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

DIT: Students' Union

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Cathal Brugha St.
Strikes a Blow

The students of the DIT scored another major victory last week when they held a lengthy and loud demonstration in DIT Cathal Brugha Street and refused to move until they received assurances from acting director Frank McMahon that their grievances would be addressed.

The demonstration began early last Thursday when students arrived in the college and sat down on the floor of the lobby. As the crowd grew, the stairs were filled and then the corridors leading off from the lobby. By 9.20am, the place was packed solid and even getting into the building was difficult.

DITSU President Colman Byrne, site president Colin Joyce and his deputy, Sinead McNulty were present to ensure that the chanting was kept up and that everyone knew exactly what was going on. As the morning progressed, students' union officers from the other DIT sites arrived to provide the kind of solidarity seen recently in the library in DIT Aungier Street.

Byrne from the middle of the crowd.

"What do we want?" yelled Mr Byrne from the middle of the crowd. Well, they could have taken their pick from security cameras, a common roof room that didn't leak, at least one more laser printer, the provision of a property office, the availability of high tea, (food after lunch time) or the paucity of vegetarian options at meal times. In what used to be called the college of catering, the last two were perhaps the most unbelievable. Each grievance received a busy airing, the gusto undiminished by repetition and occasional lapses of concentration.

Colin Joyce described the events leading up to the strike. "The reason the students' union finally went on strike last Thursday was because that for too long well received too many empty promises and no results on these issues raised over the last two or three years."

The final straw for me came when a first year female student came into the office to report her goods being stolen recently. She said she would have to drop out because years, according to Mr Joyce. From the students, the students' union estimates that as much as £5,000 worth of material has gone missing this year alone. "And the roof has been a problem since I started here three years ago."

"Mr Frank McMahon, acting director of DIT Cathal Brugha street was known to be particularly annoyed at the demonstration but he agreed to meet with Colin Joyce and Sinead McNulty at 2pm that day. If the time delay reflected a hope that the students would tire and retire, it was a misplaced wish. They were wilting somewhat, and hunger was beginning to make its presence felt late in the morning but the appearance of freely provided crisps and sweets alleviated the pangs and revived the spirits. These were further lightened by the airing of the news from both 2FM and FM 104, both of which stations reported the demonstration. As the hours went by, the executive worked hard to keep up the passion and the anger, and in the fun element was provided by one particularly animated and enthusiastic student whose spirited, somewhat altered, rendition of at least some of the days of Christmas both served to amuse and to remind everyone of the reason for the demonstration."

"Five leaky roofs! Four laser printers, three vegie meals, two security cameras and a high tea for you and me!" Time began to take a toll after mid-day and people were losing some of their earlier enthusiasm, but all was far from lost - spirits were once again lifted by some live music, including a couple of appropriate 60s protest songs. A love in commenced but the mellow mood lasted only until the PA system began to pump out tunes that demanded some dancing. The protestors duly obliged and, bizarrely, the lobby of the college turned into a dance floor that fairly seethed with bodies. By this time, the meeting was in progress and the noisy joy must have been a constant reminder of what they college authorities had to deal with. It lasted for 50 minutes and when Colin and Sinead emerged, both were expected at a brief meeting in the students' union.
The DIT Examiner
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Food for Thought for the DIT

Just when the powers that be in DIT thought it was safe to take their heads out of the sand, after the decidedly humiliating Angiier Street experience last year, there they were again. Protesting students as far as the eye could see, same anger different site. This time it was DIT Cathal Bruga Street, a catering college where it is impossible to get hot food after three o'clock, where the common room has looked for two years and where the students' lockers make a very mockery of the name. The photos in this paper give a fair indication as to how may of them actually look.

Last Thursday, much to the surprise of the staff in DIT Cathal Bruga Street, the lobby of the building was besieged by students from 8.30am until as long as it was going to go. They came through the door, placards and banners in hand, and simply sat down. The crowd grew quickly and the pressure to join on those few who wavered was irresistible. Up the stairs, down the corridors, all over the lobby they were and everywhere they were going nowhere until their demands were met. In the end, they were, as far as was practical, and most of them no doubt, people dined-pensive and the only visible sign that they had been there was the crisp bags, cups and chocolate wrappers.

For the students of the DIT it was the second significant victory in four months, following the demonstration in Angiier Street in October last year. Are students once again getting a feeling that they can achieve something as a single unified group, that, they need not endure with soothing silence the unfairness, ignorance, injustice and laziness which has for a long time sapped the desire to do anything but get in, get results and get out? Can we only hope so. The events in two DIT sites have been stirring, encouraging and successful and if the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union is getting a reputation as the most active, unified and determined, then so be it. There is still much to do and there always will be but the students of the DIT have already seen that they have power when they are together, that they need not sit there and take it when there are grievances to be addressed. They will not forget it, and the administrators cannot afford to. Where to next?

To Free or not to Free

The Minister for Education, Niamh Brathasnach, seems Hell bent on abolishing third level fees. On the face of it, this is to be welcomed as fees amount to a small fortune for most families who want to send their children to college. However, the abolition of fees will prove utterly useless to the vast numbers who, at present, grant levels, could not afford to keep their children in college once they got there. Grant levels are disgracefully low and the means testing system is so unfair as to defy belief.

If the Minister is so determined to alleviate the huge financial strain on families with children in third level education, she should be listening carefully to the arguments against her proposals. And taking note if money is paid available then it should be used wisely, after due consideration of the effect on the spending on the greatest number of people.

Tragic Loss

Sudden death is incomprehensible to those who are left behind. When the victims are young people with so much to do, the loss is, if anything, even more difficult to come to terms with. The questions do not end but the answers are slow to come and even slower to provide comfort. Perhaps in the future the friends and families of the three young men who died will be able to remember their lives instead of the loss. For now, they will mourn and that is as it should be. DITSU and The DIT Examiner would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt sympathy to the families of Con Cormican, Brian Patrick Kennedy and Philip Marshall.

May they rest in peace.

Editor John Carroll
Production Celeste Donovan
Printed by Statascope

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.

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offices and then Colin Joyce stepped up the microphone. There was silence, but not for long.

The strike had succeeded and as he listed off the responses to each demand, a cheer went up from the tired, yet still determined crowd.

A security consultant is to be brought in to decide on the best location for security cameras; the roof is to be repaired and as for the printers, at the time of writing, four days later, three new laser printers had been installed in the computer labs.

Interestingly, they had been purchased prior to the strike but had been languishing in their boxes. The issue of the provision of high tea is currently with an arbitration committee in the Department of Education.

The strike must be seen as another major victory for the students of the Dublin Institute of Technology. Colin Joyce was particularly pleased for DIT Cathal Bruga Street.

He said that it meant a lot for unity and solidarity in a college which previously had a lack of participation in some courses. He described the students body as close knit and full of courage.

"I believe it helped the college authorities realise how important these issues are to students."

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Open letter to all DIT Students:

You will agree that all DIT students should have the opportunity to participate freely in college life - making new friends and societies, socialising and even studying. Students who feel that the cannot express themselves in the same way as other students cannot make this assumption.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual students who “come out” in college do so at the risk of suffering prejudice and intolerance from both students and academic staff alike. Conversely, LGB students who do not come out may suffer from acute loneliness and low self-esteem.

Awareness of these problems led DIT students to form LGB societies in an attempt to fight homophobia and provide safer sex information. Regrettably, these societies have since lapsed.

DIT students passed policy at Union General Meetings this year to ensure that the existence of a DIT group for lesbian, gay and bisexual students would be active.

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Back On The Streets Again

It was cold, it was dark, and for most of the working people in the city, it was time to go home. DITSU, however, had other ideas. At six o’clock, an hour or so before the Dáil was to debate on the contentious abolition of fees issue, members of DITSU’s executive were to be found camped at the gates of Leinster House, imposing black and white DITSU banners very much to the fore. TDs were stopped on their way in and out, questioned, harangued and told in clearest terms what the protest was about.

Along with many other dissenters, DITSU, is if the opinion that while the proposal to abolish third level fees is a step forward, the associated issue of grant levels must also be addressed if any real improvement is to be made.

"Free fees is excellent, and hopefully at some stage there will be free fees for everybody," said Colman Byrne, Overall President of DITSU. "But at the moment with the financial situation in third level education as it is, we don't see why someone with parents earning, say over £70,000 should be getting free into college because these people can afford to send their children to college, afford to feed them and pay their rent, whereas someone earning £12,000 gets the grant anyway but cannot afford to send children to college, can't afford to pay their rent. We feel that the threshold should be raised to a much higher level, and the money that this saves by knocking certain people out of free fees, this money should then be put into the money made available for maintenance grants so that children from lower level income families will be able to go to college and stay there, won't have to work in McDonalds until four in the morning." He believes that "surely no-one earning £70,000 could complain about having to pay over a thousand to send their kids to college. If the threshold was brought up that high, the saving should be very substantial, it would make a massive difference."

The proposal to abolish third level fees was debated last week in the Dáil but no decision was reached and the matter has been referred to the Cabinet Budget Sub-committee. The Minister for Education, Niamh Breathnach, seems determined to push forward with the proposal.

"The exchequer is already meeting the brunt of the costs of participation at third level but in an inefficient, inequitable and regressive way," she said. "Abolishing undergraduate tuition fees would not incur a significant new cost."

The proposal has come in for severe criticism from opposition TDs and outside agencies. The Conference of Religious of Ireland has called on the Minister not to proceed with her fees proposals. The Conference's director of Education, Sister Teresa McCormack, referred to the recently published de Buitléir report on the reform of the student grants system.

"The report is quite consistent with our belief that those who can pay should pay. The idea of abolishing fees is disappointing coming from a Minister who has done so much for the disadvantaged and is a reversal of stated Government policy."

Colman Byrne believes that the Minister did not think she would run into so many problems with the proposal. Last week's demonstration was part of a programme of action within DITSU.

"There's a lot of stuff we want to get done and we're going to go and get it done and if it means taking to the streets, or sit ins or taking over places, or sleep ins, then we're going to do it."

He said that students had been quiet for far too long and that perhaps DITSU could lead the way back to showing people that there is a better way of getting results.

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BUS EIREANN
The Frames - Acoustic - Chubangs

I've heard this band on several occasions and also lead singer Glen Hansard solo and unplugged, and I've often wondered why they had been dropped, why their album hadn't conquered the universe... I subsequently listened to the album and thought I'd got the wrong tape! The Frames are a raw channelled energy, the fuel of which are the wranglings of Mr Hansard and his voice the driving force. Their first and only album on Island is too sweet, Glen's voice sounds angelic, not its usual demonic self, and the production steers too far from the energy and too far from the wrapping. Keep the fiddler, shoot the violinists.

A full house of 40 people in Chubangs in Ranelagh got a taste of The Frames (D.C.) as are and as hopefully

ly sound on their forthcoming album. Huddled on a 2m2 stage, Glen delivered an hour long set of more driving, energetic material than you could shake a whole bundle of sticks at, singing comfortably over the semi-plugged in band without a mike, a feat few "vocalists" could pull off.

The material is powerful "love stuff" from all angles, with charged songs like Rivelate and Monument, in complementarity to a more subdued Pulling on the Red Chord. The Frames embark on the Heineken Rollercoaster this month so forget Coronation Street and don't miss them. They are due to release Rivelate as a single within the coming month at an affordable price so do yourself and music a favour and buy it... twice!

The Sultans of Ping - The Furnace

Well the catch phrase of the nite was defined. "P***k your Tail" And who wanted him to flap his tail from saleable wares in our faces? Would you like to P***k me Country boy? Erm... no thanks, your majesty.

Singing heartily from a bottle of Jameson which hardly contained anything stronger than his own urine, Mr Sultan pranced around the stage like a spoiled child on his birthday churning the twisted emotion. Songs like Happy Jealous proclaims "Two Pints and Pizza" are highly emotive and signable and saleable material.

Fudge exhibit a thing stronger than his own urine, Mr Sullivan went backstage apres? Taxi!!

Dr Millar - the Da Club

San (Dr) Millar, the man whose song Jealous proclaims "I'm so bitter I could spit" has the definitive hand on the crass nature of ridiculing mental illness and Future Monument, characters of Sandy and Cormac offer humorous light relief in contrast to the more irritating, frenzied characters of Barbara and Barry. But just when you thought that 'Happy' and 'Birthday' should be separated in this instance, Alice lives to see a happier ending.

Due to its popularity, the Tivoli Theatre plans to extend the run of the play until February 11th. So before you bundle your t... off to the nursing home, go see this play. It may cause you to think again.

Emer Deverry

Planet Fudge - Chubangs - Ranelagh

If your face had not contorted into the wipey of 20 minutes into the gig from his Fudgeness Derek Duggan and who had him to flaunt his far from saleable wares in our faces? Would you like to P***k me Country boy? Erm... no thanks, your majesty.

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Go Ask Alice

The birthday celebrations in Happy Birthday Dear Alice, currently playing at the Tivoli Theatre heralds domestic upheaval for Alice. Some may call it family concern, others would see it as blatant interference.

Alice the mother, brilliantly played by Anna Manahan, is the subject of the family reunion. Trouble arrives with the sons, played by Brian Dooherty, and the daughter Barbara, played by Noelle Brown.

Having sung the birthday tune and cut the cake, Barbara and Barry insist on bombast a home brochures, while they argue among themselves as to who will get the home.

This latest play by Bernard Farrell offers many a humorous moment. Barbara's husband Cormac, played by Arthur Riordan, characterises an enthusiastic American. When he finally lands himself a job at CNN, he persists in capturing every available moment on a camera, which remains attached to him at all times.

Barry's girlfriend, Sandy, played by Natalie Singer, whom we meet at an aromatherapy session, hovers innocently about the stage like a lost child.

Alice's neighbourhood Jimmy, of whom Barbara and Barry do not approve, makes fleeting visits through the back door, without the other members being aware.

This variety of characters provides the arena for entertaining domestic chaos, as the characters are thrown together by virtue of their own family or extended family connections.

Less humorous moments are presented in the form of Alice's reflections on the past. Her sense of loneliness is evident as she quietly sits in her chair, amidst the surrounding noise. All the action takes place in Alice's kitchen, but with the use of lighting and improvisation, the stage area is used to full potential. The lighting changes as the family arrives. At one point Alice is illuminated to the front of the stage, with the other characters cast in shadow to the back.

As the family sits around Alice discussing brochure prices, Alice steps forward as the other characters freeze and she launches into a reflective monologue.

The characters of Alice, Sandy and Cormac offer humorous light relief in contrast to the more irritating, frenzied characters of Barbara and Barry. But just when you thought that 'Happy' and 'Birthday' should be separated in this instance, Alice lives to see a happier ending.

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In the past, when Neil Jordan has had access to improbably large budgets and has been accessible to the people who control them, he has suffered somewhat from the restraints imposed upon his less than conventional film making style and themes. High Spirits was a mess and We're No Angels, while far from deserving of the vilification if received, was awfully unfocused. His latest foray into the world of silly money, Interview With the Vampire, was, it seems, a much more tolerable experience, if we are to believe the interviews he's given since its release. He says that he was given more freedom than he'd had on his previous Hollywood films and the end result seems to support this.

Interview With the Vampire must have been a riot for the Irish director. Here was a story which contained elements of the unacknowledged or repressed sexuality he has explored in his smaller films, the hidden mysteries behind what we see and accept. What could be more mysterious, more enticing than the unseen world of vampires, where there is no sex as we know it, only the thrill of the chase and the blood. This time he had the money and the star power and has given the story the kind of over the top life it deserved.

The film opens in a small room in modern San Francisco, where an initially sceptical reporter, Christian Slater, listens to the story of Louis, a 200 year old vampire, played by Brad Pitt. Inconsolable in New Orleans after the death of his young wife, he is noticed by the predatory vampire Lestat (Tom Cruise) who offers him the choice of death or another kind of life, one conducted on the other side of the day and not being kind for it is beyond him; he has a horribly irritating half smile which says 'I am so superior it's just not fair' and his fresh good looks add to this. I suspect that many of his detractors dislike him for the characters he plays and attribute such characteristics to the man. This arrogance is suitable for Lestat, as is the scornful laugh he uses so often, but Cruise is simply not threatening enough to cause great fear. In short, he does bring much to the role, apart from star power.

Brad Pitt has a tougher job as the uncertain, tentative Louis and it shows. He drifts through the film making a huge impact on other vampires, and the necks of all manner of creatures, but not on the audience. The most memorable performance comes from Kirsten Dunst who manages to make Claudia both dislikeable and sensual, a needy child and a worldly, sensual adult who can never express her latent desires for Louis. The reverse holds for him, who cannot lose the last vestiges of his humanity.

Interview With the Vampire is stylish, big, sometimes funny, sometimes violent and tragic, a word that even now seems odd since it is used to describe performances which say 'I am so superior it's just not fair' and his fresh good looks add to this. This arrogance is suitable for Lestat, as is the scornful laugh he uses so often, but Cruise is simply not threatening enough to cause great fear. In short, he does bring much to the role, apart from star power.

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Interview With the Vampire is stylish, big, sometimes funny, sometimes nasty, and always entertaining. It's not terribly scary, despite the prevalence of blood, the overwhelming gore and the general darkness of the film but it holds a grim sort of fascination: it does not explore its sexual issues as deeply as Jordan might have liked, but it's no worse for that.

It is not however, by Tom Cruise. Some people will go to see the film in the hope of engaging in an extended scoff at the performance of Cruise, controversially cast as the menacing, manipulative Lestat, a vampire who has plenty of blood lust but not much else to see him through the nights. Cruise has made a career of playing arrogant young men who mature and develop as a result of any number and type of dramatic events and so he can play arrogant well: he has a horribly irritating half smile which says 'I am so superior it's just not fair' and his fresh good looks add to this. I suspect that many of his detractors dislike him for the characters he plays and attribute such characteristics to the man. This arrogance is suitable for Lestat, as is the scornful laugh he uses so often, but Cruise is simply not threatening enough to cause great fear. In short, he does bring much to the role, apart from star power.

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Farewell to Friends

On the weekend of 14-15 January 1995, a few members of Kevin Street Caving Club joined students from UCD to help them form a caving club.

Everybody caved on Saturday and a good was had by all, followed by a good night in the pub.

On Sunday, we decided it was time for a nice easy cave. The lower cradle was chosen. It was to prove so different from the easy cave we were used to.

The group entered the cave around noon, saying jokingly that if they were late they would be left there. After some time in the cave, Patrick moved across a stream way to see if the duck was safe in the water conditions. The current proved too strong for him to return upstream. He smiled reassuringly, took a breath and went for it.

Patrick went after him to see if he could help. They hoped to make it to the far side.

Con was lost trying to rescue them.

At 2.30pm we were searching the surrounding caves and shake holes. Sometime around four o'clock I met the diving party underground. They were returning from the dock. They told me they had found the bodies of my two friends. Con's body was found 24 hours later in the same area.

Patrick was one of the founders of our club. Philip joined a year later. We had only known Con for a while but we were all a family. That's the way cavers are.

For us the loss is not simply of friends but of brothers. These were people with whom we shared the very essence and meaning of life. We lived for the thrill of adventure, the buzz of danger. They finally made the one trip which everyone wonders about. We often talked about what we would do if we were to die whilst caving, Patrick, Philip and myself composed what we wanted said if this happened. Most of it would be unprintable, of little meaning to most, but we did say, "remember the good times and live each moment to enjoy it."

Wherever they are now, I'm sure they're looking for new thrills, new ways to push themselves. We can only hope they are as happy wherever they are.

- Liam

It seems so impossible that the ones who had most affected our lives were the ones taken away, and thank God they had so many friends - we were all able to lean on each other. And for me, Patrick and Philip, you taught me the value of friendship and of life, you taught me to fight to the end, going higher, faster fitter and stronger. To you both you are our inspiration and we'll miss you much but we'll never forget you.

- Liam

Dear Patrick, Thank you for your friendship and the good times I remember now and always. I'm glad I got the chance to know you. Love always, Fiona K.

Dear Philip, We miss you so much. You enriched our lives. Your enthusiasm and energy was a joy to see. Your understanding, friendship and love was valued. May we always cherish the memory of you. Be our strength and our guiding light. - Louise

Looking ahead, a year seems like forever. Looking back it's just a handful of memories. The times together were special, nights spent but with no regrets.

There were times when we thought we'd never get rid of him, yet deep down hoped he's never got away. He cleared my head and reassured me, unintentionally, by just being there.

Caving was just another notch to be carved on his belt. You've nothing to lose.

Dear Pat and Philip, Thank you for your friendship and the good times I remember now and always. I'm glad I got the chance to know you. Love always, Fiona K.

A friend is someone who accepts you as you are and free to become. A friend is someone who doesn't judge, who doesn't condemn, who doesn't expect anything of you.

Patrick was everyone's friend because he was so accepting, so generous, so unassuming of his own worth, so natural. My greatest fear is of ever learning to live without him.

Never want your voice to leave
Never want this pain to ease
Never want your face to fade
And thank you for the joy you gave.

Dear Patrick, One who gave of himself in every way and looked for nothing in return. Love always, Phil.

"Learn as if you'll live forever, Live as if you'll die tomorrow."

We jokingly said that this was our code. You both lived by it to your end. As the last of the three, I'll try and do you both justice. Be with me when I cave, Patrick and Philip. Keep me safe.

- John Potter

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Con Corrigan

Sorcha

Patrick

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Patrick was everyone's friend because he was so accepting, so generous, so unassuming of his own worth, so natural. My greatest fear is of ever learning to live without him.

Never want your voice to leave
Never want this pain to ease
Never want your face to fade
And thank you for the joy you gave.

Dear Patrick, One who gave of himself in every way and looked for nothing in return. Love always, Phil.

"Learn as if you'll live forever, Live as if you'll die tomorrow."

We jokingly said that this was our code. You both lived by it to your end. As the last of the three, I'll try and do you both justice. Be with me when I cave, Patrick and Philip. Keep me safe.

- John Potter

---

Con Corrigan

Sorcha

Patrick

Good times I remember now and always. I'm glad I got the chance to know you. Love always, Fiona K.

Dear Pat and Philip, Thank you for your friendship and the good times I remember now and always. I'm glad I got the chance to know you. Love always, Fiona K.

Dear Philip, We miss you so much. You enriched our lives. Your enthusiasm and energy was a joy to see. Your understanding, friendship and love was valued. May we always cherish the memory of you. Be our strength and our guiding light. - Louise

Looking ahead, a year seems like forever. Looking back it's just a handful of memories. The times together were special, nights spent but with no regrets.

There were times when we thought we'd never get rid of him, yet deep down hoped he's never got away. He cleared my head and reassured me, unintentionally, by just being there.

Caving was just another notch to be carved on his belt. You've nothing to lose.

Dear Pat and Philip, Thank you for your friendship and the good times I remember now and always. I'm glad I got the chance to know you. Love always, Fiona K.

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- John Potter
To Phillip, To a fellow caver, mountainier and sailor who shared so many memories and great moments in time, they will always be cherished. - Des

FS, we’ll tell Tullibody for you.

To Pat, You showed me the ropes and taught me so much and became a true friend, force fed each other beers in Doolin river and stripped out in front of the Gardaí at 4.30 in the morning whilst alarms rang. Both you and the memories stay with us. - Des

To Con, I only knew you for two days, yet you will always be remembered. Don’t eat too many deep fat fried mushrooms. - Des

Pat, Leading the way then and always my greatest regret, the loss of a great friend in the making. - Bryan Curley

Philip, A caver, a mountainier, a flamboyant and a friend. We had a deal: you discovered climbing and I discovered caving. Your dream was to form your own club and I promise to strive to fulfill your dream. We shared an ideal—living on the edge, nothing can ever take that away.

Love, Bryan Curley

Con, A crag rat who taught me more than a few tricks of the trade. A block jock who could dance across the face. You inspired us all. A true friend who made the ultimate sacrifice for me. On the rock or in the cave you will be with me always. I put up a route for you. It was an honour to be on your team.

-Bryan Curley

I don’t have much to say on the loss of two of my best friends, Pat and Philip, except that I will miss them both badly, and caving will never be the same again without them. Their character and love will always be strong in my heart.

Forever friends, Mark

Glory to God in the Highest Crag

God loves the mountains, just look how many of them there are. “God loves the mountains, just look how many of them there are.” God must have been inspired when the day’s climbing. They would love the craic and witty conversations, and they would have to be as sound as the rock itself. They would lay down their own lives trying to save their friends and I would say, “Con, you’re just the man I want for many team. We’ve got some great new routes to put up.”

O God of the mountains, give us the wisdom to understand why you called Con home so soon, he still had so much to teach us. We thank you for this celebration of your creation which was our Con.

Con’s Dad

DIT Gets a Rollercoaster

The Second Heineken Rollercoaster Tour will hit the Dublin Institute of Technology on Friday, 6th February. The event, which has been organised from the students’ union in DIT Kevin Street and will take place in the Ormond Multimedia Centre on Ormond Quay. Headliners Blink are headlining the tour and will be appearing along with The Frames D.C., Georgia and Mike TV. There will also be a local support act at each of the gigs, which starts on Wednesday, February 8th in UCD. Dave Fanning will once again act as MC for the evening. He said that the tour was “a great showcase for Irish bands”.

The tour will also be visiting UCC/RTC Cork, Letterkenny RTC, Sligo RTC, St Patrick’s College, Maynooth, UCG/RTC Galway, Carlow RTC, UL and Tralee RTC.

Students in DIT Kevin Street who were studying for semester exams were greeted with a most unusual sight when they arrived at the library one recent Saturday. For sitting behind the desk on chairs normally occupied by bona fide library staff were none other than Mr Frank Brennan, Director of DIT Kevin Street and Ciarán Crobbie, Site President of the Students’ Union. Naturally, they could not offer a full library service but had it not been for their presence, the library would have remained closed that Saturday. Two days before Semester exams were due to start.

This amazing situation seems to have arisen as a result of unaddressed staffing problems in the library. In Kevin Street, Ciarán Crobbie was made aware of the problem by a student the previous week. He was told that the library was closing at 5.15 that evening, rather than the usual time of 9.00. He contacted Mr Damien Gallanagh, Secretary Registrar, and was given what he called a “sketchy explanation” about staffing levels and training.

The following day the students’ union organised a petition which was signed by hundreds of concerned students. A copy of the petition was presented to Mr Frank Brennan, Director of DIT Kevin Street, Mr Ciarán Taaffe, Deputy Director, and Ms Mary Davis, head Librarian. The early closing was, said Ciarán Crobbie, “a ridiculous thing to do, irresponsible and insensitive to students’ needs.” He was angry that the union had not been notified, an omission made worse by the fact that the union is supposed to have a seat on the library committee.

Meanwhile the not surprisingly outraged students were staying put in the library and were preparing for a sit-in unless an acceptable deal was worked out. Just before six o’clock, Mr Crobbie met with Mr Brennan and Mr Gallanagh. It was impossible to keep the library open that evening but Mr Crobbie received assurances that a full library service would be available the following week.

All seemed rosy but it soon emerged that this was not the case, as it was looking increasingly likely that the library would be closed on the Saturday. Ms Davis told the students that the problem had boiled down to a choice between opening on Friday evening or on the Saturday, but not the two.

A potentially very serious situation was averted when Mr Brennan agreed to open the library on Saturday and Ciarán Crobbie agreed to come in also. “He was very helpful, very concerned about it and co-operated fully,” said the Students’ Union President.

Ms Davis said that she had “no hand, act or part” in the library opening on the Saturday. The issue, she said, was taken out of her control.

And so it came to pass that on the Saturday, when the library should have been closed, the doors were opened between 10am and 5pm and students were able to get in that psychologically important finally day’s study.

The damage, however, was already done, according to Mr Crobbie.

“There were two days when the library had been closed early, at 5.15, and the students union wasn’t told, we were given no advance warning.”

The problem has its roots in the understaffing in the library. According to Mr Crobbie, the DIT has been advertising for new staff for 18 months but only conducted interviews just before Christmas.

At this time, two members of the library staff left, which made the situation worse. Two new members were appointed in January and they had to be trained. Ciarán expressed amazement that all of this was happening in the week before the exams began.

Mr Brennan accepted that the severely restricted service he and Ciarán Crobbie provided was far from ideal but said that he did not think such a situation would arise again.

Since this article was written, such a situation did in fact arise again. The following Saturday students were surprised and annoyed to find that the library was closed as not staff or stand ins turned up.

Ciarán Crobbie reacted angrily.

“I would have had no problem opening the library again had I been informed that the library was to be closed. Instead ourselves and the students were left in the dark. It’s disgraceful behaviour.”

He said that he had received very strong impressions from college admin that such an event would not happen again but had not been informed of the closure until he arrived into the college on Monday morning, and then only by students.

More importantly, no notification had been given to students that the library was to be closed. Efforts were made to contact both Frank Brennan and Mary Davis but neither was available for comment at the time of going to press. Neither had the students’ union received any official explanation or apology for this occurrence.
The Real Scourge of the City

Michael Smith has received threatening phone calls over it - a practice I am not averse to in principle - publicans have been wringing their hands (and I have no doubt, the last drop from the barrels) while claiming that most people have only two beers in the evening and then drive home with nothing more than a warm glow and a feeling of general wellbeing, and yet those very same mythical drinkers have been frustratingly sitting in over the Christmas not getting paralytic before driving home.

What am I wittering about? Haven't you been listening to the hysterical callers to any number of phone in radio shows? Didn't you read with horror and indignation the letters from "Outraged and Sober from Outside the Pale" in the papers? I speak of course of that most pernicious of legislation which is designed to deny God fearing drunks their rights as true Irish men and women - the right to get heroically hammered and then drive safely home.

For the committed boozer-driver, the new draconian drink driving laws have amounted to something of a rum deal and no mistake. Who drinks three quarters of a pint of beer anyway? Three quarters of several beers is much more the norm for as we all know, the dregs of a pint can be mucK of the most poisonous variety. But the Government doesn't seem to be going for this compromise.

Much has been made of the almost by the way new amount drivers can legally drink - it just happens that 80mg corresponds to the unpalatable amount of 'not quite a pint' - and the resultant combination of scoffing and outrage has been the somewhat facetious and ineffective level of the attacks on the Government's new policy on drink-driving. However, the drop in road deaths and drunk driving convictions have been held up as sure signs that the policy is working just dandy.

If you are unfortunate enough to be caught in is loophole, if there is a light on the bike, it will undoubtedly be waving around like a search light picking out bombers since it tends to be attached to the independently minded front wheel. If you are unfortunate enough to be caught in its beam, well then it's rabbit in the road time. These drunk in charge are not only convinced you have a vision straight from the bowels of Hell itself. And, by the way, to all you understanding optimists out there, if there is a light on the bike, it will undoubtedly be waving around like a search light picking out bombers since it tends to be attached to the independently minded front wheel. If you are unfortunate enough to be caught in its beam, well then it's rabbit in the road time. These drunk in charge are not only convinced you have a vision straight from the bowels of Hell itself. And, by the way, to all you understanding optimists out there, if there is a light on the bike, it will undoubtedly be waving around like a search light picking out bombers since it tends to be attached to the independently minded front wheel.

"... can there be a sight more likely to turn a person rigid with fear than that of a cyclist coming toward you at full tilt, unknowingly employing every square inch of the road, the front wheel spending a scarifying amount of time at a perpendicular angle to the back and the owner laughing like a maniac?"

"... can there be a sight more likely to turn a person rigid with fear than that of a cyclist coming toward you at full tilt, unknowingly employing every square inch of the road, the front wheel spending a scarifying amount of time at a perpendicular angle to the back and the owner laughing like a maniac?"

"... can there be a sight more likely to turn a person rigid with fear than that of a cyclist coming toward you at full tilt, unknowingly employing every square inch of the road, the front wheel spending a scarifying amount of time at a perpendicular angle to the back and the owner laughing like a maniac?"

The nation demands action on this one. We must not discriminate against drunk car drivers alone. After all, this is a democracy.
Canteen Concerns in Bolton Street

The canteen in DIT Bolton Street came in for serious criticism in a survey conducted at the end of last year by the students' union. The survey was distributed at the end of November and 137 completed surveys, from students and staff, were returned a little over a week later.

According to the survey, almost 11 percent of students consider the quality of the food in the canteen to be 'good' or 'somewhat good', although a third considered the quantity 'good'. However, 85.5 percent of students considered the quality average, while 89 percent felt the quantity was average. The student response to the question "should students pay less than staff?" was divided, with 76 percent of students answering yes. Oddly, perhaps, the other 24 percent did not. The staff response to the question "should students pay more than staff?" was divided as well, with 44 percent of staff agreeing. An overwhelming percentage of staff considered the quantity 'good', with 43 percent of students who took part feeling there was not enough food on their plates. 41 percent of students who took part felt there was not enough food on their plates.

DIT Bolton Street's canteen is run by Campbell's Catering, who also run the college canteens in UCC, UCC and UL. The canteen in UCC is subsidised by the college and prices for staff are higher than those for students. In an effort to learn what are the leasing arrangements between DIT Bolton Street and Campbell Catering, Ronán Haughey, Site President of the students' union wrote to Michael Murphy requesting the information. Mr Murphy replied in a letter that he was not in a position to provide the information requested. The DIT Examiner contacted Ms Mary Kennedy, manager of the canteen, but she declined to comment on the findings of the survey.

R.A.G. WEEK
D.I.T. BAND COMPETITION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
TRACK MIX STUDIO
(820 5900)

1> Competition open to any band with at least one member presently studying in the D.I.T.
2> Entry to competition must be on or before Friday the 3rd of Feb. at 5 o'clock to the ENTS Officer D.I.T.S.U. Bolton St.
3> Entry must include list of band members and where a member is a student, indicate by course code.
4> Also, each band must nominate a band leader to liaise with organising committee. Please supply contact phone number if possible.

For the winners: 2 days recording time at a pro track recording studio, also each band that enters will receive 10% discount on the already sensational price of £110 for a day's recording time.

COMPETITION NO. 4.

THE IRISH TIMES
DITSU Simplex
CROSSWORD Competition

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

RULES: Only open to members of the D.I.T. colleges. Employees of the colleges are not eligible to enter. No Photocopies - Entries close: Friday, Feb. 20th

SEND TO: THE IRISH TIMES / DITSU, Crossword Competition, The D.I.T. Examiner (to be dropped into local Union office)

NAME

COLLEGE

YEAR

COURSE

STUDENT NO.

THE IRISH TIMES
STUDENT PRICE 55p

ACROSS
8. Subterranean burial-place. (8)
9. I am dry about the immense number. (6)
10. cupboard. (6)
11. Final vale tune. (8)
12. Powerful, robust. (6)
13. Highly contagious eruptive disease. (8)
14. She sings low a lot. (4)
15. Gelatine case for holding medicine. (7)
16. For fear that. (4)
17. Gelatine case for holding medicine. (7)
18. Affected, not artificial. (7)
19. Wound by driving in a pointed weapon. (6)
20. Sure, clear, fixed. (8)
21. Annoy, pester. (6)
22. Sweetmeat impaled on a stick. (8)
23. Not experienced, not tried. (8)
24. Raw beginner, callow recruit. (6)
25. Framework, bare bones. (6)

DOWN
1. Pocket-book, small bag. (6)
2. In my father's house there are many... (St John). (8)
3. Plug a rest in Europe. (6)
4. Side by side, keeping pace with. (7)
5. Lowest, simplest of animals. (6)
6. Imitation, imitating, animal-like. (6)
7. Mental disorder which brings delusions. (8)
8. First 3 correct entries drawn will each receive a £20 gift voucher for DITSU Students Union Shop.
9. First 3 correct entries drawn will each receive a £20 gift voucher for DITSU Students Union Shop.
10. cupboard. (6)
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21. Annoy, pester. (6)
22. Sweetmeat impaled on a stick. (8)
23. Not experienced, not tried. (8)
24. Raw beginner, callow recruit. (6)
25. Framework, bare bones. (6)
26. Defiled, defiled. (6)
27. Man or woman of the sea. (6)
Mountjoy Square
Away Games

The COMAD soccer team graced the English shores with their presence once again last weekend (Fri. 13th-15th). Liverpool was the destination and Slater's Pub (95p per pint) was most definitely the arrival hall!

Led by Mr. Soccer 94/95 himself, Robbie Whelan, accompanied by 39 drunkards and Robbie's brother (a pioneer), we marched into Anfield turf to see 'ye mighty Reds' get beaten by Ipswich; of all league games, we picked that one: Liverpool were nothin' short of pathetic. However, Liverpool itself was aided by the in house comedian. Niall Rhatigan was excellent.

Unfortunately, the return trip from Holyhead to Dublin Port played havoc with many weary travellers making exceptions only for the louts in the corner who proceeded to "get the gargle in" Talking to God through the big white telephone will be a lasting memory of that particular crossing!

Congratulations must be awarded to the three women who went on the trip: Deirdre, Elaine and Deirdre, although they got as polluted as the rest of us! Congratulations are also due to the camera man and director extraordinaire, Mark, who managed to capture the best moments of the weekend of film, even if some of them were staged!

Mark Lee
Donnybrook, before a panel of judges headed by Australian soprano Joan Sutherland. The jury also included Ms. Diana Mulgan, an artist manager with IMG artists, Mr. Heinrich Bender, resident conductor with the Bavarian State Opera in Munich and Ms. Jane Carthy, RTE's senior producer in charge of music.

The five finalists performed operatic solos to a packed concert hall, with musical accompaniment by the RTE Concert Orchestra, conducted by Proinsias Ó Duinn.

DI T Cathal Brugha Street
Sports Results

Ladies Soccer
University of Limerick 4 - 1 Cathal Brugha Street
Cathal Brugha Street 5 - 1 Sligo RTC
University College Galway 0 - 5 Cathal Brugha Street

Men's Soccer
American College 4 : 7 Cathal Brugha Street
ABC 1 - 2 Cathal Brugha Street
Cathal Brugha Street 1 - 0 Bolton Street

Ladies Basketball
Cavan 8 - 66 Cathal Brugha Street
Athlone 22 - 54 Cathal Brugha Street
Cathal Brugha Street 62 - 26 Mountjoy Square

Men's Basketball
Mountjoy Square 58 - 36 Cathal Brugha Street
Cavan 58 - 61 Cathal Brugha Street
Athlone 38 - 50 Cathal Brugha Street

Tennis
Dublin City University 2 - 5 Cathal Brugha Street

Ladies GAA. Winner of the Guinness Blitz

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 DIT Cathal Brugha Street have been awarded the gold medal in a European Hotel and Catering Schools Competition held in Maalketouter, Belgium, recently.

The students, Joy Ralph and Christine Cullen, Second Year Chefs, and Veronica Reilly and Shane Fitzpatrick, Advanced Restaurant Service, along with the other competitors, were asked to submit a menu exhibiting the Taste of Ireland. They worked with the supervision of Mr Kevin Thornton (Culinary Art) and Mr Frank Cullen (Restaurant Service).

A European panel of 10 judges selected the team selected the team as winners, awarding the students the Gold Medal, together with Certificates from the Belgian Master Chefs Association for the preparation and service of the meal to the 10 judges.

Pictured (l to r) are Frank Cullen, Veronica Reilly, Christine Cullen, Frank McMahon (Acting Director DIT Cathal Brugha Street), Joy Ralph, Shane Fitzpatrick and Kevin Thornton.

Two students from the Dublin Institute of technology were among the winners in the recent National Students Marketing Awards. The awards, now in their fifth year, are presented by An Bord Trachtala, to students who submit their marketing theses and projects for consideration in this prestigious event.

Robert O'Brien from DIT Mountjoy Square received and award for his analysis of the main forms of technology transfer in a study of 30 Irish companies. His research was supervised by Joe McGrath.

From DIT Aungier Street, Gillian Sutton received an award for her research on the Irish handmade chocolate market. Her work was supervised by Edel Foley.

"Book News is Good News"

Especially for all students and lecturers.

We have now opened our new college bookshop in 3 Kevin St.

Please Please let us know the titles you require or may be recommending and we will have them on our shelves posthaste / forthwith / immediately or even sooner!

For all text book requirements, look no further or farther than "Alan Hanna's"

New College Bookshop
3 Kevin Street Lower

Phone: 4751828
### DIT Student Counsellors' Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Lindsay</td>
<td>DIT Central Office Dublin 2</td>
<td>30 Uly Pembroke st</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10.00-6.00</td>
<td>Maria Quinn</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DIT Mountjoy Square</td>
<td>Room 327</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10.00-4.00*</td>
<td>DIT Central Office</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DIT Aungier Street</td>
<td>Room A 204</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9.30-5.30*</td>
<td>Ph: 6611688 ext. 3352</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Good</td>
<td>DIT Aungier Street</td>
<td>Room 204</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10.00-6.00</td>
<td>Direct Line: 4053052</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DIT Adelaide Rd</td>
<td>Room 28</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10.00-6.00</td>
<td>ph: 6778820 Ext. 28</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DIT Kevin Street</td>
<td>Placement Office</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9.00-12.30</td>
<td>Betty Ryle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Mackin</td>
<td>DIT Bolton Street</td>
<td>Room 366</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10.00-6.00</td>
<td>First Aid Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy O'Connor</td>
<td>DIT Aungier Street</td>
<td>Room A 204</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10.00-6.00</td>
<td>ph: 4757541 Ext. 4886</td>
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<td>Geraldine O'Sullivan</td>
<td>DIT Mountjoy Square</td>
<td>Room 327</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9.00-5.00</td>
<td>Martins Dennis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DIT Kevin Street</td>
<td>Placement Office</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9.00-5.00</td>
<td>Ph: 8363000 Ext: 4120</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna O'Reilly</td>
<td>DIT Cathal Brugha St</td>
<td>Room 31</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9.00-5.00</td>
<td>Ph: 8747886 Ext: 4343</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DIT Rathmines</td>
<td>Room C9</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9.00-5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9.00-5.00</td>
<td>ph: 4970566 Ext: 249*</td>
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