DIT turns its back on fees protests

By Darragh Clifford
THE Dublin Institute of Technology Students’ Union (DITSU) has dramatically withdrawn their support from Union of Students in Ireland’s (USI) campaign on third level fees. The decision was made by DITSU’s Executive Council on December 2nd not to support USI until the focus group set up to examine the national campaign has issued its findings. The report is due to be finalised by December 13th.

Paul Malone, President of DIT Aungier Street stated that “It was an executive decision not to support USI in their protest against fees”. However, Malone said that while DITSU’s decision, participating in protests is not going to benefit students’ education at risk. “Having a registration fee of €1,000, which was suggested in the Budget would jeopardise the education of students far more than going out and protesting for an hour”, he said.

“USI is not a trade union so to take down the posters and protesting. But the country’s student body is the students. They are the ones who are going to the university, who are paying fees, and who are getting an education. We do not want to jeopardise our students’ education by taking part in these protests.”

Paul Malone, President “it was an executive decision not to support USI in their protest against fees”. All they do is run around and make a lot of noise, without making a tangible argument. They are not prepared to meet half way. We do not want to jeopardise our students’ education by taking part in these protests.”

DIT honours Quinn and Finucane

Former Republic of Ireland soccer star Niall Quinn swapped his jersey for a graduation robe when DIT awarded him with an honorary degree in philosophy at a ceremony at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. as I was educationalist William Silver Sterling.

Quinn, DIT President Dr Brendan Goldsmith stated that “the three individuals we honour today have made an outstanding contribution in their respective disciplines and have each had a significant impact on the lives of others. They reflect three diverse areas, all of which play a huge part in our society today.”

Speaking at the event, Dr Goldsmith stated that “the three individuals we honour today have made an outstanding contribution in their respective disciplines and have each had a significant impact on the lives of others. They reflect three diverse areas, all of which play a huge part in our society today.”

Niall Quinn and Marian Finucane: honoured by DIT

DIT Independent that while DITSU officially wanted to distance themselves from the campaign, they would not prevent USI from independently rounding up DIT students to take part in protests.

However, when USI Deputy President Noel Hogan tried to put up posters informing students of the Budget Day protest in Aungier Street, he was asked to take down the posters and leave by members of Aungier Street Students Union.

DITSU’s decision not to support USI’s campaign comes at a time when almost every other college and university in the country are getting bodies out on the street to protest. Students in Athlone, Galway, Maynooth, UCC, UCD, UCC, Trinity, Dublin City University, University of Limerick, and University of Cork have been protesting. But the country’s largest third level institution’s decision to go it alone will hurt the campaign.

The issue of student fees is very much a national issue now. In the aftermath of the Budget both TV3 and the Pat Kenny Show on Radio One felt it necessary to consult USI for their opinions on the Budget. Buried in Budget 2003 are documents that shows the Independent Estimates Review Committee proposed a 50% increase in the student registration fee to €1,000 per year.
**Granegorman finally kicks off**

By Miguel Delaney

IT HAS BEEN a long time coming but Granegorman is finally open to DIT students. Those planning to turn up to lectures will have to wait some time yet though, as the site is merely DIT's new home ground.

As part of the Institution's plans, move to Granegorman, DIT's sports teams will have to bid farewell to Brendan's Gaelic Football team's pitches, which are situated on their grounds, as their new base.

This move marks the first time DIT's teams have had their own home ground. In the past, they have had to rent pitches such as the VEC. Terenure in order to play and train.

The absence of a home ground has often been a hindrance to the teams' poor performances in major sports. It is hoped that the stability a home pitch will provide will help DIT teams compete on a higher level in third level sports.

DIT Aungier Street's sports officer Hércules McLei land, delighted with the site. "On behalf of the sports officers in DIT, it's great to finally have our own home ground. I've waited 22 years for this to come."

"It's great to be able to talk to our own groundsman and have our own equipment and changing rooms," said McLeiland.

"The pitches need work and development but it is a fine playing field for students and only a mile away from the Bolton Street campus." Mr. Mclelland was grateful for the work done by both the DIT Students' Union and Administration: the Deirdre Coughlan and Granegorman's Dr Noel O'Connor.

"They gave first class help and because of them we're here now. It was DIT's soccer players that had the honour of being the first students to play on the Granegorman pitch as they were the first to use the medical centre, ending on Tuesday 3rd December.

The day was however spoiled as Mickey Whelan's team lost 1-0.

**€274,000 taken for Aungier Street development**

By Aisling Casey

IN AN effort to secure the completion of the Aungier St development, the DIT Independent has learned that €274,000 was taken from the student development fund.

The money was used to complete the new student union area in Aungier St. This fund was being used to save money from each student's capitation fee to fund student services in Granegorman when building would begin.

DTSU President Hugh O'Reilly said, "The money was always meant to be for Granegorman. The money was never intended to be used for the Aungier St development. But from the beginning the money was tight and it wasn't supposed to be taken out."

The Aungier St development ran into difficulty when money was used to fund the completion of the building.

Hospitality management set for face-lift

HOSPITALITY management in Ireland is set to move to a new level following a study launched by DIT. which highlights the growing demand in Ireland for hospitality management education.

Mary Hanafin has finally launched a major national study of hospitality management education.

Mary Hanafin has finally launched a major national study of hospitality management education.

The DIT study surveyed students, lecturers and industry figures to find out what they felt was wrong with the current hospitality education system. The study highlights the growing demand to expand and develop new areas in the hospitality industry.

According to the study, students and graduates of hospitality management education are on a whole satisfied with hospitality management curricula. However, the study highlights the growing demand to expand and develop certain areas of programme content. The areas pointed out for development are information technology, international business, creativity and innovation.

Interestingly, people in the hospitality management sector are keen to read the feedback in the hope of attracting more suitably qualified graduates. From the reports first findings, it appears the image of the hospitality industry is the primary motivating factor in a student undertaking hospitality management.

The Minister's decision to launch the DIT study is a major step in developing the sector.
College cash crisis

By Barry J. Whyte

The Council of Directors of Institutes of Technology has warned that a financial crisis is looming for the next academic year.

The Chairman of the Council, Professor Clenn O’Carroll, said that the level of state funding currently being provided would be reduced in the coming year.

He said that the Institutes of Technology may be forced to borrow heavily to keep going next year. The shortfall is expected to be in the region of €500 million.

At the moment, DIT are redirecting funds which should have been used for Grangegorman to finish the Student Centre in Aungier Street and they have had to apply to the government to get funding to finish the canopy.

The Institute is still waiting on a decision from the government on the services next year.

Professor O’Carroll also said that the Institutes had been committed to certain financial agreements by the Department of Education and the Department of Finance through the Partnership for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF) which means that they are spending money the did not anticipate having to spend.

This will impact heavily on the amount of money available for provision of the services next year.

This comes at a time when the matter of a reintroductory of fees in order to fund third level education has become a major issue. Student protests at Minister for Education Noel Dempsey’s suggestion that full fees might be reintroduced indicated the strength of public feeling about free third level education, which was introduced under the Rainbow Coalition in 1995.

Current Minister for Finance Charlie McCreevy, called the abolition of fees by that government a retrograde step.

Noel Dempsey is currently in talks with the OECD on alternative means of funding third level education.

The Institutes of Technology, however, are not the only third level institutions to be feeling the pinch next year. Both Trinity College and University College Cork have ordered a freeze on new jobs and offers are expected to be following.

The president of UCD Dr. An Taoiseach has said that the government can’t afford to maintain a university system that is internationally competitive.

International students angered by fees

By Aedin Donnelly

INTERNATIONAL students attending Irish universities have angrily protested about tuition fees.

The non-EU students, some of whom pay up to €10,000 per year, have approached An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Noel Dempsey, Minister for Education, about the matter and are planning a national awareness campaign.

We will also be contacting their embassies in the State.

Non-EU students attending DIT have said they are better off than their counterparts in the State’s Universities.

This college’s Admissions office told the DIT ‘independent’ that international student’s fees for the academic year of €80 million.

Mr Colm Jordan, said: “We hope this does not mean we are becoming Ireland of the rip-offs, rather than Ireland of the welcomes”

2002/03 stood at €8,000. Regardless of the course, all incoming full-time students in DIT pay fees that mean that non-EU students represent less than half a percent of the student body.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) has called on the Department of Education to investigate why the fees are so high. The president of the USI, Mr Colm Jordan, said: “We hope this does not mean we are becoming Ireland of the rip-offs, rather than Ireland of the welcomes”

Because places for EU students are subsidised by the Government, non-EU students have always paid higher fees.

However, recent increases have angered the students, particularly those in UCC and Trinity Colleges.

They have accused the colleges of collecting exorbitant fees and not justifying the increases.

The Irish Times’ reported that a letter to the Taoiseach and Mr Dempsey, from a group of UCC medical and dentistry students, expresses serious misgivings about the situation.

“The fees for the medical and dental students rose from the current €18,670 to €20,316 for the next academic year (2002-2003).”

The fees for medical and dental students from outside EU comes to more than the average disposable income of people in Ireland. It is obviously not a small amount. Unlike universities in Britain and America, the National University of Ireland has not introduced scholarships or a loans system for college fees.”

Furious Cork students protest

THOUSANDS of Cork students took part in a huge demonstration against the announcement of government education cuts.

The protest, organised by the Union of Students in the Cork region UOS, followed the main demonstration held in Dublin on budget day last week. It is the largest student rally of its kind to ever take place in Cork.

Tommy Reilly, President, University College Cork Students Union said: “Just last week the Minister for Education University College Cork presented to Mr Bertie Ahern DIT with 4,000 signatures from students of Cork expressing their fear of exorbitant fees or cuts, a number aimed at the government.”

He added: “Today the same students have taken to the streets. Student activism is alive and well in the Cork region, and today is evidence of that fact. This is the largest student demonstration ever held in Cork and sends out a clear message to the powers that be.”

New Delhi students set to take DIT Journalism Degree

FROM next year, students from New Delhi will have the chance to take DIT’s BA in journalism in the Institute’s School of Film and Media.

Boasting Launch of new BA in Journalism Programme, the Institute of Technology has seen a surge in applications from outside the EU.

Students at the university are looking forward to the new degree

Students at the university are looking forward to the new degree

DIT join St Luke’s in venture

The Minister of State for Higher Education Chris O’Shea has opened a new transatlantic research facility at St Luke’s Hospital in Dublin, which is to be the first of its kind in Ireland.

The project, established by the Institute of Technology and St Luke’s Hospital, is designed to be a research facility to provide an opportunity for medical research with clinical validation.

The project is designed to make progress in the area of treatment of cancer patients.

Lecturer publishes book

DIT lecturer Thomas Conroy has published a book entitled ‘New Venture Creation in Ireland’. The book looks at the potential for new ventures and makes fundamental questions and answers that must be considered when planning any business. This book is being launched by University College Dublin, planning through its different chapters.

Trinity, UCD to remain in USI

Following recommendations by students arising in UCD and Trinity College to remain affiliated to USI, the students in the respective colleges have voted to remain affiliated to USI.

Trinity students voted in favour of a proposal from 56% to 35% to remain affiliated to USI while UCD students voted by a margin of 73% to 27%.

DIT musician wins award

Amy O’Neill, a second year student in the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Science, Comprehensive School and a tenor saxophone with the DIT’s Wind Band project, has been awarded a Higher Arts Scholarship by the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

This recognition is not the first for the young musician. Her career began in St Joseph’s National School in Cork city where she played the recorder in a band.

Breaking the Cycle: the methodology was so successful that the project has been put in place last September in conjunction with the Department of Education & Science and the National Conservatory of Music and Drama and the success of the scheme has been launched by the Cyleta initiative.”
DIT Independent

Repercussions for DITSU protest decision

DITSU's decision to refrain from taking part in last week's largest fees demonstration can be looked on in two ways: as a responsible decision by the union in the protection of their students' interests, or as a bad decision which will now cause a rift in student solidarity.

The latter actually seems more appropriate for one simple reason: the fact that if fees are reintroduced, thousands of students will actually be eliminated from third level education. They will be unable to afford to go to college. Let's not be naive, here, students education was in no way being jeopardised by USI when they decided to take to the streets and protest on one of the most important days of the government. In fact, there was absolutely no way that the government would have gone wrong! The Minister for Education, Noel Dempsey has refused to negotiate over the fees issue recently and he is adamant that the only solution is to reintroduce them. What students need to show is solidarity. Not only that, but we should not forget how quickly Minister Dempsey threw the fees issue at students as soon he got his places in the government half way. Minster Dempsey has made no attempt to hold his hand out and offer help.

Although DITSU cannot take back their decision now, they will have to do all they can to regain the trust of other colleges around the country. Maybe DITSU can interact more with students clubs to find out whether the students actually want to protest for their right to a free education.

Students full of spirit

The recent budget has imposed an increase of 2sc on a single measure of spirits and 35c on 'alcopops', the sugary bottled drinks, which are especially popular with underage drinkers. In an effort to control the amount of this problem and to attempt to curb the youth drinking culture in Ireland, i.e. the fact that we drink while underage, and we continue to drink it in public when we do. Although commendable, this move is lacking in any impact. Too many young students drink excessive amounts of alcohol and it has to be decided to drink enough to be taken any other social group in the country. Like any culture, the youth drinking culture has developed over time. Young people have no problem with drinking to excess on a regular basis and a 10% increase on selected drinks will not affect this in the slightest.

If the Government wishes to really confront the problem, they must address the youth drinking culture as a product of this country and did not appear overnight. Alcohol is everywhere. Pat Kenny recently gave away free bottles of Champaign on the Toy Show. Milo Corcoran, the host of the second most popular TV show in the country, suggested that people without Sky Digital should watch the 19th season of 24 instead. While impressive foreign leader comes to Ireland, Bertie Ahern talks to the press, and students wonder how can we be a product of this country. Like any culture, the youth drinking culture has developed over time. Young people have no problem with drinking to excess on a regular basis and a 10% increase on selected drinks will not affect this in the slightest.

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies, errors or omissions as far as they occur. The Independent will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper in the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply, to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such complaint to the editor in an envelope. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students Union.

Dempsey considering 'learn now, pay later' scheme

The Department of Education are currently considering a 'learn now, pay later' scheme to find third level education.

The scheme would work on the premise that a student would not have to pay for their course until after graduation once he or she reaches a certain income threshold.

This system is, the Minister is at pains to point out, just a suggestion. He is currently examining a number of other countries' systems in order to find the best manner of finding third level education.

Other options to fund third level education include: a full return of fees, which were abolished in 1995; the involvement of banks in providing low-cost loans to students and an increase in the annual registration charge for students.

The Independent Estimates Review Committee, a team of former civil servants, recently recommended that a €1,000 registration fee should be charged.

The Committee said that this would not be unreasonable given the cost of the exchequer of tuition fees.

In Australia, where the 'learn now, pay later' scheme is in operation, it is believed to be the fairest system available. It has also widened the access to third level education from students from the social and economic backgrounds.

The USI, however, ways that the system has led to large student debts in Australia and that it leaves a huge burden on the state since the fees may take some time to be repaid.

The USI have opposed the "learn now, pay later system" and the re-introduction of full fees, which could be as much as €300.

They also protested against the increase in the annual registration fees this year.

The Ministry is in contact with the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) on the matter of a suitable system of funding for third level education in this country, while at the same time trying not to discriminate students from less wealthy backgrounds or irritate the USI.

What the Budget means to students

By Darragh Clifford

ISSUES surrounding VAT, excise duty, benchmarking and the first-time buyer's grant may have made the headlines with Budget 2003, but a little-known move to increase third level registration fees published with the Budget might have far-reaching effects for students.

Documentation released with the Budget shows the Independent Estimates Review Committee proposed a 50% increase in the student registration fee for third level institutions.

Minister for Education, Dr. Sean O'Kelly, said: "While this is a sensible proposal for the Department of Education, pending the review of all third level charges due later this year, the Budget might have far-reaching effects for all strands of society.'

However, the move was rebuffed by the Department of Education, pending the review of all third level charges due later this year. The committee believes this (charge) is a reasonable proposal'...

But apart from fees, what does Budget 2003 mean to the students? From the price of cigarettes went up by 50 cent. While some will see this as somewhat harsh, it is a 50% increase on their own without protest. The increase in VAT will have far-reaching effects for all strands of society, including students. Students will notice the increase in the cost of... what is the price of sugar?

The 1% increase in VAT will have far-reaching effects for all strands of society, including students.

The Government is currently in operation, it is believed to be the fairest system available. It has also widened the access to third level education from students from the social and economic backgrounds.

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Take a break

Soothing back massage and yoga sessions are being offered free to students on the free treats on offer in DIT during National Health Awareness Week. Professional holistic therapists were available to work their magic on staff and students during the week leading up to Monday 25 November. Staff and students were given the chance to take a break during the day and receive a free head massage, back massage, reiki or yoga lesson with a touch of relaxation.

Young Brent student Natasha recently received a massage and a reiki treatment. "The head massage was amazing. I felt like I was in heaven and then I finished, now I'm so relaxed. I didn't get too much out of the reiki, after working on my energy she told me to drink more water to get rid of the toxins from my body which I knew already."

USI Launch Sex-Awareness

In an effort to educate Irish students on sexual health, USI has launched a new sex awareness campaign which will be distributed to students on college campuses across the country on this Thursday.

The packs, which come in sealed AS envelopes, contain a condom, a lubricant, a condom and an information leaflet. USI have launched the campaign because of the growing problem of sexually transmitted infections in this country. USI President Mr Colm Jordan said: "We are very much aware of the need for USI to be active in this area. It is important in its own right, there is little emphasis on the risks from unsafe sex and they are important. By informing students, we are ensuring they are aware of the full responsibility for their sexual health."

According to the National Disease Surveillance Centre (NDCS), the number of registered cases of AIDS increased by 298 per cent between 1989 and 2000. The number of female cases increased from six cases in 1999 to 17 cases in 2000.

HIV infections have also increased significantly, in the first six months of this year, the number of HIV infections diagnosed among heterosexuals, most of whom are women.

Compiled by Shannon Rushe

Letter to the Editor

Madam,

The drink problem associated with our country should have been tackled long ago-raped in our cities. The Government has listened to the people of this country, and we condemn the Government for their lack of courage. Some of them are required to be ratified by the Minister. This move is to prevent any unnecessary comments or opinions contained within. Please forward any such complaint to the editor in an envelope. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students Union.

Miguel Delaney
Tel: (01) 4023071 Fax: (01) 402 3284

Editor: Aisling casey
Deputy Editor: Donal Griffin
Editor: The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Students Union.

De-regulate the industry completely (quantity of pubs and opening hours)

Massive investment in education promoting health, sports and other activities which change the focus from pubs to other social activities.

Tax relief for funding clubs, societies, businesses, etc who actively encourage other socio-culture activities such as trips, visits to re-introducing the children into the Irish pub/life.

We need a viable alternative to the drinks industry. We need a viable alternative to the drinks industry.

Reduce the Alcohol driving level limit from 80mg to 46mg. Anyone over the limit (by any amount) to have their license revoked for 5 years automatically.

In Novel

Law of Shannon Rushe (non-drinker).

Yours sincerely,

JM

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DIT Independent Communications
The Colombia Three: bring them home?

With the trial recently postponed until February, Barry J. Whyte looks at the volatile Colombian situation...

ON the road from Dublin to Belfast you pass through South Armagh. On the side of the road are a number of signs and posters on which the residents make quite obvious their Republican leanings.

The largest sign is one on which lie the images of three men allegedly found training FARC guerrillas in Columbia: Niall Connolly, Edwin Giovanny Rodriguez, and Martin McCauley. Over the images of the three is the slogan, "Bring them home!"

Those in South Armagh would ask if we can help Colombia, a country in a state of emergency at the moment, to try these men. There is plenty to support this argument. Their case has already been prejudiced by public comments made by senior political and judicial figures in Colombia and by David Trimble over here.

They will also be tried under the Hague and no jury. On the 12th of December, the trial was suspended, set to resume in February of next year.

The case was suspended as the two key witnesses for the prosecution, defectors from FARC, were due to give evidence. But neither turned up. One was afraid to travel to the court in Bogota by road since his life had been threatened. No reason was given why he couldn't travel by plane. The witness, Mr. Edwin Giovanny Rodriguez, was described as a former FARC guerrilla, currently in detention for unspecified reasons. The second man, John Alexander Rodriguez, not related, was in a state witness protection programme and could not be found in time for this week's hearing. Both witnesses are in State-controlled programmes but they fail to show. One can only guess at the agendas of the Colombian government. Is this the country to which we are entrusting these men?

Although Colombia has the oldest formal democracy in South America, it is a country torn apart by civil war. The guerrillas - consisting of the main FARC movement, with 20,000 members or sympathisers - and the smaller ELN against the government and 6,000 strong - fight with paramilitaries.

The guerrillas claim to be fighting for so-called justice, equality and participation. The drug trade finances the activities of the rebels. The rural south of Colombia has been controlled by FARC for decades.

The American government, with their knack for making a bad situation worse, (for example Vietnam, Cuba, the early support of the Talibans) have begun a policy of military aid and fumigation to destroy the coca crops.

The fumigation has affected the poor peasant farmers who have had to move off their land because of fears that it will damage their health. Meanwhile, FARC can simply move to another part of the area given to them during peace talks as an inducement to stay in the talks. It's roughly the size of Switzerland and they use it to produce drugs using the local peasants.

The other branch of the American solution to the current war is to provide arms for the government forces. If indeed these men were acting under orders from the IRA, then those who gave the orders were acting well outside of any remit they might claim to have.

Their cause is not served by training FARC guerrillas, FARC have caused new storms to come up with a totally new title for their particular brand of terrorism: narco-terrorism, i.e. half left-wing terrorist group, half drug-manufacturing industrial corporation.

Although they have a human rights agenda and intend to address issues of injustice and the overall political system, it seems greatly hypocritical when compared to the treatment of the local farmers.

And this is what the IRA have linked themselves to in this time when they are supposed to be decommissioning and leaving the war behind.

The guerillas claim to be fighting for so-called justice, equality and participation.

This issue has relevance way beyond its effect on what, surely, is now a dying peace process. September 11th, as we are constantly reminded, has changed the world for everyone.

Terrorism is now the number one crime in America and Irish-Americans are now placing the emphasis on their Americanism rather than their Irishness.

Sinn Fein must be very careful of how they deal with this situation.

They've always been quite good at manipulating their own image in the media and among their followers. But the United States has experienced an upsurge in hyper-Nationalist feeling that has impacted on their casual support among the Irish-American community.

If it is proved that Sinn Fein have linked themselves to an organisation at war with the United States, they will have suffered a serious blow in their support where they financially need it most.

The trial collapsed because of the Civil War in Colombia and the emergency situation that this has brought about. This situation will not have changed significantly by February. Therefore, whatever crimes they have allegedly committed, the three men cannot be assured of a fair trial. This trial must not take place in Colombia.

It must take place in an international court where justice, whatever the outcome, can be seen to be done.
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There is a lesson then to be learned from Montpellier. As the date for completion looms closer, Jon Lee compares the troublesome Luas system to its French equivalent...

In Montpellier, the light rail system is called tramway, or les Hirondelles - the swallows, so named because images of the birds are portrayed on the trains. One line has been in operation since July 2001, and the same style of trams is now being planned for Barcelona, Paris, Lyons, Melbourne, Rotterdam and, of course, Dublin.

Both Dublin and Montpellier decided in 1998 that they would develop a light rail transport service for their respective citizens. Dublin set itself the target of 2003 and Montpellier set itself the deadline of 2004. Neither deadline has been reached from Montpellier.

Of course the comparison between the two systems is not an equal one, after all. Dublin is a European capital and, as such, has had to deal with an efficient public transport system. But this is also true of Montpellier, which has, over the course of the last twenty years, moved up from the twenty-fifth to eighth largest town in France in terms of population size.

Still though, there must be some mistake when the European capital in question has not been able to finish the Luas project and Montpellier's project was finished three months before deadline and within budget.

The difference in how the matter of development has been handled by both the French and Irish authorities is quite striking. Hardly, as the Department of Transport's estimates for next year: It is due to the Railway Procurement Agency but also stated that the RPA will borrowing requirement of .90 million in 2003.

There are 25 tram carriages which have been procured already for the Luas project. They are currently in storage near to the Red Cow Inn. Each carriage means an expense of 1.1 million of the project's funding.

The cost of the carriages is now a drain on public funding. This is the same funding that will not cover the development of the lines in time for the planned opening.

The longer the time the funds are kept in storage, the more opportunity for the service to recoup the initial investment is lost. More than 29 millions in public funds will be spent on the trams. It is impossible to predict what level of income is being lost by the delay to the service's completion.

This situation is like someone buying a television before they had access to any electricity source or procuring a fishing rod while in the Sahara desert. The trams currently have no use without the tracks and power lines they need to run on.

The Luas system seems to be a fantastic idea. It is to be quick and efficient. It is to be the most environmentally friendly option available in public transport as it will be electrical and without the use of fossil fuels. The newly designed trams were conceived with considerations for ease of access; there are low floor to ensure wheelchair and buggy accessibility and the trams are supposed to be thin enough to operate on most roads. The overarching issue right now is that one has to travel to the south of France to appreciate what such a system might be like. Even then, there is more than just the three hundred days of sunshine per annum to overlook in order to compare the situation to Dublin.

The Luas will not have the 10,000 parking spaces which have been provided for the tram-using citizens in Montpellier nor 4th. The French railway system have to be constructed around a road system as idiosyncratic as the one in Dublin. Not for the French the suspension bridges or tunnelling underground that is involved in the construction of Luas.

The Luas may be a major contribution to alleviate pressure on the existing forms of public transport. It only the increasingly distant future will reveal whether public transport in Dublin is going to receive an increase in the travel options available. When it finally arrives, Luas may be a major contribution to alleviate pressure on the existing forms of public transport but the current delays only serve to remind how Irish planning can hinder progress.

Iranian students fight for freedom

Widespread student demonstrations broke out in Iran following the announcement that history lecturer Hashem Aghajari had been sentenced to death for a blasphemy, speech he gave. By comparison, Irish student politics seems concerned with quite trivial matters, writes Aisling Casey

A CRISIS over the In protest of the conviction, 5,000 demonstrators took the streets chanting "The execution in Aghajari is the execution of the university". The point is that while Iranian students fight over money, students fight over money, demanding greater freedom The point is that while Irish students have been provided for the tram-using citizens in Montpellier nor 4th, the French railway system have to be constructed around a road system as idiosyncratic as the one in Dublin. Not for the French the suspension bridges or tunnelling underground that is involved in the construction of Luas. The difference in how the matter of development has been handled by both the French and Irish authorities is quite striking. Hardly, as the Department of Transport's estimates for next year: It is due to the Railway Procurement Agency but also stated that the RPA will borrowing requirement of $90 million in 2003. There are 25 tram carriages which have been procured already for the Luas project. They are currently in storage near to the Red Cow Inn. Each carriage means an expense of $1.1 million of the project's funding. The cost of the carriages is now a drain on public funding. This is the same funding that will not cover the development of the lines in time for the planned opening. The longer the time the funds are kept in storage, the more opportunity for the service to recoup the initial investment is lost. More than $29 millions in public funds will be spent on the trams. It is impossible to predict what level of income is being lost by the delay to the service's completion.

This situation is like someone buying a television before they had access to any electricity source or procuring a fishing rod while in the Sahara desert. The trams currently have no use without the tracks and power lines they need to run on.

The Luas system seems to be a fantastic idea. It is to be quick and efficient. It is to be the most environmentally friendly option available in public transport as it will be electrical and without the use of fossil fuels. The newly designed trams were conceived with considerations for ease of access; there are low floor to ensure wheelchair and buggy accessibility and the trams are supposed to be thin enough to operate on most roads. The overarching issue right now is that one has to travel to the south of France to appreciate what such a system might be like. Even then, there is more than just the three hundred days of sunshine per annum to overlook in order to compare the situation to Dublin.

The Luas will not have the 10,000 parking spaces which have been provided for the tram-using citizens in Montpellier nor 4th. The French railway system have to be constructed around a road system as idiosyncratic as the one in Dublin. Not for the French the suspension bridges or tunnelling underground that is involved in the construction of Luas. The only the increasingly distant future will reveal whether public transport in Dublin is going to receive an increase in the travel options available. When it finally arrives, Luas may be a major contribution to alleviate pressure on the existing forms of public transport but the current delays only serve to remind how Irish planning can hinder progress.

Widespread student demonstrations have broken out recently in Iran following the announcement that history lecturer Hashem Aghajari had been sentenced to death for a blasphemy speech he gave. By comparison, Irish student politics seems concerned with quite trivial matters, writes Aisling Casey.

A CRISIS over the sentencing of death to a pro-reform academic. Hashem Aghajari has sent thousands of students to the streets in protest of the conviction, which has, over the course of the last twenty years, moved up from the twenty-fifth to eighth largest town in France in terms of population size.

Still though, there must be some mistake when the European capital in question has not been able to find the funding to finish the development of its trams project and Montpellier's project was finished three months before deadline and within budget. The difference in how the matter of development has been handled by both the French and Irish authorities is quite striking. Hardly, as the Department of Transport's estimates for next year: It is due to the Railway Procurement Agency but also stated that the RPA will borrowing requirement of $90 million in 2003. There are 25 tram carriages which have been procured already for the Luas project. They are currently in storage near to the Red Cow Inn. Each carriage means an expense of $1.1 million of the project's funding.

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Croatia: something different

By Ian Mannix, DIT Cathal Brugha St

Why would you want to go to Croatia? Isn't that where the war was?' Eye-browers were certainly raised when I announced this year's travel plans - three weeks back-packing around Croatia with my girlfriend. I admit that when the first suggestion it was a little sceptical. I knew very little of Croatia except of the conflict that raged there in the last decade. However, after chuting to a few people and reading the Lonely Planet guide we decided to take a chance. It looked great, and had been a big tourist destination during the 1980s, and most importantly it was cheap (my girlfriend and I are both students). We bought the tickets, packed our bags and our tent, and headed for the Balkans.

We left in late August, which is when the weather is still hot and the beaches are great. After landing in Zagreb, we headed straight for the coast. There's a good campsite near the coast as well. We pitched our tent a few metres from the beach, and chilled out. We also had to avoid the aging German nudists, who roam around the countryside two-three weeks back-packing around Croatia with my girlfriend. I admit that when the first suggestion it was a little sceptical. I knew very little of Croatia except of the conflict that raged there in the last decade. However, after chuting to a few people and reading the Lonely Planet guide we decided to take a chance. It looked great, and had been a big tourist destination during the 1980s, and most importantly it was cheap (my girlfriend and I are both students). We bought the tickets, packed our bags and our tent, and headed for the Balkans.

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Top ten greatest Irish men and women

1. MICHAEL COLLINS

With the recent ‘Great Britons’ causing a million pub arguments, Donal Griffin attempts to start a million more with his list of the Ten Greatest Irishmen and Irishwomen...

2. CHARLES STUART PARNELL

Parnell was different from Collins and Dev. They were Catholic and both products of British oppression. Parnell was a Protestant and was educated in Cambridge University. His great achievement was to unite people into the economy who had previously been left in the cold.

3. WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

Yeats was born in Dublin in 1865 but lived in London until 1880. He spent his holidays with his grandparents in Sligo and developed a love of the countryside that never left him.

4. EAMON DE VALERA

Dev was living on borrowed time and he knew it. Sentenced to death for his prominent role in the Rising, he cheated the firing squad through his American citizenship. Thisescape gave him the determination to act, and to govern, as he wanted.

5. JOHN B. KEATING

Steve Donnelly’s humanitarian efforts show a man of conscience and conviction.

6. BOB Geldof

Bob Geldof was born in Leeds in 1951, the son of a highly intelligent man, he did poorly in his Leaving Certificate and left the country. After a brief sojourn in Canada as a journalist, he formed the Boomtown Rats and moved to London.

7. BONO

Bono is politically aware of world troubles.

8. MARY ROBINSON

She is a woman of great courage and independence.

9. JAMES JOYCE

Joyce’s Magnum Opus, Ulysses, which regarded as the greatest work of fiction ever, was completed in 1922 at his home in Trieste. Without this novel, Joyce’s reputation would not have been established. However, he did not receive the Nobel Prize until 1922.

10. GEORGE BEST

It is accepted that the three most naturally talented footballers to have walked the earth were Pelé, Diego Maradona and a Belfast boy, son of a Harland and Wolff shipyard worker.

George Best was born in 1946. George Best was only 17 when he made his debut for Man Utd. He was only 19 when he died. He was the most talented footballer of his generation, a star of the 1960s and one of the greatest players of all time.

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A myth at Christmas

Coca-Cola invented Santa Claus. Right? Christmas is therefore a corporate event, far removed from the feelings of love for your fellow man and Christian charity. Right? Coca-Cola, being a large multinational corporation, have high-jacked a religious festival and made money more important than the birth of Christ. Right? Therefore, the cynics would have us believe, Christmas is not worth celebrating at all because of its crass commercialism? Right? Wrong. The belief that Coca-Cola invented Christmas is entirely erroneous and based on a tissue of lies which the DIT Independent will now expose a large hole through.

Santa has always been an essential part of the Christmas celebration, but the modern image of Santa didn't develop until well into the 19th century. He was an evolutionary creation. In 1810, Washington Irving became a member of the Society & the annual St. Nicholas Day dinner festivities included a woodcut of the traditional Nicholas figure (tall, with long robe) accompanied by a Dutch rhyme about "Sancie Claus".

On Christmas Eve of 1822, another New Yorker, Clement Clarke Moore, wrote down and read to his children a series of verses; his poem was published a year later as "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas". Moore gave St Nick eight reindeer (and named them all), and he devised the now-familiar entrance by chimney. His Nicholas was still a small figure, however - the poem describes a "miniature sleigh" with a "little old driver." Moore's Nicholas was still a small figure, however - the poem describes a "miniature sleigh" with a "little old driver."

Meanwhile, in parts of Europe such as Germany, Nicholas the gift-giver had been superseded by a representation of the infant Jesus (the Christ child, or Christkindlein). The modern Santa Claus derived from these two images: St. Nicholas the elf-like gift-bringer described by Moore, and a friendlier "Kris Kringle", from Christkindlein. In 1863, a "santaclaus" for Harper's Weekly named Thomas Nast began developing his own image of Santa. Nast gave his figure a "flowing set of whiskers" and dressed him "all in fur, from his head to his foot." Nast's 1866 montage entitled "Santa Claus and His Works" established Santa as a maker of toys; an 1889 book of the same name collected new Nast drawings with a poem by George P. Webber that identified the North Pole as Santa's home.

Although Nast never settled on one size for his Santa figures (they ranged from elf-like to man-sized), his 1881 "Merry Old Santa Claus" drawing is quite close to the modern-day image. The Santa Claus figure, although not yet standardized, was ubiquitous by the late 19th century. Santa was portrayed as both normal or slight build; and large and small; he was dressed in furs or cloth suits of red, blue, green, or purple.

A Boston printer named Louis Prang introduced the English custom of Christmas cards to America, and in 1885 he issued a card featuring a red-suited Santa. The chubby Santa with a red suit (like an "oversize superhero") began to replace the furry, multimillion-dollar Santa Claus in the public consciousness. The Santa image may have been standardized before Coca-Cola adopted it for their advertisements, but Coca-Cola helped solidify the modern image of Santa Claus.

The jolly, ruddy, sack-carrying Santa with a red suit and flowing white whiskers had become the standard image of Santa Claus by the 1920s, several years Coca-Cola used their first Santa Claus advertisement. They created a series of drawings that associated the new image of Santa Claus with the Coca-Cola brand. Coca-Cola actually invented Christmas is entirely erroneous and based on a tissue of lies which the DIT Independent will now expose a large hole through.

At the beginning of the 1950s, the burgeoning Coca-Cola company was still looking for ways to increase sales of their product during winter, then a slow time of year for the soft drink market. They created a series of drawings that associated the new image of Santa Claus with Coca-Cola and their colors. Coca-Cola's new advertising campaign has helped the legend that Coca-Cola actually invented the image of the modern Santa Claus.

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Coca-Cola invented Christmas is entirely erroneous and based on a tissue of lies which the DIT Independent will now expose a large hole through. The modern Santa Claus was a fixture derived from the gifts-bearers, a Christmas-time character of a number of different cultures and diffused through the American society of the early 19th century. Coca-Cola certainly helped make Santa Claus one of the most popular men in America, but they didn't invent him.
Wyclef over the edge at Ambassador

"I REMEMBER... when we used to sit, in a government yard in DUBLIN!!! And so the crowd went wild. Wyclef Jean started off on a great note and didn't let the standard drop once throughout this three-and-a-half hour gig. Steve G, a Cork DJ, had warmed the crowd up and Creative Countable played a fired-up set of hits, but it wasn't until Mr. Fugee waltzed on stage, the Ambassador Theatre erupted with life.

Wyclef's choice of cover versions was very clever. After 'No Woman No Cry', he obviously spotted the crowd interaction plays a major role in Wyclef's live shows. I have a dream that Wyclef were able to provide everyone with a great night out. He knows as much as we do that it's brilliant fun dancing around to familiar songs rather than sitting through obscure Fugees sides. I'm sure there are many who would question this approach but in terms of entertainment value, it's unbeatable. His own songs, like 'Don't Matter' and 'Gone Til November' stood impressively beside oldies disco classics that were booming from the decks too. It was this perception on his part that caused this to be an amazingly energetic gig, without a dull moment.

Wyclef Jean sent the crowd wild at the Ambassador with his creative covers. This may, however, have been due to the pints of Guinness that he was drinking in between. After 'No Woman No Cry', Wyclef apparently poured into himself unbelievably infectious energy that just couldn't be contained. From New York (who were also on tour with U2) and Mr. Fugee walked on stage, the Ambassador Theatre erupted with life. Wyclef obviously spotted him too as he played an instrumental version of 'Sunday Bloody Sunday' and seemed to learn to store the U2 man.

The highlight of the night was Wyclef dancing around with his ladies on stage. He got men up on stage to get up close and personal with the dancer. While up there, he stared at the U2 man. The Edge was installed on stage and accompanied Mr. Jean in a fifteen-minute version of 'With or Without You'.

It could have easily come across as a cringy, record-company-organised affair but it certainly didn't seem like it. Wyclef appeared to be genuinely in awe of The Edge and it did, at the time, feel like a special moment, even to someone like myself who's not a huge U2 fan.

Please note that this is not the final version of the text and may require further refinement.
By Nicky Griffin

Pat Shortt extended his run in Vicar Street, adding an extra night due to the popular demand for his unique style of comedy.

This was an incredibly intimate gig with the crowd practically up on the stage and everyone sitting on plastic bags! Shorn terrorised the audience in a very interactive show in which he talked to the audience about his day and the day before his gig.

He started the show sharing his “random” experiences. He told the audience that they were “up close and personal.”

He picked random unsuspecting unfortunates and made them his “personal” assistants. The audience found this all at times hilarious. Pat was in fine form on the Vicar Street balcony to stick up to Morrissey’s theatricality.

The show provided welcome financial income for Shortt since it is uncertain whether he will work again with Jon Kenny of the D’Unbelievables. Kenny took ill this year with a rare form of cancer and is still in recovery period.

Even without his partner in crime, Pat Shortt gave a sterling performance and looked solid throughout. He is by far one of the finest comics in the country and brings something a little different to the stage.

Crème de la Femme

By Eoin Murphy

LAST time the Violet Femmes came to Dublin they were on a mission to promote a long awaited album release. This time they took over the newly renovated Vicar Street to give a homage for their fans.

The sold out arena was filled with bearded and slightly drenched in glitter for a special show and what a show they received.

For the Femmes connoisseur, it had it all from the moment they opened the show with the familiar tingling of glitter in the air.

They provided a healthy mix of both old and new to whip the crowd into a frenzy. It seems that even today’s popular and rival’s market there is still room for the old reliables.

One of the more impressive aspects of the concert was the international appeal that was created by this eclectic band.

Aside from two crazy Italian women, twirling beer and moshing at the front of the crowd, there were notable cameos from Australians, New Zealanders, English and a hearty collection of Americans.

It is clear that time has not defeated these aging rockers as they belt out their classic hits for nearly two hours in front of a grateful capacity crowd.

The band that started off as buskers and rose to fame with its string of catchy hits in the 80’s still have their finger on the musical pulse as their unorthodox and flamboyant costumes and style of performance is still wowing audiences.

This was an incredibly intimate gig with the crowd practically up on the stage and if they ever decide to come back this reporter will be front row centre.

Black Magic in the Olympia

By Clara Cunnane

A strange sight greets us as we make our way into the Olympia tonight. Instead of the usual bright lights and empty stage while the venue fills, darkness rules as a DJ spins mellow dance and rock grooves on a smoke-filled stage. It sets the initial tone for an extraordinary and inspiring show.

The DJ sets a blissful audience that gently comes into sync with the act. The CUDII8De performance.

They create an unusual visual spectacle: just two guitarists, a drum machine and amp’s embellished with lights. Lead guitarist, the hugely talented Ryan, told us afterwards that there is also a bassist and drummer, but they could not afford to fly from Philadelphia.

Nevertheless, the two men aptly fill the stage with their adroit guitar licks and rhythms. Similar to BRMC, they alternate lead vocals and guitar parts and make an equally great effect. An EP is planned for these shows soon.

After “Ty Cobb,” the DJ reappears to mesmerise into a spellbinding mesh as I relinquish myself to the music.

Deafening guitars, pounding drums, flashing lights and swirling red smoke transcended the roof to another level. Whatever Happened to My Rock ‘n Roll (punk song) is the highlight, as the crowd connect with the band in a perfect unity of understanding.

The madness loses control, but even getting soaked with paint cannot lessen my elation.

A truly religious experience.
Entertainment

Anarchy from the UK

The Alabama 3 are eternal underdogs and enjoy that status. They have often been heralded as Britain’s most un sweetheart band but one can’t help feeling that the riff-raff selling power of Britney is not really on their agenda.

On November 25th, the eclectic collective played that annum for the alternative and wonderful that is Village Street (although, it is rumoured that our very own ‘Sick’ are to grace the stage around Christmas time - get your credit cards ready now!).

Defining the Alabama 3 is a task which any writer would relish. It would not be impossible to write an erudite review on this lot, although their non-pulsing demeanour would not welcome it. Let me throw in

my own suggestions on their building-pot style. Cross Deep South, NRB advocate with Murdock leading, hard-core socialism, and you're still not even close.

Their countrified-gospel rock from Nashville via Preston has made the sexiest something of a mysterious cult. The band’s sound is as strange as their physical presence, which itself is reminiscent of the winzest characters of an Irvine Welsh novel.

I had never seen the group live before but having experienced their unique take on Hic, I can say that I was unliy impressed.

Their ferocious inner heat of performance is infectious, yet this passion never concedes to slippiness and each number is performed to perfection.

The, the gnarled ‘silhouette’ of the band’s frontman, the Very Reverend Dr D Wayne Love, is indicative of his post-modern, post-horror-chic, narcotic ravaged insatiable persona.

Their energetic performance outshines their three albums in equal measure. The audience reserved special enthusiasm for classic numbers from their first album ‘Exile on Coldharbour Lane’ such as ‘You Don’t Dance To Techno Anyway’ and the theme tune to ‘The Simpsons’, ‘Wake Up This Morning’.

However, their latest album ‘Power In The Blood’, was equally well received, indicating their avid following had been swelling up on this recently released material.

The new album reinforces their political views with contemporary references to the British Nationalist Party ‘leading refugees senseless up in old Oldham Town’.

If you’re not familiar with the Alabama 3, buy all three of their albums.

At once. They are anarchists. They’re the Sex Pistols for the new millennium, but much, much better than Rancio or Vicious, even dream of being. They don’t have no country, don’t fly no flag. They can no slack for the Union Jack, The Stars and Strips got them jee-lagged’.

They’re anti-Bush, anti-Blair, anti-capitalists, anti-free trade and anti-World Bank.

It’s all very refreshing really!

Pistils for the new millennium, but much, much better than Rancio or Vicious, even dream of being. They don’t have no country, don’t fly no flag. They can no slack for the Union Jack, The Stars and Strips got them jee-lagged’.

Santa Cruz is Comin’ To Town

By Alana Doogan

The Thrills
Santa Cruz (You’re Not That Far) E.P.

The Thrills released their debut single, Santa Cruz (You’re Not That Far), on 6th November. Their style is based somewhere between the Beach Boys, Ryan Adams, and Travis. Notably, they share the latter’s fondness for the banjo and use of the ballad.

The title track is the most upbeat song they offer on the EP. It gets off to a slow start, with a honky-tonk style accompaniment and slow back beat but the tight harmonies and syncopated, varying piano in the chorus soon boosts the tempo and gives the song a bit of life.

The second song on the single, Deckchairs and Cigarettes, is a ballad with minimum accompaniment, emphasising lead singer Connor Deyou’s voice, adding a bit of emotion to the song.

The third song, Your Love Is Like Las Vegas starts with stunning similarity to Celine Dion’s Twenty-Four Hours from Tulsa but thankfully breaks free from the similarities to a Burt Bacharach tune as soon as the vocals enter.

The fourth song, Plans, is another ballad with little to offer lyrically but a good melody with strong harmonies.

The 3 lads, formerly known as The Cheating Housewives, hail from Dublin and are currently in Los Angeles recording their album due for release in spring 2003.

Nothing Posh in D4

By Stephen McMullin

The D4 - Come On! EP

If you’ve never heard of the D4, you have my sincerest sympathies. While New Zealand may not be the first place you might consider as the home of dirty, raw garage-punk, this quartet prove that Kiwis can give it just as much as New Yorkers.

Their debut album, 6Twenty, released earlier this year showcased the immense energy in the music these boys play and their packed-out gigs in Whelan’s proved that they are not just another bloody new rock band, it’s The Strokes.

Come On! is one of the standout tracks from that album and was always destined for release as a single.

With its infectious bouncy party feel and heavy dose of late-seventies punk attitude this song will have you torn between dancing the night away and spitting on everyone within range.

The B-sides themselves aren’t at all bad either. Obviously intended to take the Christmas market by storm, I Don’t Believe in Xmas and Santa Claus are like anti-hymns put through a heavy distortion unit and given a New York Dolls kick.

If Johnny Thunders were still alive, he’d be proud to see his legacy stretching as far as it has.

Pure quality and the perfect stocking filler.

Memories of Mic with posthumous LP

By Nicky Griffin

Mic Christopher - Skydrlin

This is Mic Christopher’s first full length album, following the ‘Heyday EP’ released in 2001. It has been released posthumously, following his tragic death this time last year.

Raised in Dublin, he has a rich background in the music scene, varying from busking on Grafton Street to two studio-produced albums with his former band, the Mary Janes. Following their split in 1999, he toured solo, before being invited to open for the Waterboys on their 2001 European tour.

The album’s tender acoustic sound coupled with its heartfelt lyrics make it extremely pleasant to listen to. His lengthy time spent as a busker shines through, delivering the unchurched sound of one man and his guitar.

The four songs that constitute the ‘Heyday EP’ are also on Skydrin, ‘Heyday’ is an upbeat showcase of his deep vocals, ‘Kids’ Song’ is a fragile, innocent song about segregation and ‘Listen Girl’ is a moody, dreamy love song, ‘Looking for Jodie’, although uplifting, has a chorus a little too similar to ‘Heyday’.

These four songs really stand out on the album, but there are a few other gems such as the Beatles-esque ‘That’s What Good Friends Do’, and the lush, reflective ‘What a Curious Notion’.

The album is being released on the first anniversary of his death, November 29th. This will be celebrated with a gig in Vicar Street at which Mic’s friends will perform his music, with all proceeds going to a children’s charity.
From Hobbits to Light Sabres

By Bryan Collins

This Christmas, two major franchises are vying for a space in your DVD collection. Peter Jackson is having a second go at the market with the release of a special edition of The Fellowship of the Ring. Meanwhile, Lucas is coming out of hibernation with Attack of The Clones.

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, there lived a certain certain baker, 'exceedingly hungry'. He was a certain Peter Jackson who embarked upon an epic project to bring Tolkien's sagas to the screen. This project has had its problems. The dialogue wasn't up to standard, there were no let-up with Attack of The Clones, and the action footage was incredibly bloated with action scenes. The dialogue wasn't up to the standards of the original trilogy, but the action scenes added a nice touch to the film.

The film of the second book in JRR Tolkien's saga has a lot to live up to. The Fellowship of the Ring was a breathtaking visual epic that featured groundbreaking special effects. Probably the most impressive visual effects in the film were those employed by the Weta Workshop, those responsible for the effects in Fellowship of the Ring. The digitalized creatures, including Treebeard the giant tree, managed to condemn the vastness of the book onto the screen.

The majority of that will come in the film's centerpiece - the Battle at Helm's Deep. Described by the film's special effects guru Richard Taylor as "one of the greatest triumphs of cinema history" this digitally created battle will consist of Aragorn leading the Riders of Rohan against 10,000 Orcs.

The majority of that will come in the film's centerpiece - the Battle at Helm's Deep. Described by the film's special effects guru Richard Taylor as "one of the greatest triumphs of cinema history" this digitally created battle will consist of Aragorn leading the Riders of Rohan against 10,000 Orcs. However, the most eagerly awaited aspect of the Two Towers will be the appearance of Gollum, the mutated and twisted former bearer of the ring. WETA Workshop, responsible for the effects in Fellowship of the Ring, have employed the groundbreaking technique of digital motion capture to animate the character and it will be intriguing to see how he is brought to the screen.

If Jackson manages to pull such brave moves off, then The Two Towers looks set to surpass the Fellowship of the Ring and provide a true classic this Christmas.
December 2002

Sport

UCD end unbeaten run

Senior Football

Higher Education Gaelic Football. Div I

DIT 1-07 UCD 3-06

By Seamus Reilly

DIT's Senior Football side finally saw their unbeaten run in the higher education league come to an end as they fell to a strong UCD team this afternoon.

After the recent victories against Trinity and DCU, DIT were full of confidence going into the game.

It was a sign of the new zest in the side that the UCD fielded 13 of their championship-winning team.

DIT manager Barry GlisselMarsh however noticed very quickly that UCD were in no mood to be beaten.

Tight marking and some excellent tackling from UCD helped them nullify this threat by limiting the DIT forward line to nine points in the first half.

The points from McCormack, Carlton and Marrinan brought DIT to within five points of UCD at the break.

After the restart two quick UCD points only served to galvanise DIT as they enjoyed their best passage of the game. McCormack hit a deflected goal while points from Stephen Bray and Murray completed the win.

UCD's three first half goals however simply proved too high a mountain to scale.

DIT: Duffy, MacMorrugh, Halpin, Faughnan, Smith, Kelly, Haasian, McCoy (C), Walsh, O'Donoghue, McCormack, Prior, McGeough, Kellet.

Sub: O'Mahony, McQuade, Lowery, Canning.

UCD: McGill, Costello, Evans, B.O'Mahann, Mignare, Lucey, Becce, D.O'Mahann, Magee, Barry, Ffionn, Hanley, Casey, Marrinan, Donald.

Subs: O'Connor, Murphy.

Third place finish shows progress made

A walkover against Dundalk set up a big-trick of victories for DIT leaving them a very creditable third in the Higher Education League Division 1.

The place gives DIT their best league position for some time and is a sign of the progress Joe Murray has made.

The performances should give the team confidence as they prepare for the Sigerson Cup after Christmas.

DIT turned in exceptional displays in their victories over Trinity and a formidable DCU side.

Meanwhile the team could take heart from their spirited defeat to a star-studded UCD team.

A loss to a well-organised Mooney side in the opening game which cost them a landmark place in the top two and qualification for the semi-finals of the League.

Joe Moran can now consider his side serious contenders for the Sigerson Cup.

Even a slight improvement in performance in the Cup would see DIT break into the country's elite top six.

It can only be hoped that the panel continue the good work they have put in already this season.

Meanwhile DIT play their first match in the new Granegorman pitch on Tuesday December 19 against St. Patrick's Training College.

There is much optimism in that having their own home ground will at last put DIT on an equal footing with all the major powers of third level Gaelic Football.

Up to now, poor performances have often been blamed on the lack of a quality training ground.

The new facilities are not to be taken lightly. A 10 minute walk from Bolton St and should be a huge boost to DIT.

Controversial penalty spoils Granegorman debut

By Kieran Dinneen

DIT 0-1 Limerick 2-0

DIT's defeat in Granegorman reflected the long awaited move to the northside campus, full of promise and potential but ultimately wasted opportunities.

A controversial Limerick penalty in the final minutes spoiled the opening of the site as the Munster side came away with a 1-0 victory.

Coming off the back of a recent 5-0 victory, and finally playing at their own ground after years of false starts were good for DIT. However it was the visitors who started most prominently.

John Murphy's Shane O'Donoghue initially proved a real threat for DIT's defence as his pace and strength was too much for the DIT side's offside trap.

It was only a combination of poor finishing and some excellent saves by Barry Glissel on the DIT goal, which prevented Limerick taking an early lead. However, once DIT's back line modified this threat by playing deeper, they started to gain control.

The central midfield pairing of Mooney and Nolan began to increasingly impose themselves, feeding pacy winger Paul Bradshaw.

Always looking dangerous on the ball, Bradshaw's many dribbles often flattered to deceive. Too many times his crosses failed to meet their man.

On the hour, one of DIT's better chance came when O'Donoghue tabled a few inches to the left of the goal, but it was saved by the goalkeeper.

DIT were now on the front foot with the home side on the back foot.

Limerick were given a controversial penalty after 10 minutes, which saw their unbeaten run come to an end as they were never overawed by UCD's big names.

They displayed excellent teamwork, passion and commitment and in truth dominated 50 of the game's 60 minutes. Duffy, Kelly, McCormack and Carlton were all central to this, but DIT's man of the match on the day was full back Stephen Halpin who put in an awesome performance.

UCD's three first half goals however simply proved too high a mountain to scale.

DIT: Duffy, MacMorrugh, Halpin, Faughnan, Smith, Kelly, Haasian, McCoy (C), Walsh, O'Donoghue, McCormack, Prior, McGeough, Kellet.

Sub: O'Mahony, McQuade, Lowery, Canning, Gahan.

UCD: McGill, Costello, Evans, B.O'Mahann, Mignare, Lucey, Becce, D.O'Mahann, Magee, Barry, Ffionn, Hanley, Casey, Marrinan, Donald.

Subs: O'Connor, Murphy.

Under 21s make semis

Dublin Senior Championship

DIT 3-12 O'Tooles 2-4

DIT under 21 team through to the semi-finals of the Dublin Senior Championship after a convincing victory against a strong St. Francis side.

The win was never in doubt as DIT were always in control, scoring three of their goals before half time. Paddy Bowler scored all three goals while Martin Phelan, Michael Greaney and Kevin Gaheny all showed some great scoring on the day. Central to DIT's victory were the defensive partnership of James Moran and Michael McDermott who cleared every O'Tooles attack.

The victory marks the first time DIT have reached this stage of the competition and they will now face either Eoin O'Se and Naomh Triom Bhearra in the last four.

Freshers' Hurling

Hurling part 4

A last minute Conor Delaney goal ensured DIT continued their recent good run of form as they defeated GMIT in a tight game at Belfield.

DIT were made to work very hard on the day as they never really found their rhythm.

Neither side ever really managed to pull away, resulting in a very scrappy encounter. However, DIT were defensively sound and controlled the game from start to finish.

The scores were 2-5 to 2-9 going into the final minutes when Delaney stole in to put the ball under the bar for the win.

Hurling news

DIT students Martin Phelan and Sean O'Connolly have been selected for the Ulster Council Scholarship.

In other hurling news meanwhile the poor weather over the past month has meant all play has been suspended and whenever training is continuing as normal on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Freshers looked to have turned corner

The run of good form is set to continue with an exception victory for DIT over Trinity on the day. An unprecedented 3-0 victory over a formidable Jonastownside. Things were looking up on the day as DIT produced good performances from a number of players and Cathal McKenna put in fine performances.

The upturn in form was followed up with an exception victory for DIT over Trinity on the day. An unprecedented 3-0 victory over a formidable Jonastownside. Things were looking up on the day as DIT produced good performances from a number of players and Cathal McKenna put in fine performances.

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Hynes takes silver as DIT come fifth in Cross Country Championships

By Colin McGarr

SINCÉ we have arrived back to college it’s been raining too much, so not so much. Every weekend news sports news is littered with cancellations. For a while Tolka Park could have replaced the under construction national aquatic centre. It’s not very glamorous being a spectator during an Irish winter but this is what cross-country runners padding around the other three seasons.

On Tuesday the 26th November Athletic IT played host to the HESF Cross Country Championships. DIT has always been well placed in these championships despite a lack of athletes. On this occasion four of our boys went to the starting line. Athletes have hosted this race for the last number of years and the course has gained a reputation for being very fast. Despite the amount of rain we have had the course remained remarkably dry and so with the usual parcours.

Gary Hynes, who had finished a remarkable 10th in the All Ireland Inter County Cross Country Championships earlier this year, again showed his ability by racing himself into second place overall.

With three runners to score this put DIT in contention for a high placing. Liam Dunne followed Gary home in 16th place and the DIT team prize was completed by Austin Coughlan put in fine defensive displays to hold off a late ITT surge and ensure DIT ran out 14 points. The side showed their resilience in the final quarter going down by 13 points. The side showed their remarkable resilience in the final quarter regaining their lead within two minutes. Declan Rice and Dermot Kavanagh both worked very hard in defence to hold off the RCSI attack and hold out for a hard-fought eight point victory.

Despite a lack of athletes, DIT have placed well in the HESF Cross Country Championships in the past.

Hynes takes silver as DIT come fifth in Cross Country Championships

By Sarah Graham

DIT Lady basketball teams started the ICBA colleges League in style on November 6th with a comprehensive victory against a very well accustomed to by now. It was an exciting win with both sides scoring over 76-70. The girls hardly broke a sweat.

However, on November 13th it was a slightly different story. Despite DIT St Pats, a college rich is basketball tradition. Although we were considerably out played in the first quarter, the DIT girls slowly dwelled in the second and began to profit from well executed plays. They picked up the pace in the third quarter and thanks to the clever passing of point guard Lisa McCall and the all important scores from Alice Heffernan, the girls came within a basket going into the fourth quarter. Unfortunately St Pats edged ahead despite the excellent defence of Cathy McDermott and Oisín Lawlor and the game by only a handful of baskets.

The 21st of November witnessed another thrilling win. This time in the Inter Varsity League and against a small number of players from Trin (ITT). This was a very enjoyable game to play as Coach Claire Greer promised every player a promotion the hundred mark. Much to our dismay we only managed 89 points in 17, which was still our best score ever!

Our next opponents in the ICBA League were the extremely skilled DCU team. This was our first away game in the League so it was to go without saying to the team. Claire Greer, the team manager with her usual enthusiasm ensured that not a single shot would drop for DIT, who are accustomed to the traditional approach of DCU. The DCU home game was neck and neck for three of the quarter before DCU started an increased game and went on to win by 10. Unfortunately, the DCU team won the first quarter and nil long range shots in the faces. Nothing could be done only accept the deceptive score of 36-27.

The Ladies and Men's teams must brace ourselves for the coming year is going to be quite a battle. The Ladies team have also decided to competing in the Inter Varsity cross country championship and will travel to Nenagh for the Inter Varsity Cross Country championship.

The New Year Herbie is looking forward to meet athletes to the club. Runners of all levels are welcome and this race would be ideal for people to come together for the coming year.

For track athletes the college season begins in April. The dates have yet to be finalised but during this month the Inter Varsity Championships will take place in Galway. Athletes, looking to take part in these are asked to get in touch with the sports officer as soon as possible.

DIT have had serious trouble forming competitive teams and coming up to Claremorris Herbie would appreciate anyone looking to get involved in athletics in DIT to let her know or coach Claire Greer.

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Top ten sporting moments of 2002

Compiled by Miguel Delaney, Daragh Clifford, Jason Burke and Ciaran Murray

The script was supposed to read Kerry v Dublin in this year's All-Ireland Football Final. Kerry did their part, producing some fine displays of football against Kildare, Galway and Cork, Dublin however, succumbed to a young, gifted and exciting Irish side led by Roy Keane was the means to deliver the nation to another level in international soccer. However in the cabin fever created on the Pacific island, ten years of burned resentment between Mick McCarthy and his captain finally came to the boil. Care Keane's witheld cross (whichever you're on) and blacked media coverage, instead performed well in the World Cup, but there will be the lingering doubt that it could have been so much more.

Having split the country, it is an issue that has dominated Irish soccer since, and one that looks set to for some time to come.

2. Armagh take Sam

The less controversial Keane saved Ireland against Germany

3. Robbie Keane v Germany

The one moment of true drama (on that pitch) in Ireland's World Cup campaign. Having been much the better side throughout the game, McCarthy's side, 1-0 down to a Mirco Klose header, found themselves within minutes of a World Cup exit.

Having thrown everything, including Kevin Kilbane at the German goal, Ireland had simply no one to stop Oliver Kahn. He picked it up in stoppage time a long ball was plunged up towards Nick Quinn. He flicked it on to the less controversial Keane to bury past Kahn and keep Ireland in the World Cup.

4. Paul McGinley wins the Ryder Cup for Europe

Tactically it was a brilliant move by European captain Sam Torrance. For Sunday's singles matches, he sent out his four best players, all of whom delivered. Colin Montgomerie, Padraig Harrington, Darren Clarke and Lehmann all recorded early wins. But the drama, inevitably, came down to the 18th green and "Little McGinley".

Just like Christy O'Connor Sr. had done so in 1976, fellow Irishman Paul McGinley won the Ryder Cup on The Belfry's famous 18th. In the previous match, Paul Arimani changed in from the bunker to give the USA a crucial half point, Enter McGinley. He pulled his approach shot to the green, and his chip back on let him with an 11 ft left-to-right putt, to balance his match and win the Ryder Cup. Talk about pressure. But it was everything to the Irishman as he slotted home the toughest putt all year.

5. Ireland beat Australia

On a unique day when all three of the Southern Hemisphere rugby powers met, the Kiwis finally, punished the memory of Michael Lynagh and the greats of the 1991 World Cup. At a windswept Lansdowne Road, Ire and triumphed 15-9 to record the first Irish victory over Australia on home soil since 1964. Man of the match Ronan O'Gara converted six penalties. The Aussies could not cope with Ireland's tactics and excellent kicking game. This combined with a passionate defensive display, led by captain Brian O'Driscoll ensured a famous win for Irish rugby and a place on our top ten.

6. DJ Carey

Well what can we say? DJ rounded out a grand 140 minutes in this year's championship, but somehow did enough to spark the hearts of the country all over again. Kilkenny, who looked in the past of a losing tournament, found a spark against Wexford, was turned around magically by the DJ in the semi-final against Tipperary.

Against Clare in the final, a traditionally strong Clare defence came under siege from the first minute. The greatest forward of our day, and possibly of all time, DJ rakes up there with other hurling gods like Christy Ring and Nicky Rackard.

7. Media Puzzle wins the Melbourne Cup

Not only the highlight of the year for Irish racing, but also a landmark victory in one of the world's great races. In the running of the race that stops a nation Media Puzzle became only the second Northern Hemisphere-trained horse to do so. Huge credit must go to his team, and the brave decision to send Media Puzzle to Australia, despite the loss of John and the fact it was secured to win a place in the Melbourne Cup field. After a thrilling victory in the Geelong Cup, Media Puzzle was backed from 66/1 to 41/1 favourite for the Flemington spectacle and duly obliged with a stunning victory.

8. Ronaldo's miraculous rebirth

When Ronaldo's knee collapsed three years ago the injury was more than a blow for his club Inter Milan and Brazil - the whole world felt an injury. Twice voted World Player of the Year, the hugely popular front runner had been out of the game. Yet at the age of 23 his career was threatened and he faced the prospect of being remembered as one of the finest talents never to fully reach his unquestionable ability.

His two goals in Brazil's World Cup triumph over Germany topped his wonderful performances in the tournament and restored him to his status as the world's favourite footballer.

9. Five-star Ferrari

Formula 1's credibility took a battering during 2002. This season was held, controverted, and controversial. However it would be wrong to paint this year's Ferrari Barney. It is arguably the greatest driver ever, Michael Schumacher took the grand prix titles in 2000, 2001 and 2002, and won the Constructors' title all three times.

The perfect driver in a flawless car made for a dream season and thus it makes our list.

10. Ireland's Winter Olympic

It had been a long time coming. The Irish public finally got the sporting success they deserved, credential in the Winter Olympics. It was a British peer of the realm that delivered as Galway-born Lord Clifton narrowly missed out on a bronze at the Skeleton event.

An Irishman is now the fourth best skeleton slider (for that should be skeleton) in the World. Truly an achievement to be proud of.

Darts hits the Bulls-eye this Christmas

Compiled by Miguel Delaney, Daragh Clifford, Jason Burke and Ciaran Murray

The ten-time World Champion Phil Taylor

Championship that Sky Sports telecast? A case can be made for both. Statistically, the Embassy is regarded as being better, with the exceptions the BDO to the PDC over the years means that now, many of the best players and exciting characters are part of the PDC.

Nobody would suggest that many of these players could not produce a decent run for both. But statistically, the Embassy is regarded as being better, with the exceptions the BDO to the PDC over the years means that now, many of the best players and exciting characters are part of the PDC.

Players have swapped pins for glasses of water. Darts is perfect for television. The format is simple and exciting to watch. The action is fast paced and endless array of characters, not least in the commentary box, to keep any darts fan interested.

If it is something different you are looking for then look no further than the voice of PDC darts, Sid Waddell. Waddell has a unique style of commentating.

His sanity is debatable but what cannot be questioned is his genius. Classics from the branches include: "Lord it's the nearest thing to an execution of the Sandi Araby to speak of one particular dart player". He may practice 12 hours a day, but he's not shy of the burnt van.

Favourite for this year's Embassy championship will be world number one Tony David. The challenge may come from the gargantuan Andy Fordham, known as the Viking and not because he comes from Scandinavia, although Ray Barneveld. Dutch-born 'Barney' is arguably the most exciting player in Embassy Darts.

The PDC championships may take a familiar look to fans of smaller events sweeping all before him. The ten-time World Champion thought by many to be the greatest of all time, maybe the one to watch. Waddell has a unique style of commentating.

What fans of Darts would like to see would be both organisations amalgamated and then the important questions could be answered. Which association is the stronger? Would Phil Taylor be number one in the world? Who would lose their job at the BBC to accommodate Waddell? For even though fans of darts can hardly complain.

So this Christmas check out the Darts. As Waddell puts it: "You couldn't get more exciting here if Elvis Waddell was eating a chip sandwich."
do your banking when it suits you

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Gráinne Muldoon
AIB, Bolton Street – 874 0409
Anne-Marie White
AIB, Kevin Street – 475 9680
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