DIT Student Union

1995

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

DIT Students 'Union

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DIT Mountjoy held its annual fashion show recently in Jury's Hotel. As usual, it was a high class affair and not without its bizarre moments.

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DIT's second institute wide sports day took place at the ALSAA sports complex. Last year's event was always going to be a hard act to follow.

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The rise and rise of John Travolta continues with his latest film, the action fest Broken Arrow. We check it out.

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USI's annual congress was held in the Ardilaun Hotel, Galway. It was a most interesting and revealing weekend.

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DITSU triumphs in USI Elections

The new President of USI will be Colman Byrne, currently Overall President of DITSU. He will be joined on the incoming executive of USI by another DITSU officer, Helen Ryan, who was elected Welfare Officer. Helen is presently the Site President of DIT Kevin Street's Students' Union.

In the end, after a vigorous campaign by both candidates, Mr Byrne won the election quite handsomely, by 100 votes to Bob Jordan's 55. Mr Jordan is the Deputy President of USI. This is the first time in five years that the mantle of President has not been passed from one USI candidate to another and will be seen by many as a vote for change. Mr Byrne believes that this was crucial to his victory.

"I ran my campaign on that. It needs change, needs energy, new blood, but I wasn't asking people to vote against someone else. I was asking them to vote for me," he said that he did not think he would win by such a margin but professed himself delighted with such a result. Mr Jordan, of whom outgoing President Colm Keaveny spoke very fondly in his speech on the final evening, announced that Byrne had received 100 votes (the quota was 78), his supporters and she could relax for the weekend. "The introduction of taxes for landlords means that they are going to have to adopt what the students want," he said that USI would also be closely monitoring the operation of the students summer jobs scheme, the legitimacy and effectiveness of which most students now seem to accept.

"We have to adopt what the students have said. Now we have to make it better, to improve it."
The DIT Examiner
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email: rjquin@dit.ie

Here You Go Again

It is hard to believe that some students in the DIT are beginning their exams this week. Scary, isn't it? Only yesterday it was September and the year stretched ahead with exams nowhere in sight for many of you. Suddenly, there they are, looming as only exams do. The next month will be rough, it's as simple and brutal as that. The pressure will be considerable, whether you are a first year or a final year student. and, naturally, the exams are very important; you have worked hard to get to this point and it is understandable that you may think that everything hinges on how you perform over the next few weeks.

But, do not let them take over your life. Certainly, give it your best and commit yourself to them but do not forget to take time out to relax for a moment: gc

The students' union is still around; the year isn't over yet. If there is anything bothering you and you don't know quite where to turn, drop in and simply ask; that's what they're there for. There is little point in bottling things up, especially at this time of year. The solution may be simpler than you think.

The executive of DITSU and the DIT Examiner wish all of you the very best of luck in the coming weeks.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I found your recent front page articles concerning DIT Rag Week more related to a propaganda machine rather than the newspaper of the 25,000 student of the DIT.

As a sabbatical officer and President of a site college and one who was not in favour of a DIT Rag Week, I found that the views of students of DIT Aungier Street as indicated in a recent class representative meeting were not being catered for - not to mention the views of other officers in other colleges. For example, what did the local Entertainment Officers think of it all? Our local magazine, Link, had the opposite effect of the recent editions of "the Examiner", however "Link" is written primarily by the Student Union and the students of DIT Aungier St and its readership is the students of Aungier St and no one else as expressed in our recent Editorial.

What annoys me the most however is having had the foresight to see that the views expressed in the "Examiner" would be all one sided, I actually requested an interview and/or comment on the issue of the DIT rag week. A request which although agreed, was not adhered to. Some colleges do not have local magazines and therefore what is read in the DIT Examiner is often seen as gospel. Is it any wonder therefore that large amounts of editions are left unread in various colleges? Students are intelligent people, it's about time their representatives and employees treated them as such.

Yours Sincerely,
Dan Wade
Site President,
DIT Aungier St

The Editor Replies

I do not accept that the front page articles referred to were propagandist, and I am not too sure what is meant by 'propaganda machine'. The DIT Examiner is designed as the newspaper of the DIT Students' Union and therefore, naturally, part of its brief is to promote and advertise DITSU events, be they the DIT Sports Days, individual fashion shows or DIT Rag week.

The front page article in the January/February edition was largely concerned with the various events that were lined up for the impending rag week. Mr Wade's reservations about rag week were not included in direct quote but reference was made in the article to such concerns. Furthermore, such concerns were also referred to in the editorial of that issue. No entertainments officer contacted the paper in relation to rag week.

The front page article in the post rag week issue was concerned simply with the events that occurred on the night of the rag ball. I am at a loss to discover anything of a propagandist nature in the piece.

Once again, reference was made in the editorial to the reticence of the part of some people to the idea of a DIT wide rag week. It also expressed the view that the rag week was an overall success and that the idea was a sound one. The DIT Examiner believes that this is the case, nothing more. Mr Wade is of course entitled to disagree with this opinion; that is what opinions are for.

Sincerely,
The Editor

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.

Editor John Carroll
Contributors Siobhan Weekes
Associate Editor Colman Byrne
Printed by Datascope, Enniscorthy Co. Wexford
The Students Summer Jobs Scheme allows third level students (Not Final Year Students) to take up part-time work useful to their community during their Summer Holidays and to receive payment for this work.

The scheme operates from 1st June to 30th September 1996. The maximum number of hours a student is allowed work is 200 over a 6-17 week period. The maximum hours worked per week cannot exceed 35. The rate of pay for students is £3 per hour up to a maximum of £600. This payment is not subject to income tax or PRSI. Students may also get another job to supplement their income for the Summer months.

To qualify for work under the scheme you must be currently in full-time third level education, be aged 18 or over on 1st June 1996 and satisfy a means test.

Applications forms are available from Student Union Offices or from the Department. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after the closing date on 31st May 1996. Allow for 21 days for processing of your application.

The Completed Application Form should be sent to:

The DIT Examiner
Mountjoy Square

Grog, wenches, lascivious, immoral clergymen, several drunken knights, fair maidens, vast amounts of food and more grog: Chaucer would have loved it.

Such was the scene in the canteen in DIT Mountjoy Square for the highlight of their art and design week. The place had been cleverly and diligently decorated in a medieval manner, as had anyone who wished to attend the dinner to mark the end of the week’s activities.

The DIT Examiner (modern garb plus infernal soul stealing image creating machine) dropped in to record the moment.

Mountjoy Square Goes Medieval

If you want your soul back, contact the paper

Goes Medieval

Goes Medieval

Information - Dublin, 8366111.
The Exam Appeals Procedure

Each year, the DIT's Exam Appeals Board received on average, 10 appeals from students regarding exams results. They are usually concerned with an upgrading of a result but not always. Occasionally, there is a request to sit a supplemental exam if the usual supplemental options have been exhausted.

There is an appeal procedure that should be followed and it should be available from both the library and the exams office in each DIT site. This is not always the case and so we will here outline the procedure as clearly as is possible. This procedure is there to be used if you feel you have a genuine case.

Tom Duff, the DIT's Academic Registrar, has pointed out that the exam appeals board, which is independent of individual colleges, cannot change results but can pass onto the exams board information that may not have been available at the time of the exam. This may then result in the exam board reconvening to consider the student's case.

1. First step is to get an Examination Appeals Form (Form A1). This should be available from the Administrative Section of the relevant college.

2. This form must be completed in block letters or typescript and lodged with the relevant director within two weeks of the publication of the Provisional Examination Results and accompanied by the appropriate fee (£37). The relevant director must then sign and date the appeal and he will then forward it to the Academic Registrar (Tom Duff). It must be accompanied by:

   A. Information as to whether

   (i) the appellant [student making the appeal] has made efforts to resolve, through the relevant Head of School/Department the difficulty which has given rise to the appeal

   (ii) a recheck has been requested and, if so, state the outcome if processed

   (iii) the Examination Board has been made aware of any special circumstances, including medical, affecting the appellant's case prior to determination of results

   (iv) the students in general and the prospective appellant in particular, have been informed of the appropriate course regulations

   Other information which must accompany the appeal is

   B. A written evaluation of the case from the relevant director, including comment on the allegations, if any, contained therein

   C. Medical certificates relevant to the case

   D. The appellant's academic record in previous years and a transcript of his/her current class group's examination results in respect of which the appeal is being sought

   E. The process by which the appellant may continue his/her studies if the appeal is unsuccessful

   F. Any other relevant information on the case.

Be sure to include any information that may be relevant, and if including any medical certificates, ensure that you list their inclusion on the appeals form in the appropriate section of the form.

Section 10 of the form asks the appellant to please specify the change you seek in your result as a consequence of this appeal. This section, according to Tom Duff, was introduced because there have been students who were requesting a further supplemental exam rather than an upgrading of a result. Don't be worried by the request. State honestly your feeling on the matter and why.

There is space provided on the appeals form (section 8) in which you may present your case in your own words. If you feel there is insufficient space provided on the form, you can continue on separate sheets of paper but make sure you include them with your appeal and indicate clearly their inclusion.

There is a facility for presenting your case to the board, either by yourself or with a willing lecturer/representative of the students' union. One of these could present the case for you or you can forego this option entirely. It will not prejudice your case. Hopefully, you will not need recourse to this facility, but if you do, don't be afraid to make your case.

3, South Anne St,
Dublin 2.
Ph: 6774339

DIT STUDENT SPECIALS

6" Ham & Cheese + Regular Beverage

6" Tuna + Regular Beverage

6" Subway Club + Regular Beverage

6" Irish Sausage + Regular Beverage

£2.20

Offer only applies on production of DIT Student card
Killing for Convenience

Dead Man Walking takes on a great deal and unfortunately the weight of trying to cover every conceivable moral angle in the ongoing debate on the death penalty finally renders it less effective as a criticism of that policy than it could have been.

By remaining as detached as he can be, writer/director Tim Robbins has endeavoured to prove in a measured, driving argument that the death penalty is wrong. That it serves nothing, that the masque worn by hunting politicians, and is finally, utterly inhuman. It's as if he sat down and decided that if he said it in a way that didn't show this, what about the death penalty would point an accusatory face, eyes flat and unblinking, small mouth in a nasty sneer, and get to it. His guilt is never in doubt and he remains an unpleasant individual throughout, though Robbins allows him occasional flashes of humanity to underline the fact that the State is about to take the life of a person. We are shown his family also (the director takes great pains to cover all bases) to emphasize the human dimension but the scenes are superfluous and are among the weakest in the film. The mother's despondent reaction to it is testament to the restraint of Robbins and a sensational performance by Karen Flores and Danny Devito taking the complete piss as a preening method actor and al the most of the snappy dialogue and sly digs at Hollywood and the whole movie making thing. Get Shorty is fast, glossy and very entertaining but as a satire on Hollywood it lacks the razor sharpness of The Player or Sunset Boulevard.

The seemingly inexorable rise and fall (again) of John Travolta continues with this smartly written and energetic crime caper set in the pretentious, backstabbing world of movie land. In the best adaptation so far of an Elmore Leonard novel, Travolta plays Chili Palmer, a very cool strong arm man who tracks a life insurance scam artist to Hollywood. A movie maniac, he is played by a ground supporting cast - Ed Harris, James Woods, Powers Booth, Paul Sorvino) , Karen Prosky) , and only finally shown in detail towards the end, a la The Accused: as Poncet...
DIT Mountjoy Square brought this year's series of DIT fashion shows to a sparkling, shimmering end with their very own high tech, high style event recently in Jury's Hotel. The models, by time slinky, silly and downright outrageous in dress and manner, did their thing with consummate ease and professionalism while Tara (herself not to be outdone in the high fashion and higher hair department) emceed with confidence. The audience lapped it up but one question remains unanswered: What in Heaven's name did Mark Lee do to this hair? Beg pardon, two questions. Why?

One of these men is not like the others, one of these men is not the same.

Selected scenes (some a little scary) from DIT Mountjoy Square's Fashion Show, Jury's Hotel, March 25th, 1996.

"What do you think?"
"Donno, they all look a bit crap to me."
Sports Day
Disappoints in
Dreary Weather

Was it the weather - grey, drizzly, relentlessly cold and unwelcoming? Perhaps it was the furious pace of the surrounding weeks with rag week, elections and preparations for annual congress. Maybe it had something to do with the somewhat rushed nature of the plans. It was probably all three but no matter how you look at it, this year's DIT Sports Day was a grave disappointment compared with the glowing success of its predecessor.

Swinging into the ALSAA grounds by the airport, it was immediately apparent that the numbers attending, whether taking part or simply observing, were significantly lower than last year's. The outdoor sports field were deserted save for one seven-a-side rugby match. On the all surface soccer and hockey pitches, blue legged and red eared sports men and women fought bravely while their supporters kept moving to keep warm. The wind was merciless.

In the welcome warmth of the sports hall, basketball took centre stage - there always seemed to be a match taking place - while others played volleyball, badminton or took part in an aerobics. Upstairs, in the viewing area, those who had finished their games or who had simply had enough, supped on pints and looked down. Most who were there this year were participants and the whole event lacked the sense of fun that prevailed last year. It was all over by 3.30pm and everyone simply slipped away, though the hardier element head for a pre-organised event in McGraths later on.

Kudos are due to all those who took part in unpleasant conditions but a long look will be needed at this year's event. DIT sports day should be a priority from the beginning of the year and not a mad dash in the weeks leading up to it.
Getting information from official sources in Ireland can be a nightmarish and protracted process and a source of mounting frustration. For a long long time, an ethos of downright unhelpfulness and secrecy has prevailed and the systems available have hardly offered easy access to personal information that citizens in many other countries take for granted. In a late 20th century democratic state, it is a visible situation.

In recent years, however, successive governments have been making noises about freedom of information as basic right, not privilege, of great changes that will be wrought upon society fairly soon, making Ireland a more fair and open country. The ball is now currently with Eithne Fitzgerald, Minister of State at the Office of the Tanaiste. If she has been steering a Freedom of Information Bill through our legislative loops and chicanes and the bill is due to be published in May. It will doubtless be heralded by the current Government as yet another shiningly proud example of the open and transparent manner in which the country is now being run. In another context, it will be treated as a toothless piece of fluff that doesn’t go far enough.

The Minister puts the government positions succinctly, if predictably: “It’s about openness and transparency and accountability in government.” At least she has the good humour to smile when she says this as it has become a cliché to rank up there with mature

communism.

Had such matters been open to public scrutiny, as if it were required, that the death knell of effective operation of good government, threatened by the pesky intrusions of a nosy public.

In Sweden, which is not modelled on Westminster, there has been a freedom of the press act in place since 1766 and any citizen can demand to see the letters received by the Prime Minister on any given day. There are few exemptions to this rule. Not surprisingly, the proposed bill for Ireland does not go so far, or anything like it but even so its provisions are going to be very hard for some to swallow. It is based more closely on the legislation of other Westminster type systems.

“Most freedom of information legislation has the same kind of basic structure; there is a right to information with exclusions and there is fairly identical across the board - security, defence, international relations which could be jeopardised. Generally speaking, if something is in the course of being decided, most jurisdictions have rules governing that. Cabinet matters before government would be a subset of that. Information given in confidence, commercial secrets, a miscellaneous rag bag, research, habitats. These are the main standard exclusions. The Westminster system is where it differs. It’s a key.”

As in other countries with a similar system, if a request for information is refused, there will be an appeals procedure. An information commissioner will be appointed, the Ombudsman, who will have the power to call witnesses and papers. The ruler of the information commissioner will be binding on public bodies. The Commissioner will be appointed by the House of the Oireachtas.

The bill will pertain to public bodies and will apply immediately to the mainstream civil service and Government departments. It is envisaged that its remit will be extended when the process is operational and, after any wrinkles, there will be many, have been ironed out. When it is extended, it could prove very interesting for third level institutions which are notoriously, pathologically protective of students’ records.

“It will apply to public bodies and they will be fairly widely defined. We’re going to start with the mainstream civil service and the wider public service and our next targets are health boards and local authorities, people dealing with the public. Most countries, 90% of their requests are from people wishing to see their own files and then you have public interest groups, environmental groups, journalists, opposition politicians.

“We have a wide definition of public bodies: basically, when someone benefits from public funds, they can be deemed public bodies. Voluntary hospitals will come in, secondary schools which are privately owned but publicly funded will come in. Potentially the net can be cast very widely. “Third level institutions should come in, she says, being in receipt of public funds.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Freedom of Information Bill relates to a provision for public servants who suspect wrongdoing. It also protects those public servants from disciplinary action when such disclosures are made. Disclosures may be made to the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Data Protection Commissioner, the Information Commissioner or the Garda Commissioner. The media are conspicuous by their absence from this select list.

It should be borne in mind at this point that under Article 19 of the International Declaration on Human Rights (1948), to which Ireland is a party: “Everyone as the right to freedom of opinion and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of information.”

We are moving on, then the pace will be slow, particularly in this Whistle Blowers section. “This is a section that I would be the first to say isn’t terribly well developed. We wanted to run with something on this and we were getting mixed signals on whether it would be developed or not and the Taoiseach himself felt maybe it didn’t sit very well. We slippa it in and we don’t do a continuous amount of homework on it.”

“What we did have was the model of the Civil Service reform act of ’76 in the States but we didn’t do a huge amount of work because we weren’t sure we were going to get it in. We spent our time dealing with the government and the governments and the government itself, dealing with justice and other tricky issues, and as I say we were getting mixed signals about whether
this would be in or out of the final bill or whether we would be asked to do a separate piece of legislation but we got it in and we were pleasantly surprised and we thought we'd do a bit more work on it before we go back to government on it. But the basic principles is that if someone has suspected something there are three possibilities - they're right, wrong in genuine error or maliciously wrong. We have to allow for situations when you are dealing with the truth. There's no point if someone has a complaint and you give it to someone who can do nothing about it, so the list of people we have there are people who can actually do something about it. We may take out the Data Protection Commissioners.

Ms Fitzgerald is anxious to point out that there have to be protections against allegations that are incorrect or deliberately malicious.

"So within those parameters we are going to develop this, again there are other countries that have done a lot more work." She admits that there are cases where a vigilant press and "genuinely independent media may actually be the best way of uncovering" but that they may also do damage to innocent people and so more work needs to be done in this area.

The new bill encroaches on territory currently guarded with rabid jealousy by the Official Secrets Act, introduced by Charles Haughey as Minister for Defence, in 1962. Note the following in relation to the passing on of information:

"A person shall not communicate any official information to any other person unless he is duly authorised to do so or does so in the course of and in accordance with his duties as the holder of a public office or when it is in the interests of the State to communicate it."

Given the great changes being proposed by the new bill, there is surely a very strong argument for abolition of this massively restrictive piece of legislation.

"I would personally repeal it in the morning if it was my job to do so but the programme for Government gave the job to the legislation and security committee of drawing up of recommendations for the Department of Justice, whose thing it is. What we have done basically gives a framework for the repeal of the Official Secrets Act. So our bill doesn't contain punitive sanctions for people who give unauthorised information. That is not in the public interest because basically the Official Secrets Act covers that but if you were simply to repeal the Official Secrets Act you would need some sanction for people who, say, leak exam papers, hack into security files or whatever."

"You do need some protection because there are some few matters when the public interest in secrecy outweighs the public interest in disclosure, but our philosophical view is that public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in secrecy and we are trying to do at some length in our bill is to spell out and so limit those areas."

**Top of the Class**

Orla O'Connor has been nominated by the DIT Kevin Street and the University of Dublin, Trinity College, in association with the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Association in the most outstanding final year student in the R.S. (Human Nutrition and Dietetics) for 1996 in Ireland.

As such it is this year's winner of the Flora Nutrition Award and will receive £5,000 for post-graduate studies.

*Fiswa (L'I R) is Mary Maloney, lecturer in Dietetics, DIT Kevin Street and Flora Award winner, Orla O'Connor.*

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**John Woo with Broken Arrow**

John Travolta, Christian Slater, bomber planes, missing nuclear warheads...... what more could you possibly ask for? Directed by John Woo and written by Graham Yost ("Speed.") "Broken Arrow" is packed with more action and square jaws, nay testosterone, than any big-budget thriller of this year so far!! The tide refers to the Directed by Hong Kong turned the plot is centred around. "Broken Arrow" wades its way through the air,牡丹 "Broken Arrow" sounds like the archetypal, no holds barred/ no expense spared action thriller, but there's much more to it than this. Directed by Hong Kong turned Hollywood-filmmaker, John Woo, this obviously stuck with the if-it-ain't-broke-don't-fix-it philosophy. That is also where the comparison with "Speed" ends, Christian Slater can actually act, and plays the sympathetic hero well, while Travolta is brilliant as the money-mad would-be terrorist. He also gets some of the best lines. Example- one of Deakins' baddies is shooting at Hale who is hiding behind out of the warheads. Deakins, using the same tone of voice as a put-upon head office draws of last year, Graham Yost played the. John Travolta tries to impress Christian Slater in Broken Arrow

Deakins wants them in order to make a wall of cash and Hale wants them back with the Government (out of harm's way?).

"Okay, so "Broken Arrow" sounds like the archetypal, no holds barred/ no expense spared action thriller, but there's much more to it than this. Directed by Hong Kong turned Hollywood-filmmaker, John Woo, this script-writer as "Speed"; a young, heroic man, good at his job who is up against one of his own in order to save lives. Essentially, the villains in both "Speed" and "Broken Arrow" both use their knowledge of explosives to get their own back on the system which has mistreated them. Then again, considering that "Speed" was one of the biggest box-office draws of last year, Graham Yost

There is only one female part in "Broken Arrow"; Samantha Mathis is the Park Ranger who finds Hale when he is ejected from his plane and who helps him against Deakins. Not once do they speak. What they do after the credits roll is left to the imagination, but this is essentially a Boys With Toys movie. Woo cleverly avoids any unnecessary love interest. There is only one

John Travolta tries to impress Christian Slater in Broken Arrow
# DITSU Elections '96 - The Results

## DIT Aungier St

**Position: Overall President**
- Joyce, Colin
  - Yes: 2939
  - No: 831
  - Spoilt: 147
  - Joyce, Colin elected

**Position: Site President**
- Total Poll: 558
  - spoilt votes: 26
  - Total Valid Poll: 532
  - Quote: 286
  - Grogan, Des 207
  - Kavanaugh, Susan 49
  - Pidgeon, Sinéad 276
  - Sinéad Pidgeon elected

**Position: Deputy Site President**
- Total Poll: 562
  - spoilt votes: 17
  - Total Valid Poll: 545
  - Quote: 273
  - Colman, Maebh 278
  - Weeke, Siobhán 267
  - Colman, Maebh elected

**Position: Public Relations Officer**
- Total Poll: 558
  - spoilt votes: 14
  - Total Valid Poll: 544
  - Nic Liathghigh, Sorscha
    - Yes: 397
    - No: 147
    - Nic Liathghigh, Sorscha elected

**Position: Irish Language Officer**
- Total Poll: 560
  - spoilt votes: 12
  - Total Valid Poll: 548
  - De Barra, Maureen
    - Yes: 449
    - No: 99
  - De Barra, Maureen elected

**Position: Equality Officer**
- Total Poll: 553
  - spoilt votes: 16
  - Total Valid Poll: 537
  - Nevin, Gráinne
    - Yes: 398
    - No: 139
  - Nevin, Gráinne elected

**Position: Clubs and Socs Officer**
- Total Poll: 557
  - spoilt votes: 13
  - Total Valid Poll: 544
  - Grogan, Rachel
    - Yes: 645
    - No: 59
  - Grogan, Rachel elected

## DIT Cathal Brugha Street

**Position: Site President**
- Total Poll: 846
  - spoilt votes: 20
  - Total Valid Poll: 826
  - Quote: 414
  - Grogan, Rachel elected

**Position: Entertainments Officer**
- Total Poll: 563
  - spoilt votes: 25
  - Total Valid Poll: 538
  - Quota: 270
  - Farrelly, Leigh 271
  - Manning, Paul 267
  - Farrelly, Leigh elected

**Position: Part time Students’ Officer**
- Total Poll: 562
  - spoilt votes: 18
  - Total Valid Poll: 544
  - Purtil, Gavin
    - Yes: 423
    - No: 123
  - Purtil, Gavin elected

**Position: Public Relations Officer**
- Total Poll: 844
  - spoilt votes: 37
  - Total Valid Poll: 807
  - Quote: 404
  - McCarthy, Shane 314
  - McCarthy, Tom 78
  - Moran, Patricia 328
  - Smith, Conor 106
  - McCarthy, Tom eliminated

**Second Count**
- McCarthy, Shane 314 + 23 = 337
- Moran, Patricia 328 + 28 = 356
- Smith, Conor 106 + 17 = 123
- 10 non-transferable votes
- Smith, Conor eliminated

**Third Count**
- McCarthy, Shane 337 + 44 = 381
- Moran, Patricia 356 + 60 = 416
- 19 non-transferable votes
- Moran, Patricia elected after recounts

**Position: Irish Language Officer**
- Total Poll: 845
  - spoilt votes: 17
  - Total Valid Poll: 828
  - Quote: 415
  - Condon, Adrienne 57
  - Coughlan, Bob 202
  - McCarthy, Damien 147
  - Molloy, Mairead 79
  - O’Sullivan, Paula 198
  - Stapleton, Linda 145

**Second Count**
- Coughlan, Bob 202 + 26 = 228
- McCarthy, Damien 147 + 9 = 156
- Molloy, Mairead 79 + 5 = 84
- O’Sullivan, Paula 198 + 5 = 203
- Stapleton, Linda 145 + 4 = 149
- eight non-transferable votes
- Molloy, Mairead eliminated

**Third Count**
- Coughlan, Bob 228 + 24 = 252
- McCarthy, Damien 156 + 18 = 174
- O’Sullivan, Paula 203 + 22 = 225
- Stapleton, Linda 149 + 14 = 163
- six non-transferable votes

**Position: Equality Officer**
- Total Poll: 839
  - spoilt votes: 28
  - Total Valid Poll: 811
  - Quote: 406
  - Byrne, Conor 383
  - Jennequin, Niamh 252

**Second Count**
- Byrne, Conor 383 + 49 = 432
- Jennequin, Niamh 252 + 88 = 340
- 39 non-transferable votes
- Byrne, Conor elected

## DIT Bolton Street

**Position: Site President**
- Total Poll: 1006
  - spoilt votes: 34
  - Total Valid Poll: 972
  - Quote: 487
  - Costello, Colin 610
  - Mythen, Ethel 362
  - Costello, Colin elected

**Position: Site Deputy President**
- Total Poll: 1003
  - spoilt votes: 17
  - Total Valid Poll: 986
  - Quote: 494
  - Colgan, Eamonn 245
  - Liddy, Michael 293
  - McGuire, Deirdre 448
  - Colgan, Michael eliminated

**Second Count**
- Liddy, Michael 293 + 38 = 331
- McGuire, Deirdre 448 + 68 = 516
- 139 non-transferable votes
- McGuire, Deirdre elected

**Position: Irish Language Officer**
- Total Poll: 1005
  - spoilt votes: 28
  - Total Valid Poll: 977
  - O’Brian, Michael
    - Yes: 846
    - No: 131
  - O’Brian, Michael elected

**Position: Public Relations Officer**
- Total Poll: 1002
  - spoilt votes: 40
  - Total Valid Poll: 962
  - McInerney, Mark
    - Yes: 809
    - No: 153
  - McInerney, Mark elected

**Position: Entertainments Officer**
- Total Poll: 994
  - spoilt votes: 56
  - Total Valid Poll: 938
  - Quote: 470
  - Mitchell, Charles 513
  - Blair, Ruairí 425
  - Mitchell, Charles elected

**Position: Equality Officer**
- Total Poll: 839
  - spoilt votes: 28
  - Total Valid Poll: 811
  - Quote: 406
  - Byrne, Conor 383
  - Jennequin, Niamh 252
  - McGrath, Niamh 176

**Second Count**
- Byrne, Conor 383 + 49 = 432
- Jennequin, Niamh 252 + 88 = 340
- 39 non-transferable votes
- Byrne, Conor elected
### DITSU Elections '96 - The Results

#### DIT Kevin Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Total Poll</th>
<th>Spoilt Votes</th>
<th>Total Valid Poll</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubs</td>
<td>600</td>
<td></td>
<td>572</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

*Blake, Dermot elected*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position: Site President</th>
<th>Total Poll: 927</th>
<th>Spoilt Votes: 47</th>
<th>Total Valid Poll: 875</th>
<th>Quota: 399</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position: Site Deputy President</td>
<td>Total Poll: 922</td>
<td>Spoilt Votes: 22</td>
<td>Total Valid Poll: 863</td>
<td>Quota: 438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position: Part-time Students Officer</td>
<td>Total Poll: 885</td>
<td>Spoilt Votes: 22</td>
<td>Total Valid Poll: 863</td>
<td>Quota: 438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position: Clubs and Sociology Officer</td>
<td>Total Poll: 402</td>
<td>Spoilt Votes: 63</td>
<td>Total Valid Poll: 863</td>
<td>Quota: 432</td>
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</table>

*O'Conchubhair, Andonii elected*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position: Irish Language Officer</th>
<th>Total Poll: 402</th>
<th>Spoilt Votes: 63</th>
<th>Total Valid Poll: 863</th>
<th>Quota: 432</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position: Entertainments Officer</td>
<td>Total Poll: 402</td>
<td>Spoilt Votes: 63</td>
<td>Total Valid Poll: 863</td>
<td>Quota: 432</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*By-election - date to be fixed*

#### By-election Results: DIT Kevin St

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position: President</th>
<th>Total Poll: 400</th>
<th>Spoilt Votes: 5</th>
<th>Total Valid Poll: 395</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site President</td>
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</table>

*O'Daly, Ross elected*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position: Public Relations Officer</th>
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<th>Total Valid Poll: 863</th>
<th>Quota: 432</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position: Deputy President/Welfare Officer</td>
<td>Total Poll: 402</td>
<td>Spoilt Votes: 63</td>
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<td>Quota: 432</td>
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*Byrne, Malcolm elected*

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<tr>
<th>Position: Education Officer</th>
<th>Total Poll: 157</th>
<th>Spoilt Votes: 1</th>
<th>Total Valid Poll: 156</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position: Welfare Officer</td>
<td>Total Poll: 157</td>
<td>Spoilt Votes: 1</td>
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*Byrne, Malcolm elected*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position: Clubs and Societies Officer</th>
<th>Total Poll: 157</th>
<th>Spoilt Votes: 2</th>
<th>Total Valid Poll: 155</th>
<th>Quota: 78</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position: Deputy President</td>
<td>Total Poll: 157</td>
<td>Spoilt Votes: 2</td>
<td>Total Valid Poll: 155</td>
<td>Quota: 78</td>
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</table>

*O’Callaghan, Matthew: 0 R.O.N: 2*

*Byrne, Malcolm elected*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position: UDO</th>
<th>Total Poll: 156</th>
<th>Spoilt Votes: 1</th>
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*Byrne, Malcolm elected*
Rancour Rules the Roost at Congress '96

USI Congress 1996 will be remembered as the most bitter, rancorous and revealing weekend in the national union's recent history. The level of bad feeling was deeper than could have been imagined, the unhappiness with USI in certain quarters was made manifestly clear at every available opportunity and the overall tone would be best described as nasty. Incoming USI president Colman Byrne will have to walk a particularly thin tightrope during his term in office because there are a lot of dissatisfied and angry people out there.

It didn't start out like that - Thursday's hustings was a largely uneventful affair, with only a particularly effective speech by Colman Byrne generating any heat - and so USI's executive was taken very much by surprise during officer board report on Friday morning. A question and answer format had been decided upon and this was, in retrospect, most unusual because standing orders were lifted so that delegates could grill the various officers. In the end, they voted heavily against officer board report, an amazing development and a sure indicator that all is not well within USI. The mood had turned unpleasant and we hadn't even reached page one of the Trinity College on its cover (Trinity is not a member of USI).

Education motions were first on the agenda and it wasn't long before officer board were again in trouble with ED 2, relating to capital investment, being disputed on the grounds that it did not make reference to DIT. Adapting a conciliatory approach, Mark Garrett, UDO, accepted that this was an oversight. It was already very clear that the USI exec. was in for a rough time. As usual, lengthy debate and no small amount of shouting ensured that many motions were not motion calling for such policy was defeated at last year's Congress. These were uneventful and the next issues that rose hackles were Constitutional Amendments one and two relating to a sexual harassment disputes committee. There were objections from DITSU and UCD on the grounds that named external organisations who would be members of the committee were not relevant to USI and that such issues were internal matters in the first place. After a series of recounts, a challenge to the ruling of steering committee (defeated) and with bad feeling running at a new high, CA 1 was finally passed. CA 2 was not put later in the evening, the position of Environmental Awareness Officer was created after a recount. Recounts were to be a recurring feature of the weekend.

For most of the DITSU delegation, the rest of the night and a fair proportion of the early morning were to be spent in wild celebration, with one or two people revelling in the victory just a tad too much. Interestingly, both Malcolm Byrne and Garrett Tubridy from UCD were spotted DITSU polo shirts for the evening. And there was a conga through the hotel. This must never happen again. The conga is Satan's dance.

Saturday's first session was tabled another talking about knitting. Before anyone could buy for time, Brian had pointed out that he was "taking the piss. Just trying to see if yis are awake." They were awake all right. In the end the motion was heavily defeated.

After lunch women's congress loomed. In previous years the motions in this section of annual congress have proved fertile grounds for lively, sometimes bitter debate. This year, for whatever reason, it went relatively smoothly; once a motion of no confidence in steering committee chairperson Damian O'Brien had been passed, that is. Notably, a number of the smaller delegations walked out in protest at this development and what they perceived to be the overall vitriolic tone of Congress 96.

The annual congress dinner was a fairly speedy affair, with the staff of the Ardilaun, overall wonderful, whipping away certain diners' soup (mine, OK, mine) with uncannily haste and then being too close for comfort when, on return of said soup, the plaintive cry went up: "my spoon, they took my f**king spoon".

"Here you are sir."
"Oh. Thanks."

The food safely out of the way, the DITSU and UCD delegations then tried to outdo each other with loud singing. It was good natured enough but, as with the rest of the weekend, there was a darker undercurrent. Points were being made and muscles were being flexed.

Drinking commenced. And it continued for a long, long time. The bar was being too close for comfort when, on return of said soup, the plaintive cry went up: "my spoon, they took my f**king spoon".

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of the smaller delegations walked out of the room in protest. The session was finally declared inquorate and no one quite knew what to do. A flurry of standing orders followed and after lunch Congress resumed, the tension high, the sense of expectation almost tangible: at this point anything could have happened.

What did happen was amazing. An emergency motion on the failed peace process provided more speakers than any other of the weekend, people lined up for minutes at a time to offer their opinion and when steering committee, pointedly chaired by Damien O'Brien, attempted to close congress, the place erupted, some delegates rising and calling for a motion of no confidence in the chair. This was defeated but after some thought, it was decided "because of the extraordinary circumstances" to extend congress. Delegates had their say and returned to their seats.

Closing speeches followed, this session chaired by the incoming President. Of the outgoing USI executive, only Bob Jordan chose to broach the issue of Congress. Delegates had their say and when steering committee, pointedly chaired by Damian O'Brien, attempted to close congress, the place erupted, some delegates rising and calling for a motion of no confidence in the chair. This was defeated but after some thought, it was decided "because of the extraordinary circumstances" to extend congress. Delegates had their say and returned to their seats.

The incoming president of USI has his work cut out because there is a lot of work to be done within before attention can be effectively focused on the issues facing students in this country.
Colman Byrne is a political animal. He will tell you this himself and indeed, allowing the moment and no doubt that extra glass of beer to go...
the right thing to do. I don’t believe in speaking on something unless I am informed on it.” In the end, he voted to accept the three seats but says USI will fight for a fourth.

At the beginning of the interview, Mr Byrne made mention of the unhappiness some people felt with the way the election had gone. Personal enmity aside, it’s quite likely that his well publicised affiliations to Fianna Fáil will be a cause of some suspicion. Incoming Education Officer Malcolm Byrne (no relation) also has close FF connections. The incoming president denies flatly that USI is about to become the student wing of Fianna Fáil.

“It won’t become party political despite the gossip columnists of the Phoenix and Education and Living [The Irish Times’ weekly educational supplement]. I am far less of a Fianna Fáil than everyone makes me out to be. At the start it was flattering, that I was made out to be this big person. In the end it was annoying because it was used against me wherever I went.

“I hold not proper position in Fianna Fáil. I was secretary of a youth branch back home but because I am so busy with the students’ union I don’t have time to do anything with it. It’s dysfunctional, it meets maybe once a year. My priorities are with the students’ union, I have shown that I was at the SU events, which were just run by the small ordinary ones. Other members in Fianna Fáil feel the same way. They want to do a job.

“I am not afraid of disagreeing with Fianna Fáil or anyone else for that matter. I don’t think it’s going to make any difference, I think that the way the Government is at the moment that it could perhaps be used to your advantage. USI should always use the opposition as part of the way of getting the point across in the Dáil and then into the public domain and if you know people within the party, the even better, use them to do your job.”

But the organisation has a history of having left wing connections so some may fear a shift to the centre, or the right.

“No. It’s the organisation for students, not for party politics. Left, right, centre, bossey, as long as they do their job as professionally as they can and represent their students, their personal politics don’t matter.

“I would supposedly be Fianna Fáil, supposedly right of centre. I have no problems doing occupations, marches, campaigns, lobbying. You don’t have to be left wing to represent someone’s rights. I look at my job as a job I have been entrusted with, to represent students’ rights. I am professional in my outlook and I will continue to do that.”

He talks about this professional approach, about which he is clearly proud, when asked about the somewhat adversarial relationship he has had with his incoming deputy president, Noeleen Hartigan. He expresses the hope that what’s in the past remains there.

“I hope that people will forget things. I want to have a clean sweep, a new beginning and many other clichés if you like. I want to go in, sit down and say ‘right, new team, no-one will be treated any different, better or worse, from anyone else. I would hope that we start to get on personally. If we don’t it won’t make any difference. I am professional in the way I follow my work and the way I do my job. I don’t think my personal feelings have any role in a job I have been entrusted with, to be representative of 150,000 students. My personal feelings and others sort of pale into insignificance when you think about the job you have been entrusted with.”

Colman Byrne is a mass of contradictions. He is canny and ambitious but along with the drive and aggression that go with this, and which will doubtless be frowned upon in some quarters, he likes to be liked. Sometimes he cannot understand why his style antagonises some people. His is not the style of recent students’ unions presidents and it will be very interesting to see how he handles the reins of a national organisation. There is no doubt that he will make the most of the opportunity afforded him this year.

---

**Official DIT Leisure Merchandise Now Available**

White tee shirts: £5.50
Navy tee shirts: £6.50
White/navy polo shirts: £8.00
Navy Sweat shirts: £9.00

Navy Zip Tops Also Available: £10.00

Available from your students’ union shops
The fire alarm went off at the agreed time of 10.50am; this was to be a punctual little blaze. From labs and lecture rooms sleepy students emerged and sauntered in the orderly fashion so typical of people escaping an inferno outside to the assembly point of their choice. We opted for point B as that was where people seemed to be having the most fun.

Assembly point B is located toward the back entrance to DIT Kevin Street and we were ushered to these gates which had been thrown open especially for the fire; usually they are in a fixed position which allows only single file passage. Presumably these same gates will be equally accommodating on the case of future, actual fires. And so we ambled along, passing by the swimming pool, in which several happy people continued to paddle and frolic, safe in the knowledge that as they were in water, and wearing rubber hats, they were exempt from the evacuation. Incidentally, also exempt was everyone in the old building, possibly on the very valid grounds that a full scale fire drill would be a logistical nightmare.

Meanwhile, Dermot Blake, incoming Site President of the students' union, led a band of evacuees to the emergency exit to Church Lane (until recently chained closed). Tragically, the gates beyond the door refused to open and so the students remained, bemused though happily not burned, until the gates were eventually unlocked from the outside by a helpful man.

Back at assembly point B, the evacuation was progressing smoothly, thanks largely to the conspicuous absence of the many cars usually parked on double yellow lines and other prohibited areas.

The whole affair was watched from third floor windows by a number of fireproof people who had presumably decided that evacuation was not for them. Once safely outside the grounds of Kevin Street we hung around in the light drizzle, disrupting traffic and bothering passers by trying to make their way home.

After some very disorganised standing about, we were allowed back into the grounds of the now secure, safe and completely fire free building. The swimmers, protected by their pool, were unscathed and waving at us from the third floor were the fireproof students.

Within minutes the gates had been returned to their former position and the following morning, the cars were once again parked in all the wrong places. A roaring success then, and a valuable learning experience.

The National Students Centre

"The basic principle of the Union of Students in Ireland is the defence and promotion of the fundamental educational, political, social, cultural and welfare interests of Irish students. The National Students Centre was established in 1993 with that in mind, so as to provide you with good quality, low cost entertainment facilities."

We read over our founding principle again recently and figured we needed to change some things. So from Thursday the 16th of November our new price list will be-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drink</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draught Pints</td>
<td>£1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled Beer</td>
<td>£1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirits</td>
<td>£1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liqueurs</td>
<td>£1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Drinks</td>
<td>75p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It's your Club, use it!

Remember every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Music & Munchies till 1 • Beer till 12.30
MEMBERS FREE • GUESTS £2 AFTER 10.30

A New HORIZON For DIT

The DIT has been selected to participate in the AHEAD Horizon project which is designed to address the needs of students with disabilities within the institution.

The European funded project, which is already up and running, consists of seminars and tutorials dealing with such issues as study skills, learning skills, reading techniques, essay writing, exam preparation and workshops. They also offer an opportunity for students with varying disabilities to come together to discuss their needs and to provide support if needed. A referral service is also available.

"It's for every student really, open to anyone who wants to come along," says Susan Lindsay, DIT's Senior Counsellor.

"I've been on to Patricia Callaghan (director of AHEAD) that the DIT needed to do something. We're under-resourced in that area. This has arisen because there hasn't been any structure available and she felt the timing was right to introduce the programme. This is just paving the way because we're hoping the DIT will take it up because the funding is only going to be for a short time."

The cost of setting up the project and running it for the year is about £90,000, with 90% of this coming from Horizon and the rest from the DIT itself.

If the project is a success, and finance permitting, the plan is to expand the service to include a career guidance element and possibly a disability office.

"It's a pilot programme and we may have to go back to the drawing board, but it seems to be working well," says Ms Lindsay.

The seminars are currently being held in DIT Aungier Street (Mondays, 6pm) and DIT Mountjoy Square (Wednesdays, noon)

For further information contact Susan Lindsay in DIT Head Office.