

1995

The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union April, 1995

DIT Students' Union

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The DIT Examiner

The Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union

April '95



DIT's Trench Cup victory was just the start that the institute's new GAA Development Officer needed.

PAGE 3



Sean Connery's latest film is *Just Cause*, a suspense thriller. But a film needs more than a superstar on auto pilot to make it work.

PAGE 4



USI's Annual Congress took place recently in Limerick. It was a lot more lively than last year's event, to say the least.

PAGE 6-7



DITSU's elections were held recently. We have a full list of results for your perusal.

PAGE 9

Let The Games Begin

Students from every DIT site will this Thursday take over the massive Aer Lingus Sports Complex (ALSAA) for the institute's first ever sports day. Final preparations are being made but everything seems to be going smoothly and the only truly unknown quantity concerns the students of the DIT. It is up to them to make the day a success.

It has been estimated that at least 1,000 DIT students will take part in 35 sports this Thursday. Joe McGrath, chairperson of the DIT sports committee said today that contingency plans have been made should the numbers be greater. Double decker buses will be operating a shuttle service to and from the complex beginning at 10am from each college. They will operate roughly on an hourly basis.

"If people can't get on the buses, they may decide that they aren't going but we would be anxious that they get out there on under their own steam. There's a good bus service out to ALSAA," said Mr McGrath.

The event has already generated much interest across the DIT. As many as 400 soccer players will be involved and basketball also seems to be shaping up as one the most popular events. Among the other sports will be martial arts, fencing, 10 pin bowling, rugby, snooker, hockey and there will also be some purely fun events such as roller skating and, if possible, rollerblading.

From a participation point of view, one of the most encouraging things for Joe McGrath is the level of interest from women. "We're anxious that a lot of women try the sports and if they like them, we can put money and resources into some teams next year. We have identified this as a problem. We don't have enough women participating seriously or in any great numbers in sport in the DIT. It tends to be male domi-

nated. If we get more clubs, we can say, 'right, we'll try to allocate funding fairly. I always see that sport should be an integral part of a student's life, a right, not peripheral."

He is also trying to encourage those clubs that have received a lot of money from DIT Central Sports Committee to get involved in the sports day.

"If they get involved the chances are that we will look favourably on them when they come looking for funding again. We want them to support DIT's first ever sports day and if it is successful, there is no reason why we can't run it as an annual event."

The emphasis is on fun and the day is primarily designed as a celebration of sport. To ensure the element of fun prevails, spot prizes will be given out during the day, not necessarily to winning teams. "We have a lot of DIT sports wear to give out, if you score a particularly good goal or let in a particularly bad one, we'll give a spot prize."

The drama society from DIT Mountjoy square will also be involved, putting on their MAD award winning play a number of times and also engaging in "Macnas style events" during the day.

On a more serious level, the semi finals of the Gleeson Cup will be played on the day as will the first ever game between hockey and hurling teams, facilitated by newly designed hurleys and sliotar.

Participants in the sports day are advised to bring a tracksuit and a



The ALSAA complex at Dublin Airport

change of gear and to be prepared for some queuing.

"There may be queues for the toilets and the showers but sports people in the DIT are used to queues."

The event has received sponsorship with Guinness providing a cup for the winners in the soccer and also kegs of beer which they will distribute to vari-

ous local pubs, not to ALSAA itself. At the end of the day there will be a disco in Powers hotel.

Mr McGrath is very optimistic that the day will be a sporting success and that it will deliver a strong message to DIT's Governing body.

continued on page 2

Come Down From There You Big Ape!



DIT Mountjoy Square's Art & Design Week takes place this week. For further details see Page 11.

The DIT Examiner

DITSU, DIT Kevin Street, Kevin St., Dublin 8. Ph/Fax: 4783154

Time To Talk

The vexed issue of women's autonomy and women's rights officers in individual Students' Unions is simply not going to go away. There are too many people deeply committed on both sides for any kind of quick fix solution. For some it is a fundamental issue and therefore anything less than the firmest of stands would be unimaginable and unexpected.

USI is committed to women's autonomy and it wants to see women's autonomy and Women's Rights Officers in member unions. For DIT, this is somewhat problematic, given the last November the students voted in a referendum to replace the position of WRO and Anti-Discrimination Officer with that of a more general equalities officer. This is the mandate from the students and it cannot and should not be ignored.

So there is an impasse, and because of the nature of the debate, emotion sometimes threatens to take the place of cold logic. It is then that greater divisions are created and these must be avoided. At a time when USI, individual unions and students generally seem to have a sense of renewed power, and plans for the future are being made, the last thing anyone needs is an overshadowing feeling that on at least one very important matter, people are not on the same side, or not even talking constructively about it.

No-one likes to be told that their way is wrong or unfair or restrictive. Such language gets the blood boiling and that is when people stop listening to each other. Each side in this emotive debate must listen to the other, and if not fully accepting what is said, at least understand why it is being said. Only then can any progress can be made and perhaps a compromise can be reached. If either side is not interested in compromise, the this debate could result in serious rifts.

Right now, it is openness that is needed, not secrecy, or even perceived secrecy, because in such an atmosphere people have a tendency to dig in and not move an inch, and if that happens, then little else will. Care, circumspection and clear sightedness are needed here. Those who attended Congress this year saw more passion generated over this issue than any other and there must be passion present; it strengthens and drives people. But it must be tempered with the logic of practicalities.

Sports Day

Picture the scene: over 1,000 DIT students engaged in 35 different sports in a complex that probably has no match in this country. Ideal facilities, huge playing areas and a concentration of events that is a joy to behold. Enjoy Thursday, you may not see its like again for a long time.

The reality for sports people in the DIT is radically different from this idyllic scenario: sport in DIT is turning up at borrowed pitches to find matches cancelled; it is organising everything around availability subject to the whims of others; it is being unintentionally embarrassed by visiting colleges when pennants are received and none are given; it is poor levels of participation because for many the incentive is just not there. That is not to say that DIT has been unsuccessful in sport; it has, but it should be more so. It could be.

DIT sports day will give students a brief, tantalising taste of what they should have - a modern, well equipped dedicated sports facility that is easily accessible. It should be a great day and if you are still undecided about whether or not to go, think of this: the more people that attend, the more attention that DIT's Governing Body will have to pay. The day itself will represent a celebration of sport; it will also act as a timely reminder to those with the money of the current hopeless state of sporting facilities for DIT students. It is a chance that should not be wasted.

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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

continued from page 1

"The only thing that could put the kybosh on it is bad weather. If it is lashing rain it mightn't be pretty but there will be enough indoor stuff going on, and we have all weather pitches. The thing is that this is a once off opportunity to make an impression on Governing Body about sport, about the level of sport and the poverty of sport within the DIT. It's a very powerful way of making a statement and they also get to see what a major sports complex looks like. What I want to drive home is that this is what we need, not three pitches in the suburbs somewhere."

The sorry state of funding for DIT

sport was highlighted recently when a visiting American university team presented the the DIT opponents pennants and memorabilia and received nothing in return. They were well looked after in terms of hospitality but it was, says Mr McGrath, embarrassing.

He hopes that the day will mark the beginning a push for new facilities for the DIT, but the immediate priority is the day itself.

"It should be a very memorable day in the year for anyone who attends. Even if you don't play, go out and support your college team. Every site will be participating in a major sporting event."

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GAA Officer Gets A Head Start

Josephine Rogers could not have had a better start. Not a week in her new role as GAA Development Officer in the DIT and what happens? The DIT's Gaelic Football team wins the prestigious Trench cup in Cork. The win ensures that sport in general and Gaelic sports in particular will have a high profile within the institute in the near future, a situation which can only be enhanced by the upcoming DIT sports day.

"It was a great bonus and a great start for me, in my very first week in the job. It made it a lot easier for me because if they'd lost they'd never again want to hear about football, but when they won it was great, not alone for me but for all the colleges. It has put a genuine interest back in football again because not matter what the sports person, if you lose and lose and lose, you eventually get fed up, you need a win to put the boost back in. The thing now is to hold onto the cup, we have to fight to keep it next year and let them see that its not just a once wonder."

Josephine Rogers was appointed as GAA Development Officer to do pretty much what her title suggests - to develop, promote and encourage participation in all GAA codes within the DIT's constituent colleges and to assist in the administration.

"My main aim is to develop the GAA

in both the men and women and hopefully by September '95 to have more people actively taking part in the GAA. Obviously it would be great to see them taking part in other sports as well because that's the main idea, being active. If we can get them in the GAA, that's better for me and better for the GAA.

"My main objective would be to have a male team from each college and possibly to have a Northside/Southside ladies' team in Gaelic football and possibly to have a hurling team from each college and with camogie, we'll see how it goes, possibly a northside/southside again. It sounds very bleak for the ladies, but the thing is that the men's has been set up for so long, there's actually a lot of people involved, but with the ladies it's only going to be set up from next term onwards."

The first hurdle is developing the interest and the building from that. Ms Rogers agrees that it will take time.

One of the great disadvantages for DIT sport is the lack of facilities and Ms Rogers believes this to be single greatest difficulty facing the DIT in terms of its sporting future. She believes the interest is there among the students; it merely needs to be encouraged, and part of this encouragement is of course the existence of a dedicated sports facility. Her immediate priority, however, is the upcoming

sports day, for whose GAA activities she has full responsibility.

"So that is keeping me busy. After that, I'll more than likely spend the time until the end of May getting ready for next year, talking about fixtures in Croke Park, talking about budgets, drawing up budgets, looking at last year's figures, seeing what needs to be improved upon."

She believes the DIT has great potential as a force in college sport and cites the Trench Cup victory as an example of what can be achieved even without a sports ground.

"It just shows the level of skill in the players and the quality that is in the team. They are a credit to their trainers from their individual counties, their club level and of course back to the DIT level. They are a great unit and they play

well together. It's a big bonus to win when you don't have your own ground, you're fishing around for a ground all the time. It takes a lot of work and dedication and they're studying at the same time. There's a lot of credit due to them."

This Year's Trench Cup-winning team is

(Kevin Street) Graham Kinan, Ray Greenan, Darren Hannan, Dara O'Shea, Damian Burke, Richard Kealy, Dennid Gallagher, Paul Colleran, (Bolton Street) Mark Johnson, Oliver McNulty, Gerry Sheridan (captain on the day), Fergal Spillane, John O'Connor, Mick Quinn, Damien Divers (team captain), (DIT Mountjoy Square) Tony Byrne, Ronan Mooney, (Aungier Street), Barry Farrelly, Mick Byrne.



Garry Sheridan proudly displays the Trench Cup

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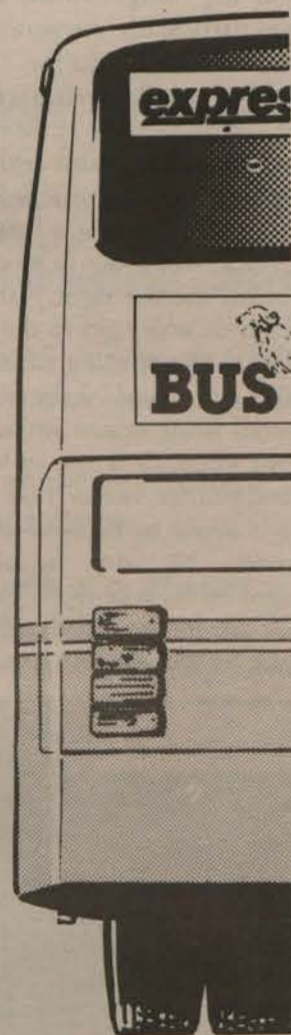
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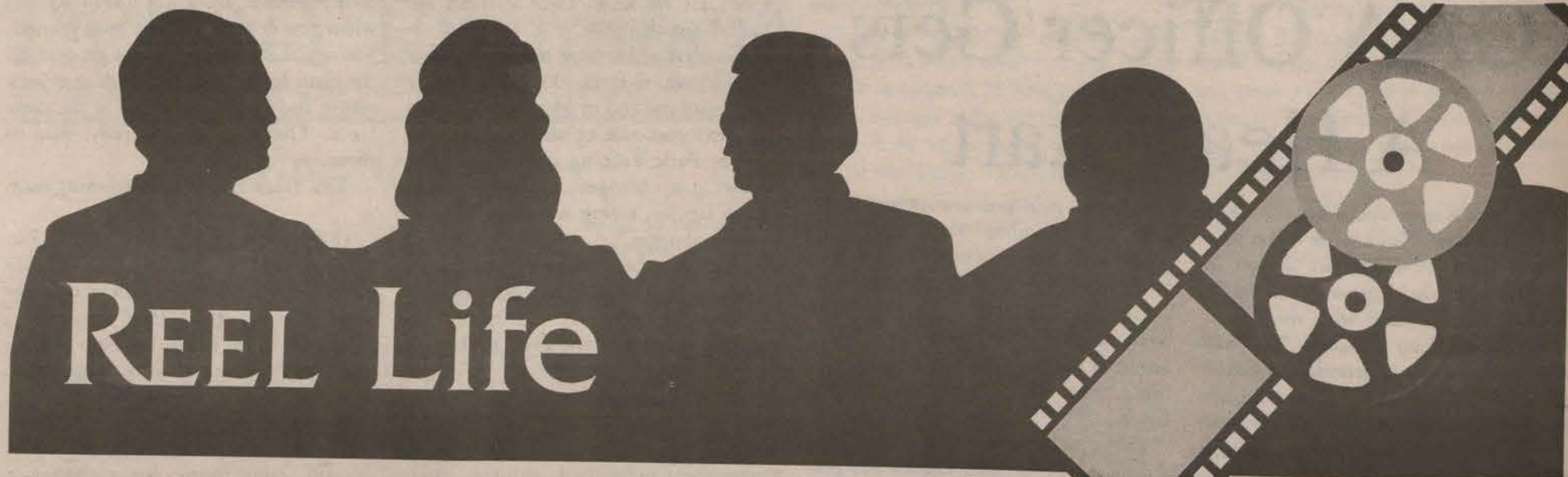
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Connery's Lost Cause

Sean Connery has become a very lazy actor. I don't mean this in terms of his work rate because he certainly turns out enough films to keep him in golf courses but far too often these days he seems to be on auto pilot, relying on an authoritative voice, a handsomely lined face and his superstar status.

He has never been the most versatile of actors, but always powerful and commanding on the screen, a true film star. However, his last really memorable role was in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Since then he has appeared in a series of big budget films, none of which was particularly memorable. Add his latest, *Just Cause* to the list.

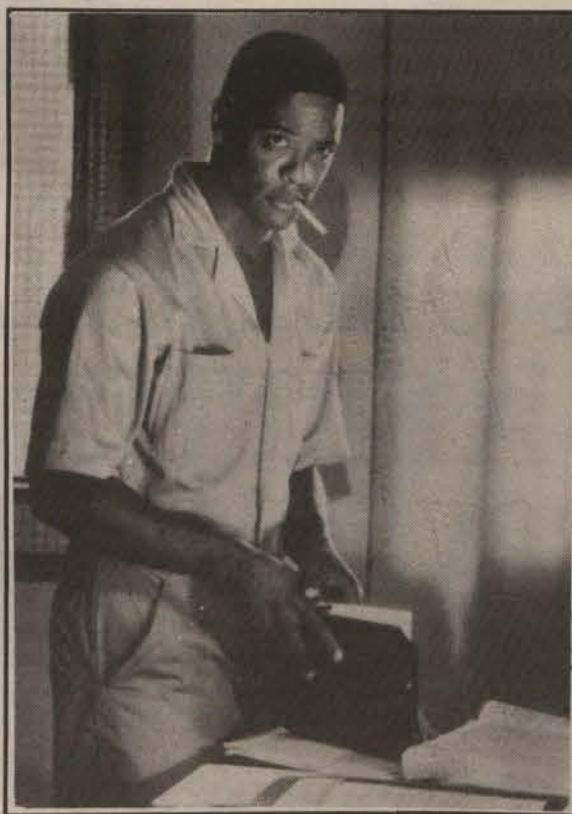
In it he plays Paul Armstrong, a Harvard law professor, authoritative, respected and an implacable critic of the death penalty. He is approached by the desperate grandmother of a Bobby Earl a young black man about to be executed for the brutal murder eight years previously of a little white girl in the Florida everglades. In the opening sequence we see the supposed killer (Blair Underwood) being beaten while in custody so we know all is not as it seems. The grandmother swears that a great injustice is about to be done and begs Armstrong to do something. Encouraged by his wife (Kate Capshaw) he agrees, despite the fact that he hasn't tried a case for 25 years. An so the fami-

ly goes to Florida.

Once there, Armstrong finds himself in the same territory so memorably covered by Sidney Poitier in *In the Heat of the Night*: small town suspicion, intimidation and a local police force convinced that they have the right man and that the newcomer is simply opening old wounds and causing trouble. They are led by Tanny Brown, played by the excellent Laurence Fishburne, a seemingly unprincipled cop who brought Bobby Earl to justice all those years ago, beating out of him a confession along the way.

Ignoring the veiled threats and the pleas to let the matter lie, Armstrong, perhaps feeling alive for the first time in too long, begins to look into the case, and having met with the well spoken and reasonable Bobby Earl decides that he will see justice done. To reveal any more would be to reveal too much because the film relies so heavily on a series of twists and revelations. In any case, its being billed as one of those "Please don't run up and down the queue for the next showing shouting the incredible plot twists!" films. I don't envisage any great queue but I won't spoil it anyway.

Just Cause has a terrific cast, aside from the leads there is Ned Beatty, Ruby Dee, Daniel J. Travanti and Ed Harris, but they are not enough to make this more than an average thriller. It skirts the interesting issues it raises, about the arrogance of an well educated man among the locals, racism and even the ongoing debate on the death penalty itself, but it is more concerned with being a conventional thriller. That's not a bad thing in itself, but it brings nothing new to the genre; there's much borrowing going on and we even get a convicted serial killer alternatively taunting and advising the protagonist (Ed Harris in scenery chewing mode). The film



Did he or didn't he? - Blair Underwood as convicted killer Bobby Earl Ferguson

also relegates its most interesting character to the background until the end. Fishburne's cop is more complex than anyone else in the film, more real, a small town man with small town prejudices but great self belief, much like Rod Steiger's sheriff in the aforementioned *In the Heat of the Night*. However, he is very much secondary to Connery's cossetted professor.

Sluggish direction from Arne Glimcher doesn't help matters. There are plenty of surprises in the film but whenever we get close to one, he telegraphs it, building towards it so deliberately that it is never as eye opening as it should be. Think of a road worker frantically waving a red flag as the car races by towards the hole in the road half a mile ahead.

It's not a bad film; it's just not good enough.

Forrest Gump

Back bearing the weight of too many Oscars is this staggeringly successful mediocrity that told an awful lot of Americans what they needed to hear. Tom Hanks (owner of one of the film's Oscars) is Gump, a simple, decent and innocent man who changes the lives of more people than he would ever know. The film charts his life as a series of incredible and catalytic events, as he meets all manner of famous people, oblivious of the effect he has on them. All he wants to do is marry Jenny (Robin Wright) and live a simple life.

Nothing succeeds like success and this has become one of the most successful films of all time. It is not, however, for the even mildly cynical among you for its sentiment factor is completely off the scale and, though hotly denied by the makers, there is a very conservative message to be drawn from it. Good entertainment, but the best film of the year? I don't think do.

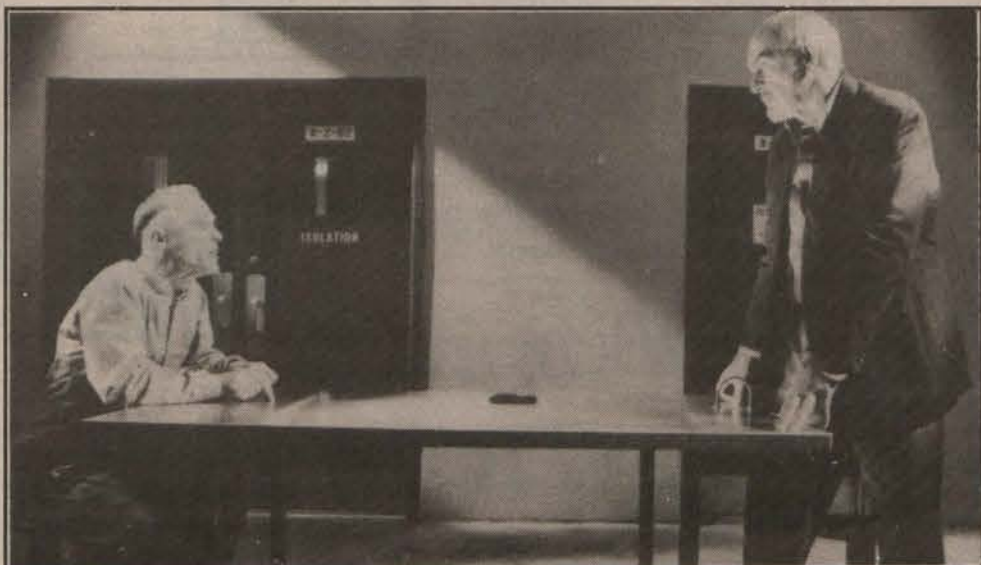


Tom Hanks

Natural Born Killers.

This one is running in the IFC for members only. The one man hype machine Oliver Stone, has done it again. He has managed, helped in no small way by some hysterical media coverage of supposed 'copycat killings' to get everyone into a lather over one of his films. *Natural Born Killers* is audacious and technically dazzling and audacious but dramatically, it's useless and given what he wanted to say in his own heavy handed way, the film thus misses the mark.

Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis (a one note actress and what a whinging note it is) play two white trash types who go on a killing spree across America, followed and then feted by the media. Stone is pointing the finger at the media, the voyeurism of the viewer and the obsession with death juts far enough removed, but because the film is so over the bloody top and visually inconsistent, it is easy to lose interest. Stone has a good point but he simply shouts too much.



Sean Connery asks the questions while Ed Harris chews the scenery

Scene and Heard

Daragh O'Toole wipes the hair from his eyes, shelves his bone idleness and gives the critical once over to music matters in the city

Adam Ant - The Olympia

"Something old, something new, something borrowed and something crude..." so the man said. Unless you are talking about Lou Reed or Tom Waits who exponentially improve and diversify, old is definitely gold. The new material smacks of someone trying to be with the times without the slightest idea of what the times are about. Most of the songs were sex related (hello? people aren't so easily shocked anymore...) and one even called Vampires (yawn). However, sporting a biker jacket (as well as an "I'm a tourist" type Ireland t-shirt and a naff Paddy's Day badge which we shall try hard to overlook) and silver trousers, Mr Ant strutted and posed, in what seemed a very contrived fashion, his way through the mixed bag to immense audience satisfaction. Many die-hard fans sang along with songs I hadn't heard before. It must be said, though, that justice was done to the classics. Antmusic was there, as well as Viva le Rock, Kings of the Wild Frontier and Stand and Deliver. Prince Charming was overlooked.

The band (the Ants?) featured the unique drum kit duo - great sound - and a guitarist who looked convincingly like the twin brother of Lurch. On the whole it was a good night's entertainment. The money you have been diligently saving to buy his new album? Use it to buy "the best of" and don't forget to ask for your free "nostalgia rules OK" badge.

DIT Plays Host To The Big Wigs



The President of Tanzania, on a recent visit to DIT Cathal Brugha Street with, from left, Mr. Frank McMahon, Acting Director of DIT Cathal Brugha Street and Dr. Brendan Goldsmith



Fr. McDonagh, Professor of Moral Theology in St. Patrick's College Maynooth, recently gave a talk in DIT Kevin St. which was attended by the US Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy-Smith who is pictured above with, from left, Fr. Michael Martin, Fr. McDonagh and Dr. Brendan Goldsmith, the President of the DIT.

Administering To Students' Needs

The Administration Society, D.I.T. Mountjoy Square, proved to be a resounding success this year, living up to the expectations of previous years. It was an eventful year with two informal events within the college and the formal Business Breakfast, which was held in Jurys Hotel Ballsbridge on the 4th of March.

The talks given in the college by Judge Maura Roach on the Irish Legal System and Mr. Paul Gibney, National Sales Manager for A.T. Cross, on Promotional Management were welcomed by D.I.T. Mountjoy Square students who turned out in large numbers for both events.

The Business Breakfast in Jurys proved to be a success with, a total of one hundred and twenty business people, seventy students from the Administration and Marketing course and thirty lecturers attending the event. The main objective of the Breakfast was to facilitate contacts between third year students of the course and members of the business community. These contacts constitute an important element of the Links Placement Programme which provides the placement positions central to the Administration and Marketing course. An impressive feature of the

breakfast was the multi-media package developed by Gordon Murphy, a DIT Mountjoy Sq. graduate. This gave the event a professional dimension that was designed to impress the business guests present.

The guest speaker, Mr. Gerard O'Neill, gave an interesting talk, entitled "Ireland 2000 - The Marketing Opportunity". He traced the likely developments in business generally and professional careers in particular over the medium term future, warning that the only certain known fact about the future is that it doesn't, as yet, exist.

The Administration Society greatly appreciates the help it received throughout the year from lecturers, fellow students and particularly Stacy McCarthy, Links Placement Officer, DIT Mountjoy Sq. The work of the Society would have been extremely difficult without the strong support and encouragement of the Director, Mr. Paul O'Sullivan.

Any further information

Stacy McCarthy, Links Placement Officer PH:4024121

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Congress Motions Rock The Boat

After the general consensus that passed for USI National Congress last year, hopes for this year, in terms of lively debate, were not on a plane that could be called elevated. Sure, there had been two successful demonstrations in the DIT and the march on November 17th had been a huge success unfortunately overshadowed by the delirious shenanigans in Leinster House. These events, combined with the recent abolition of fees, surely meant that students and students unions again had a sense of themselves, a growing feeling that what they did and said had meaning. The end result of this could have been three days in the life of a mutual appreciation society but the fact remains that while the various unions might be in broad agreement on national and international issues, there are still enough juicy bones of contention in internal union policies to engender debate and, if truth be told, acrimony. That this debate, particularly on the increasingly divisive issue of women's autonomy and the position of Women's Rights Officer position in local students' unions executives, turned nasty was not terribly surprising but it did lead to

however, the soup served for lunch, greasy looking swill of unidentifiable origin. The TV in my room still had two channels. I mentioned it to reception.

The issue of the abolition of fees came up in the afternoon session. The abolition of fees was welcomed but some speakers made the point that for many the biggest problem was remaining in college after fees were paid. Once again, all seemed to be going swimmingly, but lurking at ED 7 was a DIT motion on University Funding which noted that "there is a discrepancy between the way Universities and colleges are regarded, by the Government and the General Public". It seemed a likely candidate for the now standard lively debate between DIT and UCD, with one being accused of snobbery and the other of reverse snobbery. Before this, however, all debate was suspended while the USI election results were announced. The full results are printed elsewhere, but the surprise was the margin by which Colm Keaveney, current Deputy President, won the Presidency over Paul MacMenamin, president of Queens students' union. It was a clearly emotional Keaveney who heard that he had won

students were underfunded, they could get better jobs than any UCD graduate.

The post session sessions in the bar are very important in Congress. It is here that debates are continued informally, that delegates with opposing views make their peace. Ultimately, around 4am, many are unable to continue these discussions, but this is not for

declaim the motion as insular and one that propounded a *mé féin* ethos, while the DIT delegates defended themselves. Standing orders were suspended and when the motion was finally put to a vote, it was defeated by 43 - 38, with 3 abstentions.

Of all the issues that were on the agenda those that were always going to engender debate and dispute were those



Glad it's all over - Colm Keaveney is congratulated by Helen O'Sullivan



Alison Flanagan and Ronan Haughey in quiet reflection

some very unhelpful comments. But more of that later. On the first night, the TV in my room had only two channels. I mentioned it to reception.

The first full day of Congress, held in the rather isolated Two Mile Inn, some four miles from Limerick city, did not begin auspiciously, following as it did the first full night of drinking (the absence of any Jack Daniels was duly noted). Many found it difficult to get up on time and many of those that did surface had unsightly breakfast hair. As steering committee member Nick Reilly so memorably put it: "The time that's wasted stays wasted." It wasn't to be the first time that poor attendance at the early sessions was noted.

It was a quiet enough beginning, with little in the way of controversy. Only an NCAD motion on mailings (bizarrely enough) managed to become contentious. The source of greatest annoyance before the afternoon was,

by 75 votes to 49. Mike Egan, Education Officer, took three votes.

That out of the way, the debate recommenced, ED 7 finally getting some air. It didn't take long before Aisling ní Bhrian, President of UCD students' union, announced that the tone of the debate was making her "physically sick", while Malcolm Byrne, ubiquitous UCD delegate, decided that "this motion is lowering education to its lowest and basest form". The sniping and goading continued for quite some time, the tenor of the actual motion consigned to the background as the duel continued. There was a mischievous, nay surreal, tone to some of the comments; DITSU President Colman Byrne decided that "we're all universities in our own special way" (a comment that later won him the "Esoteric Nonsense" award) and Ciarán Crosbie, Site President, DIT Kevin Street upset many by suggesting that even though DIT

want of trying. The TV in my room now had no channels. I mentioned it to reception.

Saturday began much as Friday did, tentatively. During the Welfare Session, Noleen Hartigan announced that she believed that the Section 14 of the Social Welfare Act would be overturned in October. Discussion were ongoing with the Minister for Social Welfare, Mr DeRossa, she said.

Later on, once again, it was, as Ger Green, incoming Union Development Officer, succinctly put it: "DIT against the world".

UO 19 urged officers and COs to "work on the problems of the membership before embarking on crusades which while laudable are nothing more than bandwagoning." The motion, suggesting that too much time was spent on external matters, was provocative, and the wording could have benefited from some fine tuning but it sparked some serious, passionate debate, with delegates lining up on one side to

dealing with women's autonomy and women's rights officers. DIT students voted to replace the position of women's rights officer with that of equalities officer in a referendum last November. USI policy, however, is committed to women's autonomy and a women's rights officer. Outgoing WRO Kate Fearon began the debate with a long speech that left no doubt as to where she stood regarding the position of equalities officer replacing WRO. She was followed by USI President Helen O'Sullivan, and Noleen Hartigan, all of which was of course the cue for the DIT delegation, led by Colman Byrne, to take the podium and defend their position. And that's how it began; as he spoke, others lined up around the far side of the room, waiting for their chance. There were many more preparing to speak for women's autonomy than against, the most frequently made points being that women were still under-represented, that the brief of the equalities officer was too wide to incor-



Mary Cullen, St. Patrick's Collegee Maynooth, one of the guest speakers at this years congress

porate the role of WRO and that autonomy offered women a chance to be represented fairly. Most of the DIT delegates, male and female, were equally keen to take a stand, one of the main points being that in the aftermath of the abolition of WRO, female participation in DITSU had increased significantly. Others said that the equalities position was capable of dealing with issues concerning women. Helen Ryan, Deputy President of DIT Kevin Street Students' Union, dissented, delivering an impassioned speech in favour of the position of WRO.

The debate went on for a long time; it was clearly the most divisive issue of the weekend and it wasn't pleasant. Deeply felt beliefs were challenged, emotion took centre stage for a while and even by the end of the weekend, some bad feeling remained. The issue needs to be discussed, for if it remains

bottled up it will fester, but, it must be constructive debate if any resolution is to be reached. There is much work to be done.

The congress dinner and disco that followed mended some fences, with the drinking continuing assiduously until dawn for some. Thankfully, no-one became convinced that a fire hose would be better employed as a lariat, or that a naked dash through the hotel would be the height of merriment. Malcolm Byrne did have his tie around his head, however. The TV in my room still had no channels. I mentioned it to reception.

Sunday was the day for guest speakers and good-bye speeches. David Adams from the UDP and Sinn Féin Councillor Mike McKee spoke about the ongoing peace process while Mary Cullen from St Patrick's College Maynooth gave a woman's and histori-

an's perspective. All three were listened to carefully but perhaps none more so than Mr Adams, who spoke quietly and firmly about Unionist wishes and fears in the wake of the cessation of violence and made some interesting points. For years, he said, working class Unionists had been exploited because of their loyalty to the union and working class Catholics had been exploited because of their perceived disloyalty. An old style Stormont parliament would be just as unacceptable as a United Ireland. Mr McKee said that the new arrangements would have to be negotiated by the people of Ireland and that Sinn Féin was willing to discuss.

At Congress '94, the farewell speeches were fluffy affairs. Not so this year. The passion of Saturday had not completely abated and Kate Fearon delivered

an angry, pointed speech that left nothing to the imagination. Opposing delegates could only sit in stony silence. It was further indication, as if necessary, of the distance that needs to be travelled.

Congress 1995 will be remembered as a livelier one than '94's, but also as one that divided even further those who are on opposing sides of the WRO issue. Colours were pinned firmly to masts and they aren't about to be lowered and this is part of what Congress is about. It was a tough weekend for many delegates, far from the extended piss up that some may imagine it to be, but at least there was debate and people were prepared to stand up there and make a point, even if it was an unpopular one.

At the end of the weekend, the TV in my room still had no channels. I didn't bother mentioning it to reception.

Congress Speak

Last year in The DIT Examiner we presented a list of quotes taken from the various debates over the three days of Congress. We offer for your perusal more of the same this year. Once again, we include the unusual, the amusing, the downright silly and the strangely surreal. What follows is not designed to insult, belittle or demean the speeches or those who made them - public speaking is difficult under the best of circumstances and the Congress floor can be a daunting place. The comments are merely part of the wit, wisdom, passion and occasional madness that is USI Annual Congress.

Friday:

"I'd like to take any questions" - Mike Egan being awfully confident.

"Queuing is not a dirty word" - Nick Reilly, Steering Committee, not patronising.

"We need to politicise club USI" - Noeleen Hartigan making a somewhat unusual proposal for the future.

"It's important enough to stick 32p on an envelope" - Mike Egan on post in the money culture

"As my mother says, save the pennies..." Ciarán Crosbie in a blatant attempt to make this list.

"Degrees look good on paper" - Ciarán Toal wows the delegates.

"This proposal is wishy washy and not worded very well and that's not an insult to the people who sat down and wrote it" - Stephanie Leahy, UCD, in slightly contradictory mood.

"Figures can often be slightly different" - Malcolm Byrne, UCD, winner in Bleeding Obvious competition.

Saturday

"USI exists because we're all students" - Bob Jordan, running Malcolm a close second.

"It's up to this room to decide what the priorities are" - Ronan Haughey with his all encompassing democracy.

"My experience is that I haven't got any experience" - Shane Hartigan, Letterkenny RTC, confused.

"It comes down basically to the existence of a female pair of ears" - UCG deputy president with Salvador Dali fixation.

Sunday

"I was watching the erecti....sorry...the people putting up the stage" - Helen O'Sullivan, USI President, slipping, Freud-like.

"See that other guy there; he's a fella" - Frank Crummy, steering committee, making a roaring ass of himself.



Colm Keaveney and Bob Jordan, incoming President and Deputy President, enjoy the moment

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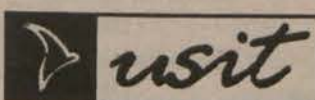
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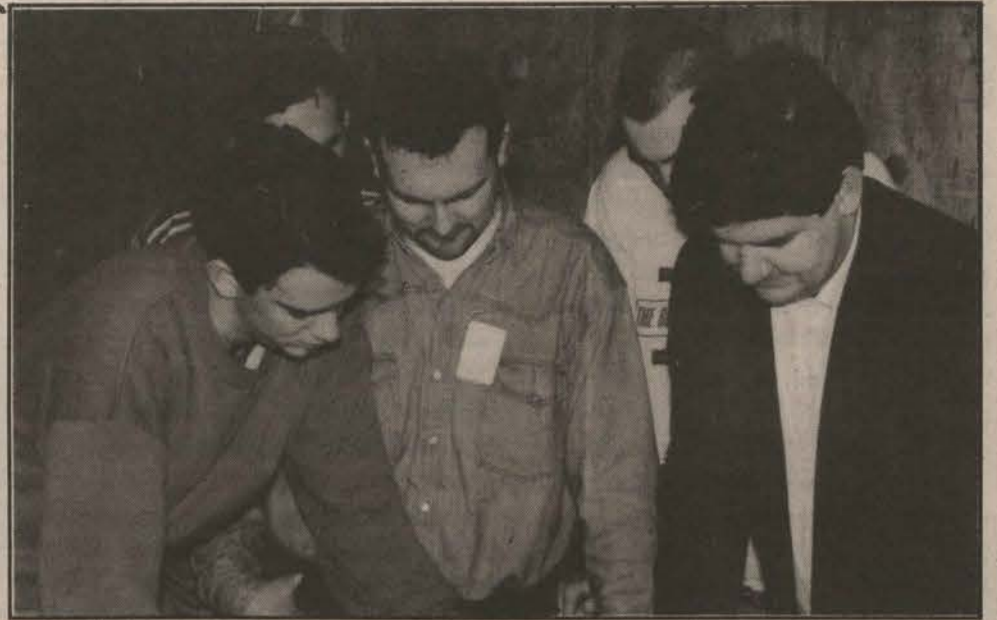
Racism is alive and unhealthily well and living in Ireland according to a report juts published.

The report, Racism and Intolerance in Ireland was commissioned by the National Youth Council Of Ireland on behalf of the Youth Campaign Against Racism, Xenophobia, anti-Semitism and Intolerance. It says that approximately one per cent of the Irish population belongs to a racialised community. This figure incorporates "approximately 20,000 black people (in the broadest sense, that is Asian, African, Middle Eastern), 1,800 Jewish people and 22,000 Travelling People". It cites such examples as Jewish shops being attacked, a black British man and his Irish wife being intimidated so much that they left the country and a number of accounts from Vietnamese refugees who were subjected to racist behaviour. The report says that the numbers of Jewish people living in Ireland have declined in recent years because of instances of anti-Semitism, as well as "the difficulties posed to inter-marrying couples by the dominant Catholic and cultural ethos, and because of emigration".

Not surprisingly the report also highlights the incidence of attacks on the Travelling community. It describes them as the largest ethnic minority in Ireland,

points out that they have a consistently shorter life expectancy than the settled population and that few attend second level school despite the minimum school leaving age of 15.

The Youth Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance is based on the recognition of the significance of the role of young people, now and in the future, in implementing and maintaining anti-racist and tolerant structures and attitudes in our society and the need at all levels to make a strong commitment to their education and development in the future. With this in mind, the report recommends that school curricula promote critical reflection on the issue of racism and intolerance and that the extension of the Youth Exchange and other related initiatives be used as a means of promoting youth participation in developing positive relationships between these traditions. It calls for increases in Development Education spending nationally and the introduction of anti-racist training for youth workers, teachers at both primary and second level, as well as social and community workers, government officials and public servants working in areas where discrimination is likely to be encountered.



Anxious moments at the count in this years DITSU elections



And the winner is . . . a long way from being announced

THE IRISH TIMES

DITSU Simplex

CROSWORD

Competition

PRIZE: First 3 correct entries drawn will each receive a £20 gift voucher for DITSU Students Union Shop.

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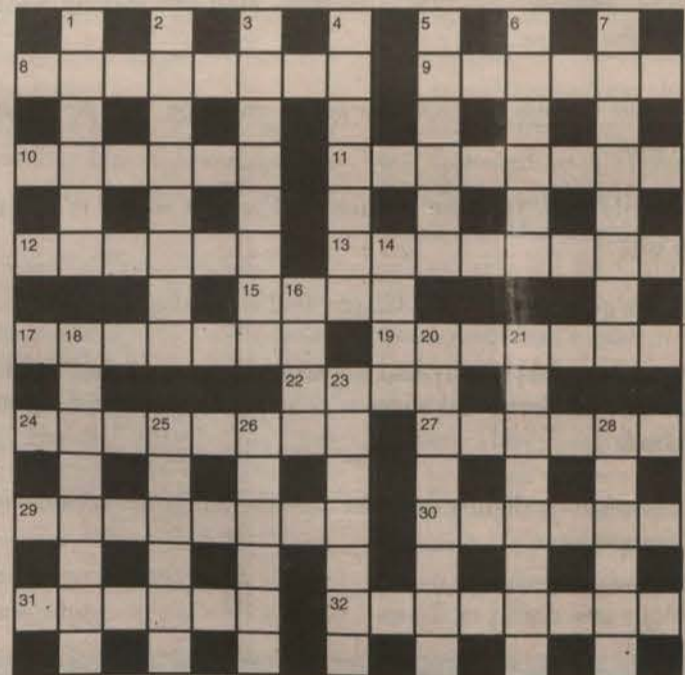
THE IRISH TIMES
THE STUDENTS NEWSPAPER

Last Issue's winners were:

Sorcha Ní Eallaithe
(DIT Kevin St.)

Nicola Evans
(DIT Bolton St.)

David Cullinane
(DIT Kevin St.)



ACROSS

- 8. Proud, overbearing. (8)
- 9. Made reparation, expiated. (6)
- 10. Three times. (6)
- 11. Design of interwoven letters. (8)
- 12. Sudden involuntary spasm emitting breath through the nose. (6)
- 13. 'Tis a turn that makes one go around in the nude?. (8)
- 15. Imitation, counterfeit. (4)
- 17. West Indian folk-song. (7)
- 19. Enter uninvited and unwelcome.(7)
- 22. Walk through water. (4)
- 24. Tenure held without rent etc. (8)
- 27. Inflict penalty for transgression. (6)
- 29. Artist in stone, metal etc. (8)
- 30. In the direction of. (6)
- 31. Stoppage of blood circulation. (6)
- 32. State of uncertainty or anxiety. (8)

DOWN

- 1. Mischievous, unkempt child. (6)
- 2. Courteously, with good manners. (8)
- 3. Without due regard.(8)
- 4. Power of endurance.(7)
- 5. Predatory sea-bird. (6)
- 6. Large eel. (6)
- 7. Pale purple, sweet smelling flowers. (8)
- 14. Slid backwards to please RD. (4)
- 16. In the middle of, among. (4)
- 18. Long loud cry, of laughter or grief. (8)
- 20. Undue favouritism towards one's relatives. (8)
- 21. Famous. (8)
- 23. Where one lives. (7)
- 25. Join up. (6)
- 26. Dull in perception, stupid. (6)
- 28. Emphasis or strain. (6)

COMPETITION NO. 6

Results of the DIT Students' Unions elections

Overall President of DITSU:

total poll: 3458, spoiled votes: 107, total valid poll: 3351, quota: 1676

Byrne, Colman: 2059
Crosbie, Ciarán Crosbie: 1292

Byrne, Colman elected

DIT Bolton Street:

Position: Site President
total poll: 705, spoiled votes: 6, total valid poll: 699

Flanagan, Alison
Yes: 631
No: 68

Flanagan, Alison elected

Position: Deputy Site President/Welfare Officer
total poll: 747, spoiled votes: 23, total valid poll: 724, quota: 363

Costello, Colin: 401
Wade, Marie: 192
Wall, Rachel: 154

Costello, Colin elected

Position: Clubs & Societies Officer: Hegarty, Daragh, elected
Apprentice Officer: Whelan, Noel elected
Entertainments Officer: Burke, Derek elected
Public Relations Officer: Moore, Pat elected

DIT Kevin Street

Position: Site President
total poll: 782, spoiled votes: 7, total valid poll: 775, quota: 388

Gordon, Reg: 336
Ryan, Helen: 439

Ryan, Helen elected

Position: Deputy Site President/Welfare Officer
Bohan, Mark: 380
Foley, Ian: 349

Bohan, Mark elected

Position: Public Relations Officer: Kelly, Ronan elected
Entertainments Officer: O'Driscoll, Cathal elected
Clubs & Societies Officer: Burke, Liam elected

DIT Mountjoy Square

Position: Site President
total poll: 699, spoiled votes: 18, total valid poll: 681, quota: 341

Lee, Mark
Yes: 567
No: 113

Lee, Mark elected

Position: Deputy President
total poll: 701, spoiled votes: 26, total valid poll: 675, quota: 338

O'Donovan, Niamh: 318
Staunton, Pdraig: 357

Staunton, Pdraig, elected

Position: Entertainments Officer: McCorry, David elected
Clubs & Societies Officer: Fiachra, Leane elected
Part time students Officer: Robbie White, elected
Public Relations Officer: Peoples, Andrew elected

DIT Chatham Row

Position: Site President:
total valid poll: 43

Collins, Sinéad
Yes: 42
No: 1

Colleens, Sinéad elected

Position: Deputy President/Welfare Officer
total valid poll: 41

Brandon, Michelle
Yes: 41
No: 0

Brandon, Michelle elected

Position: Entertainments Officer:

Conlon, Darryl elected

DIT Aungier Street

Position: Site President
total poll: 469, spoiled votes: 6, total valid poll: 463, quota:

Wade, Dan

Yes: 414
No: 49

Wade, Dan elected

Position: Deputy Site President/Welfare Officer
total poll: 447, spoiled votes: 13, total valid poll: 434, quota: 218

Pidgeon, Sinéad
Yes: 314
No: 120

Pidgeon, Sinéad elected

Position: Clubs & Societies Officer: Meabh Coleman, elected
Entertainments Officer: O'Donnell, Tom, elected
Public Relations Officer: Robinson, Olive elected
Part time Students Officer: Weekes, Siobhan elected

DIT Cathal Brugha Street

Position: Site President
total poll: 680, spoiled votes: 16, total valid poll: 664.

Joyce, Colin
Yes: 548
No: 116

Joyce, Colin elected

Position: Deputy Site President/Welfare Officer
total poll: 676, spoiled votes: 27, total valid poll: 649, quota: 325

Coughlan, Bob 183
Moran, Patricia 466

Moran, Patricia elected

Position: Entertainments Officer: Boissé, Bertrand elected
Clubs & Societies Officer: Curtin, Aidan elected
Employments Officer: McCormilla, Jennifer elected
Public Relations Officer: Condon, Adrienne elected

Regarding the positions of Irish Language Officer and Equality Officer, the E.S.C., having received a formal written complaint concerning the recent referendum on replacing the Anti-discrimination Officer and Womens Rights Officer with the two above positions, have decided to seal the cast ballot papers pending the outcome of the aforementioned complaint.

The Late, Late Show

"Sorry! I'm really really sorry. I couldn't find my wallet. The bus was late. And then there was the fire. And the flood. A plague of locusts. How late am I?"

Sound familiar? Those among you who have been left waiting for some inconsiderate, congenitally late swine in the icy cold or alone in a packed pub on a Friday night will have heard several version of THE EXCUSE. Those among you who have offered any version of THE EXCUSE, know this: we don't believe you and it's not good enough.

Generally, there is no excuse for being late. If you arrange to meet someone at a certain time, be there at that time, or have a reason for being late. Not an excuse. Excuses are disgusting, useless and, by the way, only made more insulting when accompanied by puppy eyes and exaggerated shuffling of feet. Stop press: Such behaviour is neither charming nor endearing. In an ideal world, such puppy eyes would be plucked out and the shuffling feet nailed to the floor, severely limiting charming behaviour. As it is not an ideal world, the innocent victim of lateness usually responds in one of two ways, both equally worthy of scorn. There is the unadmitted sulk:

"You're angry. You've a right to be."

"I'm not angry," this delivered through lips pressed so tightly together, others will wonder where the sounds came from. The other is the maddening: "don't worry about it. I'm not here that long." What really should be said is something like: "you lazy, useless, thoughtless (add appropriate term of abuse). Do you do this on purpose or are you just too stupid to work out time/distance equations?"

Standing in the cold is not much fun at any time; standing in the cold pretending that you actually like it is a nightmare, especially when you have to avoid the constant compulsion to look at your watch. Don't bother to fake insouciance when in this situation; everyone knows you are waiting for someone, and will assume, whether it is true or not, that you have been stood up. This situation is exacerbated in a pub, probably tenfold. It's happened to most of us; if you are a persistently late person and it's happened to you, I don't care. You deserve worse.

The pub is invariably quite full, seats are at a premium and the one that becomes free is invariably oppo-

site the happy couple, the hideous creature with two heads and one personality that spends the evening getting off with itself. You squirm into the free seat with the pint that is going to last for a full 60 minutes. At every swing of the door, you resist the urge to look over, instead performing painful tricks with your eyes, akin to trying to look at your own ear without the aid of a reflective surface. The happy couple takes a break and reaches for its drinks, simultaneously. Both heads notice this meaningful synchronicity and there is more kissing. Eventually, the creature notices the lonely and friendless person across the table and immediately assumes that you have been **STOOD UP**. Everyone

... even if this run lasts
no longer than 15 yards,
they will succeed in
being breathless on
arrival and will have difficulty making their
hastily concocted excuse

else in the pub has already decided this, even if you have been punctuating your pint sipping with cheerful cries of "I wonder where my several good friends are? What a bunch of amusing rogues! Why I bet they're pulling up in fast cars this very minute!"

A newspaper is proffered by the creature, passed across with a tight, understanding smile which says, 'could happen to anyone, friend. Well, not me of course. Heh heh'. You accept with a small degree of grace and then proceed to read it. All of it. Classifieds. Obituaries. Evening paper columnists. Everything. Just

a shiny, happy go lucky person in fresh clothes out for a quiet Friday night pint and a read. Of someone else's paper. After you have soaked up the remains of the pint with a beer mat and sucked it, you accept that your erstwhile friend is late and it is time to return the paper with a smile that says it was a mighty good read, rise, adopt the dignity walk and get the Hell out of there, thoughts of murder rushing through your head.

It is highly unlikely that late people have ever endured such a situation because they are such bloody late people. They can therefore have no idea of what it is to wait, and probably think it is something you do on tables. They amble along, believing in their staggering ignorance that people have limitless patience, that their compulsive inability to be on time for anything is somehow a loveable, eccentric quality. Ah sure, he's be late for his own funeral. More than once I have been tempted to test the veracity of this old adage, held in check by an outdated sense of morality and the creeping fear that there is truth in it.

And they are cunning, oh so cunning. Having sauntered along as far as is possible, whistling no doubt a gay tune, they break into a run when they feel they can be seen by their victim and even if this run lasts no longer than 15 yards, they will succeed in being breathless on arrival and will have difficulty making their hastily concocted excuse. It is designed to induce sympathy. I would have more sympathy for a hopeless drunk who fell into a hole and broke his bottle of cheap sherry.

The worst of it is that even if the camel's back is shattered into a thousand little pieces and there is a huge and ugly scene, with the victim behaving like a borderline psychopath and the late person looking on in slack jawed disbelief, nothing changes. or not much. Some effort might be made to be on time the next time. They wander up with eager and stupid grins, like some idiotic cocker spaniel that's just taken a piss outside for the first time and wants to be given a congratulatory dog biscuit. One reward later and they are invariably back to their own tricks. There is only one solution to this sick situation: round up all the late people and arrange for them to meet each other at a specific time and place. Then see what happens.

THE LAST

LECTURE

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C.D. JUKE BOX, VIDEO GAMES

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Lean O'Flaherty from St Patrick's Avenue, Wicklow has won this year's Flora Nutrition Award for post-graduate studies. The award, worth £6,000 is presented annually to the final year student who achieves the highest marks in the Trinity College/Dublin Institute of Technology B.Sc degree course in Human Nutrition and Dietetics.

Lean, who is 22, plans to use the award to undertake a Ph.D to investigate the effects of the amino acid, taurine, on the immune system of surgical patients.

Pictured is Lean O'Flaherty, and Siobhan Cleary, presenter of RTE's CheckUp programme at the presentation, which took place in Dublin Castle recently.

Mountjoy Sq. Has Designs On Art

The 3rd-7th is the first ever Art & Design Week in the College of Marketing and Design. The intention is to bring to the forefront the wealth of creative artistic talent in the College. Artwork will be displayed in the College throughout the week, the fruition of the A & D Week competition which has a £300 first prize. The title of the competition is "I see said the blind man". Events will include: all-day film showings (some of which have been created by the students in the college), Drama performances, live-music, Pub Pictionary, Fire Jugglers and a Fancy Dress Ball. The centre piece of the week should be the Optical - Effects Room in the college . . . not forgetting King Kong on the roof. The front of the building is also decorated by five 25ft long banners representing Art & Design courses in the college.

The week owes its existence to support from the DIT Social & Cultural Council, the College Director, Mr Paul O'Sullivan and the college Secretary Registrar, Miss Therese Grogan.

"I hope this event will go from strength to strength in future years.

There is the potential that it could evolve into an all-campus DIT Arts Week. This year should only be the beginning"

Greg Hughes

Trading On The Right Skills

DIT Bolton Street will act as a host to this year's National Apprentice Competition. 80 of Ireland's top apprentices will compete in this year's competition which begins on April 3rd. The theme of this year's competition is "In Pursuit of Excellence".

The winner in each trade receives the Department Of Education's Silver Medal and an opportunity to represent Ireland in the Youth Skill Olympics (the international Vocational Training Competition) in Lyon, France, in October 1995.

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Offer only applies on production of DIT Student card



MAD World

Students from the DIT and from SRTCs around the country descended upon the unassuming town of Letterkenny recently for the annual MAD (Music, Arts and Drama) festival.

Three DIT Colleges took part - Kevin Street, Mountjoy Square and Bolton Street. The trip was made by "luxury" coach for most and minibus for some lucky souls. The first night turned out to be as good as anticipated for most, and even better for some.

Next morning, everyone rose to rehearse and made their way to the main venues for the competition. The music sections were held in various pubs, the arts section took place in the community centre and the drama was held in a nightclub. The performances went smoothly, despite the fact that the entry from DIT Kevin Street, Of the

Flesh, had no music at the disco, due to technical difficulties. They saved the day by superbly improvising an interesting version of "No Limits". When the day's events came to an end all headed to the pubs and proceeded to show Letterkenny what night life is all about.

Sunday brought, not surprisingly, a few hangovers, but all managed to make it to the prize giving where the DIT picked up four drama awards: Mountjoy Square won the award for Best Play and Best Original Play for "Me Hole". DIT Kevin Street's Sharleen O'Reilly won the best actress award, in "Of The Flesh" and DIT Bolton Street won Best Direction for "Boobs, Balls and Catcalls". DIT Kevin Street also cleaned up in the poetry section, winning 1st (Mike Mulligan), 2nd (Annette Mahon) and 3rd (Sandra Ney) prize.

Congratulations to all.



Yvonne White, Anne-Marie O'Brien and Sandra Ney, winners in this year's MAD Festival

Put It In Writing

In 1994, the Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline received 6044 calls. The break down of the calls by the month reveals a very interesting statistic: the highest number of calls for one month, 854, was recorded in May, the same time that Roddy Doyle's screen drama, *The Family*, was being shown. It was at the time that the helpline number was advertised extensively throughout the national media. This statistic has reinforced the belief in the Women's Aid organisation that awareness of services and public discussion on violence against women in the home is a key factor in combating domestic violence.

With this in mind, Women's Aid last month announced a nation-wide Zero Tolerance campaign. The first part was a poster campaign and the second part has just been launched. It consists of a national petition which will be distributed throughout the country. The petition reads: "We the undersigned believe that women and children have the right to live free from the threat of violence and that zero tolerance of violence must

be our goal".

Women's Aid is urging groups and individuals around the country to support the campaign by collecting as many signatures as possible. The final number will be presented to the Dáil in May.

At the launch of the campaign, Rosin McDermott, Chairwoman of Women's Aid, said: "The public awareness campaign is the first of its kind in the Republic of Ireland. We are now issuing a call for this type of public education to be recognised and used nationally. We need the Government to prioritise the prevention of crimes of violence against women and children. The Zero Tolerance communicates that we need to stop blaming women by asking why does she stay? We need, instead, to focus on the causes of violence rather than the results. We must communicate the message that make abuse of power is a crime and that violence against women and children is socially unacceptable in our society.

Copies of the petition will be available in your local students' union.

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