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’s 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 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 of 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 numbers in sport in the DIT. It tends to be male dominated. 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 sliotars.

Participants in the sports day are advised to bring a tracksuit and a 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 various 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
The DIT Examiner
DIT Students' Union Secretarial Service Bureau

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 equality 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 overwhelming 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 seen to be 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 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 is 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.

continued from page 1

"The only thing that could put the kibosh 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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Claroations

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.
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 sport person, if you lose and lose and lose, you eventually get fed up, you need a win back. The cup, we have to fight to keep it next year and let them see that it's not just a fluke.

"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 Greynan, Darren Hannan, Dara O'Shea, Damian Burke, Richard Kealy, Dennid Gallagher, Paul Cullinan, 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.

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SAMPLE STUDENT MONTHLY RETURN FARES

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Fares correct at time of going to press.

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3
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 (Paul 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 Encouraged by his wife (Kate Capshaw) 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 also relegates its most interesting character to the background until the end. 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 new-comer 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 shoving the incredible plot twists!" films. I don't envisage any great queue for 2 5 years. An so the family 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 new-comer 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.

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Did he or didn't he? - Blair Underwood was convicted killer Bobby Earl Ferguson who got 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 even 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 whining 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 just far enough removed, but because the film is so over the bloody top and visually inconsistent, it's easy to lose interest. Stone has a good point but he simply shouts too much.
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 Vampire (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. Must be said, though, that justice was done to the classics. Antmusic was there, 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. 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.

Scene and Heard

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

DIT Plays Host To The Big Wigs

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 Jury's Hotel Ballsbridge on the 4th of March.

The talks given in the college by Judge Mauro 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 Jury's 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 Administration Society student who turned out in large numbers for both events.

Any further information

Stacy McCarthy, Links Placement Officer, D.I.T. 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.

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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 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 new 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 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 unshapely 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 (hazardously 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 Asling ni Bhriain, President of UCD students' union, announced that the tone of the debate was making her "physically sick", while Malcolm Byrne, ubiquitous DIT 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 Ciara Crosbie, Site President, DIT Kevin Street upset many by suggesting that even though DIT students were underfunded, they could get better jobs than any UCD graduate.

The post session session 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 5am, many are unable to continue these discussions, but this is not for 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 Fearn 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 Noeleen 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 incorporate
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 it remains bottled up it will foster, but, it must be constructive debate it 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 histor-

Ciarán Leahy, Shane O'Sullivan, USI
dictory mood.

"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 Harrigan making a somewhat unusual proposal for the future.

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

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

"Degrees look good on paper" - Ciarán Tobin 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.

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"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 Harrigan, 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.

The comments are merely part of the wit, wisdom, passion and occasional madness that is USI Annual Congress.

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.

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It Couldn’t
Happen Here?

Racism is alive and unhealthily well and living in Ireland according to a report just 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 the difficulties posed to inter-marriage between these traditions. It calls for the extension of the school curriculum to promote critical reflection on the issue of racism and intolerance and that the incidence of attacks on the Travelling Community. It describes them as the largest ethnic minority in Ireland, with 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.

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 considerably shorter life expectancy than the settled population and that few attend second level school despite the minimum school leaving age of 15.

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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: 2079
Crosbie, Ciaran: 1292
Byrne, Colman elected

DIT Bolton Street:
Position: Site President
total poll: 795, spoiled votes: 6, total valid poll: 699
Flanagan, Alison
Yes: 651
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
Apprentices 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: 536
Ryan, Helen: 439
Byrne, 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, Padraig: 357
Staunton, Padraig elected

Position: Entertainments Officer: McCorry, David elected
Clubs & Societies Officer: Finchra, 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
Collins, Sinéad elected

Position: Deputy President/Welfare Officer
total valid poll: 41
Brandon, Michelle
Yes: 41
No: 0
Brandon, Michelle elected

Position: Entertainments Officer:
Donlon, Darryl elected

DIT Aungier Street
Position: Site President
total poll: 469, spoiled votes: 6, total valid poll: 463, quota: 218
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: Boisat, Bertrand elected
Clubs & Societies Officer: Curtin, Aidan elected
Employments Officer: McCormilla, Jennifer elected
Public Relations Officer: Condron, 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 Women's Rights Officer with the two above positions, have decided to seal the cast ballot papers pending the outcome of the aforementioned complaint.
"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 twine 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 not 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 care. You deserve worse."

It's happened to most of us; if you are a persistently late person and it's happened to you, I um and the one that becomes free is invariably opposed to everyone knows you are waiting for someone, and will bother to fake insouciance when in this situation; assume, whether it is true or not, that you have been standing in the cold pretending that you actually like it or are you just to 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 opposite 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, skin to try 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 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 validity of the 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 safeguarded 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, and 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.

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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."

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 he 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.

DIT STUDENT SPECIALS

6" Ham & Cheese + Regular Beverage
6" Tuna + Regular Beverage
6" Subway Club + Regular Beverage
6" Irish Sausage + Regular Beverage

£2.00

Offer only applies on production of DIT Student card
Students from the DIT and from RTCs 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

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 campaign illustrates 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 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.