes, in actual fact they are very close. If we can find some other location in that direction to expand on that, that would be ideal."

One of the sections of immediate interest to students is that concerned with Student Services. A cohesive student services unit is to be developed. It will be staffed by a Student Services Officer, who will be Senior Lecturer 1 level, one senior counsellor and six counsellors, a student services administrator (Grade 7) and two support staff. Though the student services officer will be at SL1 level, this does not mean that he or she will be an academic, although Dr Goldsmith does not rule out this possibility. He describes the role as an extension and widening of the existing student services position, held at present by Dermot Hegarty.

The report of Faculty Structures in the DIT began as the institute's response to the IPA report on such structures but it has gone further down the road, and though a slim document, will have serious ramifications for everyone in the DIT. It will be interesting to see how it is implemented.

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Super Students Get the Gold

Thirty five DIT graduates were presented with Gold Medal for Academic Excellence at a special ceremony recently in DIT Kevin Street's Gleeson Hall.

Back in June 1991, Academic Council had decided that it would be a good thing for the institute to honour those students whose final exam performance showed a level of excellence in excess of that of their peers and other students on comparable programmes. Or, those students who worried everyone else by continually asking for more paper during the exams.

The ceremony, the first of its kind for the DIT, honoured graduates from the years 1991-93. Each recipient signed the DIT Roll of Honour. At the ceremony, DIT President Dr Brendan Goldsmith said that the gold medal awards were a clear sign, "if one is needed, of the commitment of DIT to academic excellence in its undergraduate programme."

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DIT STUDENT SPECIALS

6" Ham & Cheese + Regular Beverage

6" Tuna + Regular Beverage

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6" Irish Sausage + Regular Beverage

£2.00

Offer only applies on production of DIT Student card
A Marvellous Day Out

At the bottom of Kildare Street, which had been blocked off by the Gardai, to the passive annoyance of the crowd, an old woman was attempting to get by. Having satisfied himself that she was in no way part of the demonstration filing past, a young Garda moved back a crash barrier and allowed her pass. She looked up at this protector of the street and asked: "What's going on?"

"Ah, you know, students," Students. Long term code word and catch all expression indicating high jinx, noise and myriad irritating shenanigans undertaken by young scuffly types. The old woman wasn't satisfied.

"What are they marching about," she pressed, eyes seeking the truth in the cop's face. Perhaps she was an infiltrator after all. I leaned forward for his answer.

"Ah, you know, housing, facilities, better grants, more money during the summer, that sort of thing," I retrieved my jaw from the ground. What was going on here? Who was this man and why wasn't he wearing jeans and a lumpy sweater? Was he perhaps a fifth columnist?

Meanwhile, her urging had had some effect on some of the more excitable people in the crowd. Strange men with odd haircuts began to shove forward and when USI stewards (identified by natty pieces of green material) resisted their attempts to storm the Dáil and bring down the rotten capitalist government -too late chap- much shouting ensued. It was certainly odd to find students ensuring other students that Leinster House was not besieged but the police suggested by the Garda, had been agreed to by USI in advance. For one moment it looked as if the day was about to go all wrong or rebelliously right, depending on your thinking, but finally the shouting subsided, faces regained their natural hue and the demonstration moved on.

That almost out of control moment was the only one of its kind during the entire event, which could be and no doubt was described as "boisterous but good natured". Led by Macnas, cunningly disguised as some dragons, the demonstration, some 10,000 strong, incurred the wrath of drivers all over the city, not to mention those people with exceptional hearing; for the noise was truly deafening, a veritable cacophony (copyright Dave Carmody in 'I've got a big Thesaurus' mode) of whistles, horns, drums and human voices bellowing out a variety of slogans. And indeed, here was a problem, for there was no simple issue justifying the march. This was International Students Day, and as the young Garda rightly surmised, the march was organised for a number of reasons. Consequently, when the cry went out of "What do we want?" quizical looks were exchanged and several answers were offered. The end result was a slight lack of vocal cohesion. The whistles however, all sounded the same, which was something.

When the marchers made it to their final meeting point the very middle of O'Connell Street, again to the consternation of people in cars - a number of stirring speeches were made, the assembled students responding with a gust of enthusiasm diminished by hours of marching and shouting. As the cheerful masses hung on every passionate word - journalistic license - a man with a motorised street cleaning apparatus, taking advantage of the vehicular emptiness of O'Connell street, furiously and at great speed shined up the area. The outdoor activities finished with The Wilde Oscars, the cause of more jumping up and down, and it was all good clean fun, but My God, there were so many dreadful, uncally sighted sights in any of several pubs later. It was a fitting end to a day that often looked like it would be an unmitigated and embarrassing fiasco for the organisers, and was then dealt the ill-timed blow of a collapsing government which took all the news - and I never thought I would describe the fall of the government as a "blow". However, it all worked out, thanks to hard work, good organisation and a commitment to ensure that a message was delivered. I, for one, had been sceptical. I am off to buy a hat which I will then eat.
Ronan Haughey is Charlie Bird. DITSSU's very own Special Correspondent was on hand at DCU recently, complete with very serious expression and big microphone, to nab former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds as he left the university having attended some function or other. Little did the intrepid Haughey know that he was about to scoop the entire Irish press corps, that the then Taoiseach was to rattle off, in that flippant tone of his, a little, seemingly insignificant phrase which would come back very soon to haunt him. Having repeatedly questioned Mr. Reynolds about student poverty - one of the answers, bizarrely, included the news that A Reynolds daughter was a student in DUC; street cred by proxy - Ronan finally asked if he had a message for students. Albert rambled on about the importance of third level education and then he said, to look as righteously indignant as Roger Cook. Indeed, what it lacked in technical brilliance it made up for in anger and disgust at a situation whereby students are often forced to live in appalling conditions - cue some shots of thoroughly unpleasant flats - and at the same time are perceived as sloppy and careless spendthrifts. Still, as timely and relevant the whole video is, and though it raised a number of important issues, it will last in the memory as the video in which Albert spoke too soon. We await the sequel.

What a sound bite that has turned out to be. That case of foot in mouth disease has been captured forever on videotape for the univaled enjoyment of politics watchers everywhere. It forms just part - but what a part - of a video put together by Ronan and Bolton Street's Chaplain, to highlight the issue of student poverty in the 1990s. Never once dropping his guard and smiling, Ronan set out to talk to students, students' union representatives, politicians and, where he could, to look as righteously indignant as Roger Cook. Indeed, what it lacked in technical brilliance it made up for in anger and disgust at a situation whereby students are often forced to live in appalling conditions - cue some shots of thoroughly unpleasant flats - and at the same time are perceived as sloppy and careless spendthrifts. Still, as timely and relevant the whole video is, and though it raised a number of important issues, it will last in the memory as the video in which Albert spoke too soon. We await the sequel.

Student Counsellors from third level institutes all over Ireland have come together to set up the Irish Association of University and College Counsellors. They launched their policy document recently in the DIT's head office.

The basic aim of the association is to co-ordinate and promote the development of an effective, professional service in third level colleges. The infant organisation has, at present, 25 members. At a time when the DIT has just released its long awaited faculty structure document, which includes a section on student services, it seems as if the moment was chosen wisely.

Susan Lindsay, DIT Counsellor, says that it is a complicated story.

"About two years ago we came across an article in a paper about student stress; it could have been by a doctor and we felt that there should also have been a counsellor expressing an opinion because most of us have been in the business for quite a long time and have built up considerable expertise." There was a general feeling among counsellors that they were a resource that wasn't being tapped into and that counsellors needed more of a voice. A coming together offered the chance for solidarity and strength in numbers and that is all very well and laudable but unless they can at the very least make representations regarding policy, they may be somewhat toothless beyond their immediate and important day to day work. Ms Lindsay recognises this.

"We have access to a lot of students and we build up a lot of information and we need an opportunity to share that; that's the case we'll be arguing, that we have to have access to decision making committees. The counselling service cannot be marginalised; it needs to be.

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CROSSWORD

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SEND TO:
THE IRISH TIMES / DITSU, Crossword Competition, The DIT Examiner, (to be dropped into local Union offices)

THE IRISH TIMES

55p

ACROSS
8. Rant, sire, about the sieve. (8)
9. Not based on fact. (6)
10. Brightly-coloured ornament of little value. (6)
11. Conquer, overcome. (8)
12. Fire or flashing light as a signal of danger. (8)
13. Sing, hums, you're terrific! (8)
15. Sing to in low voice. (4)
17. Fraud, deception. (7)
19. Burn a dead body. (7)
20. Not genuine, forged. (4)
24. Dough baked hard in small cakes. (8)
27. Famous film dog. (6)
29. Lend four to the fish. (8)
30. A flock of geese. (6)
31. Inhabitant of the Arctic regions. (6)
32. Cause to explode. (8)

DOWN
1. Rake with machine-gun fire. (6)
2. Projecting watch-tower on a castle gate. (8)
3. Sean Len to be inside. (8)
4. Most courageous and fearless. (7)
5. Spanish governess or chaperon. (6)
6. Long container for animal feed or water. (6)
7. Basket with hood used as a cradle. (8)
8. Laugh at, make fun of. (4)
10. It's not right. (4)
11. Painful neck injury. (8)
12. Move down to lower class. (8)
21. Hatred of women. (8)
23. I stared at the riding style. (7)
25. That man's father is my father's brother. (6)
26. Inhabitant of the Arctic regions. (6)
28. Silent small bays. (6)

THE IRISH TIMES

THE STUDENTS NEWSPAPER

Last Issue's winners were:
Andrea Gavigan
(DIT Mountjoy Sq.)
Anne Marie Kelly
(DIT Bolton St.)
Amanda Ryan
(DIT Bolton St.)

COMPETITION NO. 2
Barring opposition from the Government, and that is unlikely, a faculty structure is one such practice which will have huge implications for everyone involved in the DIT. Its indirect effects will be more marked on some than on others.

"I think any amount of uncertainty can cause a certain amount of stress, particularly among vulnerable students; there are a fair proportion of students whom it won't effect but for those vulnerable few it is an added stress. I think we will see an increase in people coming to see us. We're already seeing it in areas such as semesterisation where there have been changes. No doubt we'll see it when the faculty structure emerges, even staff are going to be affected so that's bound to filter down to students, and if you get happy staff, that filters down to the students and if you get unhappy staff, that also applies."

Semesterisation is well under way in the DIT. It remains a somewhat contentious development in certain areas, though its future seems secure. Ms Lindsay believes that the counsellors and by definition, the Association, have a lot to offer in respect to this area.

"One of the areas where we can help in a more practical way is by giving feedback to the various managers and administrators and designers of these courses, let them know what's happening on the ground. Some of these courses are maybe designed without taking into account the real effect it can have on some students. " With this in mind, Ms Lindsay and a colleague are currently preparing a report evaluating the whole area of semesterisation, concentrating on how it is affecting students, whether or not it is working, insofar it is relates to the students' well-being.

"That was one of the things that we emphasised at the launch, that counsellors can't confine their role to the merely curative, that have to be more proactive and one of the ways is by having access to decision making committees and we can intervene and identify practices that are not beneficial to the students' well-being."

The Faculty Structure document outlines the development of a more cohesive Students Services Unit, which will be headed by a Student Services Officer, who, it is envisaged, will have a co-ordinating and managing role. It is quite likely therefore that he or she will be in a position to make such representations to the relevant people within the DIT. The newly formed association clearly sees a much greater role for students counsellors within third level institutions. It will be interesting to watch how it develops the proactive role about which Ms Lindsay speaks.
The results of the recent elections to executive positions in DITSU are as follows:

DIT Kevin Street

Position: Anti Discrimination Officer
Total Poll: 159, Spoiled Votes: 4, Total Valid Poll: 155
Bohan, Mark: 69
Foley, Ian: 86
Foley, Ian elected

Position: Women’s Rights Officer
Total Poll: 366, Spoiled Votes: 12, Total Valid Poll: 354
Wall, Rachel
Yes: 280
No: 74
Wall, Rachel elected

DIT Bolton Street

Position: Clubs and Societies Officer
Total Poll: 376, Spoiled Votes: 1, Total Valid Poll: 375, Quota: 188
Clarke, Stuart: 207
Foley, Ian: 64
Kenny, Jason: 104
Clarke, Stuart elected

Position: Anti-Discrimination Officer
Total Poll: 365, Spoiled Votes: 3, Total Valid Poll: 362
McKenna, Shane
Yes: 287
No: 75
McKenna, Shane elected

DIT Cathal Brugha Street

Position: Employment Officer

DIT Mountjoy Square

Position: Anti-Discrimination Officer
Total Poll: 327, Spoiled Votes 35, Total Valid Poll: 292
Padraig Staunton 174
Paul McElhatton 118
Padraig Staunton elected

DIT Aungier Street

Position: Anti-Discrimination Officer
Total Poll: 445, Spoiled Votes: 13, Total Valid Poll: 432
O’Donnell, Tom: 238
Munnelly, John: 194
O’Donnell, Tom elected

Position: Women’s Rights Officer
Total Poll: 445, Spoiled Votes: 14, Total Valid Poll: 431
Roland, Susan
Yes: 367
No: 64
Roland, Susan elected

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