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

DIT : Student's Union

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The DIT Examiner

The Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union

May '95



Ed Wood was quite possibly the worst film director of all time. Tim Burton has turned his life story one of the most enjoyable films of the year
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It's been a remarkable year for the DIT and one of the most active ever for DITSU. We take a leisurely look back at the year's events
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The Minister for Education, Niamh Breathnach, TD, recently signed the contract giving the green light to the new extension for Cathal Brugha St.
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Dr Brendan Goldsmith talks about the ups and downs of the last eight months and looks to the year ahead.
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Controversial Referendum Overturned

The referendum held by DITSU last December which abolished the position of Women's Rights Officer and provided for the extension of a sabbatical term of office from a maximum of two to three years has been overturned.

The outcome of the referendum has provoked major contention, especially in recent weeks, culminating in the serving of a high court writ on DITSU by four individual students seeking the invalidation of the referendum. It has been the cause of division, enmity and pain in recent months. Matters came to a head on Friday 19th May when an emergency meeting of DIT Council was called for the following Monday (22nd).

At the meeting, the following motions were proposed: to overturn the referendum; to set a date for another referendum; to create the position of acting president (amended to DITSU co-ordinator), that this person be elected at the meeting and that that position be held until a by-election be held. The motion to overturn the referendum was proposed due to the pending legal action and the consequences for DITSU.

At this meeting however, some councillors claimed that the meeting was invalid due to insufficient notice and lack of quorum. The motions were proposed and passed and Lar Moran was elected DITSU co-ordinator (30 in favour, 0 against, 8 abstentions). Subsequent to this meeting, formal

written complaints were received from DIT Chatham Row (College of Music), DIT Mountjoy Square and DIT Cathal Brugha Street outlining their views that the Monday meeting was not properly convened.

An executive meeting was then called for Thursday, 25th May. At this meeting, a majority of the executive (7-3) voted to declare that the previous council meeting was invalid on the basis of the formal written complaints received during the week.

Under the constitution, though DIT Council is normally the supreme policy and decision making body of DITSU, power reverts to the executive following two inquorate council meetings. The last two such meetings having been inquorate and Monday's having been declared invalid, powers of council remained with the executive.

The following motions were proposed at the executive meeting: that the referendum be declared invalid as a direct result of the pending legal action and in the best interests of the students' union (passed unanimously); that an acting president be elected until such time as a president of DITSU be elected in accordance with the election schedules of the constitution and with the same powers as laid down in the constitution (nine in favour, one abstention).

Nominations were then opened for the position of acting president. Colman Byrne and Lar Moran were proposed. A vote was taken and the

result was six for Colman Byrne, three for Lar Moran and there was one void vote.

The President of DITSU, Colman Byrne, having earlier consulted members of the executive in the other colleges, then requested the resignation of Helen Ryan, Deputy Convenor of DIT Kevin Street SU and Lar Moran, Convenor DIT Aungier St, SU, claiming breaches of confidentiality of executive and board meetings and the leaking of information to the press which he claimed brought the union into disrepute. Both declined the request to resign.

Helen Ryan told *The DIT Examiner*

that "allegations put before me of incorrect behaviour were unfounded". Lar Moran said that the allegations against him were unfounded and that as a result he was considering legal action.

Following the decision to overturn the referendum, DITSU's legal counsel have been instructed to immediately convey the decision to the legal representatives of the students who initiated the court action.

DITSU expects that its' decision to overturn the referendum will result in the withdrawal of the High Court action. That is the position at time of going to press.

Comment

The past few months have been very difficult for DITSU. Despite the notable successes during the year, division, anger, accusation and counter accusation have taken over and the end result is that the year is ending badly for everyone. For some, bridges may be built but in other cases the damage is probably irreparable; friendships have been destroyed. That is the human cost of the contentious goings-on of the past few months. Whatever the merits of the actions of individuals on both sides, the fact remains that damage has been done to DITSU and it will take time to repair that damage. Let no-one be under any illusions, it will not be easy. People will have to talk each other, if for no other reason than they have to work together in the coming year. Personal animosity exists and must be overcome if the union is to operate as successfully as it can and has done in the past. When we look back on this at some point in the future, with lessons hopefully having been learnt from this traumatic experience, we may well wonder how it came to be that the union, from the executive down, found itself so quickly polarised and deeply entrenched in respective positions. We must have an immediate but careful look at our structures; changes or improvements may well have to be made if we are to ensure that such an eventuality does not arise again and cause similar chaos. It could perhaps be the only good thing that emerges from the debacle that has beset the union in recent months.

Good Luck in
the Exams and
Have a Good
Summer

The DIT Examiner

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Testing Times

For those of you reading this, the exams are more than likely still the object of deepest attention, the cause of caffeine fuelled late nights and the source of more worry than seems possible. Keep a cool head. It is easy to offer such advice from the comfort of an office with only the choice of lunchtime sandwich taxing the brain. But it is still good advice. The exams are important, no-one should be under any illusions about that. But of greater and more lasting importance is your mental and physical well-being. Stress is a natural and, for some, a positive byproduct of the examinations period.

But there is nothing to be gained from crucifying yourself. Whether you spent the year with your head in a book or in a pint, there is only a certain amount that can be accomplished at this stage, and that is, whatever the circumstances, your best. Anything else is a logical impossibility. Of course, a little bit of luck never goes amiss. We wish such to all who are still sitting exams, hardy souls who would, if they could take the time, be violently jealous of their fellow students who have already banished the spectre of exams to who cares where, either for another year, or for good. To those returning for more in September, make the most of the summer months. The rest you, get out there and get on with it.

A Year of Shocks to the System

Hell of a year. New buildings, new faculties, the impending total removal of third level fees, a white paper on education, new problems and at the end of the academic year 1994/95 a student body more energized and active than it has been for a long long time. Let's be honest, few would have credited the current student body with the desire or interest and look up from their studies and make some very loud statements of protest. This is not a reflection on the students, rather on the social and economic climate, which demands competition so fierce and intense that most have 'get in, get bit of paper, get out' ethos so firmly ingrained that little else is thought about, nights on the tear notwithstanding.

But this year, something happened and it can't be entirely explained by the convulsive changes occurring throughout the DIT. One of the two major protests had nothing to do with such changes; rather, it was caused by a wilful lack of change or improvement. Also, it should be remembered that DIT students turned out in huge numbers for the November 17th March, which had nothing directly to do with them. Furthermore, during the Aungier Street demonstration, there were representations from non-DIT colleges. What it all seems to point to is a growing dissatisfaction and anger among third level students. Take your pick from an impressively long list of grievances: grant levels, facilities, the occasional bout of indolence, lecturing standards, overcrowding ...it goes on.

They aren't necessarily new problems but there has been such a high level of apathy in recent years which, combined with the aforementioned ethos, has rendered the student body impotent. Or so it seemed to think. This year, galvanised and brought together by some effective union organisation, locally and nationally, those same students made a stand and made it more than once. Within the DIT the effect was startling and in some instances, redress followed swiftly. No-one really expected everything to be sorted out satisfactorily but the pressure of direct action did work. DITSU must ensure that the momentum is kept up and that the summer months are used productively. The day to day work is always there, of course, but the new faculty structure and the new physical developments for the DIT must be watched very carefully and pressure must be put on the institute to come up with the goods regarding the training of lecturers, as per the White Paper.

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Clarifications

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



In case you needed reminding: strength in numbers, Nov. 17th 1994

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The Exam Appeal's 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, points 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.

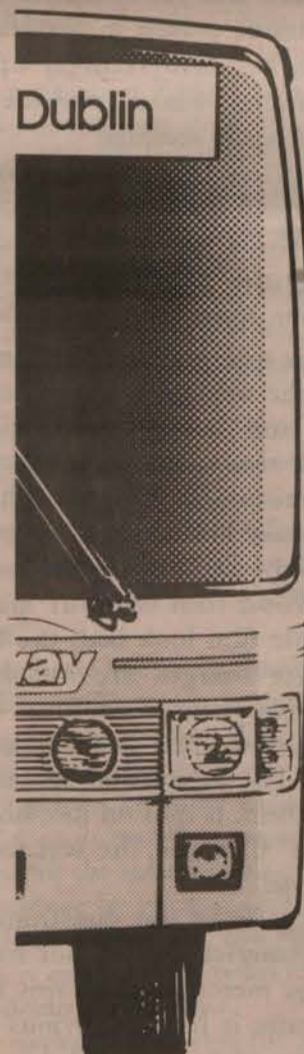
Section 10 of the form asks the appellant to 'please specify the change you seek in your result as a consequence of this appeal'. This section, according to Tom Duff, was introduced because there have been students who were requesting a further supplemental exam rather than an upgrading of a result. 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.

If you believe you have a genuine case then be prepared to use the procedure.

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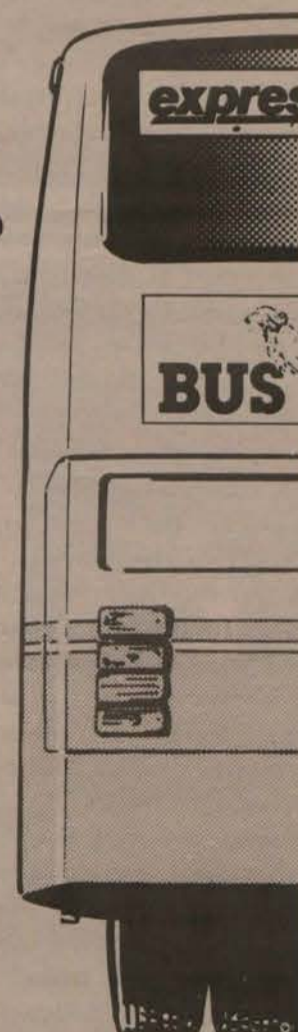
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Ed Wood Have Loved Every Minute

Late at night, when the critical faculties have been dulled by the exertions of the day and the bending of the elbow, you may find yourself channel hopping in desultory fashion. Everywhere there are corridors of TV Hell and not many ads, for who buys space at this time? Suddenly, you depress your finger and it hovers over the button.

The screen is filled with black and white images, and what is going on is of such unimaginable awfulness that you figure - insofar as this is possible - that it must be a spoof. You find yourself strangely drawn to the cheap sets, the risible script, the boundlessly dreadful acting and ... you start to laugh. What on earth is this thing, you wonder. The answer in more cases than seems decent or likely is that it is a film by the late, not in the least great, Ed Wood, unofficially the worst director of all time. Writer too. Probably actor.

Ed Wood gave the world such deeply sincere rubbish as *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, *Glen or Glenda* and *Night of the Ghouls*. He was also a transvestite with a life-long fondness for angora sweaters. He believed passionately in his work and would often conduct it in aforementioned sweaters. His professional life was a disaster and he died penniless, an alcoholic, in 1978.

His story does not sound like the stuff that films, far less dreams, are made of; at best, surely, it could be no more than a knowing sneer at the life of a useless film maker working the cheesiest side of Hollywood.

Perhaps in the hands of any director other than Tim Burton, a man whose very particular talents have already been displayed in a film

about a boy/man, a bat/man, a malicious ghost and a boy/man with scissors for hands. He has an empathy for the outsider and perhaps saw this in the story of Ed Wood. Certainly *Ed Wood* is his most moving, human and complete film yet. And his best - a heartfelt and very very funny work that delights in the awfulness of Wood's films but never mocks the man.

Johnny Depp plays the eponymous hero - and make no mistake, Wood is portrayed as a hero, indomitable, courageous and filled with untouchable self belief. It may not be true but it convinces totally. Depp is marvellous, delivering his lines in the MORE DRAMATIC THAN IT SHOULD BE pitch beloved of cheap 50s films, and looking like a bad actor from the same decade.



Johnny Depp as Ed Wood, a worse director than Michael Winner

After a stunning titles sequence, we are introduced to Wood's work in the (mis)shape of a play he has written. Reading the notices with his group of close but odd friends, he decides that they are positive because mention is made of the realistic uniforms. This was the way Woods looked at life, his self-belief spilling over into self-deception. Tefloned by this, he was able to ignore the notices, the funny looks when he refused to reshoot a scene when the sets wobbled and the fact that people were loathe to fund his ventures, unless, for example their nephew could play the lead.

The film follows his quest to make as many films as he possibly can, always looking for his *Citizen Kane*. Welles was his idol, and in one scene he even meets the great man and is galvanised by sonorous words of encouragement.

That his films were celluloid disasters is not questioned; in fact, Burton takes great pains to recreate the shooting of some classic Wood moments from *Plan 9*, *Glen or Glenda* and *Bride of the Atom*. But mostly, it is concerned with the man and in particular his relationship with the sad, wasted Bela Lugosi.

By the time Woods met him, Lugosi was very much a former star, still hanging onto his 1930's *Dracula* identity and regularly injecting himself with morphine.

He was rescued from complete obscurity and loneliness by Wood,

who gave him parts in his films, however incongruous his appearance seemed.

Martin Landau is quite brilliant as the deluded and denuded star; he could so easily have hammed it but instead gives Lugosi life that the man himself most probably did not have in those final years. There is dignity, humour and pathos and, in one brief, shocking scene, great sadness. Landau deservedly won an Oscar for his performance, as did the make up which gives him an uncanny likeness to Lugosi.

The rest of the cast is equally impressive, portraying a truly bizarre collection of people that makes Wood's world nothing less than surreal - Bill Murky as Bunny Breckinridge, failed transsexual, Jeffrey Jones as Criswell, useless psychic, Julie Landau as Loretta King, putative starlet.

Particular credit must go to Sarah Jessica Parker, who plays Ed's girlfriend, Dolores Fuller. Dolores was a truly atrocious actress and Parker manages to act very badly when it's needed and yet remain a very real, frustrated person in her relationship with her infuriatingly optimistic boyfriend, whose cross dressing she never really accepted.

Patricia Arquette plays Woods later girlfriend and wife. It is with her that Ed Wood leaves the premier of his magnum hopeless, *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, convinced that he has made a great and lasting film.

The film takes huge liberties with the truth but at the same time is lovingly true to the era in which it is set. Director of Photography Stefan Czapsky has managed to recreate the frankly crap lighting that was part of a Wood film without making the whole film look bad; the black and white images are not hard and noirish, there is a softness about the look of the film that is very appropriate. The production design, by Tom Duffield, is spot on too, both for the 'real' film and the sets for Wood's movies.

Ed Wood did disastrous business in America and it's not hard to see why; mercifully far from the mainstream, it has no obvious big audience and some knowledge of Wood's work is certainly a bonus but do not be put off if you've never heard of the man - Ed Wood is a delight.

Scene and Heard

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

Paddy Expo - Limerick

Paddy Expo is short for what it was - exposure for Paddy. You couldn't turn two degrees without stumbling into a Paddy horading; short of the loo roll, nothing was left unblemished.

The weekend, complete with the hottest weather yet for that real festival feel, revolved around the 'talent' competition, with three sections: country (two entrants), Trad/Folk (five) and Rock/Pop (15). Entranced submitted tapes to the expo committee who assigned the chosen ones (I've met none who weren't and heard lots who should have been) with a venue, gave them a budget of £150 to provide a PA and put them up until Sunday gratis in a B&B.

All but one band were from Dublin. The gig took place not in venues where music was the norm, rather in bars where music was an unappreciated medium, making "live" somewhat mortis. This apart, the judges, between schedule cock-ups and overindulgence in the local spirit, actually missed some of the bands. They walked in on Roche's last song in Nancy Blakes and missed RAMP in DOC's. Friday had the missed ones play again under the watchful, present and sober judges.

The Theatre Royale (Theatre with Cheese anyone?) played host to a music seminar on Friday, MC Mike Moloney managing to keep people awake and those supposedly in the know spied about the do's and don'ts relating to being in a band, publishing, PR and hassling people:

Jackie Hayden, General Manager, Hot Press: "make a list; when you've done everything on that, make another."

Stone Roses producer Bill Price: "Well I flew in and didn't know what to say so here's the list of questions that Jackie has asked me to answer."

Somebody from a PR company: "Everyday I have to sell myself and so will you."

I paraphrase the event thus: there's a fine line between gentle persuasion and bugging the shit out of people.

Almost interesting facts: for the sale of a full price CD, most artists make only 60p; most management contracts sign you for the solar system (!); don't have silence in your videos if you want them played on the Beatbox because it goes out on radio too and silence doesn't make sense.

The weekend also saw the setting up of a task force on music by Michael D. Higgins (erm, to deploy the FCA outside night-clubs and harangue punters into going to live music instead?)

Friday night. Theatre Royale, had Raw November, The Shanks and Junkster. The first two were too loud...and crap and number three, a glamour guitar pop crew, were sartorially loud and musically middling.

Saturday morning, the judges announced the section winners: Roche and Suddenly Smith to battle it in the final for Rock/Pop, Lynn Ryan for country and The Slightly Bewildered String Band (featuring Sandi Miller) for Traditional/Folk.

Paddy then transported us by stretch limo to the outdoor gig rig on Arthur's Quay where bands sought to prove their mettle (metal) as stage performers to the bored shoppers and street bums. It was also the day of the busking competition, with "busk stops" set up around the "ooh very nice!" model city centre. Paul McDonnell took second prize of £50 and a walkman. The first prize was a suspended sentence for loitering.

The showcase final was held in "The Works", a night club adjacent to the once renowned Savoy. Lorcan Murray of 2FM infant was the dire host. All four nominated acts played and the only interest was in who would walk away with the £3,000 first prize, which would go to the overall winner. Roche were elected best in the Rock/Pop category, Ramp were Best Live Band. Suddenly Smith, to general amazement, were given overall best act.

Not a great weekend musically, but a good effort by Paddy to put Limerick and music on the map. Fair play to the mobile phone toters who did more than order pizzas in crowded bars.

Sat. night, local athletes The Blissful Martyrs cartwheeled their way through a 45 min support that was three quarters of an hour too long. The on came headliners Babes in Toyland, who screeched and blistered their way through a stonker of a set. Dressed in prim gear, the Babes were far from it, the leading lady whacking it out on the Ricky and vociferating like a thing possessed, liberally dispensing spittle between verses.

The drummer was powerful, breaking from the usual snare addicts syndrome and giving it socks on the floor tom. Earplugs out, off to Java, another night on the floor and back to the little smoke.

Bear this is mind as you go through exam crisis and the jobhunter syndrome: "Razors pain you, rivers are damp, acid stains you, drugs cause cramp, guns aren't lawful, nooses give, gas smells awful, you might as well live" - Dorothy Parker

The Bone Idle Wasters will be supporting Dr Millar in the DA Club on June 17th and 24th

Developing an Alternative Viewpoint

Recently I visited an exhibition of black and white photographs of images from what we comfortably call "the third world". The 60 photos, taken by Carol Lee, confronted and questioned the standard notions and stereotyping so regularly presented of the starving, the poor and the dispossessed.

She shows in her photographs of course the obscene realities of the world in which we live. There is one stunning image from Vietnam of massively deformed fetuses, caused by the use by the US of agent orange as a 'defoliant' during the Vietnam War.

Other photos showed workers in the Philippines, usually women, who earn £1 a day harvesting sugar products and other women who have to walk for five hours a day in order to fetch and carry clean water for their

homes.

Carol Lee superbly juxtaposed these images of human degradation against the equally real, vibrant and valid image of what we should be calling the majority world. Her photos displayed the vibrancy of these cultures, not the black baby dependency culture so readily served up to us.

The photo of the deformed fetuses was deliberately positioned beside an energising photo of kids playing football. There were many images of people using their natural talents to harvest/catch food, of proud cultures not opposing outside help but welcoming assistance that does not corrupt their way of life. Certainly, the western world has much to offer and of course it should do so.

Carol Lee's exhibition is touring the country. You should go see it.

Dave Carmody



In a Town With No Name: Iraqi Kurdistan, 1993. Pic by Carol Lee

A Year in the Life: the

There is a certain appropriateness to the fact that this final issue of *The DIT Examiner* for the academic 1994-95 contains an item on the recently signed contract for the new development of the Marlborough Street annex to DIT Cathal Brugha Street. Back in September, the paper's first lead story of the year was partially concerned with the wholly unsatisfactory condition of DIT Marlborough St. The building is a mess and until the extension is complete, some students will take classes in Sackville Place, itself no picture postcard

On that occasion, when there was much confusion as to where classes were to be held for the year, the students of the DIT did not feel the need to make known their concern and annoyance in any vociferous way but that was the merely the beginning of what has been a most interesting, lively and eventful year for the DIT, laden with drama, suspicion and the odd high point.

At the same time that the Sackville Place/Durkin Building/Marlborough St story was unfolding, the much heralded opening of DIT Aungier Street was taking place with building still going on, particularly in the students' union, which lacked a shop for the first part of the year and doors for the first couple of weeks. Meanwhile, the students wandered around the new building, bumping into equally lost lecturers as they went. Teething troubles are one thing; wilfully neglected teething troubles are another source of annoyance entirely and the situation in Aungier Street was to spill over literally onto the streets the following month in the first of two major protests by DIT students this year.

Those who arrived early on that memorable day in November and saw the committed few who were sitting in the front hall of the building could

have been forgiven for thinking that it would come to nought, that the protest was nothing more than a gesture, destined to peter out when boredom set in. This was more than likely what that college authorities were thinking. Big mistake. Huge.

This was a protest that spilled onto the streets, disrupted traffic and went on for two days, one of them being a Friday, traditionally the bunk off and go home early day. The students were simply and justifiably furious at the lack of facilities in the newest educational facility in the city. After some lively discussion with the college authorities and the intervention of the Gardai, the protest, which had been as consistently good-natured as it had been determined, was called off and everyone went home.

Meanwhile, across the road in DIT Kevin Street, there was an ever growing concern about the ramifications of the DIT's proposed new faculty structure. A petition of 600 signatures was gathered, requesting that the Food and Food Science Technology option of the Applied Science degree be part of the proposed Faculty of Science rather than, as was thought, the Faculty of Tourism based in Cathal Brugha Street. A full six months later, the faculty structure still seems a long way off, with even the faculty directors yet to be appointed. The DIT wanted these positions set up by January. The current situation suggests that the structure is behind schedule by a full year.

Change is very often resisted in knee-jerk manner but as Head Office attempts to implement a faculty structure, it will have to take notice of the concerns of both students and staff or it will undoubtedly have a huge fight on its hands.

December, predictably, was next, with the attendant low key thrill of



DIT Aungier Street, the placid exterior

the Christmas count down. A quiet time for the DIT? Nah. Another sit-in was threatened, in the Durkin Building, temporary home (but for how long?) for Cathal Brugha Street's Environmental Resource Management course. More than two months into the academic year, the students were still without a library, a decent reading room and had for a common room the kind of semi-furnished, rather sad little room that you would have called your gang HQ when you were six. The rooms for the library had been allocated but remained unfurnished. The unconstructed shelving lay dormant in a room many yards down the same corridor. The Christmas break served to dissipate anger somewhat and the library was finally opened in the new year, three months into the academic year.

And so to January, time of semester exams, and therefore a crucial library period for students. So what happens? The library in DIT Kevin Street was threatened with early closure two days before the exams were to commence. The cause was apparently a combination of low staffing levels and training of new staff, an amazing and ridiculous situation since the DIT had been aware of the staffing problems for more than a year. The end result was that Kevin Street Director Frank Brennan and Ciarán

Crosbie, site president in the Students' Union, were to be found one fine Saturday morning operating a restricted service. The problem was supposed to be sorted out the following week but the next Saturday, the library was closed. No explanation was ever offered.

For a while, that incident looked like being the extent of the problems for that month. The students of DIT Cathal Brugha Street had other, noisier ideas. On January 26th, they occupied the front hall, stairs and side corridors of their building, in an effort to highlight some of their more pressing grievances: poor security, a leaky common room roof (old problem, that one), lack of laser printers, unavailability of hot food after three o'clock - this in a place formerly known as the College of Catering.

As good-natured as its predecessor in Aungier Street, the demonstration proved just as effective and, after a full day of singing, sitting and shouting, some demands were met and promises were made in relation to others, though there is still no sign of high tea. It was the second big demonstration in two months, both of which made the national press and had a positive outcome for the students and DITSU. It was clearly turning into a very troubled year for the DIT.



The somewhat less placid reality last November

good, the bad and the ugly

DIT Bolton Street had a reasonably quiet time this year but a canteen survey conducted by the students' union showed that there was more than a little dissatisfaction with the quality and quantity of the food available

Throughout February and March, the DIT was treated to the strange sight of students protectively clutching bags of flour to themselves. In some cases, the fondness with which the flour was treated aroused suspicions but overall the exercise was designed to highlight the lack of child care facilities across the DIT rather than some kind of morally dubious matchmaking programme. So far, Head Office has remained quiet on the issue and it therefore seems highly unlikely that DITSU is finished. The students and students' union have shown this year that there is a new determination to get things done one way or the other and with a momentum developed over this most active of years, they are unlikely to need much encouragement in the future.

Rag Week for the DIT is a challenging time indeed, spread as it is

seemed as if it was DITSU versus the World.

For the students of the DIT, the year ended perfectly with the institute's first campus-wide sports day. Organised by DITSU in conjunction with the Central Sports Committee, it had been hoped that about one thousand students would descend upon the ALSAA sports complex near Dublin Airport to celebrate sport and also to show the powers that be just how important sport is for the institute. Sporting facilities for the institute are, frankly, abysmal and it was hoped that a successful day would put some pressure on the DIT to do something about the present situation. In the event, over 2,000 students came out to take part and offer support, more than anyone could have hoped for and the sun shone brightly for the entire day, as befitted the high spirits and sheer pleasantness of the event.

The day brought home to many the sheer size of the DIT and the need for proper facilities for a student body that is obviously more than willing to take part and wear the DIT

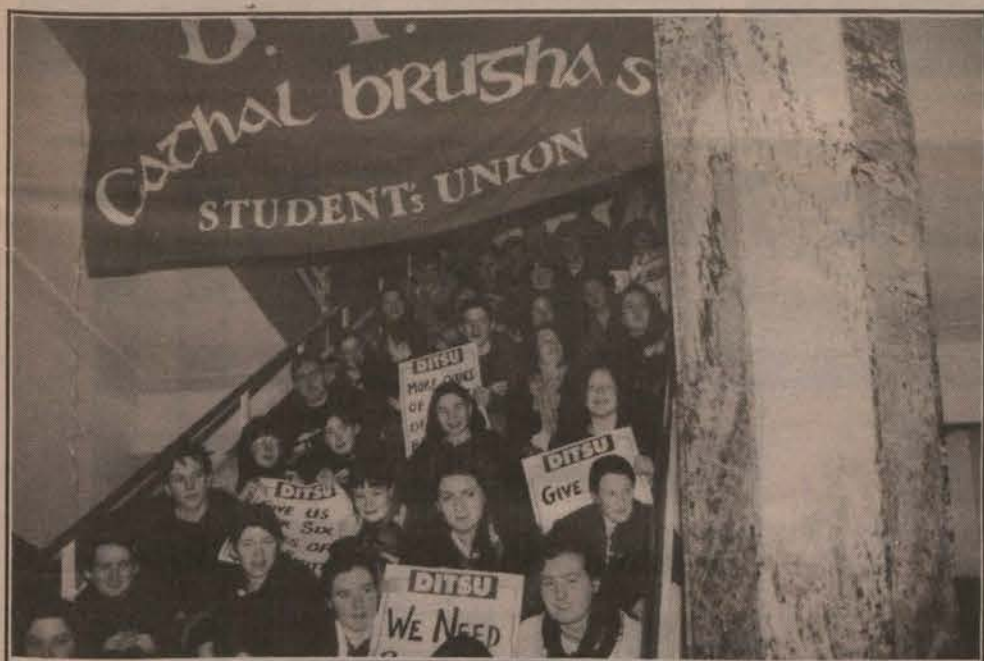


Stating their case in no uncertain terms

were due to start exams, third year Environmental Health Studies students were informed that the professional practice section of their course was in jeopardy as a result of impending industrial action by Environmental Health Officers. Again, it seemed to have been a problem that the DIT was aware of for some time but nothing had been done. In the end, the strike was averted, with the students' union being praised for their part in bringing about a resolution in the dispute. The students will not now miss out on their professional practice, but the

strike may still take place in September.

The year is now coming to a close, the corridors have emptied as students huddle in the library or the exam halls; many have already flown the coop. It has been a remarkable year in many ways for the DIT and DITSU, both pushing ahead with developments, not always in the same direction. Ever was it so, but the institute must still be wondering what the hell has gotten into the students.



Once more into the breach ... Cathal Brugha St, January

over a number of weeks in the various sites. This year was no disappointment, with a series of imaginatively odd, disgusting and downright worrying events organised for the enjoyment of the willing many and the willful few. Some drink was taken. However, it was as usual all undertaken so that money could be raised for a number of charities, quite possibly that only thought that could have compelled certain individuals to chew on sheep eyeballs and other assorted inedibles.

USI congress this year was a lively and contentious experience, difficult at time for delegates, such was the passion with which some issues were debated, and the occasional anger. As one delegate pointed out, at times it

colours. Many DIT teams and individuals have had sporting success this year, but the truth is that there should be more of it, given the size of the institute and the talent so obviously present. The Governing Body presence at ALSAA was poor but Dr Goldsmith, President of the institute did make an appearance. It is events such as Sports Day that can help put pressure on the institute to do something about the state of sport in the DIT.

It would have been a natural assumption that as exams approached, intrusions would have been kept to a minimum. Alas, but not surprisingly, it was not to be for some students in DIT Cathal Brugha Street. Less than a week before they

Summer Travel Unplugged

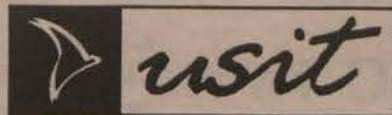
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FRANKFURT ex Dublin	£89	£169
ROME ex Dublin	£99	£198
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DIT Extension Gets Go Ahead

The Minister for Education, Niamh Breathnach, last week signed the contract with PJ Walls Ltd for the new extension to DIT Cathal Brugha Street.

All that now prevents work from commencing on the building of the new development is the tatty annex currently standing idle on Marlborough Street. It has to be first demolished before any construction can take place. For obvious reasons, this is unlikely to happen until end of year exams are completed.

Almost £4.6 million has been set aside for the new annex and it is expected that if everything runs to plan, the building will be ready for occupation by the start of the academic year, September 1996.

Speaking after the signing, Ms Breathnach paid tribute to the graduates of DIT Cathal Brugha Street. "I want to thank them for their excellent contribution to the development of the tourism industry and also to thank the Chairman, President and staff of DIT for their support for the sector."

She went on to stress the importance of the development to the inner city area.

"A city and a college are about people, education, communication, economy and most of all, life. This will be a building alive with young people whose active presence from early

morning to late evening will continue to add a healthy vitality to the area. Architecturally, the building is yet another major advance in the renewal of Dublin's inner city, a process I am pleased to say has been progressively expanding in the immediate vicinity."

Dr Brendan Goldsmith, President of the DIT, was also hopeful that the building would be ready for September 1996.

"Hopefully we won't have the same problems we had with Aungier Street and I'm sure we won't. Given that, there's no reason why it shouldn't be ready for September 12 months."

He accepted that the Cathal Brugha Street development had taken longer than expected, but was keen to point out that phase two of the Aungier Street project is progressing "reasonably" and hoped that work would commence "within the year". About £7 million of European Regional Development Fund money has been allocated for this project, but it may not be enough.

"The eventual cost might be quite high because I have quiet elaborate plans. Unfortunately, I don't have the same amount of money provided that coincides with the plans so we may have to do some sort of phasing."

In the light of the faculty structure planned for DIT, certain amount of replanting has taken place regarding

phase two of the Aungier St development.

"The view was that we'd move Rathmines and then do the second part of it, whereas now it makes a great deal more sense, if you look at the faculty structure, to revamp the whole situation."

"Quite clearly, my objective is that the site on Aungier Street, taken with the existing site in Kevin Street will essentially become the south city campus, that's the type of development I'm trying to plan at the moment. I don't want it to continue to be two colleges. It's to be one campus. That is unambiguously our position in both our leg-

islation and in the view of Governing Body."

It hasn't been made clear exactly what the revamping of the plans will mean for the Aungier Street development, or even what it will entail. The changes proposed in the governing body's faculty structure document, published last November, have already been the cause of concern among students in DIT Kevin Street.

Progress has been slow; the faculty directors were due to be appointed in January but there is no sign of a move in this area. Dr Goldsmith has pledged that the faculty structure will be high on his agenda for next year.

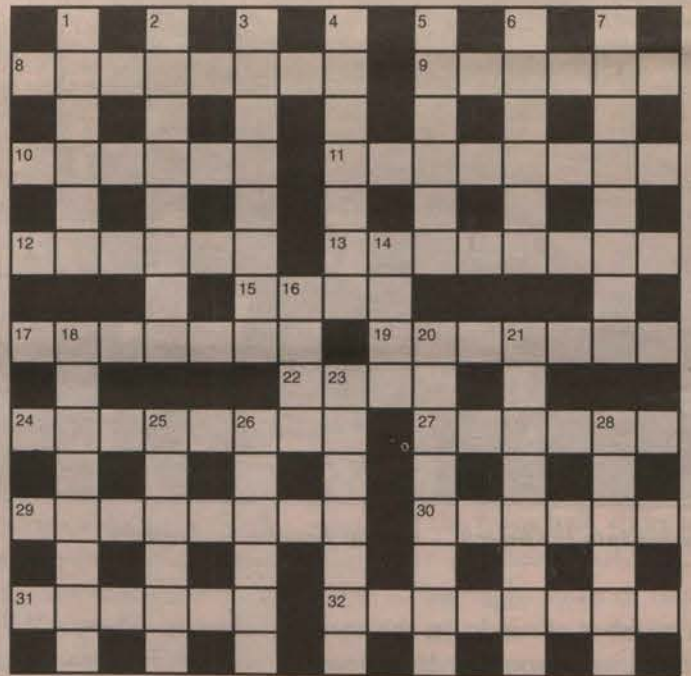


THE IRISH TIMES

DITSU Simplex

CROSSWORD

Competition



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RULES: Only open to members of the DIT colleges. Employees of DITSU and THE IRISH TIMES are not eligible to enter. No Photocopies - Entries close: Monday, June 5th

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

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Last Issue's winners were:

Jeremy Smyth
(DIT Bolton St.)
Brian McDonald
(DIT Kevin St.)
Dermot Collins
(DIT Bolton St.)

ACROSS

- 8 US college term (8)
- 9 Son of Daedalus, who flew too close to the sun (6)
- 10 The Northern ones are called 'borealis' (6)
11. Life, vigour (8)
12. Annoying, irritating (6)
13. Study of management of land and crops (8)
15. Saintry circle (4)
17. Halts ET for his secret behaviour (7)
19. Mount or wall for defence (7)
22. Water pitcher (4)
24. Of fine appearance (8)
27. Lever for moving boat's rudder (6)
29. Lest star frightens you (8)
30. Bundles of sticks or ball of chopped liver (6)
31. Dealing successfully with a difficult situation (6)
32. Hamper, burden (8)

DOWN

1. Disapprove (6)
2. Some nail in the pudding (8)
3. Without any bends (8)
4. Of little consequence (7)
5. Untidy lot of baby animals? (6)
6. Eight pints (6)
7. One who buys regularly from the same place (8)
14. Pierce with horns (4)
16. Clearing the throat to attract attention (4)
18. Gripping power to permit movement (8)
20. Item made by hand, often found in excavation (8)
21. Custom of being married to several people at the same time (8)
23. Failed to pay a debt, in Wales? (7)
25. The naturalist was inward (6)
26. Do a favour for or compel (6)
28. Worn away by weather (6)

COMPETITION NO. 8

DIT Runs the Rest Ragged

On Friday, the 24th of March, the DIT Athletics team left Dublin, destination Durham, to take part in a cross-country race and to take a look at the World Cross Country Championships.

It was a long journey, travelling from Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead, and then taking a bus to Durham. An eleven hour trip. The race in which we too part was held early in the morning, around 10am. In perfect conditions and on a perfect course, the team performed very well indeed.

The DIT Athletes were not the only Irish present, as there were athletes from all over Dublin present. The race itself was over a six km course and was won by our very own Jonathan Diver from DIT Aungier St. He was helped out initially in the race by Herbie McClelland, the DIT Aungier St sports officer, who took the race on from the front. Jonathan was the only one who went with him and when Herbie had to pull out with a calf strain, he was left in front. He went on from there to win the race and was followed home by Bernard

McLaughlin, from DIT Mountjoy Square, who had an excellent race. Dave Ryan, also of DIT Mountjoy Square, managed to breakaway from the group over the last lap and finished third. A tired looking Pat Conway, from DIT Bolton Street, was the next DIT runner, finishing sixth and next home was Stephen Kennan. (Kevin St). Damien McDonnell (Cathal Brugha St) and Paul Connaughton (Aungier St). finished further down the field. With excellent by our first three athletes, DIT easily won the team title.

Later in the day, we went to see the real athletes in action. It was great to be there watching the world's top athletes doing their stuff. We were also supporting Caitriona McKiernan, and it was a bit of a disappointment for the large Irish contingent that she just missed out for the fourth year in a row.

Much thanks must go to Herbie McClelland and Seamus Byrne from DIT Kevin Street, for their excellent organisation of the trip. Hopefully there can be a repeat if such expeditions in the future.

The Sky's the Limit for DIT Basketball

Earlier this year, DIT Cathal Brugha Street hosted an inter-DIT basketball league on Wednesday nights in Belvedere Gym.

The response from each college was superb and the talent equally impressive. Some months earlier, at a meeting held in DIT Cathal Brugha Street, the possibility of a DIT Basketball Club seemed distinctly pie in the sky.

Now things were beginning to seem more tangible. The League doubled as a trial for the inaugural DIT teams and after five weeks of slogging it out, two squads were formed.

It was now a matter of finding suitably strong opposition to take on. It was at this point that London came into the frame - and who better than the PE college in Strawberry Hill? So after a bit of organising, we were off to London.

The games went ahead on the sec-

ond day: The men lost by two points after a tough battle against strong opposition. The women were also up against a high class team but managed to impose themselves early on and in the end won easily by 10 points.

Both teams had proven themselves, and with many of the players around again next year, they will be looking for a chance to show up the likes of bigger Irish colleges.

The squads:

Men - John Clancy, David Walsh, Tony Sharkey, Tony Dalton, Trevor Pickering, Ken Coates, Brian Bernard, Peter Flanagan, Sean Casey, Kevin Conroy, Gareth Winders, Carl Donnelly, Paul Lynch.

Womens - Jean Gorman, Carita Wogan, Edel Brachan, Karen O'Brien, Eileen O'Reilly, Jenny Winders, Anne-Marie Carlton, Helen Hayes, Mairead Fitzpatrick, Roisin O'Shea, Pamela Grogan.

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A Simple Bow Would Have Been Enough



Final year design students in DIT Mountjoy Square recently put their talents to use in a competition to design a new logo for TREOIR, the new name for the Federation of Services of Unmarried Parents and their Children. Last week, the Minister for Social Welfare, Mr Prionsias da Rossa, TD, presented the winners with their prizes.

First prize of £100 went to Gerard Fox. Second prize went to Anita Murphy and in third place was Mark Lynch.

TREOIR, the Irish for direction and guidance, was chosen as catch-all title to represent the Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children, which is something of a mouthful. Pictured (left to right) are : Anita Murphy, Mark Lynch (upside down) and Gerard Fox.

Marketing Mag Gets A Lavish Launch

The eleventh edition of the highly regarded Marketing Communicator (the yearly magazine produced and designed by the students of DIT Mountjoy Square) was launched at a lavish reception in the exclusive environs of the Writers' Club, Parnell Square on May 8th.

This year the position of editor was fulfilled with insouciant cool by Sarah Glennane (second year Marketing Degree) and the magazine explored the challenges posed by new developments in information technology, especially the challenge of the internet, as well as new developments in consumer response to marketing communications.

The keynote speaker at the well attended launch reception was His Excellency Mr Per Jodahl, the Swedish Ambassador, who delivered an interesting dissertation on the history and cur-

rent developments in marketing practice in his home country.

A pleasant evening of cocktails and articulate conversation was enjoyed by those in attendance, who included important business people, college representatives and more.

The magazine sales team, under the co-ordination of business manager, Terry McSweeney, ensured that each guest purchases a copy of the Marketing Communicator as a reminder of the enjoyable evening.

The guest of honour for the evening was Mr P. R. Flood who retires this year as head of the School of Business and Management in DIT Mountjoy Square. Mr Flood is acknowledged as the pioneer of marketing education in Ireland and was presented with a leather bound copy of this year's issue of the Marketing Communicator.



Pictured are Mr Paul O'Sullivan, Acting Director, DIT Mountjoy Square, His Excellency, Mr Per Jodahl, the Swedish Ambassador and Sarah Glennane.

THE LAST

LECTURE

STUDENT LOUNGE

UPSTAIRS IN THE JUNCTION

LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN

C.D. JUKE BOX, VIDEO GAMES

SKY SPORTS LIVE ON BIG SCREEN

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME

PHONE 4751931

An Educational Year

The end of academic year is nigh. Most students are completely wound up about exams but you would have imagined that the rest of the institute is winding down before the summer. For the DIT, however, the reality is very different; with one thing and another, there has been no let up. Faculty Structures, the white paper on education, student demonstrations, new building projects, the lack of a new governing body. It seems that there has been a seemingly endless parade of high profile events or developments pertaining one way or another to the institute. All of them have landed on the desk of DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith. This morning, this very desk is slightly more disorganised than usual, papers and folders strewn about it, testament perhaps to the sheer amount of stuff that is going on at present. He looks tired.

This time last year, the DIT had no governing body due to a dispute about gender balancing. In November, amending legislation was introduced which should have sorted this out and yet no new governing body has been appointed. This wasn't supposed to happen. Why has it?

"I think its because submissions haven't been made from the VEC to the minister. I believe that the problem is in finding the proper gender balance. but that's an issue for the VEC. It doesn't involve the VEC." Not in terms of what can be done about it certainly, but surely it must be having an affect on the effective operation of the institute.

"Let's put it this way, you can survive for a short time without a governing body and keep things going, but it's not a good idea. I suppose that it means that certain things build up, there are backlogs, and that's not the more desirable way for a governing body to have to start off, dealing with a whole lot of issues that happened before it was appointed, so the sooner its appointed, the better from our point of view."

As usual, Dr Goldsmith speaks in a low, eminently polite tones, but there is a sense that he is a lot more frustrated about this situation than he lets on. It would be no surprise - to have to wait for one governing body is unfortunate, to have to wait for another...

There is a copy of the White Paper on his desk. The section on third level education isn't very long, the section concerning the DIT shorter still. What does he think of it?

"As regards DIT, its not very explicit, there aren't many references to DIT. The section that deals specifically with DIT is very short but there are a number of very positive things from our viewpoint. While I am not totally happy with the continuation of the binary system, it does at least acknowledge that DIT is in a very special category and that's the most important thing from DIT's perspective in the White Paper."

The binary system is a continuing source of ire for technical colleges everywhere; its a perennial source of heated

debate at USI's annual congress. While Dr Goldsmith would like to see it ended, he is at the same desirous of the DIT developing into a 'traditional university'. He is not surprised that it is to remain for the time being.

"I think the signals were there. The convention indicated that it was still the way people were looking at the situation. It's just that I am not convinced myself that it hasn't run its course. The major problem with the binary system, and this is not unique to Ireland, this is the downside to the binary system everywhere. Once the systems are to be different, and let me be absolutely clear about that - I don't want the DIT to become another traditional university. but what worries me is that when you have this binary system put forward, I have yet to see a model where parity of

Kevin Street. In November, Dr Goldsmith expressed the hope that the faculty directors would be in appointed by January of this year. It is May and there is still no sign of the appointments.

"It just didn't happen, we didn't get the response from the Department that we wanted, so it is quite clear that we can't have the new faculty structures in September, the time scale is just too short. I am hoping we'll have these key positions filled fairly soon with a view to implementing the whole structure September 12 months, or at least implementing the start of it as best we can."

Last year's faculty structure document contained reference to a proposed faculty of continuing education. As with the whole of the document, nothing was set in stone but there seems to have been

something that was very sadly neglected in the past, largely I suppose because there was no money for it, but really the truth was that we took people in young, bright, eager people and 'in five years we had let them become out of touch with the discipline from which they had emerged, so there's already a substantial commitment to change that on our part.

"We do have a group drawing up detailed proposals at the moment in relation to professional development. The teaching aspect is a very important aspect but it is only one aspect of the overall development of staff. I would hasten to add that the professional development of staff is not only in the academic staff, it is equally critical for the admin. and the support staff as well."

He admits that where the 'much needed money will be found will be "another headache".

Yet another headache for Dr Goldsmith and the DIT this year has been the number of protests and demonstrations organised by DITSU on foot of either specific complaints or as a result of long term unaddressed grievances. He believes that there has been "a cyclical upturn in militancy which is not unusual in student politics" which may in part account for the increase in activism. The changing situation within the DIT and some teething troubles, particularly with regard to Aungier Street, have also contributed to the dissatisfaction.

His immediate reactions when he hears of a demonstration are concerned with ensuring that no damage is caused, that no-one gets hurt and that there is as little disruption as possible to the public.

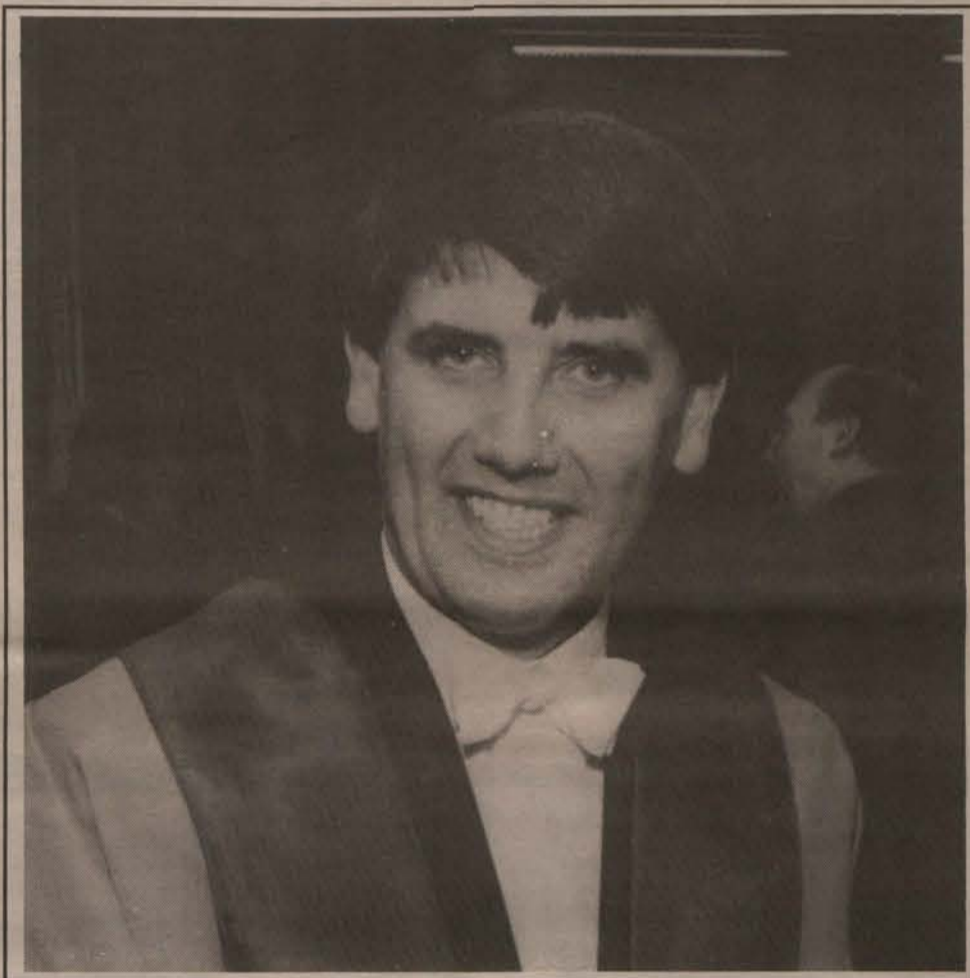
"After that the next question is always 'why is this happening, is there a problem, a deep seated one that I am not aware of that this is a manifestation of?' Later on: "the less these things reach my desk, the more they are being looked after at the level they should be looked after, but then there is a demonstration or a sit in, one always wonders if there is some deeper problem behind it or is it simply students being students."

The end of the academic year is nigh. It has passed in a flash but it was one of the most important and memorable years for the DIT and all connected to it. There was a certain roller coaster element to it at times, and at other a sense of being in a great big, bloated stately liner, moving very very slowly.

The overall impression given by the president of the institute is that while things may be happening, they are not happening quickly enough.

"Sitting here looking at the big picture, there are a number of key things that I wanted to see happening and the progress hasn't been as fast as I wanted but we are certainly moving on the right road."

This may be true, but it is the same road as last year's and that was a bumpy ride.



Dr Brendan Goldsmith, President of DIT

esteem between the two sectors of the binary system has actually been possible to implement, always you seem to end up, no matter how hard you try otherwise, with one sector being regarded as better than the other."

He believes that when the DIT achieves degree-awarding status, the perception of the institute will change.

"I would think that once DIT is awarding its own degrees, people will regard it as a university. Hopefully, they will continue to regard it as being different from universities, after all, is MIT a university? Technically, it's not. Is that a problem? I don't think so." DIT will have this power by next year, he is convinced.

The degree awarding status will, he says, be one of two major issues upon which he will be concentrating his efforts in the year to come. The other is the complex faculty structure issue, which has already raised hackles in DIT

very little movement on this particular section of DIT's development. Dr Goldsmith says that there is still an argument to be resolved over whether it is to be a full scale faculty or a 'centre'. It is not the most pressing argument at the moment, he adds.

What many students fervently hope is more pressing for the DIT is the development of training for lecturers. There are few enough students out there who cannot recall a lecturer who was either unable to communicate information, was useless, or both. This very matter is mentioned in the White Paper but it remains to be seen if action is taken. By rights, it should be, but it has long been way down on the list of 'things to do' for third level institutions. Dr Goldsmith accepts that the issue is 'fairly critical'.

"But it is only one aspect of overall professional development and to be honest, professional development is

The Student Summer Jobs Scheme

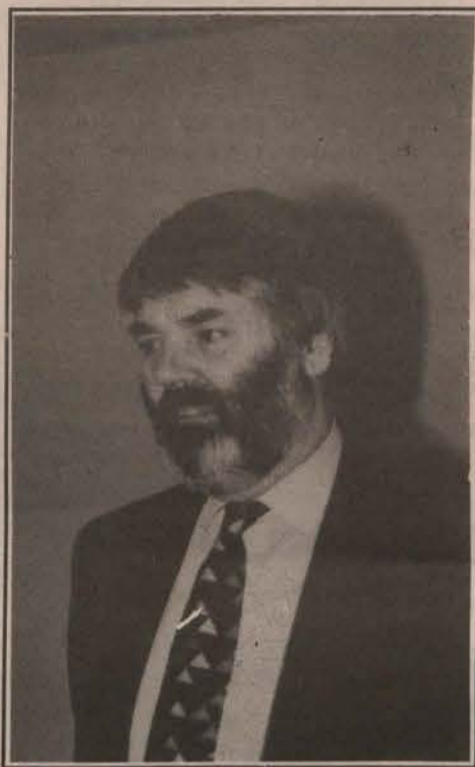
Section 14 of the Social Welfare Act removes students' basic civil entitlement of Unemployment Assistance, during the period they are deemed students by the Department of Social Welfare.

In March 1993, the then Minister for Social Welfare, Dr Michael Woods, announced that students were to be removed from all social welfare entitlements from the time of the completion of their Leaving Certificate (Senior Cert) examinations until their college graduation except in a very limited number of cases.

As a softener to this phenomenal blow, the Department introduced a non-statutory system, the Student Summer Jobs Scheme. This scheme has been in operation since the summer of 1993 and the current Minister for Social Welfare, Prionsias da Rossa, TD, has announced that the scheme will run again this year.

The scheme allowed third level students to undertake part-time work useful to the community during their summer holidays with sponsors such as Community and Voluntary Groups, and to receive payment for this work.

Amendments to the Scheme for 1995 are as follows:



Prionsias Da Rossa, TD, Minister for Social Welfare.

- The maximum amount payable will be £600 (11% increase on 1994)
- The maximum number of hours that can be worked has been increased to 200, which can be worked over a 6-16 week period.
- The hourly rate of pay has been increased to £3.00 which is not sub-

ject to tax or PRSI

• An extra payment will be made to students whose parents are dependent on Social Welfare Schemes.

In order to apply for this scheme, students must complete an application form (ST 1), available from local Social Welfare Offices or Students' Union Offices. Closing date for receipt of applications is June 30th, 1995

Problems that some students are facing with the scheme are centred around qualification for participation in the scheme. Students are completing their forms, noting in their parents' income, even though they will be financially dependent of their parents over the summer months.

They are unsure whether to apply for the scheme from their home address or from their Dublin address and the Department has no official position on this. There also seem to be certain anomalies in the income threshold. Some applicants are being rejected from the scheme, even though their income is equivalent to some who have who have been accepted.

The desk assessment which is operating for the qualification for this scheme is not consistent and there appear to be different cut-off thresh-

old limits per case. There is no appeals procedure for students to question their application and we would encourage anyone experiencing difficulties to ring the complaints line.

USI and DITSU view this act as an infringement of students' basic entitlements as Irish citizens, and believe it sets a dangerous precedent for the future of social welfare assistance for other sectors of the Irish population.

We are constantly campaigning for the repeal of Section 14 of the Social Welfare Act and with students informing us of any problems they encounter, either in qualification for the scheme or during the scheme, we can hopefully succeed in our endeavours.

Anyone who is participating in this scheme, please call into the SU for an information pack. If you encounter any problems with this scheme over the summer months, use the complaints line or contact your local students' union. Complaints can be made regarding the qualification for the scheme, the nature of the work provided, work conditions, payment and discrimination.

Complaints Line: (01) 7043875/7043876

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