1994-10

The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union, October, 1994

DIT Students' Union

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DIT Plays Musical Chairs

The future of the Sackville Place annex to DIT Cathal Brugha Street has been the subject of intense speculation in recent weeks. Is it closing? Is it not? Who is staying? Who is going? Just what is going on?

It was a situation that disrupted further the lives of students who were either entirely new to college life or were trying to settle down for another year. The uncertainty has meant that some students did not know whether to look for accommodation on the Northside or the Southside of the city because they simply did not know which building they were going to. Finally it appears that the situation has been resolved and the students will be very happy in their new home in Rathmines, that amongst other features, they will have better drama facilities in Rathmines House and an art room in the old Rathmines building.

"I think they [the facilities] are better. Apart from the distance, that is, if we could put the whole building on wheels and move it down to Cathal Brugha Street, it would be an ideal situation."

But the students' union in DIT Cathal Brugha Street is somewhat less pleased.

"We're extremely annoyed that there has been so much murmuring around with the students," said Colin Joyce, students union president in Cathal Brugha Street. "There are still students who have to find permanent accommodation. I know of one student who is sleeping on a floor in Ranelagh."

"While we are awaiting the extension to Cathal Brugha Street, we will be continuing to use Sackville Place," Dr. Goldsmith said this week.

The extension he referred to is the forthcoming development at the site of the current Marlborough Street annex, a depressing looking building which is to be demolished in the very near future.

"I'm sickened by the situation. I think it's appalling for the students and staff to have been messed about so much. If the move had been planned, then that would have been grand, but it's been so disorganised."

He went on to say that the students now based in Rathmines would have to use the doctor and nurse facilities in Aungier Street, that they had no access to a photocopier and that they would be removed from college life as all clubs and societies are run from the main building. It has also been noted that there are no condom machine facilities.

Much worry has been expressed about the lack of access to course texts but according to Frank McMahon, proper library facilities are being organised for the students, utilising the former College of Commerce library in the old building.

Mr. McMahon agreed that although the removal of the students from the centre of things was a "consideration" and that it was something the students' union might want to look at.

"Had the Sackville Place annex closed, DIT Cathal Brugha Street would not have been the only site affected. Art and Design students from DIT Mountjoy Square share the building and the students' union had also expressed concern when the rumour began to fly about. It seems that they can now breathe again."

Meanwhile, some administrative sections of DIT Adelaide Road, the College of Music, have also moved to Rathmines and taken up residence in the old building. This has led to speculation regarding the future structure to be announced soon for the DIT.

DIT Aungier Street Opens its Doors - At Last

A period of confusion, consterna­tion and utter frustration, DIT Aungier Street is finally up and running.

But for the students' union, the struggle to get settled in a new home is far from over. A door for the main union office was only fitted in the middle of last week, and work has yet to begin on the students' union shop but of most concern is the room which the union believed had been set aside as a common room; it's future use remains the subject of some debate with the college authorities.

"The shop is a vital facility," said Lar Moran, President of the Students Union in Aungier Street. "Students need their discs and their stationary supplies and they'd be much cheaper in the shop."

At time of going to press, it appeared that the shop would be in operation within the next month. The construction will follow the curve of the back wall directly opposite the union offices and will face out onto the recreational area.

More worrying for the union in the longer term is the continuing uncertainty regarding the large room next to the union offices. At present, the union, located in the basement of the new building has three offices at its disposal, as well as recreational area, for which seating, albeit old, has already been installed.

The is being used as storage space and is currently packed high with boxes of varying size and undry items of furniture. Lar Moran maintains that the college does not need this extra space and they will therefore be as all dubs

DITSU has a wealth of clubs and soci­eties. They are an ideal way for students to get involved with the more social aspects of college life.

Forrest Gump has taken an obscene amount of money at the American box office. It's not a bad film but is it really that good?

The newcomers to college might still feel a little out of things but in a very unusual time, they often forget exactly what they have.

Semesterisation is a system still quite new to the DIT. Most agree with the concept but there are still many reservations.
Back to the future

You made it. Whether you are a returning student already enlightened as to the obligations and opportunities of college life, or whether you are a first year for whom the whole business remains something of a mystery, the message is the same. You made it. You're here. Most returning students will have no difficulty in slipping back into first term insouciant mode, knowing what is expected of them and delivering, or doing, as the case may be. For first years, it's very often a different and more unsettling experience; not necessarily unsettling in a 'I think I'm being followed by someone who drools' manner but at the very least it represents an abrupt uprooting and replacement in a thoroughly unfamiliar social and academic environment. It is, quite literally, unsettling. Do not let it get on top of you.

College life is certainly challenging on many levels and you will find yourself tested in several new ways; much of your development as a person will take place over the next two, three or four years and how you deal with the immediate future will surely have a significant bearing on your long term plans. There may be times when throwing in the towel seems a very attractive proposition indeed. Persevere. The workload is significant and some of the outside situations you have to deal with will be unfamiliar. There is no denying that. But these years are also supposed to be about enjoying yourself, asserting your independence, trying on any number of hats and seeing how they fit and it is very likely that the friends you meet in college will be with you for the rest of your life. Do the work, get the qualification - that presumably is the main reason you slogged your way here - but it is at your peril that you neglect the side of yourself that needs to enjoy life beyond the books.

Paper's Round

This is the second year of the DIT Examiner, the newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union. This year, we intend to publish more issues, one a month. Anyone can contribute on any number of ways; there are also several new ways; there are ample storage facilities beneath the bike sheds and that the students need a larger recreational area. But for now it appears that the college authorities have designs on perhaps half of the room for storage purposes.

Even if this matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the students' union, there may be another problem lurking ominously around the corner. The entire college has been designated a no-smoking zone and Mr Moran, a non-smoker, is against this move. In other DIT sites, a strict no-smoking policy has been almost impossible to implement among the student body.

Class Reps

Reading through the interviews with the various convenors and deputy convenors in this year's EDIT, and speaking to them on different occasions, it is readily apparent that there is one issue above all others that the individual unions are determined to tackle and that is the class rep. system. There is a strong sense that the development of an effective class rep system will sooner rather than later prove most beneficial to students and to the operation and image of their union. Unfortunately, the perception remains that students' unions everywhere have an image problem in that they are often seen as aloof and elite. The class rep system can help change that perception: if a full class rep council is set up in each college, students' problems and grievances will be brought quickly to the attention of the union; thus communication is improved and issues are dealt with Everyone is happy.

There are still class rep positions to be filled and some positions on some unions' executive. The rest is up to you.

Editor John Carroll
Production Rory Quinn
Printed by The Meath Chronicle

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.

Getting DIT Aungier Street up and running has been a tiring, sometimes tiresome and uncertain business. The lecture rooms are now occupied but the students, and it seems, the lecturers, for the time being seem somewhat lost in the unfamiliar, disorientatingly large surroundings and the building seems somehow empty and uncrowded. Many offices have unopened boxes so the settling in period is by no means over, not least for the students' union.

Dr Brendan Goldsmith has expressed the hope that all the difficulties are now in the past and that "maybe now we can get on with it"
Making your mark in DITSU

As students in the DIT you are entitled to vote in the elections for the students’ unions, both for the officers within your own college and for the overall president of the DIT students’ union. Election time is one of the liveliest, most revealing and, for some, most exasperating periods of the college year. Get involved and vote because the people elected will be running your students’ union and the overall president will be representing DIT students on the DIT’s Governing Body.

The following may seem like common sense at first and an insult to your intelligence at worst, but you’d be surprised at the numbers of people who, accidentally or otherwise, spoil their vote. (a) In the returning officer’s opinion, a vote is transferred only if your earlier preference has been eliminated or elected. Your third preference will only be used if your second preference doesn’t need the vote. (b) Do not write any comments or draw any pictures on the ballot paper.

d) In the case of the referendum you simply place a cross or a tick in either the YES or NO box and not in both boxes. The other box should be left blank.

Frank Crummey

Elections to DIT Governing Body

In order to comply fully with the strict nomenclature of the act of the Oireachtas establishing the legal status of the DIT and the Composition of its Governing Body and direct and indirect nominating bodies, it is necessary to fill the two student representative seats in the DIT Board of Governors. The act at present does not permit the custom and practice of a restricted elective community. The current student representatives, DITSU President Colman Byrne and DITSU Bolton Street Deputy Convenor Alison Flanagan, will stand for election to satisfy the terms and conditions of the act. This presents the student body with a perfect opportunity to reaffirm and further endorse the sitting student union representatives as the sole official and legitimate voice of DIT Students on DIT Governing Body.

The election date has not been finalised as we go to press but it is expected to occur in October or November.

NOBODY OFFERS D.I.T. STUDENTS A BETTER COACH SERVICE FROM DUBLIN.

SAMPLE STUDENT MONTHLY RETURN FARES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>£11.00</td>
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<tr>
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Fares correct at time of going to press.

BUY YOUR TICKET IN THE COLLEGE

Tickets available in the D.I.T. Student Union Shops at

- Kevin Street,
- Bolton Street,
- Cathal Brugha Street,
- Mountjoy Square,
- Aungier Street.

For group bookings and travel information call

Busaras (01) 836 6111.

Remember, you need an L.S.I.C. Card with Travelsave Stamp to avail of Student Fares.

Ask about reductions on other services with L.S.I.C. Card.

You’re better off on

BUS ÉIREANN

3
Clubs and Societies

Your first few weeks in college are very likely to be strange, disorientating, nerdy and exciting to one extent or another. You may find yourself feeling a little lonely or out of things, the new experiences a little more daunting than you expected. On the other hand, you might be itching to get involved in all aspects of college life, have all sorts of wild ideas for the year and are of the opinion that the day is simply not long enough. Whether you are the class shrinking violet or its hyperactive whirling dervish, the clubs and societies in the various colleges have an important role to play.

Dozens are set up every year, each designed firstly to further interest in and appreciation of the event, discipline, sport or group of interest you own choice. Their other major function is to help people to get to know each other and to provide opportunities for them to socialise together. I don’t wish to labour the point, but some societies and clubs are more renowned than others for their propensity for getting hammered at every available opportunity.

What follows is a list of the clubs and societies that existed last year and will almost certainly return this year. It is not complete and if you have an idea for one that is not on the list, give it a shot.

### DIT Kevin Street

**Clubs**
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Board Sailing
- Caving Club
- Canoeing
- Fencing
- Handball
- Judo
- Juggling
- Karate
- Ladies’ Soccer
- Men’s Soccer
- Mixed Hockey
- Mountaineering
- Orienteering
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Swimming
- Sub Aqua
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball

**Societies**
- AIESEC
- An Cumann Gaelach
- Ballet
- Biotechnology
- Biomedical Science
- Bridge
- Christian Union
- Computer
- Enterprise
- Gay and Lesbian
- Human Nutrition
- KA-TS (Drama Society)
- Languages
- Musicians
- Niemoller
- Optics
- Science Fiction
- Science and Technology
- Traditional
- Women’s Group

### DIT Mountjoy Square

**Clubs**
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Caving Club
- Canoeing
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Hockey
- Karate
- Ladies’ Rugby
- Mountaineering
- Men’s Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Yoga

**Societies**
- Administration
- Amnesty International
- An Cumann Gaelach
- Art
- Clan Bizarro (Roleplaying)
- Debate
- Design
- Drama
- European
- Expanding Head (video)
- Fashion
- Film (watchers)
- Graphic
- Marketing and Advertising
- Marketing Communicators
- Photographic

### DIT Bolton Street

**Clubs**
- Basketball
- Canoeing
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Handball
- Hockey
- Karate
- Ladies’ Soccer
- Men’s Soccer
- Mixed Hockey
- Mountaineering
- Orienteering
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Taekwan Do
- Volleyball

**Societies**
- An Cumann Gaelach
- Drama and Film
- Environmental
- Food and Beverage
- French
- Games and Roleplay
- Home Brew
- Irish Football Supporters
- Rugby Supporters
- Women’s Group

### DIT Aungier Street

**Clubs**
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Board Sailing
- Canoeing
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Handball
- Hockey
- Karate
- Ladies’ Soccer
- Men’s Soccer
- Mixed Hockey
- Mountaineering
- Orienteering
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Swimming
- Sub Aqua
- Taekwan Do
- Volleyball

**Societies**
- An Cumann Gaelach
- Drama and Film
- Environmental
- Food and Beverage
- French
- Games and Roleplay
- Home Brew
- Irish Football Supporters
- Rugby Supporters
- Women’s Group

Because of the move from Rathmines to Aungier Street, and the logistical and organisational Hell this engenders, there are no certainties as to the clubs and societies for the coming year. As soon as the union is settled, the currently frazzled team will no doubt get things going.

Enjoy.
Forrest Gump looks set to enter the American consciousness in a way that very few box office hits ever do; ET is the last film I can think of that had such an overwhelming effect on people but that wasn't a peculiarly American film; Gump is and its eponymous hero seems to represent a readily identifiable stereotype, the young innocent who plays college football, is sent to fight in the Vietnam war, and history, it generally lacks the wisdom and love of his mother. It is the thoughtless retention of this innocence, I think, that has made Gump such an overwhelming success in America. The hype surrounding the film will ensure that it will be a success everywhere but it will not resonate in the same way and don't be surprised if you leave the cinema wondering what all the fuss is about.

We first meet Gump as a young southern boy being fitted with leg braces. At home, where his mother (Sally Field) runs a boarding house business, he dances jerkily to the music of a young polite boarder who copies the dance and is later seen employing it while singing Hound Dog. There's a lot of this sort of stuff in the film. Gump acting as a catalyst for a whole variety of famous people - Lennon, Nixon, - without ever changing himself. By placing the character in a number of recent central events in history and with some of its most important people the film has a chance to comment on those events and achieve comic effect. The scenes are funny but there's not much in the way of revelatory comment, extending only as far as to say that historical events might not have happened the way we believe they did and that arbitrariness plays a much bigger part in life than we would like to think.

As an adult, Gump is played by Tom Hanks, who has already displayed his ability to play the innocent child-serial in Big. He is perfectly cast, making his character simple without being undignified and never less than as wholesome as an oven full of apple pies. He is also one of the few actors who can bring both men and women with him in a film: men like him because he is ordinary and yet gets to do extraordinary things while women at the very least think he is adorable. Cute. He is a threat to no-one.

Gump dresses and has his hair cut in the fashion of a fifties American teenager, a time when everything seemed possible for Americans. Forty years on, he is exactly the same, seemingly unaffected by the war, the anti-war movement, the wider availability of drugs and a changing moral climate. Others he comes in contact with such as his heroic and gang-fo platoon leader Lieutenant Dan (Gary Sinise) and the love of his life, Jenny (Robin Wright) are deeply affected and simply do not cope with the changes. There is a sinister message to be drawn from this if you are like arch conservative Republican Pat Buchanan, it says that if you follow the simple path and do what you are told, you will flourish; any deviation from this and you will suffer. It could be seen as a particularly conservative message to a whole generation and that is partially its own fault because it inflicts satirical flesh wounds where it could easily have gone for the jugular.

Winston Groom's book on which this film is based was fun, bawdily satiric which took a swipe at almost everything the film makes the same oppor-

\[
\text{Also Showing...}
\]

\section*{Speed}
\par Unexpected box office smash pits Keanu Reeves against mad bomber Dennis Hopper (couldn't they have found someone else to play a mad bomber? anyone else?) and a bus that will explode if its speed drops below a very crucial 50 miles per hour. That's the main section anyway; there's a gripping prelude in an elevator shaft and an unnecessary climax to the climax on a subway train.

First time director Jan de Bent makes few mistakes, asking nothing more of Reeves than to look manly and perform brave feats. The action is concentrated so tightly that the viewer's mind has nowhere else to go. Lean, highly entertaining and utterly preposterous thriller that is amazingly low on the body count. Reeves still cannot act and moves like one of Jerry Anderson's puppets but the film will boost his career and that of Sandra Bullock, who gives a fine performance as the plucky driver.

\section*{Clear and Presed Danger}
\par Third adaptation (so far) of a Tom Clancy thriller is the best to date, spending a little less time being awe struck by technology and more on the duplicitous political shenanigans and the running and jumping stuff (including one brilliantly handled ambush sequence in a Colombian back street), is back as Jack Ryan, CIA analyst, now acting Deputy Director of that august body of men and women. He becomes embroiled in a covert action against South American drug lords but gradual-

\section*{The Last Seduction}
\par John Dahl follows the impressive Red Rock West with this funny, dark and shamelessly nasty film noir that pits heartless New York female fatale Linda Fiorentino against just about everyone. It's no contest.

Having organised a one off drug deal with her husband (Bill Pullman) she runs out on him and hides out in a hick town where she hooks up with the hapless Peter Berg, mashing with his head so remorselessly that you almost feel sorry for him. Meanwhile hubby has sent a private detective to hunt down this thoroughly amoral woman. Great dialogue (almost all of it from delivered by Fiorentino), surprising twists and a bunch of characters that you hope only exist on the screen. Go see.

\section*{Harrison Ford in danger}
I Colman Byrne were fully conversant in the kind of pseudo-scientific personality type labelling beloved of west coast America, he would probably describe himself, without feeling ridiculous, as a people person.

With an utter absence of self-consciousness the new President of DITSU says that his best qualities are his "openness and friendliness".

"I believe in getting out and meeting people, sitting down to chat to first years in the canteen or wherever." He does not appear concerned that to some ears this would make him sound like a living, breathing cliché or a politician on the make, or God forbid, both. Mr Byrne makes no bones about it: he would like very much to be a politician. But more of that later.

Colman Byrne took over from Deirdre Ó Bráon as president of DITSU on July 1st. He won the election in March by a significant margin, one that surprised him and everyone else. The turnout in his home college, DIT Mountjoy Square, offered the kind of lowe that candidates only dream about. It was, he says, amazing.

"I'm not ashamed to say, and I don't think I'm being big headed to say, that my record there was watertight. I gave the backing of the whole college. Everyone who was here voted. I think I lost about 25 votes and I could probably name the people."

Mr Byrne recalls the reporter he received at the hustings in Mountjoy Square and says that even if he had lost he would always remember that feeling. "They were fair to the other candidates and I think they raised the roof when I finished speaking and it gave me a great feeling." A people person, you see. He likes to be liked but at the same time seems prepared to voice the unpopular opinion and he will need to be able to do this as President for he will be the one to make the final decisions and it is inevitable that these will not always meet with the approval of the conveners in the constituent colleges. If they always did, it would be time to worry.

Students' Unions have been kicked off points for politicking as the past but more often than not, they have viewed the world from a perspective somewhere left of centre. Colman Byrne is a member of Fianna Fáil. He does not see any problem reconciling his party political affiliations with his position as President of a Students' Union.

"The vast majority of people who have been in students' unions were political but and look out for them. They're the things we do. People say we're a trade union but in essence we're not; we're concerned with our students."

He goes on to say that at national level this may not be the situation but believes that students' unions have changed with the needs of the students, that whereas years ago there would have been students out demonstrating on a large scale for grants or improved grants, the situation now is that "we're inside our college looking for free space, more facilities, longer library hours, proper heating. It's internal. We can't go to the Government and say we want another computer."

Students' Unions have been kick off points for politicking as the past but more often than not, they have viewed the world from a perspective somewhere left of centre. Colman Byrne is a member of Fianna Fáil. He does not see any problem reconciling his party political affiliations with his position as President of a Students' Union.

"The vast majority of people who have been in students' unions were political but..."
One morning during the summer, when Myles Dungan was presenting his radio show in Gay Byrne’s hallowed slot, a voice familiar to everyone connected with the DIT Students’ Union came quietly and confidently over the airwaves. Theresa Sheridan, former manager of the Students’ Union shop in DIT Kevin Street, had, after eight years working in the shop, decided to leave for sunnier climes and she was on the show with her husband, explaining to the masses why they had decided to make a totally new start in their lives at a time when most people would be thoroughly settled. It was not a decision that had been taken lightly.

“We’ve been deliberating for almost a year now, wondering whether it was a good or a bad move,” she told the DIT Examiner. The move took place in September, courtesy of those much coveted Green Cards. So that’s it there: no more students pouring out of lectures and crowding into the shop, no more frenzied demands for photocopying cards as exams approach, no more stocking and restocking the shelves. Goodbye to all that. And more.

Theresa freely admitted that she was very sad to be leaving.

“It is a big break, I’ve given it a lot, felt my input was good. My consideration in a retail outlet was never always profits, but what do the students think, what are they looking for. If you give a service, profit is the natural result of that service. I always tried to consider each student as an individual.”

With so much daily contact with students over the years, she could not have failed to notice general changes in attitude, outlook, manner, even dress sense among the ever changing student population.

“One of the things I noticed most was that when I came here students were radical, not all of them, but there was a radical element, getting into scrapes every other week. There was always something going on. Nowadays, there’s nothing like that at all, they are more conservative, very much into ‘do what you have to do, do what’s right’. They’re studying from September on whereas before, they wouldn’t even consider it. In first year, you wouldn’t get any study out of anyone.”

She believes that if they are lacking energy these days, it is because all their energy is going into study. This is a pity “because student life is a golden opportunity to do lots of different things”.

The memories of her time with the students’ union she has taken to America will be good ones, beginning with the moment she found out she had the job.

“At my age to have been chosen to be a shop manageress for students, I really thought it was the most wonderful thing, at a time when a lot of people were saying that people couldn’t get work over the age of 35, young people had chosen me which was fantastic.”

After that, it was easy.

“I’ve enjoyed it immensely. I never ever felt that going to work was the pits. I got up in the morning and I was delighted to go to work. I love what I do. A day went by in 10 minutes it seemed.”

She described the move to America as the beginning of a new phase of life, an opportunity she and her husband feel they have to take. But it won’t be easy. Such upheavals never are, even in the context of the job one leaves behind.

“Over the years I have made a lot of friends and now the loyalty has come to the fore. People have been saying they’re going to miss me. I’m upset too. But there is no growth without pain, that’s the price I pay for the move.”

It is hard to believe that the vastness and newness of America will be sufficiently daunting to make Theresa regret her decision. As she informed Myles Dungan, she already had a job lined up, as had her husband. The self-belief, organisation and confidence is typical of the woman.

The DIT Examiner and all in the students’ union wish her the very best for the future.

### DIT Student Specials

- **6” Ham & Cheese + Regular Beverage**
- **6” Tuna + Regular Beverage**
- **6” Subway Club + Regular Beverage**
- **6” Irish Sausage + Regular Beverage**

£2.00

Offer only applies on production of DIT Student card
Beginners Luck

How well do I remember my first days in college? Let me count the ways: actually, better not. Frankly it depends on how much wryly smiling I wish to engage in at any given time, for there are few things to cause one to smile wryly and remember fondly as readily as the recollection of those first few baby steps taken in a third level institute.

It's a strange, tumbling time, when you take to walking the corridors of your new home with the most endearing tentativeness, unreasonably suspicious of what lurks around every corner (quick, bird-like peep before you take a step) and behind every door (rush of blood to the face, prickly feeling on the scalp as you realise that you have in fact ducked your shiny new person's head into the wrong room: by the way, the correct response on this occasion is 'so shagging what?').

Even signs pointing the way aren't trusted; you'll find yourself starting at them, seeking out the non-existent small print, looking away and suddenly flicking your eyes back just to make sure that they haven't changed and are planning to lead you very much astray. By this time you are few days, even weeks, this can be a period of unrivalled trauma as the super-confident, swaggering teenage veneer is consciously bravado easily overwhelmed by the ever obvious less than confident gait. If you're on your own for these first few days, even weeks, this can be a period of unrivalled trauma as the super-confident, swaggering teenage veneer is consciously bravado easily overwhelmed by the ever obvious less than confident gait.

Not that freshers (was there ever a more damning description, aside from say, Spur's Supporter?) are difficult to spot even when clustered together in protective groups. One of the great give-aways is a pair of shiny docs and the attendant expression of excruciating pain on the face of the wearer. But even if substantial amounts of cotton wool and a cortisone injection have been employed to remove the agonised visage, the sheer scorching shininess of this part of the student ensemble is enough of a pointer. You might as well simply carry a big sign and damn the rest of your group with you.

If you manage to escape recognition in the college, the place where you are next most likely to affix upon yourself the label 'freshers' is the pub, whatever the local hospitality happens to be. There the drinkers will be as many and varied as the products on offer, but often the fledgling first year does one of two things: either the pint (my, what a lot of liquid) is ordered with hearty and wholly unconvincing bonhomie and subsequently sipped with the kind of suspicion usually reserved for the corridors or it and its several successors are ladled into the unsuspecting body with scant regard for liver, bladder or brain. Pretty soon the world becomes funny - chairs don't work, the ground is on wheels and the barman simply refuses to understand what you are saying.

If all of the above sounds like the snide, cheap ranting of someone who is no longer a first year and hasn't been one for many years, you are indeed correct. Sure, this writer can fling the jibes and give the weary look of polite indulgence but the resort is simple and savage; it's all ahead of you, the rest of us can only be reminded of it.

In a display of determined and concentrated fundraising that would shame even saint Bob, the Rwandan Response Group, based in DIT Bolton Street, recently raised over a three day period the astonishing amount of £26,000.

The group, which includes students and lecturers from Bolton Street, took to the streets of Dublin and while the generosity of the Irish public in such matters is well known, the amount raised is a tribute both to their continuing willingness to dig deep and to the committed work of the group.

A cheque for half the amount raised, £13,000 was presented by the group to Mary Sweeny, Trocaire's Emergency Officer in the social conscience of the college last week.

Justin Kilkullen, Director of Trocaire, thanked the Response Group for their efforts, saying: "Rehabilitation and development programmes in Rwanda will continue to receive our support in the long term. We are committed to working in partnership with the Rwandans in their efforts to rebuild their country."

In the past the Response Group has raised money for projects in Romania, homelessness in Ireland and for the elderly.

Pictured at the presentation were (l to r) Billy McCarthy, Veronica Donohoe (both from the Rwanda Response Group) and Mary Sweeny (Emergency Officer, Trocaire)

Kevin St Student Tops the Lot

A fourth year student in DIT Kevin Street has been awarded first prize in the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE) Younger Members Premium Awards, presented recently in London.

Kenneth J. Purcell (SEE 4 (E)) submitted a technical paper at the IEE Student Technical Paper Evening in Trinity College last March. The paper was based on a project which he had designed as part of his studies at DIT Kevin Street. All entries were subsequently sent to the IEE in London and from these five finalists were selected from within the UK and Ireland. Kenneth was the first Irish competitor to be selected for the final stages of the event.
Mixed reaction to governing body gender quota move

New legislation introduced recently by the Minister for Education, Niamh Breathnach, will amend the DIT Act to ensure that at least seven women are elected to the Governing Body of the DIT.

The Dublin Institute of Technology (Amendment) Bill which is expected to become law by Christmas will oblige the nominating bodies to comply with Government's gender balance policy. Failure to implement the gender balance provisions or directives will ultimately result in the Minister "proportioning any body of persons as she sees fit". It will be the responsibility of the VEC to ensure that at least seven female nominations are forwarded to the minister.

The new legislation will be in place in time for the appointment of the new Governing Body next year - the current one will sit only until March of next year. The legislation affects student representation and means that at least seven female nominations are expected to be forward by the VEC to the Minister for appointment to the Governing Body next year.

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Or Brendan Goldsmith, President of DITSU, was less enthusiastic about the new legislation. "What if an appointing body is told to appoint a male and then there is no interest? It's just what we'd been waiting for. It's not what we wanted," he said. "It means we've been reasonably fortunate, in my opinion, having female representation."

"My only worry in relation to the legislation is that it will take time to settle down and gel but that's the way life is." Colm Callinan, President of the OIT Students' Union, was less enthusiastic about the new legislation.

"I don't think the new legislation means anything. My only worry is that the Minister has decided it should be so."

Mr Joe Castle, chairman of the VEC, welcomed the legislation. "It is to be welcomed in the sense that there was a problem when the VEC selected other bodies, if they had no control over their nominations." He said that prior to the introduction of the legislation, the VECs were "in the invidious position of being expected to deliver on the principle of gender balance without having the means to do so."

The new legislation allows the VEC to refuse to accept such nominations, thus ensuring the gender balance.
Students’ Union Election Season Gets an Early Start

Elections to executive positions in DITSU will take place on Wednesday, November 16th for the following positions:

DIT Mountjoy Square:
- Women's Rights Officer
- Anti-Discrimination Officer

DIT Bolton Street
- Women's Rights Officer
- Entertainment’s Officer
- Public Relations Officer

DIT Kevin Street
- Anti-Discrimination Officer

DIT Aungier Street
- Women's Rights Officer
- Anti-Discrimination Officer

In this year’s Graduate Designer Awards, three of the six category winners were from the Dublin Institute of Technology, and specifically from DIT Mountjoy Square.

There were six categories and altogether over 300 participants in this year’s competition. The DIT winners were:

Gail Wall Morris, in the Exhibition and Interior Design Category (19 participants).
Niamh Sharkey in the Graphic Design Category (87 participants).
Leo Scarff in the Product Design Category (58 participants).

The judges were particularly impressed with the planning and perspective of her hotel scheme, which featured a novel bedroom arrangement;
Niamh's illustration work was highly praised by the judges, who said that it was "beautifully crafted" and had a "fresh and innovative approach" and
Leo's range of well made furniture and lighting of contemporary design, with strong attention to detail, impressed the judges.

Grainne McGarty and Lisa O'Farrell were commended in the Exhibition and Interior Design Category as was Michael McGuire in the Theatre, Film and TV Design Category. All are from DIT Mountjoy Square.

The presentation of Certificates to the category winners and the announcement of the Graduate Designer of the Year will be made by the Patron of the Society of Designers of Ireland, President Mary Robinson, at a reception on Tuesday, 25 October, in DesignYard in Temple Bar.

McPeake's

Freshly Made Sandwiches & Rolls

Exclusive suppliers to all DIT Student Union Shops
November 17th

What's it mean?
The times they are a changin'

Semesterisation, a system unfamiliar to most DIT students and a word most commonly associated with American television programmes set in high schools suffused with teenage trauma, is to be widened within the DIT in the coming years.

But a sweeping expansion is unlikely according to Dr Brendan Goldsmith, President of the DIT.

"I'm not saying that I'd like to see a majority of courses semesterised in the near future. Something has to be worked out in due course but there could be very good reasons not to semesterise a course. There's been a lot of debate about that and it has not been resolved yet."

The system, which entails a set of exams for students soon after they return to college from Christmas holidays and then another set at the end of the year, is still relatively new to the DIT and Dr Goldsmith admits that the institute is feeling its way along to a certain extent.

"It's a new thing and we need to try it and refine it." He points out that it was not a system that could be evaluated in the abstract. It operates in the traditional universities but as both students in those institutions and DIT students will tell you, the two are not the same.

Colman Byrne, President of DITSU, is very wary of the system as it exists. "I know everyone is saying that it's going to come in and that it's going to be an easy transition, but I don't think that it is a lot of teachers' organisations are going to fight against it; we're definitely going to fight against it as it is; the counsellors are not in favour of it; the chaplaincy, the people concerned with student life, aren't in favour of it. The way it is at the moment, it's not working, it's making life more stressful.

Another source of concern for students unions is that the system will radically alter student life result in less contact between students and the unions. Specifically, there is some concern that all activities will have to be crammed into a three week period in February. As present the system is such that students have a three week break after their January exams.

Dr Goldsmith accepts that there will most likely be changes in this regard but points out that the system is as it is for a reason.

"Semesterisation that has been introduced at the moment has been done within the constraints of the existing academic year and that may not make the best of sense. If we had a completely free hand we probably wouldn't choose semesterisation to coincide with dates as they are. But the reality is that the academic year has to wrap up by June 20th. I personally this is nonsensical but it has to be done." He added that if the DIT was free from this constraint a bigger semesterisation, a system unfamiliar to most DIT students and a word most commonly associated with American television programmes set in high schools suffused with teenage trauma, is to be widened within the DIT in the coming years.

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