1997

The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union April-May, 1997

DIT Students' Union

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MINISTER COMMITS TO DIT HOPES

DIT may finally get long sought after status

The Minister for Education, Niamh Bharleachnach, has said that she will request the Government to establish a special committee to review the DIT's case for University status. Once the Universities Bill, 1996, is passed this year the announcement came in a press release from the Minister's Department on April 10, in which she was quoted as having told Seán Ó Riain that "as the passing of the Act into law, I will immediately request Government to appoint a body pursuant to section 9 to advise the Government on whether...the Dublin Institute of Technology should be established as a University." DIT President, Dr. Brendan Goldsmith has expressed his delight at the statement and was quoted by the Irish Times as saying: "We are totally confident that when the international group has sat under Section 9 of the Bill it will readily that the DIT should become a University." Mr. Ó Riain's satisfaction comes after many months of campaigning for the elevation of the DIT to University status. He is of the belief that, as the DIT has now been granted permission to extend its qualification-awarding powers to that of doctoral level, "it could not be regarded as anything other than a university." At the time of this issue going to press, Section 9 of the Bill was being discussed by Seanad Éireann. Further developments may arise depending on whether additional proposals are put forward. Senator Joe Lee has already proposed that the Government be given the choice to act or not, as the case may be, on the advice of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the Advisory Body. If they so choose, the government will then have to include the DIT in the Universities Bill by order. To do this the order must be approved by both Houses of the Oireachtas before it becomes law. The announcement is seen as a victory for both students and management, so many of whom have been campaigning heavily over the past few months, DITSU President, Colin Joyce, who was instrumental in galvanising students to action, has said that he is happy that students would be keeping a sharp eye on things, ensuring that "this commitment lasts longer than the general election campaign." Despite his cautionary tone, Mr. Joyce maintains that "it is their intention to want to hold on to it, more so now, than they would have if it [the motion] had gone along on good grounds."
Summertime

Ring in the new. Normally, that phrase evokes images of freshness, improvement and probably constructive change. Such was my impression when the DITSU Elections were over, and, though there were moments of skulduggery and spite evident, the annual madness passed off peacefully enough. As one '97-'98 abitual would have it, all too many candidates — successful and unsuccessful — began to suffer from PES, Post Electoral Stress. This I would concur with, and can only say one further thing: don't go off the deep end without adequate reason to do so. It ain't worth it.

Summer days now, of course, and with an early summer — up to 16 degrees and it's only April — we're gonna have a big water shortage. For anyone who cares, we need water to live, and go easy on the taps, folks. The Corpse has already asked us to be vigilant on that score, and if '92 was bad, you bet '97's gonna be badder, baby.

Good luck to anyone who has exams.

For those of you heading off to warmer, more capitalistic climes to work for the summer months — just stay away from the dust, food, and the stupid beer. A strict ration of sensible sustenance will keep you alive until September/October, by which stage you can come home and walk under a bus in the comfort of your own country.

Again, enjoy the few months away, from the ravages of the greatest Institute of Technology in Dublin. And who knows — it might be a University when you come back.

Samhradh

The éir do bhochtáin DITSU a bheith thart brithnas go ndéadhaigh gach cuid den tabhairt chríchoilte sin ar na bhliain gan mór dh fhadhlaí, ce go raibh, moine 'e aris, ní theaghlaituí linn ann chomh maith leis. Chaor duine de na baighigh lái-sannschafta den bhliain agus sin ag teacht é (97-'98) go maith sásta an féidir leis a fháil. Post Electoral Stress (Struas-lair-Thoghcháin dhúinne Gasúir), D'ainmhílnaí leis, chomh maith leis, agus bhíodh an bhliain aisteálaí agus a bhí ag smaointeach ar lán-achtaí le geal-áthair é an dhíphasamh. Ní fáth é.

Leac na bhf Atlante an arís go maith, as na páirce agus as na bhfheidhre is dáth an Samhradh chomh maith leis aon fhonn fréafa — chomh maith leis an bhfáth áit. Má bhí '95 go dona, bhí '97 go dona.

Go náirigh le haon duine agus go bhfuil sceal le dhéanamh a'iru.

Doibhnuigh é, agus dal i dteo an airgid don Samhradh, b'fhéidir c'fham. Má bhíonn baill aithníte air son áirigh ná cuidiúil is féidir leis an chuid in DIT, nó fiú donn é an Troleyléacáin San Francisco (O'Coig) — uirlís iad.

Ba éigíteachta an arís aíthint agus a bhíodh an fhiún i dtus. Sa mbaíth agus go mbíodh sé ís na hOileáin níos a fhillimh an fhíomh.

Cearbhall Ó Siochán

Winners of previous Irish Times Crossword competition Mar '97:
1. Malcolm Mac Domhnaill, 1 yr. Kevin St
2. Ann McDonnell, 2 yr. Kevin St
3. Simon Lowther, 3 yr. Kevin St.

Prizes can be collected from Kevin St. SU offices.

Contributors
Rólán Carabhe, Mœbh Colman, Spike Durnaburney, Frank Semple, C'Haos.

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.

Ditsu

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Contributor:

Rólán Carabhe, Mœbh Colman, Spike Durnaburney, Frank Semple, C'Haos.

Editor: Cearbhall Ó Siochán

Minister of Defence: ChaOS
The Editor, DIT Examiner, DITSU, DIT Kevin St., Kevin St., Dublin 8.

An IEGarthóir, DIT Examiner, DITSU, ITBÁC Sráid Chaoimhin, Sráid Chaoimhin, BÁC 8.

Lettuce to the Editor

Any lettuce sent to the Examiner for the attention of the Editor should be clearly marked. Mr. ghlatear le hson leitis mharth. Sending dead lettuce to the Editor is a strict no-no. Tig libh scriobh chug an iodhna seo le hanas.

The Editor, DIT Examiner, DITSU, DIT Kevin St., Kevin St., Dublin 8.

Nixon not Dead

84 Donnybrook Manor, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.

19-3-97

Dear Editor / ChaOS,

after completing another over­nated lunch in the Cathal Brugha St. canteen, I journeyed to the com­mon room to spark up a post-food cigarette. Sucking in the contami­nated air with feverish delight, my eyes strayed across the room, when WHAM! The headline “Battle of the Bands” hijacked my attention. Leaping across three innocent pun­ters, I grabbed the latest DIT Ex­aminer from the person and excitedly began scanning the arti­cle.

Then I read it more slowly. Once more I poured over every word.

Finally I stopped.

I realise your reporter missed the first two acts, but their names were there, in bold type no less. Nixon played last, i.e. after VENA CAVA, but nothing was said about us there. In anticipation of the next issue, in bold type no less. Nixon not Dead.

Dear Editor,

And you had such great plans for the Easter holidays! You had it all worked out, so much study, revise those notes, finish off the assignments and contact a few peo­ple. Now looking back on it, the last one was your downfall. If you have even started to read a bit or pulled out the notes there would have been some more but your friends made all sorts of demands and here you are back in college for the last term and more work to do than you can possibly imagine. Where do you start?

Let’s begin positively, all this work has a first step. Forget about the mountain ahead, just look at one area first and start working there and bit by bit some sections will fall into place. Remember there are others who are even worse off than you and they too have to get into their struggle.

There may be others who will work with you in a group and you could cover different sections of the course and then pool the infor­mation, talking about an area of study is another great way to learn it and you are also helping others. Every time you sit down to tackle another part of the course, review what you have learnt. This transfers the learned material from the short­term into the long-term memory and there is a much better chance that you will be able to recall it at a later date. It is also a good idea to review material learnt during the day just before you go to sleep at night but this demands discipline.

If you still feel anxious about the whole thing and you feel you are not making any progress talk to someone else. A problem shared is a problem halved, we are reminded. Also, you don’t have to know everything. Pick and choose sections, revise the lecture notes, use a highlighter to check out key sections, revise and use the language and style of the lecturer including your own individual and personal insights showing that you have integrated the material you have learnt. It is also a historical fact that you are not the first person to have been in this course. Many have gone this way before you and many more will follow, just look at the corridors that display graduation photographs and there is every rea­son that your class-piece will soon be there and you too will hold that valued parchement. College life is about helping students to prepare for the marketplace and others for further study.

Talk to students who are a year ahead of you, to members of staff, or the people in Student Services. These last few weeks of study, as you prepare for exams, are just another part of life at third level and soon you will be making final plans to go abroad with friends to get a job, or whatever, for the Summer months. Give it your all now, who wants to mess up the holidays and have to come back early for repeats?

Finbarr A Neylon

Best Wishes from
Bus Éireann to All Students
taking exams over the
coming months.

Why Not Take a Break after your exams with Bus Éireann!

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Hear B. Call

Ed says,
you’re quite right there, sunshine. The only thing you’re wrong about is the part between ‘why...’ at the beginning, and ‘...gobshite,’ at the end, but aside from that I have to hand it to you -- you make a convincing lassagne.

You, dear editor, are a gobshite.

Ed
The Four Courts is a central spot on the landscape of Dublin. Any time RTE Television is reporting on major crime or current court cases, the Four Courts is in the background. If you are ever passing the building during an important case you will spot the journalists and camera people waiting outside to film the famous and important.

But I suppose the majority of citizens have never been inside the daunting doors of this famous building. It's well worth a visit.

This has been a good year so far to call on one or more courts and I have enjoyed it very much. First it was the Cathal Ryan versus Michelle Rocca case and then fast on its tail was DeRossa versus Dunphy. The Michele / Cathal case was some spectacular in the midst of all the serious and ponderous people and their learning was mixed into the violence and fun in the whole affair.

DeRossa and Dunphy has it's own story to unfold. It is almost groundbreaking to watch a Government minister answer questions in the setting of the Four Courts. The non-stop talker Dunphy finally gets his day in court and good luck to both of them.

But it is the 'religion' of the famous building that intrigued me most of all. There's a lot to see standing in that round hall and then a short walk back to the law library which is full most mornings with law people, barristers and solicitors and clients.

There's an air about the law people; all smartly dressed in Dublin 4 status. The barristers with their wigs and papers are easy to pick out, you just can't miss them but the solicitors are quite easy to spot. Here and there, there are little groups huddled beside one of the cars of the bigwigs. There's no check or control or prohibition on bicycles. Entering through the door at the side you find yourself in the foyer of the law library which is full most mornings with law people, barristers and solicitors and clients.

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It must be the glasses and phylacterys and wigs that help create the mystery. Maybe you could replace the word mystery with arrogance. Anyway, we'll come back to cases that are obviously just about to take shape.

The journalists come and go and part of the fun of the whole place is that everyone is a non-legal person. We have been replaced with another seven. Did you know that just you don't like the look of a juror you can talk him or her to go home. And you can do that with seven of them. In fact, you can do it with more than seven of them but the seven you can do can be challenging. You learn something new every day.

Blokes in powdered wigs and gowns. Sounds like an expensive fancy dress, but it's all legal, as Michael Commone found out in the Four Courts recently.

DeRossa case was the big one on the docket that day. The prospect was quite full, so too was the visitors' gallery. But people come and go, its sort of like zapping your television; you get enough of it after a while and flick to another channel. From the moment it began, it looked 'interesting'. And what I could not understand, there was no word about it in the press. From the moment it began, it looked 'interesting'. And what I could not understand, there was no word about it in the press.

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Well, you've made it. College is over, no more exams, no more lectures, and, as OZZY might say, no more tears. But now, you gotta get some work.

Get a haircut, and get a good job. Such advice is always handy karma, but there are other factors to bear in mind. Read on for tips on handling job opportunities.

CAREERING OUT OF CONTROL

Will your CV get you a job?

Tom Mitchell is a management consultant who specialises in the people side of business. This involves him in recruiting for a wide range of companies and jobs.

In this question and answer session he gives code and body language. Carl's DOs and DON'Ts of preparing a CV.

Tom, in your daily work you see a great many CVs. What is the first thing you look for?

A CV that looks like the writer was thinking of who he/she was writing to. Give me the things I need to know on the first page. Ideally, for me, the first page should have:

- Personal details - name, address, telephone number (and best times to call), date of birth, sex, family status.
- Your highest level of relevant education.
- Any relevant work experience.
- What type of job you are looking for.
- In short make it easy for me to decide quickly, "Do I need to see this person?"

You can add as much detail as you like later. Ideally it should be given a job in XYZ company!!

If you do write a special CV or covering letter for a job make sure to get it right. I recently received an application addressed to me in ABC company giving the reasons why the person thought they should be given a job in XYZ company!!

Leaving content aside for a moment, if you write a CV or cover letter you should be prepared to do a live question and answer session in the college.

A CV is the first information about you that a company gets. If it looks like you took trouble with it, then the message comes over, "Here is someone who likes to do it right!" The opposite is also true, one spelling mistake or typographical error gives the message "I don't care enough to get my CV right, so I certainly don't care enough to get anything else right."

If students in the college want further advice from their peers, you can provide it.

Yes, willingly, if anyone cares to write to me care of your paper, I will comment on their CV, and give them any suggestions I can. If the demand is great enough I would be prepared to do a live question and answer session in the college.

Questioning - Understanding the Interviewers Perspective

When people go for interview they either try to second guess the type of questions they are likely to be asked in order to prepare specific answers. They rarely look for the reasons behind these questions. Look at it another way, if you were going to buy a new stereo and it cost £1,000, wouldn't you ask the sales person a lot of questions? You're not trying to "catch them out", you're just making sure that the stereo is value for money.

Are you in an interview it's a similar situation. The interviewers is that they are not always fully aware of the type of questions they should ask to elucidate the information they require. We train people to perform an analysis of the post to be filled, from the viewpoint of understanding the activities and responsibilities to be undertaken by the successful applicant. Also we focus on enhancing their skills in the two key areas of obtaining information:

a) facilitate evaluation
b) facilitate differentiation

Preparation

Once you understand the dynamics of an interview it makes preparation much easier. Like the interviewer you need to do analysis of your work / college experience and explain how it applies to the post for which you're applying. In preparation, write down your experiences and ensure you know the specific additional knowledge you gained from each of those posts. This means going through all summer or part time jobs you've held. Never forget that in an interviewation you are selling a product and the product is you. Therefore it is important to:

1. Identify your unique selling points
2. Differentiate yourself from your competitors - what have you done in your career to date that differentiates you from all the other candidates applying for this job?
3. Understand the interviewer's real need - have you carried out an analysis of the post to be filled and fully understand the requirements of the company?

There are other factors to bear in mind. Carl's DOs and DON'Ts of preparing a CV.

Do use cream or blue paper, not white - it will stand out.

Don't give me a cover or binder - don't they fit in filing pockets.

Don't give me a fifty-times-over photocopy.

Don't send me one that is out of date.

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Communicé International

A Job interview can be one of the most fraught encounters we ever have to experience. It is a brief period of time where our "performance", in front of one or a number of people can decide our short or long term future.

Often a lot of time and effort is devoted to focusing on dress code and body language. Our attitude is if your outfit is well prepared, the body language won't be an issue. If you dress appropriately for the position dress won't be an issue.

Interview Vs Question and Answer Session

Frequently, interviewees forget in an interview they are participating in an interview and answer session. In other words, a productive interview is not a case of the interviewer asking questions and the candidate giving answers. When we work with people going for interviews we train them to treat questions as opportunities not threats. A candidate that has prepared properly for their interview will use the interviewers questions as a platform that enables them to get their points across in a clear and concise manner, relating their experiences to the job for which they are applying and giving insights that are unique to them.
The first thing you notice about Janet and Paul Betts is that they have aged prematurely. The death of their daughter, Leah, which hit the headlines hard in the UK and Ireland in November 1995, understandably hit them very hard too, and it shows.

What does not show as much, initially, is their resolve, and they have lots of it. They are not given to sentimentalism, and their stated mission is to educate, not to dictate, or to beg. Paul Betts’ opening words are “What I hope to be able to do is to give you sufficient facts so that when you go away from here, next time you want to use a drug, you’ll think to yourselves: ‘What am I doing? Shit, I’d better not.’ What you can make a properly informed choice. In other words, the choice is yours.”

They sought an approach to the worst — nothing will scare the mothers of teenagers that the ‘Just Say No’ brainwash message. The issue be swept under the carpet in this way is one of their greatest fears.

“My daughter killed herself.” Paul Betts says this at a number-of-faculty as he might say “Alice CGGOGCM oxygen’, They are under no illusions as to the reality of the matter, they do not let parental passion or emotion or grief influence the way they present their message.

As accidental drug users educating people about drugs, and ecstasy in particular, Leah Betts’ parents are almost ideally suited. Janet Betts is a qualified chemist and a nurse; Paul Betts is a policeman. Yea, you remember, ‘How ironic,’ we all thought, when Leah Betts’ dad turned out to be a cop, her mum a nurse. Not really though. It shows that ecstasy, pure or dodgy, is still an unknown quantity. Some people are more susceptible to dying from munching pills, but death is death — you can’t die more than anyone else. You just do.

The advertised two hour session in DIT ANGIE at last weeks attracted a mixed crowd of both -35 old fogies to hip young things, and spilled well over the two hours. They had already spoken to a full house in Bolton St. Paul Betts did most of the talking, though his wife spoke towards the end. They passed around four tablet containers ostensibly filled with white sugar, brown sugar, salt and flour. Everyone had a taste, and thought as to themselves what the substances were. Everyone was correct in their assumptions, except that the white sugar contained minute fragments of glass; the brown sugar; baked rabbit droppings; the salt had duck-blood-muck spatters hidden in it and the flour was clean. The reliance on the faces of the floor-tasters was great. The lesson learned was that because we trusted Paul Betts we lashed away and had a dab at the containers without thinking for a second what the consequences might be.

The SU refuted this claim that it was totally unfair that the students’ Union President Colin Costello that the by now famous (or infamous) Three Sheep were taken in secrecy under cloak of night from their home in the pond and are being kept against will in the dark and murky dungeons of the basement of Bolton St College.

Sources close to the sheep have said that ‘they have had their legs broken to prevent any attempted escape and will not be returned to their rightful home under any circumstances. College SU President Mr Costello has also said ‘this is an absolutely disgraceful act of cowardice by the college authorities.’

The three sheep were taken for no apparent reason and are held very close to the hearts of the Bolton St students and deserve to be returned to the pond where they belong.’

The investigation into the disappearance of the sheep has been ongoing since Christmas and has taken many twists and turns. Initial investigations revealed that ‘they were taken after a staff survey decided that they were out of place and didn’t fit into the college environment and should therefore be removed as soon as possible’ said John Lowe, Head Porter for the college.

The SU refused this claim that it was totally unfair that the students were not included in this survey stating that the students are the life and soul of the college and therefor should have been an integral part of the survey and if they had been surveyed its results would have been completely different.

Further investigation has heard Mr. Paul Fogarty, Buildings Maintenance Officer say ‘the sheep, being made of wood, were rotten and had to be removed’. On hearing this, this reporter decided to go straight to the top to the Secretary/Registrar Mr Tim Foley who asked why the sheep were removed said ‘Why not?’ but when questioned further said ‘that as soon as finances become available a new fountain will be put in place as in the garage next to the pond, a new Engine Test Bed has been installed and requires large volumes of water to cool it and a fountain in the pond is the most efficient method of achieving this.’

This further dispels the theory that the new Millennium clock, formerly located in the Liffey under Connell Bridge was to be placed in the pond according to Deputy Director of the Faculty of the Built Environment, Mr. Gerry Walker. As for the poor, malnourished, dehydrated, broken-legged sheep, Mr. Costello has been told that the sheep will be returned to him but under no circumstances will they be allowed to go back in the pond. ‘Their release is the most important thing to us at the moment’ he said.
Members of the Cathal Brugha St Drama Society travelled down to Waterford to enter the Music, Arts & Drama Festival, 21-23 March.

Stephen Brennan was there... and then there was M.A.D.

It all started on Friday 21st March 1997 with dizzy cardboard shenanigans in Busaras. Martin Broaders ensured that the manic weekend we were about to experience would be forever immortalised within the chamber of time that was a video cassette.

After numerous speculations regarding our exact time of arrival we finally walked up inside the building at 7.30 p.m. Our accommodation surprisingly rose above our sceptical premeditated expectations offering an array of pleasant facilities within a refined atmosphere. After settling into the immobile surrounding drabness of Viking House however, we found ourselves nursing our nerves so as to keep our beds for the nights. On our return to the room the cardboard was back in action at the tap tank became occupied by four bodies and then the camera man made it a five in a bed trump!!!!

Sunday 23 March at 12.45p.m and Gareth Mc Guinness looks at me and says "this is the one," and indeed so. M.A.D.'s representative for the weekend Nicola O'Connor can be heard squawking in the background (the judge has criticised just about every effort Waterford made to stage the event). The first award of Best Actor was controversially to Galway's Anne Lally for her performance in a "rape" play. Controversial because only seconds before the judges made Cathal Brugha Street's very own Michelle Mc Auley the front runner isolating her as the only female across able to "Dominate the stage whenever the appeared". The second award of Best Actress with this time Cathal Brugha Street's Brendan Johnston getting a very special and then a very special mention for being largely underrated and subtle actor; unfortunately however the award went to Colin Curley from Waterford for his traumatic one man effort. This award however fails to go well amidst the ranks of the Waterford crew who at the time were feeling largely neglected. Soon after however they finally get their greedy hands on some afterlife so they won the award for Best Director. At this stage the bookish black for Cathal Brugha Street as the end of the award ceremony is drawing near and Gareth Mc Guinness has been reduced to an "over-chilled" mass of nerves. "And now the award for Best Original Play" the judge looks decided. A pause, a tremendeous panic and then suddenly vindication for all the time we spent rehearsing. Vindication for all those months spent organising drama meetings trying to accommodate for the ever changing needs of eight exam stricken cast members; Cathal Brugha Street for the first time win a major award in the M.A.D. (Music, Arts & Drama) Festival. As soon as the excitable afters had begun people started to realise that the weekend was nearly over. A certain degree of sentimentality crept into the hearts and souls of all those involved; some of them even contemplating next year's festival, a touch premature perhaps but you can't argue with the enthusiasm. All that was left now was: for Ann Reddington, Olivia & Lorada Killeen, Brendan Johnston, Anthony O'Sullivan, Michelle Mc Auley, Stephen Brennan, Martin Broaders and Gareth Mc Guinness to go home and view our video diary of the weekend which by this stage has been banned by every broadcasting company in the world over (except Channel 4).

The crazy gang from Cathal Brugha St who made it to Waterford and back on a strict ration of instant Waterford baked in the emergency session but there was little they could do to help.

THE AIRWAYS

END OF AN ERA

For the past few weeks a major depression has hit the Brugha, initially the experts thought it was due to pending exams however on further research it is a gut feeling with the streets of CBS in the early hours of the morning they concluded that all the tears are due to the threat of the closure of the much loved Airways.

Other colleges may not be blessed by the mystical powers of Airways but for the hardcore, fuzzing aloof's of the Brugha it has provided the lifetime of their student days.

As first year we made our debut not knowing what metamorphosis we would undergo under the low ceiling of this establishment, entering bright cubby hole and buzzing huddle, rolling out the door gee - cyed

Airways has been the home to all those existed, ridiculed, and store in seed of some old fashioned cheating, and those who haven't experienced the pint and sambos haven't lived.

From the days of knocking on the door in the early hours of the morning to the present day of benefit pop it has found a place in our hearts that nothing else will fill. Life will not be worth living and college will never be the same if Airways and it's fuzzing staff are taken away from us.

The Airways has seen little candle turn into smoking cigs'... bare busts... altar boys turning into nympho's, romances blossom and hearts being broken. Who hasn't come in for an early lunch and felt out the door 12 hours later?

Well it's time to buy the "about it and if Derek..." dinner and the rest of the lads are stuck for something to do next year they can always blacken past pupils of the Airways or get together and write their memory.

You may forget the days in the classroom but you'll never forget "never forget"...

Good ones come and good times go but memories last forever!

Simon Twomey
Though the theme of Art & Design Week centred around sci-fi in general, the coincidental worldwide cinema re-release of the Star Wars Trilogy seemed appropriately timed. All gratitude to George Lucas in that regard for holding off the release of the first of those features, Star Wars, until DIT Mountjoy Sq were good and ready, ready to rock.

The week zapped-off (whatever) with a monster Sci-Fi Table Quiz in Stoneys Bar on the Tuesday. Wednesday saw rakes of spacers head out to the Plex for Quasar, followed by Sci-Fi drunkenness in Pub COMAD. Thursday, the big day, meant people got their space-cake glad rags out with phasers set on SUN for the fancy-dress banquet in the canteen, and though George Lucas was in attendance, he was sufficiently disguised, so that his presence there was known only to three people, who’s presence, in turn was known only to Jabba the Hutt. The Hutt was not there.

Once sated, the troops headed for the USI space/time continuum, bordering the Furnace nebula, a mere parsec across town, where DJ Francois and some Drum n Bass lads spun the vinyl all night long.
What worries you most for the future about students' union politics in general?

That students won’t be politicised enough to know that government legislation does and can effect their lives daily as students in Ireland.

What’s the single most important thing you have learned since beginning in union politics?

To respect someone else’s opinion even though it might differ from your own.

Who is your favourite author?

I am a fanatical reader and all authors interest me.

Who is your greatest idol and why?

My parents, Eileen and Syl, for all their support through my students’ union years.

What do you see as the worst aspect of students’ union politics in any third level institution?

The in-fighting and bitching which takes place from time to time. It takes people’s attention away from the real issues which the Union should be dealing with.

What do you see as your greatest challenge in taking up the position of DITSU Overall President?

Including all the membership so they know how strong the union can be, and making facilities in DIT a reality for all and not just a “what could be...”
As you all know we are part of the Union of Students in Ireland. Every year there are a number of meetings for everybody in the country (called National Congress) but over Easter National Congress took place in Hotel Westport, Co. Mayo.

Congress is where delegates debate and discuss their priorities for the next year. And our National Union are therefore obliged to do it. DIT is one of the largest delegations, this year we had 22 votes out of 160 delegates.

There were hundreds of motions to get through, including International and National Affairs, Welfare, Women’s Rights, Education, Union Organisation and Constitutional Amendments. Some of the most controversial were the introduction of a full time LGB rights officer, and the motion on the human rights interest in the Roisin McAlliskey case. There was more debate over the RTC sector changing to Institute of Technology than you could shake a stick at. Debating was from 10am till around 9.30pm and then it was drink, drink, drink in the hotel bar!!

The hotel staff were great, the food was lovely, so if you can speak in public and want a week in a top hotel next year — get in with the union!!! (not forgetting, of course, the importance of Congress!!) (NAP!!)

Interestingly, the welfare officer for the National Union is Noel Clarke (1st male welfare officer) and Helen Ryan (formerly welfare officer) was Deputy. Malcolm Byrne (2nd year running) is the education officer.

The DITSU delegation were mandated which way to vote in the elections by DIT council.

1. Cork RTC refuse to recognised themselves as anything but Cork Institute of Technology and their president Mattie O’Callaghan, is running in the general election!!! (Welcome them into our gang.)

2. This year was the first that student nurses were involved in the Student Union movement.

3. UCD speak more than any other delegation present.

4. DIT drink more than any other delegation present.

5. None of the elections for full time officers in USI were contested, that means that whoever ran, got in (nice move).

6. The DITSU delegation were mandated which way to vote in the elections by DIT council.

7. The average sleeping hours by any Ditsu delegate during the week was 8.

No Surprises at Congress

With a full complement of delegates seated in the Cara Suite by 11 o’clock on DAY 2 (the first day of business) of USI Annual Congress number 39, it seemed as though cooperation was going to be the name of the game.

Though hangover from the previous night’s introductory razz-sess — Election Hustings had been on — delegates were chatty and eager.

The session kicked off with Full Time Officers presenting their reports to Congress. Hitting on a football theme, Congress was told how ‘the Team’ which was the USI Executive, had pulled together so well this year. They had plenty of evidence to back this up, and delegues were impressed. Then things went a bit pear-shaped, as the ‘Team’ seemed to score a bit of an own goal.

Dermot Quain, USI Union Development Officer, said that he was unhappy with the headway being made in the Dublin Area, implying that the Dublin Area Co-Conveners (Flora Hannon, UCD and Mark McKenna, RTC Dundalk) needed reminding as to what their brief is. In reply, the two Co-Conveners stated that the Area was ‘diverse and underdeveloped’ and that they had ‘not enough resources’ with which to efficiently manage operations under their control. Indeed, some dissatisfaction was shot in President Colman Byrne’s direction by Co-Convener Fiona Hannon: apparently, he reacted in a not-taking-it-seriously fashion and was verbally reproached because of it.

Within 5 minutes of the start, it appeared as though the USI Executive was on the offensive. Noileen Hargigan, USI Deputy President, cautioned delegate, some of whom, she felt, were guilty of making ‘snide remarks’ and pursuing ‘personal vendettas’ against certain members of the USI Executive. Collin Joyce, DITSU Taoiseach, put it to her that the Executive was paranoid. ‘Great!’ thought everyone, ‘some action early on at Congress!’ This was not to be, unfortunately, as matters soon calmed sufficiently for proceedings to continue.

Peadar Mac Pháidín, USI Irish Language Officer, and Julian de Spáinn manned the Simultrans (simultaneous translation) gig all week, Julian providing the voice over with Peadar for emotional, professional and managerial back up. Togha Fhearaibh! The inordinately expensive machinery — complete with headsets — on hire from Bord Na Gaeilge at a reduced rate, was utilised by everyone at one stage or another. At one point, mountjoy Sa’s SU Deputy President, Ronan ‘the Runner’ Emmett, was given the opportunity (or took it, maybe) to do his ‘Pat Kenny / Eurovision’ Master of Ceremonies impression. Lotsa people laughed, and anyone without headphones became very freaked out and agitated at a half full of people laughing uproariously at utter silence.

Tuesday afternoon saw Education matters raise their controversial heads. Motion ED3, which dealt with the £150 student services charge imposed by the Minister for Education in 1995, was clearly a contentious issue, and the present Minister, Niamh Bhreathnach, will have to listen soon and carefully to USI and its affiliate unions on this topic. USI Education Officer, Malcolm Byrne, urged delegates to ‘bring the information back to your students’, and to lobby Minister Bhreathnach to maintain the cap on this sum. ED 30, which brought up the Grants question, again drew attention to monetary difficulties. “The greatest barrier to students is financial...”
Malcolm Byrne told us, in referring to those continuing education. ED 10, the issue of proper facilities for art & design students, saw Nicole Grimes, Chatham Row SU President, lamenting the ‘completely appalling’ conditions in which students in her college find themselves studying.

After lunch — during which delegates cast their votes for next year’s USI Executive — the election results were eagerly awaited. Few, if any, surprises were in store as Colman Byrne (Pres.), Malcolm Byrne (Education), and Dermot Quinn (UDO) were all re-elected. Helen Ryan (former Welfare Officer) was elected Deputy President, with outgoing Deputy, Noeleen Hartigan, heading back to the groves of academe next year.

On the question of Institute of Technology (IT) status for non-IT colleges, Colin ‘Joyce’ Joyce threw in a political hot potato, mildly challenging Cork Institute of Technology’s newly-born IT status.

CITSU President Matty O’Callaghan caught and crushed the aforementioned spud. Everyone soon got over it.

Other issues created very heated debate, not least of which was W2, the drugs question, which arose in the evening. This motion read in part, that “Congress believes: 1. That harm reduction education is the most effective method for third level students. 2. That the Government are not investing enough into drugs education for third level students.” The can of unfortunate mis-count passing the motion had to be re-counted. Steering came in for a lot of flack, but luckily the outcome was the same.

The Education session in the afternoon of DAY 3 saw Congress suffer heavy delegate losses to the Ireland-Macedonia match. While many watched Jason McAteer kicking someone in the throat, the more committed were inside trying to force through DITSU proposals ED15 (upgrading of Waterford RTC to WIT), 16 (to exclude DIT from the framework of the Teastas) & 17 (to have Irish as an optional language on Third Level courses). They were all successful.

That evening saw Congress attempt to get through some more welfare issues, as the drugs education question had all but halted proceedings the evening before. This session heard two very good speeches, both from UCD delegates, Gerry McDonnell and Justin Simons, on the issue of prioritising disadvantaged access to the third level. McDonnell received an ovation (the only genuine one that I was aware of) and the motion was carried with vehemence.

The 39th Dinner Main Event that evening meant that loads of people dressed up in suits and dresses and stuff, though I myself began that trend two days beforehand.

The whole week was given properly good local and national press coverage, and for the most part, worms is open. Queues — long, angry queues — formed quickly on either side of Steering Committee’s stage/tower of power. The main bone of contention was whether harm reduction or prevention was the solution to the drugs problem. Sinead Pidgeon, DITSU Overall President Elect, who favoured prevention over harm reduction, urged delegates to vote against the motion, saying, “It’s about education, not harm reduction!”

The bad verbal craziness raged on, until C’S Joyce inquired of Steering to see how they monitored the delegates’ voting, and some semblance of disorder was restored. Dinner time came around, and Welfare matters were put on hold awhile.

Constitutional Amendments were discussed following an unnecessarily prolonged/delayed evening meal, as was the question of whether or not USI could financially afford to create a full-time Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Rights Officer. This quickly became a very emotional issue, particularly for USI LGB Co-Conveners Megan Stewart and Diamee Farrell. After an

USI Congress
John Quinn missed the conversion which proved to be about the time of the throw in of the game. Simultaneously, at the score sheet the WRTC coach had words of encouragement for the team which were echoed by Supremo Damian Mac Connor. Ensured a good supply of possession to the willows of the WRTC juggernaut. For a few moments, the DIT Intermediate back three moved through the hands, and Waddock struck again. The DIT Intermediate back three moved through the hands, and Waddock struck again. The 'Pirates' had the wind in the first half, but it was the ‘Bashers’ who opened up the scoring through the ever present Ben McCuskey at number eight, after 8 minutes. John Quinn missed the conversion which proved to be vital towards the end. Still, 30 barren minutes passed before the 'Pirates' registered a score, a penalty, through Kevin McAllister, after he spurned three chances earlier. Aungier St ran in another try, this time through the speedy run of right-wing Thomas Trainor just on the stroke of half time. John Quinn stepped up and duly converted to leave the score at an unflattering lead of 12-3 to the defending champions. Five minutes into the second-half; the 'Pirates' came back through the powerful Paul Hatton at number 9, he was to feature very prominently in the remainder of the game. Gavin McAllister stepped up and comfortable knocked over the conversion to leave the score at 12-10 to the ‘Bashers’. Visibly disturbed by this spirited comeback, the ‘Bashers’ - through Alan Temple and the mercurial James Waddock in the centre - rallied a quick succession of rucks, after which the ball found its way into the hands of Thomas Trainor, and there was no stopping him, some 30 yards out. The execution was clinical, and Quinn again did not have the honours, and an almost comfortable lead of nine points was established. The introduction of John Campbell to the ‘Pirates’ pack of big men instilled a memorable fight which nearly toppled the champs. Seventeen minutes into the second-half, after a few powerful surges and effective mauling by the ‘Pirates’ led to a well deserved scrum 5 metres from the ‘Bashers’ line. Under normal circumstances and with a more controlled and heavier pack, ‘Pirates’ struck again through the towering Paul Hatton. Gavin McAllister popped over the conversion and there was now a game on our hands. With the score tied at 19-17 to Aungier St, it was anybody’s game. Mountjoy Sq came back the stronger through their pack again. Great work by their backrow forwards, namely Scottie Hanna and Paul O’Connor, ensured a good supply of possession to the willing backs. Unfortunately, the ‘Bashers’ backs were equal to the task coupled with some superb defensive work from Richie Ball, Brian Murphy and Alan Temple. A break by McAllister brought play into the ‘Bashers’ 22, where they forced another scrum. From this Hatton was on hand to collect his third try, which was unconverted. The ‘Pirates’ were beginning to take a stronghold on the game. Quinn reduced arrears to level the scores at 22-22, through a penalty in the 67th minute. After recovering possession from the ‘Bashers’ 5 minutes later, the ‘Pirates’ passed the ball through their backs, but James Waddock seized his chance, intercepting just in his own half and well out of sight of the ‘Pirates’ line, the ball was moved swiftly through the hands, and Waddock cantered unopposed. This time Brian Murphy stepped up and converted the conversion with ease. Trailng by 14 points and with only 3 minutes remaining of normal time, an unbelievable twist was woven into the game. Desperate and determined not to let the cup slip through their fingers, the ‘Pirates’ conjured up two memorably powerful moments through Paul Hatton and his hungry pack of forwards. McAllister converted both difficult scores, after 3 minutes of injury time had elapsed. With what we have predicted it, the match ended 36-36 apiece. After consultation with the rule book, it was agreed between the outgoing President of the Irish Universities Rugby Union, the UL Rugby Club, namely Philip Flood and Martin Seascion respectively, to play 20 minutes of extra time. At the end of extra time the scores were level, a replay was agreed as the alternative. The first half of ten minutes was very tense, with both teams reluctant to make any crosso which would jeopardise their penalty each to leave the score at 30-39. Midway through the second half of extra time Waddock broke the deadlock to score a try which was thought to be the winning score, Quinn converted the pressure-kick. Therefore ensuring a seven point lead. The ‘Pirates’, not to be outdone, decided to claim a share of the spoils for themselves. Hatton, capped off a marvellous individual performance to claim his sixth try. Unfortunately, the kick was very far out and the pressure was just too great, and McAllister narrowly missed the conversion. The final whistle came a minute later and Aungier St had retained the Gleeson Cup, but only just. Aungier St: B. Murphy (con.), T. Trainor (2 tries), J. Waddock (3 tries), J. Quinn (2 pen, 4 con), A. Temple, R. O’ Reilly, B. McCuskey (try), G. Guilfoyle, M. O’ Brien, C. Wilson, E. McGowan, C. O’ Gourley, P. Weber, M. Brough, S. Keogh for B. McCuskey, E. Tuohy E. McGowan. Mountjoy Sq: R. Corcoran, D. O’ Ríordáin, M. Buggle, L. Murphy, D. Hickey, D. Henry, G. McAllister (2 pen, 4 con), P. Hatton (6), S. Hanna, P. O’ Connor, C. Marrianan, M. Hamill, D. Collins, D. Crehan, P. McLaughlin. SUPP CAMPBELL for D. Collins. Martin Seascion

**DIET FRESHERS FALL BEFORE WATERFORD**

**DIT 1-6**

**WRTC 1-9**

The DIET Freshers hurling team fell beneath the wheels of the WRTC juggernaut, in a semi-final clash of the All Ireland Freshers League competition. The unforgivable and avoidable confusion about the time of the throw in of the game, which was held at the Terenure pitch, did little to help the preparations of the DIET players for this crunch match. Despite the size of the ultimate deficit on the DIET score sheet the WRTC coach had words of encouragement for the home team which were echoed by Supremo Damian Mac Donald who reminded the team that they had reached the semi-final stage of an All Ireland competition. This would not have been expected of any DIET team at the beginning of the season in October. While players may feel down after a game there is great potential in the DIET panel, which will make a name for themselves in 3rd level hurling competitions in the future.

The DIET team was

Lar Lacey, Sean Kelly, David O’Callaghan, Piran O’Mea (0-1), Colm McGee, Paul Dunphy (Captain) (0-1), Mark Kavanagh, Trevor MacGrath (0-1), Michael Byrne, Rory Hickey (0-1), Mark Murphy (1-1), Joe Cullen (0-1), Gerry Ennis, Martin Corcoran, Darren McCormack.

**INTERMEDIATE HURLERS FOILED BY UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK**

UL 2-6

DIT 1-7

The DIET Intermediate hurling team, captained by Ger MacIntyre, were deprived of a place in the final of the DIET Freshers Gaelic Football Championship by the crossbar which deflected a shot by Padraig Howard over the bar to put the game beyond the grasp of the visitors. Even though they had the strong wind at their back, DIET were unable to capitalise on their home advantage in the first half and despite dry sunny conditions the heavy and prevented shorter side from pulling away from their opponents in this closely fought contest. DIET goalmam Lar Lacey brought off the save of the match and excellent performances were put in by Dave Clohessy at full back and Damien Hallissy at half forward. The DIET team were: Lar Lacey, Anthony Brohan, Dave Clohessy, Owen Breathnach, Darragh Spain, Mike Lambert, Lorcan Mac Mhurchu, Dave Doran (0-1), Damien Hallissy, Ger MacIntyre (Captain), Peter "Boz" Casey, Padraig Cooke (1-2), Paul Dorgan (9-2), Rory Hickey (0-2).
DIT Handball Club has now become a full-blooded club and has firmly established itself on the handball map, with titles in the Dublin Champions League, DCU Blitz, and the Intervarsity as Team A winners. Many parts of the DIT have contributed to the club in one form or another. On the administration side, Matt Hussey acted as President for the Club while Darragh Horgan helped a great deal. From the GAA development area, Josephine Rogers was a great help and to the team of the GAA people at the colleges. The Students' Union were helpful as were the chaplains at Kevin St. All concerned gave support and recognized the achievements made by the handballers. The year began in the canteen at Cathal Brugha St. on the premier night for Michael Collins. A small group of handballers met to draw up a plan for the year. There were no elections of officers needed as everyone agreed where they could best serve the job, and all was agreed. One point arising gave way to considering if the AGM should take place before the year ended, thereby eliminating the chaos that occurs each September as the clubs try to get their act together. The first task was to register the Club with the County Board in Dublin. Then we had to decide who should play at the different levels. That was impossible for most as we were unfamiliar with the Champions and players. However, we made our decision and eventually picking two titles; the junior singles Pádraig Gaffney (Ballaghadereen), Novice doubles; Frank Sample (Bray) and Shane Dormer (Monavie). Altogether we played sixteen players from Kevin St., Bolton St., Mountjoy Sq., Giller St., and his opponent guessing wrong and missing from the alley as Gaffney had him guessing wrong and missing. With the County Board in Dublin. Then we very strong position. The battle for the prized shield was won, but the war was still on. What war? you ask. The War of Drink. It was time to get hammered, and I'm not talking West Ham United. Everyone filed back to the Big Tree and the DITree bar for a well-fed meal and lots of boozes. The presentation of medals and shield were made by Bob Guscoc, Irish Technical Colleges Football representative, and beard was left by Hennessey. Manchester United were being pissed upon by a stylish Burnley Dortmund and the Irish united really good because of it.

To cap the night, Pub COMAD was celebrating its second-last evening of the year..., yes, there is one left still..., and the participants began arriving for the Big Tree as early as 7:30.

The Irish National Fencing Championships, held recently in Glenageary, Co. Wicklow, proved very successful for Kevin St. student, Aidan Dempsey, who finished second overall. Following a number of heats to sift through the 32 entrants and weed out the better fencers for the direct elimination rounds, Dempsey showed himself capable of beating the best in the country in his particular area.

**Mountjoy Sq take Irish Technical Colleges Football Shield trophy**

**DIT Mountjoy Sq 3**

**CIT 2**

The glorious sunshine which beamed down on the Home Farm pitch did nothing to deter the COMADIANS from focusing on the ITCF Shield final. A fighting fit, fully-uniformed Mountjoy Sq side turned out for this most important game of the close of the season. Under pressure in their home town to put on a good show.

Cork Institute of Technology had come to town to prove that there was more to soccer in Cork than Denny Irwin and Roy Keane.

Both teams vindicated themselves, more or less, in an exciting five-goal thriller which went right to the full-time whistle and looked as though extra time might have been a distinct possibility.

Though it began quite slowly, the pace soon picked up, and several goals were made early on by the DIT side into the Corkonians' penalty area but the finishing was slack. The first goal came in the 39th minute following a great pass from Darragh Horgan at number 3 to the number 2; Aidan King, playing up front, who shot it in.

Three minutes later, it was Cork's turn to celebrate, as Connor 'Billy' Hannon cleared off his own number 5, Seán O'Brien, into the goal, and it was 1-1. The score remained unchanged until after the break.

Following the re-start, the home side, pegged back by legions of blood-stripped, bruinette, and the odd SU President, began to put better moves together.

The Comaidians took to the front again after winning a penalty which Rowd the back of their opponents' union back, but, like Liverpool retelling that Newcastle nightmare, again threw away their lead for no apparent reason, and the score stood at 2-2 at 30.

Robbie Whelan missed an easy enough chance after 25 minutes of the second half, though he did drive wide off the CIT crossbar shortly afterwards.
DAWN OF NEW ERA IN IRISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL
Denis Byrne

Most Irish people get their impressions of American Football from late-night sports watching the game on Channel Four. Not many realise that they could actually leave the comfort of their armchairs and enjoy the game for themselves. American Football has a twelve-year history in Ireland with the first Shamrock Bowl, the Irish equivalent of the Super Bowl, being played between the Dublin DBs and the Chicago Irishmen in 1980. While it was a great success, it was not repeated because of the financial demands that were placed on the clubs.

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The interest in the game started to wane in the early 90s but this is being turned around at the moment partly because of the hype generated by the Notre Dame v Navy game last year. A professional marketing campaign has been started and the game is given the respect of transposing the game in Ireland. Jim Butch of Image Management and Promotions explained, “Up to now players haven’t been receiving a fee or gaining the best possible publicity for the game. Now they want to be guaranteed they are just given a few cans of beer and thank for turning up. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are treated on a professional level from now on.”

The Irish American Football League starts in April every year and concludes with the Shamrock Bowl in the summer. This year there will be six teams competing in the league, three from Northern Ireland and three from the Republic, namely the Belfast Spartans, Carrickfergus Knights, Portadown Panthers, Dublin Torpedos, Dublin Bulls and Dublin Lightning. Jim Butch outlines his thinking behind this arrangement.

"American football is a very violent game but all the razzamatazz surrounding it makes the public think it doesn’t take long to promote the game as an attraction at various festivals around the country. The match would be an actual competition and the Waterpolo teams took Intervarsities was to be yet another mile­

and the elusive first place escaped them as OCU took the overall points margin.

Trials and Tribulations.

1997 is definitely a case of “so far so BRILLIANT!” We began the year with a DIT Swim team that brought together 80 DIT swimmers to compete for the first time. The standard of competition was excellent which was why we had to be Bound by our own standards. However, it was still a difficult year as we continued to compete at a high level. In the Men’s Swimming Championships, we were again outclass and the Waterpolo team took the title and the Waterpolo team took the title by finishing second. This was also the case in the Women’s Swimming Championships where we were just given a small margin by our nearest rivals. The key to success is an active and enthusiastic group of players who are willing to work even harder to achieve the successes.

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Karters burn rubber in Cork

First Karting Intervarities leave DIT with five finishers in top eleven

The first ever Karting Intervarities took place on Saturday 5 April. Eight colleges entered a total of twelve teams to take part in the four hour endurance race which took place at the fabulous ‘Kartworld’ outdoor track in Watergrasshill, Co. Cork.

Bolton St A Team held the lead for a period during the race but was eventually pipped at the post to finish third behind Cork Institute of Technology with RTC Sligo the winners of the event. Bolton St’s B, C and D teams finished ninth, seventh, and eleventh respectively with Mountjoy SC’s team finishing in sixth place. The event was organised by the DIT Karting Club and was a credit to the organisation of the Intervarsity Committee.

Intervarsity Committee members, all of whom study in Bolton St, would also like to thank Bolton St’s sponsors for the event, Murray Motorsport — suppliers of Sparco Racewear.

The 1997 Karting Intervarities was a great success and a time was had by all. It is without doubt that future Karting Intervarities will be just as good, if not better.

Michael Rooney, Chairman, Intervarsity Committee.

The hills are alive with ‘It’s a Long Way to Tipperary’

Rosemary Mc Gaughey

If you think of Ireland and sport you’ll probably conjure up images of Hill 16, the Sam Maguire Cup, the ‘boys in green’ and more recently Sonia O’ Sullivan and Michelle Smith. You don’t instinctively picture four men in a bobsleigh somewhere on a mountain in America, with the sound of cowbells ringing in their ears.

Well, maybe in the not too distant future, you will. The sport of bobsleighing may not be the sport of kings but it’s extremely popular across Europe, Canada and the US even since its appearance at the first ever Winter Olympics in 1924.

Ireland’s history in the sport however, is a tale more recent. In 1995 founding members, former rower, Pat Mc Donagh and Irish javelin champion, Terry McHugh, established the Irish Bobsleighing Association. Within two years the Irish team qualified for the 1997 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

I caught up with recent bobsleighing recruit, Jeff Pamplin, who began bobsleighing just over three months ago. When he was first approached to join the team he was initially very hesitant, “I can’t get on a ride in Funderland, I’m scared. I can’t do anything like that”. Jeff now drives in the two-man and is hoping to drive in the four-man.

Practice is naturally very difficult, with only twelve to fifteen runs available in the week. The Jamaican bobsleighing team, the basis for Disney’s ‘Cool Runnings’, were the darlings of the 1988 Winter Olympics. The four-man team stunned the Games by posting the seventh fastest starting time in the third of four runs and was eventually pipped at the post. The Swiss at the Europa Cup in Austria earlier this year recorded all their own people coming down the track and recorded the Irish as well. The Irish team in the end were driving the track so well, the Swiss were learning from them.

The first ever Winter Olympic Games in 1924 were an enormous success in the cinema and the sport has grown since then, but I mean you could look at the fact you finish 23, 24, 25, 26 and you’re still competitive. If you think of Ireland and sport you’ll probably conjure up images of Hill 16, the Sam Maguire Cup, the ‘boys in green’ and more recently Sonia O’ Sullivan and Michelle Smith. You don’t instinctively picture four men in a bobsleigh somewhere on a mountain in America, with the sound of cowbells ringing in their ears.

However exciting and dangerous bobsleighing is, Jeff’s feet remain firmly on the ground, to speak as springing continues to be his number one priority. “I won’t do bobsleighing to hurt my springing. I’ll always be a sprinter and a bobsleigher on the side kind of thing but I mean to get to the Olympics and to represent your country is something every athlete wants to do, in any kind of sport, tiddly winks.”

Look out for the ‘boys in green’ on the track in Japan next year.
The Internet is the first major manifestation of a new era in societal development, which was not foreseen in this country in August 1997, when the first Minister for Transport, Poyntz, Posts and Telephones, Eamon Gilmore, in the Digital Age, technology was in the doldrums, rather than relying thus making traditional organisational structures (of, for instance, Governments, Relationships, etc), obsolete.

In this new era, traditional boundaries become blurred; the home economy and the home community are already interacting and soon will become indistinguishable from one another. An example of this can be found in the Full Service Network (FSN) to 4,000 volunteer homes. The contact addresses are:

The site's creators are waiting for you to put forward contributions for the site.

The address of the site is:

http://www.kst.dit.ie/dit/su

The contact addresses are:

e-mail: dacrey@maths.kst.dit.ie
aconnchubhair@maths.kst.dit.ie

- mail: DIT Students’ Union, Kevin Street DIT, Kevin Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.
- fax or phone: 4173334

To be marked for the attention of Andoni O Conchubhair, Clubs and Societies Officer. Information received in typed format will be considered first and entered first.

Remember if you are going away on an Erasmus project abroad you will still be able to see the page and make contributions to it.

Thank you for your attention and looking forward to hearing from you.

Andoni O Conchubhair.

Ditsu hits the web!

The Dit Students’ Union makes its appearance on “the World Wide Web” today and is willing and able to serve you...

The page is still in its infancy but will soon be up and running with all the latest:

- Welfare information
- Events guide
- Ents info.
- Clubs and societies info.

The site’s creators are waiting for you to put forward contributions for the site.

The address of the site is:

http://www.kst.dit.ie/dit/su
this fierce, tough, sonic 'bionic album no end. I was amazed by the diversity within this little box of tricks, a must for anyone who likes dance music. One of the best this year but albums are easy to make!

9/10 (loses 1 mark to piss off my editor)

Chemical Brothers
Dig Your Own Hole
(Virgin Records)

Before I even start I am faced with a major dilemma! It's my editor you see, he kind of has this thing for the Brothers. On several occasions I have entered his office to be confronted by "Exit Planet Dust", as his foot taps below his neat desk. It kicks away in the corner as my editor's head bounces up and down; I can't possibly give it a poor review! He'll be heartbroken.

Thanks be to God it's a totally thumping album (super I'd say). I spent 4 hours in my father's sizeable 2 litre estate listening to this full volume (understanding Dad or what ?). There are too many highlights to mention, the two you already know (Setting Sun and Block Rockin' Beats), both kickin' and rockin'. I have no doubt that this will do the business for Tom & Ed.

They played the Red Box recently to rave reviews and you guessed it my bloody editor (bless his heart) was there to bounce around as cool as he knows how. Fans will love this album. It's a must for anyone who likes

DJ HYPE
4 April 1997 The Kitchen

Scratchmaster and uncompromising motormouth supreme, Hype, who has led his Ganja Crew into major label success, played the Kitchen to a crowd of pure maniacs. His cut-ups, re-winds and scratching were more exciting than a fireworks display. His re-winds spin deftly back and forth to the beginning of popular jungle hits. His jump-up style is mainly fixed to the dancefloor: the drums are fierce, the drop down into the bass, dramatic and the hook, easy to grip. As the clock hit 12 a pale figure moved into the box (that's not a DJ!) it was HYPE. From the start it was madness, from a low-key "No Diggity" to his more renowned rough style, it was original Hip-Hop jungle at it's fiercest, finest and most gunshot-peppered. The chant went up as Hype left the building; 'The Super Sharp Shooter'. The S, the U, the P, the E, the R......

CLUBBED TO A BLOODY PULP

Influx
@ Redbox
Sun 16 Mar

This time Influx got all the ingredients right - the main slot DJs, the support, and the venue. What are we talking about? We are talking about the most enjoyable night out that we've had in a while - The Chemical Brothers with James Holroyd and Rob Bright at the Red Box.

Priding ourselves for having the foresight to arrive early, (the queues were already beginning to form at 8 o'clock), but wondering what the hell we were doing in a club when it was still bright outside, we dumped our paraphernalia in the cloakroom, and set up shop on the balcony - better view, more air, and hopefully more room to dance.

The place filled faster than a speeding rocket... empty to capacity in about 15 minutes, but with a very decent crowd; only a light sprinkling of posers and shapers.

The first support DJ managed to get heads nodding, the second one to get bodies bopping, so that when the Chemical Brothers eventually lurked out (they did lurk out, very goofy and nerdlike), everyone was warmed up and ready to let loose.

By this stage our private space to dance had been invaded by everyone and their mother but we didn't care. The best crowd responses were for Block Rockin' Beats (which I'm sure pleased the lads on the decks, as they were about to release it), and of course Setting Sun because everyone knows it.

Drawbacks on the night included no ice at the bar, and no water in the toilets (we wonder if that is quite within the law?), however they did ensure that they had enough Eyrin & £1.50 a thimbleful.

There were copious amounts of sweat dripping off the bodies, not to mention the walls, and sometimes before 8 o'clock the Brothers lurked off again, leaving everyone to go home tired but happy.

Ruth Delany
Iseult Ó Siochain
Dear Agatha,

Recently cycling home from school I got chatting to a bus driver. I have met her again on a number of occasions and on our most recent encounter we decided to meet for a coffee. She seems a very lovely person and is I am almost twice her age.

An oldie cyclist

Hey, it doesn't really matter what age you are if she is old enough to be going around Dublin driving a bus she is old enough to be going out with you, even if you are twice her age. Some girls like a man with a lot of experience, that chance meetings it could become quite danger-ous, not for yourselves but for other drivers on the roads. Has this girl no sense of responsibili-ty? She is putting th.!! lives of passengers at risk.

Do you think we should meet?

Dear Agatha,

My shampoo just isn't working. But I haven't got the guts to change it. It leaves yellow urine-like streaks in my hair and everyone thinks I've got highlights.

When I was growing up my mother told us it was important to use the one shampoo and over time, I got used to this. Now I look at all the adverts on the TV at night and think 'oh why can't I just try Pantene once?' I feel inadequate and I feel like I haven't lived.

Everyday is a bad-hair day for me. I need some exemplary advice, please help.

Dear Agatha,

I am worried that as I near the end of my degree year that I have not put in the work in order to pass the final exams. I cannot face the thought of returning home to my home town as a failure to my family. Can you give me some advice as to what to do as I near the exams and what I can do if I fail my exams.

Money is also a financial burden if I fail my exams this year round. What can I do?

A worried Aungier Street student

Dear Agatha,

Well, with sentences such as yours my only hope is that you are not studying English. If you do fail your exams, don't go home, let's face it - your parents probably couldn't handle living with a failure, it lowers the tone of the place. You'll be the laughing stock of everyone you know. I know it's hard in today's cruel and ugly world (the girl with the shampoo problem will verify this) to get a job with no qualifications. But if you take a little initiative you can get by.

Get yourself a really cute dog and a tin whistle (it doesn't matter if you can't play) and go down to Grafton street and just stand about playing your tune, looking like the failure you are. This should get you enough money to buy yourself a bottle of white spirits so you can drown away your sorrows in a permanent state of stupor.
REEL Life

Joanne Hayden

Crash, Bang, Zzzzz...

CRASH

A nipple on a car bonnet. Sex with a leg-wound. So what? Hailed by some critics as a modern tale of human isolation in an uncaring urban cesspool of fast cars and casual sex, Crash is an unnerving film upon which Sheamus Smith has bestowed a groundless notoriety. Shot in Toronto, Crash could be set in any city. Reference to place is avoided as the sky rises and was screened.

For the duration of the film, the process of desire awakens, fuel their seemingly arbitrary sexual desire. Almost like a porn film, the characters either speculate on or reflect about the fate of the other two characters. It is as if the film cannot transcend its fear of dwelling too much on the harshness of a world which is as poor as Versailles. It opulent. Exquisite costumes and décor are focused on far more than the grim reality of the peasant's plight and the spectator is at times almost encouraged by the form of the film, to adopt the policy of wilful ignorance advocated by the aristocrats.

Ridicule is less psychologically complex and more fast-moving than his earlier film, The Hairdresser's Husband. It lacks the subtlety and pensiveness which made the former so compelling.

Directed by Patrice Leconte, Ridicule is more psychologically complex and more fast-moving than his earlier film, The Hairdresser's Husband. It lacks the subtlety and pensiveness which made the former so compelling.

Directed by Patrice Leconte
Starring: James Spader, Deborah Unger, Holly Hunter, Rosanna Arquette, Elias Koteas.

According to the censor's office no decision has been taken to revoke the ban on Crash.

Ridicule

Beginning with a flash forward in which a vengeful man urinates into the lap of a mute, paralysed invalid, Ridicule is a period drama exploring the hypocrisy and flippancy of the French aristocracy before the 1789 revolution.

Charles Berling plays Malvoy, a philanthropic landowner whose malaria ridden marshes are rapidly killing his tenants. In order to obtain the funding necessary to drain the marshes, he travels to Versailles where the demonstration of "wit" is the only way to get a hearing with the frivlous Louis XVI. Malvoy is given lodgings and coached by a well-intentioned doctor obsessed with the intricacies of epigrams, word plays, double entendres and quick, cutting sarcasm.

Mathilde, the doctor's daughter, with whom the protagonist inevitably falls in love, is the antithesis of the superficiality and shallowness of the court. Madame de Blayac (Fanny Ardant) is her rival, a character like that of Glenn Close in Dangerous Liaisons — not the only point Ridicule shares with the earlier film.

Directed by Patrice Leconte
Starring: James Spader, Fanny Ardant, Charles Berling, Bernard Giraudou.

At the Screen

TROJAN EDDIE

Like Roddy Doyle's Family or the Australian film Once Were Warriors, Trojan Eddie is a tale of protracted redemption and the triumph of the weak in a grey world of petty crime, unemployment and domestic violence.

Stephen Rea plays Eddie, a fundamentally good, non-confrontational and strongly led character, quite like that of Fergus in The Crying Game. Eddie fancies himself as a master salesman and obliges the audience response to his gags at the makeshift auctions he conducts with his accomplice Dermot (Stuart Townsend). Eddie, whose domestic arrangements are as unstable as his career, is a hustler working for John Power, (Richard Harris) the belligerent head of the local traveller community. When Power's young bride absconds on her wedding night with Dermot and £11,000 of a dowry, Eddie is suspected of aiding the flight.

Ending happily for its protagonist, Trojan Eddie manages to raise a number of challenging, maybe even unwelcome questions about power structures, the difficulty facing ex-cons and the way in which traveller men view and treat traveller women.

Gillies McKinnon has moved away from the stereotypical, over-the-top, semi-romantised view of Ireland inherent in his earlier film The Playboys. With Trojan Eddie, McKinnon brings a droll realism to an unconscious story almost incidentally set in and around the traveller community.

Directed by Gillies McKinnon
Starring: Stephen Rea, Richard Harris, Sean McGinley, Brid Brennan

At The Screen
ALL PINTS & LONGNECKS £1.80

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Saturday 3/5/97 - Abbaesque + support (Furnace @ 9pm - Admission Free)
Sunday 4/5/97 - Something Happens + support (Furnace @ 9pm - Admission Free)

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