

1987-12

## Forum : the Magazine of the DIT Students' Unions, December , 1987

DIT Students' Union

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# FORUM

The Magazine of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students Unions.

December 1987 - Free of charge to students and staff in D.I.T. Colleges.



*370*  
**E.S.F. Victory**

PLUS

**FORUM CONSTRUCTION FEATURE.**  
News and views from around the College  
**D.I.T. CATERING SURVEY**  
**CLASS REPS - EVERY UNIONS BACKBONE**

Plus reviews and previews - theatre, records and films.

It's a far cry from the days when Gogol, the 19th century Russian novelist, used to draw pictures of the Italian *campagne* on the marble topped tables of Rome's Caffè Greco . . . to the sophisticated young Romans of today who come in from the fashionable Via Condotti to relax over a Jameson Irish Whiskey amidst memorabilia of a bygone age and of the Greco's most illustrious patrons.



Jameson, you're famous.



## Editorial

# Grant Success

In the past months, students in the Dublin Institute of Technology have shown the Department of Education that they will not sit idly by while their, or their fellow students' European Social Fund grants are being held up indefinitely. As a result of the student action over the past months including petitions, marches and occupations, the Grants should be paid to the students this week.

To all those who contributed to the campaign we say "Well Done!"

This campaign can only be the beginning, with vicious Government cut-backs set to continue, staffing levels are to be further reduced, savings will have to be made in the area of lighting and heating. In addition it is proposed to reduce four year courses to three, inflicting severe study pressure on students, and fee levels are to rise by a further 8%.

Fees in the D.I.T. have risen by more than 400% in the past five years. This can be the year of zero fee increases, if the students of the D.I.T. unite in a concerted effort to stop this proposed rise. The campaign will begin early in the New Year.

## Catering Comments

D.I.T. Catering has always been an area for complaint within the colleges.

The results of a recently taken survey highlight the anomalies that exist between different catering outlets in the supposedly one system.

Since the conception of the D.I.T. in the late seventies, little has been done to standardise catering within the institute.

## SEASONS GREETINGS

To all the Students and Staff in the Dublin Institute of Technology, Forum magazine would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Forum magazine would like to wish all the students and staff in the Dublin Institute of Technology a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and successful New Year.

NOLLAIG SHONA DHUIT!

# Welcome to Forum!

Welcome to the Christmas Edition of Forum Magazine. Forum Magazine is published monthly by the Dublin Institute of Technology Students Unions, in conjunction with local union officers. The magazine addresses many of the issues concerning the D.I.T. student population, as well as more general interests such as sports, films, music, books, humour and current affairs.

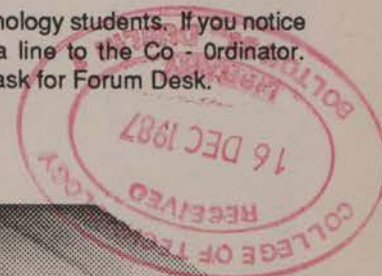
If we get it wrong please let us know by dropping a line to Forum Magazine c/o Bolton Street Students Union, Bolton Street, Dublin 1.



Forum co-ordinator Ian Phillips

This publication is the organ of the Dublin Institute of Technology students. If you notice something, or someone, strange in your college, drop a line to the Co-ordinator. Anonymity will be assumed. Or telephone 7411768 and ask for Forum Desk.

DON'T SIT FUMING.....  
PHONE 'FORUM'!



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## CHE GUEVARA NIGHT OUT

Last month's commemorative lecture on the twentieth anniversary of the death of Che Guevara was attended by almost 200 people in Bolton Street College. The evening was opened by Dublin Institute of Technology Director, Mr. Michael O'Donnell with the other speakers being Eddie Higgins, F.W.U.I., Maria Louise Fernandez First Secretary at the Cuban Embassy in London, Aidan Kerins Chairman Dublin Institute of Technology Inter Student Committee and Senator Brendan Ryan. The event was hosted jointly by the local college's Cuban Student friendship society of Ireland and the students union and gave a good insight into the life and time of Che Guevara and the development of Cuba since the revolution.



Maria L. Fernandez, First Secretary at the Cuban Embassy in London makes a presentation to Dublin Institute of Technology Director Mr. Michael O'Donnell at last month's reception in Dublin Institute of Technology Bolton Street.

### RATHMINES DEBATE - POPULATION CONTROL

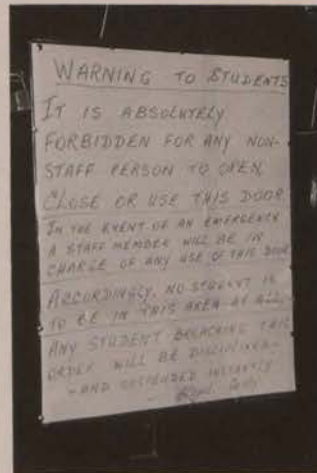
A debate on population control being really for world survival took place in the College of Commerce Rathmines on 3rd December 1987. The team competing were Rathmines VS Maynooth. The home side had great support from their respective courses.

The members of the team were: Conor Kavanagh, Claire O'Reilly and Katie Hannon. Maynooth were represented by Liz Murphy (Capt), David Carroll and Michael Dwyer. It was the second round of the W.U.S. competition. Maynooth proposed the motion but Rathmines successfully agreed the point, and won the debate. The debate was chaired by the inimitable A.J. Noonan.

### DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS STUDIES PRESENTATION

The fourth year students at the College of Commerce, Rathmines received their Diplomas during November, much to their delight. Sile Lynch was awarded a prize for taxation, while Ellen Skully excelled in Accountancy. Rory Henegan and Emer Leech were very pleased with their personal performances. The overall prize for best student was awarded to Yvonne O'Neill.

Another notable performance came from Brian Cassen, who scored highly which was consistent with his previous years performances.



### "STUDENT SUFFER FROM STRESS" SAYS SURVEY

A recent study undertaken by a final year marketing student in COMAD, as part of a thesis, had some interesting results in relation to student health. The thesis involved the distribution of postal questionnaires to a sample of GPs in the Dublin area.

The majority of respondents, 445%, claimed to have more than 35 third level students attending their practice. The main complaints suffered by students fell into two categories. These being respiratory infections and stress and anxiety. Respiratory complaints, mentioned by 38% of GPs, were very likely to arise due to substandard living conditions.

Anxiety and stress complaints, noted by 44% of respondents, was linked by most GPs to study pressure. Additional complaints included sports injuries, contraceptive advice and genito urinary infections. Flu, cold and dietary problems

### C.D.V.E.C. PERSON OF THE MONTH AWARD.

This month, the judges unanimously decided that the award must go to Mr. Brendan Keys, Secretary/Registrar, D.I.T. Catering, Cathal Brugha Street.

His 'artwork' which decorates a 'Fire Escape' adjacent to the college's canteen and common room, leaves very little to the imagination.

We do however recommend that as the 'warning' is quite explicit, vis -- a -- vi the punishment for wrongful use of the door, 'non-staff' should fully ascertain as to whether an incident such as a fire in the building is truly an 'emergency' before they try to escape from the building.

were also noted.

The Student, Ms. Orla Church, also reported that 34.5% of GPs felt that student health had suffered as a result of the withdrawal of the medical cards from students. A further 8.5% felt that student health had suffered to a 'great extent'. An interesting finding was that 68% of GPs consider a student's financial status before recommending treatment. But the corollary of this must also be taken into account. That is, that over 30% of GPs do not take into account that a student may not be able to afford a prescribed course of treatment.

### BRUSSELS TRIP

30 Students from the College of Commerce Rathmines have just returned from a trip to Brussels - where, we hear, the beer flowed freely. The trip was sponsored by the European Parliament thanks to a letter drafted by Mr. Chrystle, from the College. The group would also like to thank Niall Ferns for his counselling of the students in a certain bar on the last night.....Thank you for caring, Niall.



Mary Connor Student Office, Bolton Street, beside the colleges new Pass Machine.

## BANK OF IRELAND OPENS STUDENT BRANCH IN BOLTON STREET

The Bank of Ireland Student Branch opened its doors to Students on December 1st. The student officer, Mary Connor will be available at the branch between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Pass Machine in the branch will be operational from January.

## SAUNDERS TOPS POLL IN CATHAL BRUGHA STREET

Following the resignation of Claire Gantly, elections were held in Cathal Brugha Street on 2nd and 3rd December to elect a new President of the Students Union.

There were two nominations, Robert Saunders and Maeve Horgan (Vice-President of the Students union) The results were:

- No. 1 Robert Saunders
- No. 2 Maeve Horgan

Robert Saunders was elected by a majority of 87 votes.

### NEW EXECUTIVE FOR RATHMINES

All the positions in the Students Union Executive in Rathmines have now been filled. Up until now the only representatives were: Dermot Coyle,

President, Joe O'Rourke Deputy President and Austin Crowe Entertainments Officer. The new members of the executive are: Lorraine Glynn, Treasurer; Mairead Hold, Welfare Officer; Cathy McGovern PRO and John Lindsey, General Secretary.

All of these additional representatives were elected unopposed.

### TALENTED STUDENTS

8 acts competed in the annual Kevin Street Talent Competition on Thursday, the 3rd December 1987.

John Harrold, who works in the Students Union Shop won the prize for the most talented performer. John's set ranged from Blues to Rock 'n' Roll and included a "commercial break" with the Yorkie Bar music, Toblerone music and an intro for the Muppet Show.

Sulphate Bambinos were awarded the prize for the most entertaining act. Their set included a speeded up version of "Wild Thing" and many other old favourites in fast tempo.

## 9th CANADA LIFE / COMAD COCKTAIL COMPETITION

The above cocktail competition was held at the Licensed Trade Department, College of Marketing and Design, Dublin on 1st December 1987.

The competitors showed a very high standard throughout the competition. Some very exotice drinks, both alcoholic and non alcoholic were made up by the competitors.

The competition was open to all Licensed Trade Department classes and the drinks were marked under the following headings:

1. Appearance and taste of cocktail
2. Efficiency and Hygiene
3. Professionalism

The overall winner, Stephen Farrell was presented with

the Canada Life perpetual cup and a trophy.

Both Stephen and Andrew Oates (winner/non-alcohol) will go forward to the 7 up cocktail competition to be held in February next.

Congratulations also to

Joe O'Reilly and James Spratt who came very close 2n and 3rd to the winner.

The 7 up All Ireland Colleges Competition and the Bols competition will be held in COMAD in February.



Judges: Jim Beehan, Mary Monaghan and Daithi O'Connor at the COMAD Cocktail Competition.

## AMALGAMATION OF D.I.T.S.U. TRADING BEGINS

As part of the ever increasing level of co-operation between the DIT unions, the student union shops have merged into one trading concern over the summer months. "We have learned a lot as to what type of service we wish to provide through our shops over the past year and during last years 'Shops Campaign', and as a result, we thought it in the best interest of all if the shops were to merge", says Bolton St. President Aidan Kerins.

Theresa Sheridan from Kevin St. has taken up specific responsibility for purchasing and staffing with Jimmy Kane from Bolton St. now covering over all stock and cash control.

As it is the policy of the DIT Students Unions shops to provide the best service possible any comments or suggestions would be gratefully appreciated, say Eamon Connor, the unions' administrative officer.



Edel Dunne, Ian Phillips and the B.S.E.T. Bears promoting the very successful BSETS Disco in Blooms

## B.S.E.T.S. FIRST ANNUAL DISCO

The Building Services Engineering Technician Society ran their first annual disco on November 26th at Blooms Hotel. The event

was promoted by Fosters (Crocodile Dundee Lager) and while Crocodile Dundee didn't turn up Tony the Tiger and friend did. A great night was had by all. The B.S.E.T.S. hope to host another event early in the New Year.

## NEW BICYCLE ENCLOSURE FOR RATHMINES

A new bicycle area is planned for Rathmines in the new year. It is hoped that the new enclosure will help halt the high rate of thefts of bicycles in the College - around two a day according to Students Union President, Dermot Coyle.

It will be situated in the car-park behind the main building. A card key-lock system will be used with the security code being changed periodically. A small deposit will be paid for each card by students at the beginning of the year which should be returned at the end of the year. The President of the Students Union, Dermot Cole welcomed the move and said that it came after continued representation by the Students Union at College Council level.

## CAIRDEAS TRADITIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Cairdeas Society from Bolton Street hosted a traditional night in the Kings Inn public house on the 4th of December. The event was well attended by the students and staff of Bolton Street as well as a local Community Group.

Several musicians contributed to the night including two violinists, an accordion player, two tin whistle players, a banjo player, as well as several accomplished ballad singers.

Cairdeas hope to hold several such events in the forthcoming year with the aim of promoting cultural exchange and friendship.

## F'N MAD SOCIETY

This year saw the formation of the Music and Drama society in Cathal Brugha Street which recently amalgamated with the Video Vault (hence the F-film). As a result of vigorous campaigning and original and innovative ideas, the membership now stands in the 80's, even with a £2 membership fee. For this, the members can expect subsidised rates to see plays, concerts and various performances. The society also hopes to liaise closely with the Ents Society to organise various events such as quizzes, concerts in the college and parties. There are weekly films and music videos and maybe even a staged production during Rag Week. A recent trip to Brown Bread was an overwhelming success. Plans are underway for a 'trip' to the Rocky Picture Show. Congrats Fin Mad.

## NEW CANTEEN FOR KEVIN STREET

In spite of many problems the new canteen facilities in Kevin Street opened on Monday, the 23rd November, 1987. The new restaurant and snackery had been plagued with problems just before it was due to open but they are slowly being rectified. The canteen is now in its third week of operation.

The canteen facilities in Kevin Street are run by a college canteen committee composed of staff and students. The canteen operates on a break-even basis. Canteen committee chairman George Murphy expressing concern over uncertainty with regard to the future for the venture said "at the moment control and management of the new facilities is undecided by the VEC" and that it "was important to show that the staff and students of the college could

manage the complex as they have successfully done in the past".

He is satisfied that the facility is a viable economic proposition without any VEC subsidy and as such sees no need for outside caterers.

Mr. Murphy said that his only regret is that "prior to construction the designers did not avail of the 15 years experience of those who ran the old facility".

He is happy to say "that the canteen committee was in a position to employ staff made redundant in the Bolton Street canteen.

Brian Kelly, the canteen chef said that the new facilities were "bigger, brighter and better than before" and added that these facilities are four or five times larger than the old one. "Things will run much smoother once the initial problems are sorted out" he said.

Canteen cashier Joan Saunders said that the new area was great for both staff and customers. "It is a pleasant place to be in" she said adding that from the staff point of view, it was definitely an improvement.

**COMMUNITY ACTION**

Bolton Street Students union has a policy this academic year of getting actively involved in Community Work within the area surrounding the college. One such activity is the repair and maintenance of houses and flats of old folks who live in the area. The project is being co-ordinated by Dermot Stone and Ray Boyne of the Students Union, in conjunction with the Parish Priest of Dominic Street and Fred Hosford of the Construction Trades Department, with Joe Lawlor also of Construction Trades. The work is being carried out by students on the full-time Building Maintenance Technician Course and being supervised by lecturers from the course. All materials and equipment are being supplied by the Department in charge of the course. the Construction Trades Department.

The project is welcomed by both students and lecturers from the course. "It is a most worthwhile project and provides an excellent opportunity for the students to acquire a practical experience and knowledge of repair and maintenance while being of benefit to the Community", said Ray Boyne Chairman Students Union.



*Ray Boyne, Chairman Bolton Street Student Union*



*From left to right - Manager A.I.B. Mary Street, George Mitchell, Mark Tynan, Declan Fitzmaurice, Raphael Blowick, Ivan Carther Manager A.I.B. Capel Street.*

**A.I.B. BURSARIES AWARDED TO BOLTON STREET STUDENTS**

Three students from Bolton Street, Mark Tynan, Degree Mechanical Engineering, Declan Fitzmaurice Diploma Motor Industry Management, Raphael Blowick Degree and Production Engineering were awarded with A.I.B. Bursaries. The event was organised by Vivian Peelo Student Officer, A.I.B. Mary Street. A.I.B. have committed a sum of £150,000 over four years to fund the A.I.B. Bursary Scheme for V.E.C. colleges over the next four years.

**MARKETING SOCIETY LECTURE IN C.O.M.A.D.**

The Marketing Society of COMAD had their first lecture of the academic year on Tuesday, 1st December. This was held in the Engineering Dept. of U.C.D. and the attendance, considering the time of year was very good, with over 100 people present.

The lecture was given by John Fanning, Managing Director of McConnells Advertising Agency, the largest and most successful agency in Ireland with accounts such as Ballygowan Water, Ryanair and Smithwicks.

Mr. Fanning spoke of the different aspects of advertising, with emphasis on the effect that changing demographic and psychographic factors have on advertising.

Gerard Barrett, Co-Chairperson of the society was delighted with the success of the evening and anticipates many more evenings of its kind in the New Year.

**KEVIN STREET OLD FOLKS PARTY**

Over 170 old folks from the Liberties attended the annual Christmas Party in Kevin Street College last week.

The party was organised by college maintenance staff and students. A full Christmas dinner was served

with plenty of Christmas 'Spirit' thrown in.

College Porter, and resident ballade singer, Tommy Saunders, kept the crows well entertained, as did Twink who made a guest appearance. Union President, Paul D'Arcy reported that every one present had a fantastic time.



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## E.S.F. Government Capitulation

A solution to the problem of the delay in distribution to Dublin Institute of Technology students of European Social Fund grants was obtained after the student protest on November 19th. On the previous Monday, the Dublin Institute of Technology Inter Student Committee unanimously decided that as progress on the staffing problem had ground to a halt, a more direct form of student action was needed.



Students left colleges at 1.30p.m. to march to the occupation in Tara Street

The previous Friday, negotiations had broken down between the Department of Education and the Dublin Institute of Technology authorities. Spokespersons for both sides denied that it was their responsibility to find extra staff, and proceeded to pass the blame.

After this, the Dublin Institute of Technology obtained 2 extra staff as a result of redeployment within the system. However, they were still unable to give a commitment as to when

the grants would be paid.

### OCCUPATION

The Students Unions of the D.I.T. felt this to be unacceptable and decided that an occupation, in a key Department of Education office, followed by a major demonstration would be needed to force a commitment that the grants would be paid before Christmas.

"It was a case of too little too late", said D.I.T. Rathmines



Some of the 70 students who occupied the Department of Education offices on the sixth floor.



D.I.T. Inter Student Committee chairperson addressed the crowd outside APOLLO HOUSE

President, Dermot Coyle. "To merely redeploy 2 staff persons and still refuse to promise that grants would be paid before the New Year was not satisfactory to the students unions".

General Meetings were called by different unions to get support for the demonstration on November 19th.

### POLITICAL FOOTBALL

At Kevin Street's Emergency General Meeting, Union President Paul Darcy questioned the Vocational Education Committee true commitment to find a solution. "It is far too easy to sit by and watch different departments play political football with students money", he said, "and let students suffer extreme hardship in the meantime".

At 11.30 a.m. on the morning of the 19th, almost 70 students from the five different Dublin Institute of Technology colleges assembled at Hawkins Street and then proceeded to occupy the Department of Education Colleges Section on the sixth floor of Apollo House, Tara Street. The occupation leaders Daithi O'Connor, President College of Marketing and Design, Tadhg Daly Union of Students in Ireland and Aidan J. Kerins chairperson of the Dublin Institute of Technology Inter Student Committee went to the sixth floor in the elevator and as the other students began to run up the stairs, they proceeded to hold the stairwell doors open, preventing Department of

Education staff from locking them.

### GRANTLESS STUDENTS

The staff seemed perturbed by the sudden influx of 'grantless' students. Mr. Brendan Long was the first official to meet the students and he enquired as to what the students wanted. A provisional list was handed to Mr. Long. It stated that the Dublin Institute of Technology Inter Student Committee wanted:

1. The Minister to review the implementation of the proposed 8% tuition fee increase for next academic year.
2. The refund of deposits paid by first years, on European Social Fund courses to be returned to students within 48 hours.
3. A written commitment that European Social Fund grants would be paid to recipients students before Christmas.

The officials took the students demands and went to have a meeting on another floor in the building. This being necessary due to the large number of students sitting around in their offices on the sixth floor.

### NEGOTIATIONS

By lunchtime, almost 2,000 students had marched from the colleges to the occupation. A major rally was held outside Apollo House before Aidan Kerins re-entered the building so that negotiations could be had so as to solve the situation.

At 3.00 p.m. Aidan Kerins and

Ian Phillips Deputy President Bolton Street met with Seamus O'hUallachain, a Principal Officer in the Department. The students case was outlined and our demands were discussed for almost forty five minutes. The problem hinged on the point that the Department of Education were not prepared to give any written commitment in relation to grant payment dates. The student reps reiterated their commitment to staying in occupation "as long as needs be" so as to ensure that the students would receive their cash before Christmas.

#### ARREST

The Gardai on duty during the sit-in began to inform students that they were going to be arrested and charged with trespass, but the students present felt that their cause was far too 'just' to submit to the fear of arrest and leave.

At 4.15p.m. the Department officials informed Aidan Kerins that they were prepared to

capitulate on two of the demands, in relation to the European Social Fund grants and as regards the third, they would request that the minister review the estimates and see if the planned 8% fee increase could be dropped and the lost revenue raised elsewhere.

#### MID-DECEMBER

Within 5 minutes, a signed letter was given to the students stating that deposits would be refunded "in at least 90% of cases" within 48 hours, and that the European Social Fund Grants would be paid to students by mid December.

Dublin Institute of Technology Inter Student Committee Chairperson Aidan J. Kerins read out the letter through a megaphone from the sixth floor window of the building, to the large gathering below. After he finished, he called to the crowd if they would agree to end the demonstration.

Five minutes later, after all the offices had been tidied by the

occupiers, they left the building; in a more orderly manner than that when they went in.

#### MAJOR VICTORY

The coverage in the media was quite extensive. All newspapers carried reports; all radio stations carried it on their bulletins; The Pat Kenny show broadcast an interview with Aidan Kerins and the main evening T.V. news carried a large piece on the demonstration includes interview with

Daithi O'Connor and Kerins.

The whole theme and feeling at the end of the campaign and demonstration was summed up by the final quote by Aidan Kerins on the evening T.V. news. "at 9.00 this morning, the grants were not to be paid till next Spring; now at 4.30 p.m. we have a commitment that they will be paid before Christmas. It is a major victory for the Dublin Institute of Technology Students!"



VIEW FROM ABOVE: A shot taken from the sixth floor down at some of the assembled students.



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Irish Life Mall  
Talbot Street



Irish Life Mall  
Talbot Street

**The Waterfall**



**Jonathans**  
Ilac Centre



53 O'Connell Street

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# CATERING FOR OUR NEEDS

Forum looks at the different catering services in the Dublin Institute of Technology, highlighting similarities and differences, and asks what changed need to be made to improve and standardise catering in the D.I.T.

## FORUM ON CATERING

Each of the five colleges in the Dublin Institute of Technology provide a catering service: In a recent poll, Forum investigated the catering services provided, examining a wide range of attributes from quality and price to service, hygiene and variety.

Despite the existence of one Institute, the catering service in each of the five colleges are uniquely different. Two of the catering outlets are being run by external caterers, The College of Marketing and Design and more recently Bolton Street. While the other three are run internally by V.E.C. Staff. These catering outlets, Cathal Brugha Street, Rathmines and Kevin Street are governed by Canteen Committees. In an effort to assess and highlight the differences, Forum examined each canteen in turn and assessed the results of a poll in the light of this examination.

## CATERING SERVICES IN THE DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Bolton Street

Up to 1987 the canteen in Bolton Street was run by a Canteen Committee made up of students, canteen staff and Academics. The Vocational Education Committee employed two full-time people to run the canteen, while the canteen committee employed approximately ten part-timers to make up the short fall. As a result of cut-

backs, with the opening of the new canteen in Bolton Street these staff accepted redundancy, and the catering was put out to tender. The catering outlet at present is run by Campbell's Catering who are on a three month trial period. Campbells employ eleven to run the service including the Manager John Mulcahy. The area is a self catering area, with both students and staff returning trays to a conveyor belt.

In addition to this Canteen there is also a canteen in the Linen Hall Annex of Bolton Street run by V.E.C. Staff. This is primarily a main meals outlet for the School of Trades.

### Kevin Street

The Kevin Street Catering facility which has recently moved into the new extension



"View from above" - Kevin Street's new canteen



New canteen in Bolton Street, staffed by Campbells Catering

is run by a Canteen Committee made up of Student Reps, Canteen Staff and Academics. The Canteen Committee acts as an overall review body in the day to day running of the Canteen. It also sets prices, examines accounts and presumably is responsible for hiring staff.

### College of Marketing & Design

Up until 1987 the canteen in C.O.M.A.D. was managed by a Mr. Connolly. It is not known what type of arrangement Mr. Connolly had with the College Authorities but clearly the canteen was run as part of an external catering company. In 1987 the catering in C.O.M.A.D. was put out to tender after intensive campaigning from the Student

Union. The catering facility is now run by Mayfair Caterers who have a franchise agreement with the College Authorities.

### Cathal Brugha Street

The canteen area in Cathal Brugha Street is open at lunch times only to serve hot meals. There is no snacks service or other catering service is run in conjunction with Catering courses in the College.

### Rathmines

The Canteen in Rathmines is managed by Mr. Tynan, the exact nature of his employment is not known. However a Canteen Committee does exist with a similar function to Kevin Street. The Canteen provides fast food and snacks at lunch time, with tea and coffee being sold from a shop also run by Mr. Tynan.

## D.I.T. STUDENT POLL ON CATERING

In a recent poll to investigate catering in the D.I.T., Forum conducted a survey in each of the Colleges. Of the students surveyed 54% lived at home, 41.3% lived in flats, with just 4.3% staying in digs. 77% of those surveyed use the catering facilities either as a supplement to a packed lunch (46%) or exclusively (36%).

## QUALITY LEADS THE WAY

In the survey students were asked to identify the most important attribute in relation to catering. The results showed

that 35% of students felt quality was the most important attribute. 30% felt price was, 20% felt hygiene was and 14% felt quantity was.

**BOLTON ST. LINNENHALL TOPS THE POLL IN D.I.T.**

When the students surveyed were asked if in general they were:

1. Happy with
2. Satisfied with
3. Not satisfied with
4. Unhappy with

The following results were recorded with the Linnenhall, a Bolton St. Annex, topping the poll with 56% happy with the catering facilities, 47% satisfied with and just 2% not satisfied with.

In second place was COMAD who have just recently appointed new caterers, following by Kevin Street.

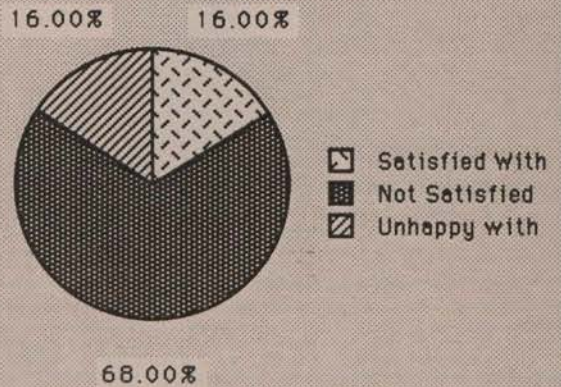
**MAIN MEALS MOST SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT**

As a follow on question to the level of contentment, the students surveyed were asked which area in their opinion had the most scope for improvement.

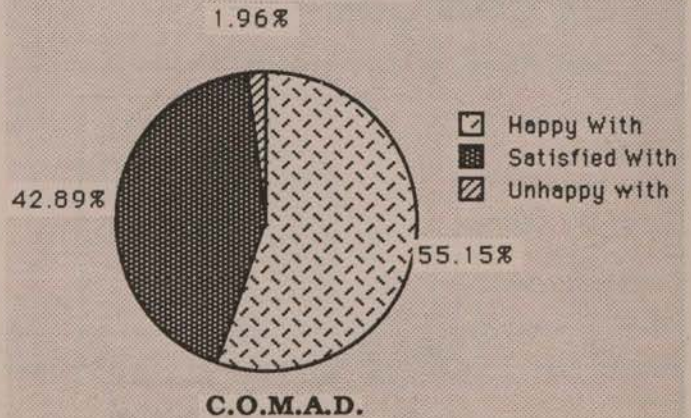
The resounding reply in four of the colleges was main meals. In the other two colleges, The Linnenhall and Kevin St., the students felt snacks and fast food had scope for improvement. It is interesting to note that these two catering facilities serve traditional main meals (meat, 2 veg. and potatoes).

**Overall Satisfaction with Catering Facilities**

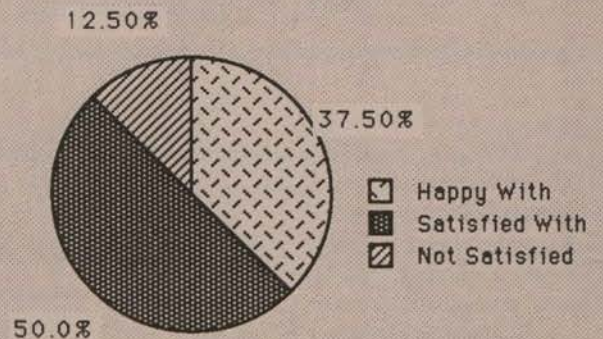
**Bolton Street**



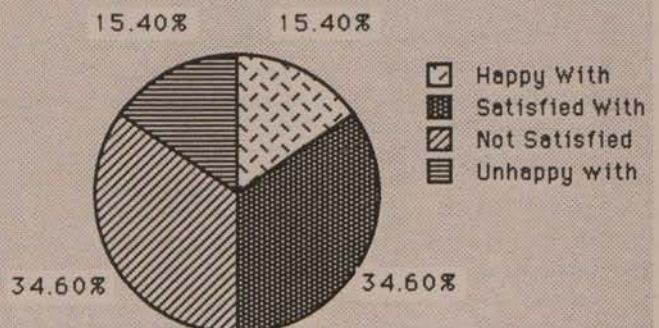
**Linnen Hall**



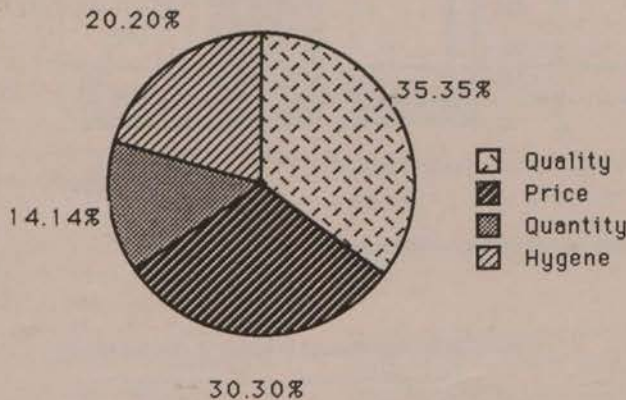
**C.O.M.A.D.**



**C.B.S.**



**Most Important Attributes**

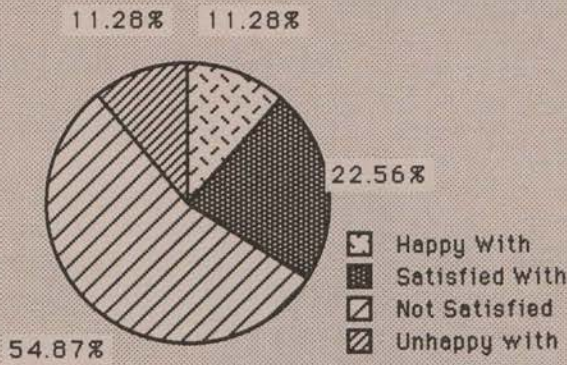


"Linen Hall tops the poll" - Well done Ladies!

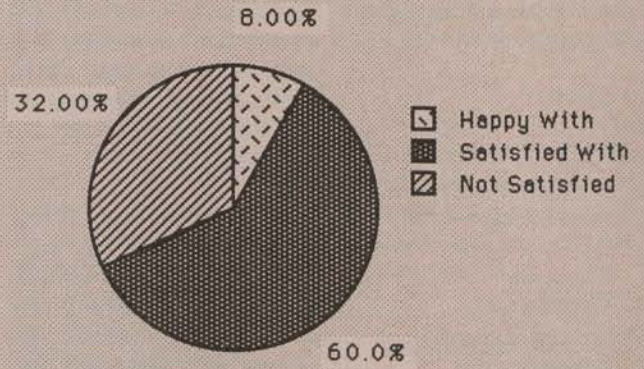
### Most scope for improvement

(Continued from previous page)

**Rathmines**

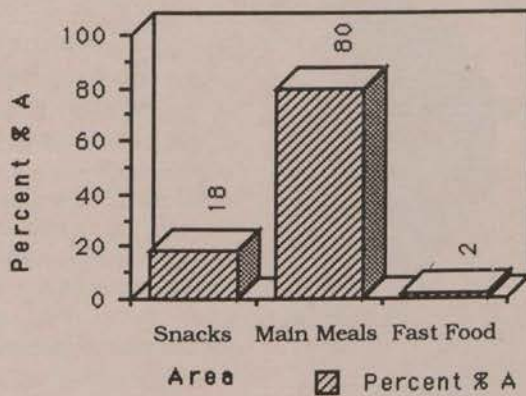


**Kevin Street**

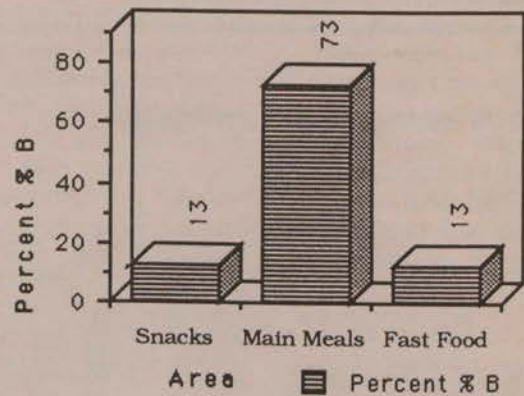


### Scope for Improvement in Food categories for the six colleges

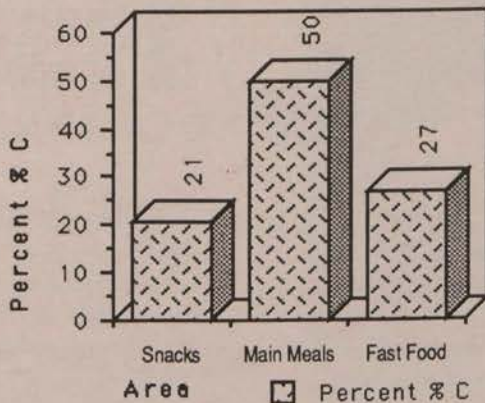
**Most Scope for improvement in Rathmines**



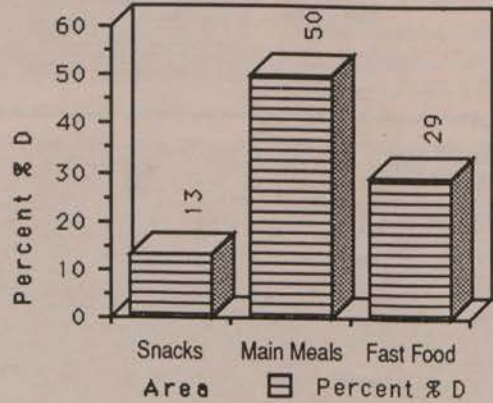
**Most scope for improvement in COMAD (1st preference)**



**Most scope for improvement in Cathal Brugha St. (1st Preference)**

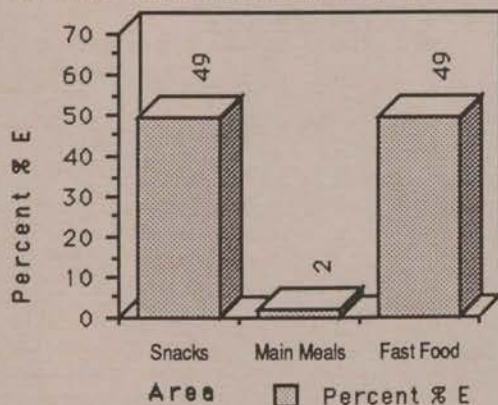


**Most scope for improvement in Bolton St. (1st preference)**

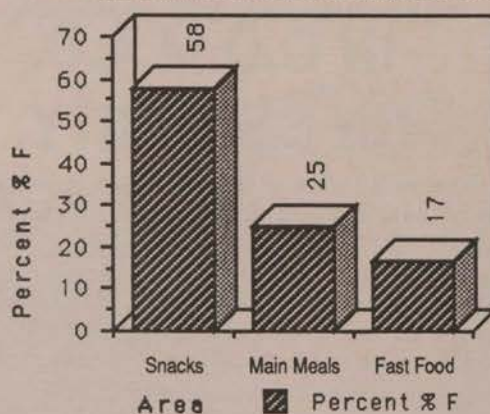


## Scope for Improvement in Food categories for the six colleges

Most scope for improvement in Linnenhall (1st preference)



Most scope for improvement in Kevin St. (1st preference)



## FORUM ON PRICES

In its investigation Forum took a range of items in each catering facility and compared prices. It should be pointed out that there are differences in many of the items provided. For example the Main Meal in Bolton St. is meat, one veg and potato, while in most of the other colleges it is meat, two veg and potatoes. None the less overall the comparison was felt to be valid. It was expected that the private caterers would be most expensive and this was confirmed.

The cheapest outlet undoubtedly in the D.I.T. is Cathal Brugha Street. The Catering in Cathal Brugha Street is run as part and parcel of the catering courses, with the students preparing much of the food.

Because of the student involvement the overall overheads are reduced resulting in a cheaper service.

## Different Approaches to catering

The survey conducted highlighted the widely differing approaches to catering on the campus of the D.I.T. The

Item	Bolton St	Linnen Hall	Kevin St	C.B.S.	Rathmines	COMAD
Soup	39p	.35p	.40p	.25p	.45p	.45p
Main Meal	£1.84	£1.70	£1.75	£1.10	(£1.75)	£1.75
Chips	.60p	50p	.55p	.25p	.55p	.45p
Filled Rolls	.78p	50p	.80p	(.50p)	.50p	.70
Sandwiches	.66p	45p	.60p	(.40p)	.45p	.65p
Veg/Portion	.30p	(.30p)	(.30p)	.15p	(.30p)	(.30p)
Tea	.30p	28p	.22p	.17p	.30p	.30p
Coffee	.32p	30p	.27p	.22p	.30p	.30p
TOTAL	£5.19	£4.38	4.89	£3.04	£4.60	£4.90

\*The figures in brackets indicate that the item is not available in that particular college, so an average figure has been allocated.

historical development of the Institute goes some way towards explaining the different approaches, but even taking this into account it is still hard to understand why after eight years of existence no steps have been taken to correct the imbalances in catering provision across the Institute. Surely given the huge students population in the D.I.T. there is wide scope for the development of this area both to help reduce costs through joint purchasing and also to generate much needed revenue. With the recent privatising of C.O.M.A..D. and Bolton Street it is unlikely that this development can take place in the not too distant future.

## PROVISION OF MAIN MEALS.

A significant finding from the survey was the importance students place on the provision of adequate main meals. Clearly the Linnen Hall annex of Bolton Street lead the way in this respect. Eighty per cent of the students surveyed in Rathmines felt that main meals had significant scope for improvement. Further investigation showed that Rathmines only provided fast food type meals with no provision for main meals. Over sixty per cent of students in Kevin Street expressed satis-

faction with their catering facilities with just 24% expressing scope for improvement of main meals. Further investigation showed that Kevin Street provided a traditional main meals which students were happy with.

## PRICING STRUCTURE.

When the pricing structure was examined the external caterers overall were not significantly dearer than internal caterer. An assumption can be made from this, that it is possible to run a catering facility, which generates a profit, and with which students will express satisfaction and still get the service.

## FORUM INVESTIGATES A TWO YEAR COURSE IN C.O.M.A.D. ON SECURITY.

With the upsurge of crime in recent years an entire industry has evolved in a effort to combat losses through theft, fraud, fire and other crime related areas. An intrinsic part of this industry is security and as Forum was to discover C.O.M.A.D. are leading the field in this area. The College of Marketing and Design are the only course in the United Kingdom to run a course leading to a professional career in security. The only other college to run a similar course is the John J. College of Criminal Justice in New York.

### CERTIFICATE COURSE

Prior to 1978 C.O.M.A.D. ran a certificate course in The Principles of Distributive Management. This course catered for people working full-time in large retail outlets and provided the link between the shop floor and higher management. Overall the feedback from the course was excellent, but one area the course failed to address was the whole aspect of security. As a result of this the Prospectus of the course was widened to cater for this area, and out of this came the two year full-time certificate course in Business Studies and Security.



*John Vaughan" Students adopt a defensive role"*

### SECURITY ASPECTS

The aim of the course is to enable the participants to study the most advanced methods, techniques and equipment used in modern security science and to maximise efficiency in the areas of

loss through theft, fraud, fire and industrial waste. Some of the security aspects the course addresses are shop lifting, price switching, back door fiddles, pilfering, fraud, stolen cheques/credit cards, snatches, armed hold ups, bomb alerts, fire evacuation, accidents and protection of customer property.

### SELF DEFENCE

The course not only provides for the practical aspects of security but in addition it also incorporates management skills such as financial control, law, communication, interpersonal skills and computer science. The students also receive a comprehensive training the First Aid, fire fighting techniques, dog handling and self defence. According to John Vaughan full-time lecturer for the course, "the students are taught to adopt a defensive role, when dealing with altercations involving intruder or attackers." The students receive training in a "combination of the best of the Martial Arts." The students also receive training in Dog Handling, including patrolling and arrests. In addition the students spend their one afternoon a week in the Dublin based Fire Brigade Training Centre in Marino.

### FIRE ARMS

Although there is no fire arms



training on the course the students are taught weapons recognition and interpersonal skills which would help them to defuse a situation as distinct from exacerbating it. John Vaughan when asked about his personal opinion on fire-arms stated that he personally was against the proliferation of fire-arms as it could only lead to increased fatalities. He went on to say that several past pupils had come through armed robberies, without injuries.

### CAREERS

Graduates from the course have a wide range of careers to choose from ranging from the Security Forces to the Police Force, Commercial Security Firms, store detectives and control room monitors, as well as careers in the administration side of security and electronic security. While talking to the second years on the course, electronics lecturer, Peter Kelly explained that the class were undertaking a security project based on the C.O.M.A.D. building. The class had to design a close circuit televi-

sion security system for the college. The group which started with seventeen close circuit television, managed to cut it down to nine. The system they believe is more reliable, and an economic analysis shows that it is fifty per cent cheaper. The group intend to present a report to the Vocational Education Committee.

### JOB PROSPECTS

The entire second year had managed to obtain secure part-time employment in the security industry. None of the group were working as bouncers, and were quite indignant when the suggestion was raised. The students were working in hospitals, supermarkets, hotels and commercial security firms. John Vaughan full-time lecturer, explained that this course was one of the few courses in the country where demand exceeds the number of graduates. Understandably security is not everybody's cup of tea, but undoubtable, if you have what it takes an exciting and challenging career lies ahead.



# Construction Feature

Forum takes an In - Depth look at Bolton St. and its place in the Construction Industry in Ireland

## FIVE YEARS IN THE MAKING - The Bolton St College Extension

Meet the man who wanted to "juxtapose activities efficiently but in a manner which will provoke social and curricular interaction" when he set about designing the new extension at Bolton Street College. The words from the official introduction to the building which scraped in just ahead of the Government's Education cuts are those of architect Des McMahon.

"The site had nothing going for it," says Des. "There were seven or eight old industrial structures still standing, they were of various materials and the pits geometrically. It was a complete and absolute mess."

No problems when an architect is told to put 25 classrooms and 8 drawing studios into a project, he will find a way of doing it. It only takes a year of preliminary work, one year's actual design.

Then comes a pause, waiting for the final go-ahead - call it another year. Building is straightforward enough after all that but adds a further two years to the process. For these who have lost count the total is five years.

### £6m of taxpayers money

Believe it or not, that is fast-track for anything involving the Department of Education. The £6m of taxpayers' money



Des Mc Mahon - Chief Architect



Bolton Street College Extension

was let out of the State coffers only just before the portcullis came down with a gloomily solid clang.

Des takes wry pleasure from reporting that the architects appointed to oversee the NIHE's Phase II in Glasnevin were in position before Gilroy McMahon had a sniff of Bolton Street. Education Minister Mary O'Rourke has just confirmed that NIHE will remain stuck at Phase I for the foreseeable future.

Kevin Street also beat the cuts. But the Bishop Street project due to absorb both the College of Commerce in Rathmines and COMAD has been put on a very slow back burner. There it is joined by the four RTCs which were to brighten up Tallaght and points west.

### Performing Art

But Des McMahon was not to be denied the chance to put bricks and plaster on his desire to change the image of technical education. "Education is a performing art" he proclaimed, as he set about taking the institutional feel out of the Dublin Institute of Technology.

That's quite an undertaking. Remember that the main part of the college, which actually facades out on to Bolton Street is over 100 years old. It is less of a stage for a performing art and more like a racetrack in its lay-out. Its right-angle corridors put a subliminal emphasis on the fulfilment of a rigid time-table.

"Third level education is the individual pursuit of knowledge", according to the

architect. The knowledge is not found only in the set lectures. The hidden curriculum of student meeting student is also important in his vision. He believes it important that surveyors and printers are not permanently corralled with other printers and surveyors.

### Huge and Airy

The geography of the new extension at Bolton Street make it inevitable that they will encounter other disciplines... if only to ask for directions as they explore the place. The central social hub of the building is the foyer area which is huge and airy without being intimidating.

The Victorians who erected the four-square bulk of the original College would



Kevin Murnane



probably never have appreciated the full subtlety of Des McMahon's quest for elasticity in his use of space. The Students Union is down at the heart of the social area. The SU office has come out of the closet it occupied before to occupy a "high profile area": it can be seen from several angles.

### One heck of a party

From it radiate out a social area and the amphitheatre. It allows for the possibility of activity spilling out from the centre of for each area to be used for different activities. It could stage one heck of a party. Watch out for the sociable south light in the courtyard and the north light to keep the library and drawing studios shadow free.

It is all simple enough, in conversation at least. Then the phases from the brochure are laid bare. "Secondary incidents of vertical space penetration" become stairways. And the whole package is given an even more modern feel by the computer ports which decorate each classroom.

The availability of all the new space has cleared the way for some re-ordering of the old building. Heavy machinery is now in the basement where it should have been to start with. Mind you, the new arrangements have not been a cure-all. The gym is still on the floor where the unavoidable thumping of physical activity means that sport is confined to official breaks in the timetable.

### Welcome Room

Another difficulty is that everyone in the old section wants to be transferred to the new. The once sought-after Kinima lecture theatre no longer has the allure it used to have. Nevertheless, with students numbers more or less stable, the addition of 8,00 square metres of space has to represent welcome room to manoeuvre.

"Feedback is good," says Des modestly. "There seems to be a pride in the new facility. But the dirt of the place kills me." The only excuse he can see for this is the lack of ashtrays and tables to finish the job off properly. Why spoil the ship for a haporth of tar he wonders. And so do all of us.



Main new social area in the Bolton St. extension



Main Foyer area "Hugh and Airy"

## "99.5% of Graduates leave the country"

Kevin Murnane of the Surveying School staff tells the story of one former student who graduated a mere three years ago. As a mere girl she found a brick wall of unfriendly tradition preventing her breakthrough into the world of valuation and surveying.

However, the same girl took to a career in investment analysis for an Irish investment bank which now earns her at least twice the income of her former lecturers. The tale is told with admiration rather than envy as an exception to prove a rule.

The rule is that "99.5% of graduates leave the country" following the Yankee dollar of the Queen's shilling. The figure is not to be taken lightly coming from a discipline which takes pride in measuring to several points of decimals. The Geo-Surveying Technician course is the best example of this fixation with accuracy. "It is the most highly academic technician course in Ireland, perhaps the world."

"Their idea is that if you started at the North Pole and set out to circumnavigate the world, they would arrive back to the same spot to within the thickness of your little finger."

The school also produces quantity surveyors, building surveyors and construction technicians. There is also a crop of auctioneers, who qualify as technicians despite the pretensions to being a 'profession'.

The various courses now have one salient feature in common: it is now very rare for a graduate to stay in the country. The process starts during stints abroad for

summer jobs. One geo-surveyor has yet to return to Bolton Street to complete his course. He is earning so much in Australia that he cannot afford to take time off!

Kevin Murnane is philosophical about the exodus. "I am delighted that there is a job for them somewhere in the world. I am confident that they will eventually come back and set up in business here.

In the meantime he is constantly contacted by British employers asking for Bolton Street surveyors to service their building bonanza. He reckons that there are vacancies enough to absorb the next seven years of graduates.

Anyway, there is always somebody, somewhere in the world, investing in buildings.

## We only get the top from the Second level schools

This year there were 2,000 applications for 40 places in architecture. With so many to choose from the School of Architecture at Bolton Street must be getting a reasonable class of student.

"We only get the top from the second level schools," says head of the school Jack O'Keefe candidly. He contrasts this situation with the position in some other European countries.

Irish students are generally younger. Aspiring French architects are entitled to gain admission to a course if they obtain their bacalaureat. They would be appalled at the Irish 'Points Race'.

Jack O'Keefe has been told that Irish graduates can do the work of three Germans. He admits that they have had to do 'terrible' amounts of work to earn that reputation. The pressure does not end with the Leaving Cert.

Similar comments are applicable to both the Architecture degree course and the architectural Technician course. They also share a tendency for graduates to emigrate on completion.

Capable of doing the work of several Germans they are more than capable of commanding the earnings of several stay-at-home Irish workers. A figure of £14,000 sterling is a powerful incentive to the young, professional and upwardly mobile.

"Apart from the money, they can get

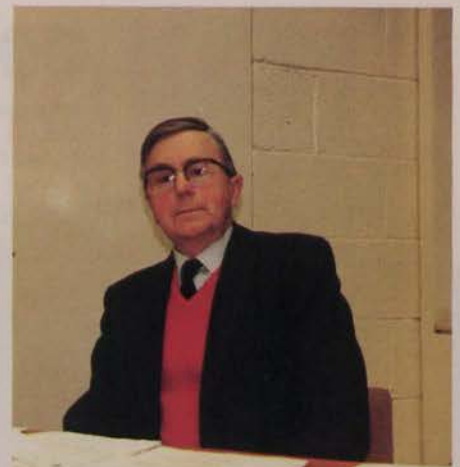
work responsibilities they would never get in Ireland." They are quickly doing much more than formulating details of projects. They quickly have to assume executive responsibility for dealing with suppliers, seeing that things happen beyond the drawing-board.

It has reached the embarrassing stage where jobs have arisen in Dublin and there has been no young graduates available to take them up. In future, Ireland could end up importing such talent when we come out of recession.

Their former teachers are disappointed that the nation is losing young people of such calibre. Jack O'Keefe feels that they would be creating employment for others if they could remain here.

The sensation is bitter-sweet, "but I recognise now that they definitely won't be coming back. I suppose it's better if they must go that they have high qualifications.

And he hopes that wherever they land they will recall the objectives of social betterment which were built into their course. "Architecture is not just a question of lines on a map."



*Jack O' Keefe " Responsibilities they would never get in Ireland "*

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# Building on Reality



*The new shopping development at St Stephens Green : Financial backing came from London.*

At least 16,00 jobs are set to go in the construction industry, according to the construction industry federation.

In a pre-Budget submission to the Government, the CIF has warned of the effect of a 23% cut in the Public Capital Programme.

They say that capital spending has been unfairly picked out for cuts over the years despite the fact that it accounts for only 15% of the total spend.

The submission suggests that any savings will be small balanced against dole payments to jobless building workers and a drop in tax revenue.

Construction investment has declined from 16% in 1980 of total economic activity to less than half that figure in the current year.

The CIF report that half of the country's construction workers are already out of

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work as the Government overlooks one of the quickest routes to job creation.

They have called for changes in the business environment to help the private sector absorb the numbers available for employment.

These measures include a series of tax incentives and changes to encourage investment in tourist facilities and commercial construction.

In the private sector, the Federation quote a 44% decline in house completions since 1981 because of lower demand and lower incomes.

The abolition of various State sponsored grants and loans has taken about £116m of public expenditure out of circulation from home building.

Worst of all, the industry is reeling from the reduction of mortgage tax relief, which is described as a most damaging policy.

## Trade(ing) Places

**"Apprentices are not dumped on the labour market. It is a condition of their apprenticeship that they have a job to start with,"** explains Matt Farrell for the uninitiated. **Matt is the College vice-principal responsible for the Bolton Street apprentices.**

There are over 1,000 of them involved in construction related trades alone. They are expected to be in attendance at least one day per week. Unlike the remainder of the courses in Bolton Street, apprenticeship makes no attempt to fill a set number of places. The system is self-regulating such with the demands of industry. Each apprentice is sponsored by a firm.

### Mass sponsorship

As a result, construction related courses have suffered something of a dip in numbers during the 1980s, reflecting sustained recession. Attempts by AnCO to put the system into overdrive by mass sponsor-

ship of apprentices only resulted in the unheard phenomenon of unemployment among the trainees.

Brickworkers, plasterers, cabinet workers, painters, decorators, carpenters, plumbers and construction steel workers are all plied with their respective trades in the Linenhall across the street from the main Bolton Street complex. All have already found a niche of some sort in the building industry.

Therefore, the urge to uproot and head for the mail boat is less strong in the Linenhall...although it is by no means unknown. That rates of pay are good across the water is no secret and they compare very well with domestic wages. As Matt Farrell points out, it was always traditional anyway for craftsmen to take to the roads - think about the origins of the word journeyman.

### Feminine Touch

There are other traditions. It is a male-dominated world. Painting and decorating is the only area so far susceptible to the feminine touch. The practice of recruiting less by interview and more by family connection persists as the accepted, benign face of nepotism.

Time-serving remains an important component of apprenticeship - just as important as the mere passing of exams. Nevertheless, the introduction of the National Craft Certificate to mark the end of four years symbolises a modern tuning up of the old system.

### European Craftsmen

The NCC award will, if anything, reinforce the growing trend for young craftsmen to look for jobs abroad. Matt shrugs - "We are in Europe. What's wrong with having a



**Matt Farrell: "Rates of pay are good across the water"**

look at conditions elsewhere."

Indeed, he seems to share the pride evinced by staff elsewhere in the College that their pupils should be in such demand. Frankly, "its nice to feel involved in the production of high level European craftsmen."

## The Student Trend

**Higher Education Authority figures support the impression that qualified third level Irish people are leaving the country en masse.**

While figures for those who finished this summer are not available, the data on the class which left in 1986 underlines the trend.

Of all degrees, architecture is the one most likely to be a passport to a passport with over half of graduates leaving.

### Few Jobs

The average emigration rate is one-fifth of degree holding graduates, but 5796 of architects left as the construction industry offered few jobs.

The picture is less clear for what the HEA describes as subdegree holders; but their report lists just 143 of the 1986 graduates as finding technician posts in construction.

For some informed impressions, Forum turned to Billy Bolger of W and J Bolger who built the new extension at Bolton Street.

He reports a marked decline in opportunities at home with the firm having just two apprentices where they used to sponsor at least a dozen.

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He confesses that anyone emerging from the DIT at the end of the college year is most unlikely to find a job in his firm.

**Very Poor**

"The prospects of work with Bolgers are very poor. There is very little building work on and it's the same with most of the contractors."

This situation has spawned some very competitive tendering for the few jobs which are available, cutting margins for contractors right down to the bone.

By the way, the erection of the Bolton Street extension has given several products of the college the chance to earn a few bob at home.

Construction technician Martin Lang was contract manager, Ciaran O'Brien of construction economics was site surveyor assisted by Sean Walsh.

# S.A.D.D. DAY FOR MARY MOONEY !

**"We are not a protest organisation".**

So says Michelle Howard of SADD, the Students against the Destruction of Dublin. And when the flame-haired Bolton Street third year speaks, you had better believe it. Because it comes straight from a passionate heart.



*Pictured above" 500 Yds of cotton cloth which half bankrupted the Students Union"*

**"We are not a protest organisation".**

Maybe not, but we are still prepared to wave banners at meetings and abandon project work in order to persuade Dublin Corporation councillors that knocking down great swathes of the city is not the best way to exercise their responsibilities.

**"We are not a protest organisation".**

Oh yea? Well what about the 500 yards of cotton cloth which half bankrupted the Students Union. It was used for that lens-catching demo, wrapped around the City Hall.

Not being a protest organisation can also mean putting

your name on a list of people available at the drop of a phone call to occupy some further example of Georgian architecture fallen on hard times with hard-hearted developers. It doesn't always work. The sit-in at 29 Clare Street came too late to save the house and its rococco staircase.

But the success of the campaign on the Inner Tangent Route has given SADD great heart. They take some of the credit for the protests which encouraged Mary Mooney to break with the Fianna Fail party line.

SADD are now recruiting in other Colleges of the DIT, not to mention Trinity, UCD and the

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NCAD. They welcome anyone from any discipline. Nevertheless the group has its origins in Architecture, in Bolton Street. Adopting the Clanbrassil Street cause was a partly professional pre-occupation to start with.

Architecture students such as Derek Lewis and Michael Martin were roped in to supply RESCUE with alternatives for Clanbrassil Street. It was adopted as a class project, and spawned the exhibition which was on view in the College up to recently.

They feel that they have not harmed their already tenuous job prospects here in Dublin. "The Corporation does not employ any architects anyway," they chorus. No, they employ road engineers, people who trample on the Corpo's disregarded planners. People who have no aesthetic sense and no street credibility.

This is what they tell you. That Dublin Corporation are good at building houses. They are good at parks as well. And they are fierce hot on roads. What they lack is the vision and common sense to weld the lot into an organic whole. In following the dictates on the road engineers Dublin is following the mistakes made years ago in cities like Bremen. And at least Bremen had excuses provided by the flattening excesses of Allied Bomber Command.

"We were better briefed than the councillors", says Michelle of the Clanbrassil Street affair. She believes that many of the local representatives prefer to be blissfully unaware of anything that is not on their own particular patch. In these circumstances, councillors are just one more target for the environmental education and awareness which is at the heart of SADD's raison d'etre.

They are planning a major exhibition for the Millennium. Seminars and walkabouts to such tourist attractions as derelict are also on the menu. "We'll still have to maintain an amount of pressure," promises the chairperson, "and you can't always be polite".... But they are not a protest organisation.

## SURVEYING THE LONDON-SCENE

There is no Association of Bolton Street Surveyors in Ireland. However, there is no shortage for the ABSS in Britain. They have four official meetings each year in the re-

spectable surroundings of the Irish Club in Eaton Square, with a couple of less formal bashes in assorted public houses.

In between meetings there is still no shortage of old college mates to rub shoulders with. ABSS luminary Evelyn Kelly reports that two of the twelve surveyors in the small firm where she works are from Bolton Street. More of them are arriving with each new graduation to check out the South of England building boom.

Some of them are, frankly, wet behind the ears according to Evelyn who graduated 18 months ago. They don't grasp that one very good reason for the boom is the lack of accommodation in the British capital. The old hands are happy enough to find a bed for Irish graduates coming over for an interview - but would rather they didn't make a habit of it.

### NO RACE PREJUDICE.

On the work front, the market for surveyors at least is "buoyant". There is no race prejudice evident against the Irish. "They are also less prejudiced against women," says Evelyn. No one in the construction industry has made her feel like a freak, although she is the only female surveyor based in her Oxford Street office.

She can earn enough for a comfortable standard of living, enough for a flat in Wimbledon. A tax rate of 2796 makes thought of home less tinged with nostalgia than they might otherwise be. New graduates can expect to start on over £8,000 - sterling. By the end of the first year they should have added another £2,000 to that figure.

Job mobility in the young professionals is high as they search for the perfectly rounded hole in which to act the round peg. Evelyn makes the point strongly that the salaries have to be earned. The training of the Dublin Institute of Technology has a good

reputation for producing workers who are ready to take responsibility.

### BRITISH COLLEGES ARE MAKING MOVES.

Careerwise, the ABSS offers a father figure in chairman Martin O'Doherty who left the alma mater in 1975 (gasp!). They organise talks advising candidates preparing for the certificate of competence from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Building contractors with a vacancy will sometimes use the good offices of the Association for recruit-

ment.

Evelyn Kelly sees no immediate prospect of the boom ending. There is still a great deal of commercial development in the general London region, even if the demands of the residential sector in the city are tending to level out. There are still more jobs than there are qualified people to fill them, although British colleges are making moves to fill that gap.

"The streets may not be paved with impossibly precious metals, but we are doing alright."

## THE CUSTOMS HOUSE DOCKS DEVELOPMENT

Louise Crowe Final Year Surveying Student looks at the Customs House Docks Development.

On Wednesday October 28th, a consortium comprising Hardwicke Ltd., Mc Inerney Properties Plc and the British Land Company was announced the winner of the contract to finance and build the new 27 acre Custom House Docks site in Dublin. The proposed development includes offices for the new international financial services centre, 200 residential units, a 300 room hotel, three museums, shops, restaurants, pubs, a cinema and entertainment centre and car parking for 1,800 vehicles underground. The project is seen as the largest single development in Dublin for more than a century and should

therefore have a significant influence on the construction industry.

According to Mr. Mark Kavanagh, managing director of Hardwicke Ltd., work will commence in January with the building programme scheduled to take five years. It is anticipated that up to 3,500 jobs will be created both directly and indirectly during the construction process. It is the hope of the Customs House Docks Development Authority that the present proposal will act as a flagship and the surrounding area will also be developed in the years ahead.

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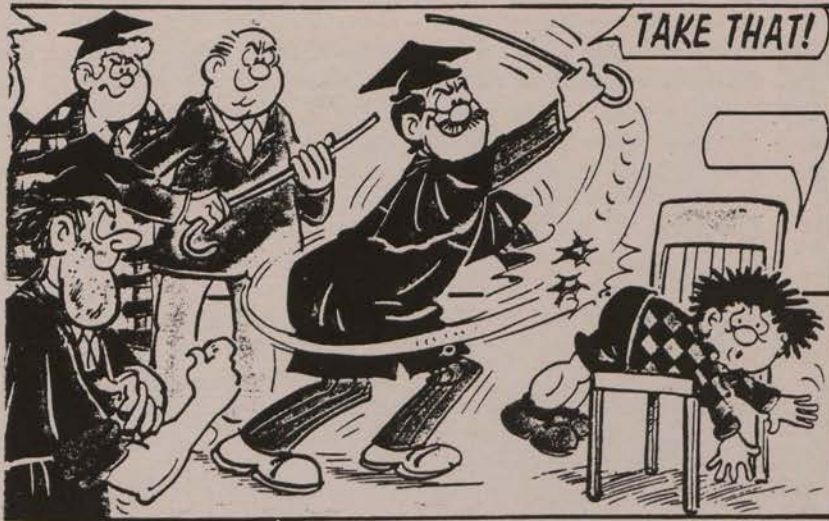
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# "EVERY UNION'S BACKBONE: CLASS REPS"

AN ANALYSIS OF THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM  
BY AIDAN J. KERINS.

Nearly all colleges in Ireland have a class-rep system in operation. Within the Dublin Institute of Technology, we are no different and in fact many people will say that our 'rep-assemblies' have worked exceptionally well. However, as with all structures, there is always room for improvement.



Denis - But I'm Class Rep!

element of harassment/victimisation towards certain class members.

If a class rep is reluctant to approach a lecturer, which can be perfectly understandable, they should not hesitate in approaching the local students union president for assistance.

Many academic staff will take a rep's point on board and accept them as a form of constructive criticism. It would be

This year, at the Bolton Street Students Union Annual General Meeting, the body of more than 600 members in attendance voted unanimously to mandate the locally elected union officers that they should streamline and yet strengthen the Class Representatives role even further.

## MID-OCTOBER

Each class up to 50 students is entitled to elect one rep' for classes of more than 50 the election of two is allowed. Class reps should be elected and registered in their students union office by mid October.

In many classes throughout the institute, certain group tend to belittle the class reps role, and as such, often elect a class member 'against their will' or 'without them knowing.' Although, in fairness, incidents such as this have become extremely infrequent.

The rep's function is not solely to attend union convened meetings and then hold class meetings to report back as to what's happening around the college: even though this function in itself is important. The reps role is a much broader one.

Class meetings should be held at least once every fortnight. At these, forae, class members should voice all their complaints or questions. Class reps will not have answers or solutions to all points raised, but they can then act on finding out exactly the problems that exist and the class feeling in relation to them.

## INITIAL REPRESENTATIONS

In solving problems, the rep should make the initial representations to college staff or lecturers. For example, if a lecture theatre

has no heating, or is not capable of seating the full class due to overcrowding, then the rep should approach the relevant department head, or assistant head, in the first instant and seek a solution. The same applied with academic or lecturer related problems.

During recent discussions with local Dublin Institute of Technology Teachers Union of Ireland representatives, the whole area as to how best a class rep can approach a problem that a class is having with a lecturer was discussed. It seems that if possible, it is best if the class rep. can approach the lecturer on a 'one to one' basis if a situation does arise. By situation, it is meant that if a lecturer has covered a course area too quickly and left half the class in the dark, or if the lecturers attendance is not adequate or if there is an

naive though to expect all academics to accept such complaints in good faith. The class rep should always state at the offset that they are speaking as "Class Rep" and the views being expressed are that of the class in general. If there is no change, or if a reps. requests are not complied with in a reasonable time, they should then take their issues directly to the Students Union, furnishing them with all relevant details.

## SPEED OF ACTION

It is extremely disheartening when a class rep. approaches the students union to complain about a problem with a lecturer, after the exam results are out and half the class have failed in that particular subject. Speed of action is of utmost importance in cases such as this.

In summation, the class reps role is a very



broad one and it is probably still growing. Liaison between the Students Union Executive and the class probably being the most important function though.

Remember it is you who is the "consumer" of the service, in this case the provision of education, within the D.I.T., so you are entitled to the best service possible. As such, never be reluctant to raise problems with your class rep and get them to push for satisfaction.

### CLASS REP AND DEPARTMENTAL HEAD MEETINGS

In Bolton Street since 1984, a formal structure has been operating whereby the class reps meet on an informal basis with the relevant department head on several occasions during the year.

A motion to the College Council by the then student union President, Mr. Felix McKenna, who is presently Chairman of Dublin Institute of Technology Student Union Ltd., gained the support of the College Principal, Mr. Michael O'Donnell and was passed. The spirit of the motion was that as problems arise in courses during the year, the most effective way to deal with them is to get the class reps in an informal meeting with the department head and hold a 'round-table' discussion.

The meetings obtain a full attendance of class reps and they have proved to be very successful. The recent Engineering Department meeting, where over 25 reps met with Department Head Mr. Oliver McNulty, lasted for more than three hours and a very broad based discussion was held.

Problems as diverse as bad lecturing methods, exam timetables, lecture theatre size and validity of Trinity awarded degrees were all discussed. Mr. McNulty has praised the meetings as "being of benefit to both students and staff in the college."

At the moment other Dublin Institute of Technology Colleges are in the process of formalising similar frameworks for their own colleges. Mr. Daithi O'Connor President College of Marketing and Design has had several meetings with the local college principal on this issue.

There is no doubt that many of the problems that were repetitive in previous years have now been fully solved. As one final year surveying student said "It is a great change to be able to go these meetings and have no complaints, unlike students in the course prior to this channel being opened up."

## FORUM CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

With the festive season upon us again, Forum took to the streets and put the spotlight on some of the famous celebrities and well known people in society, asking them to air their views on "Christmas" and the many festivities associated with it.

So, if the thoughts of Christmas bring terror, delight, joy or sheer panic to your heart read on and see how the stars react.

### MAXI

When Forum asked Maxi, presenter on R.T.E. Radio 2 what she thought of Christmas, she summed it up in a couple of words "Christmas is a time for reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the new year. It is also a time to be spent with family and friends". It you want to get her a Christmas present, she wants "a very large diary" as she can never remember where she should be. Maxi won't need her diary to remind her where she'll be on Christmas Day. "I will be spending the morning with my parents. In the afternoon I will be hosting a show called "Maxi and Friends" on Radio 2, playing requests for all the people working on Christmas day, keeping the Country going.



Maxi: Hosting "Maxi and Friends" on Christmas day.

### PAT KENNY

Forum also approached Pat Kenny, presenter of "Day by Day" on Radio 1 and Today Tonight. Pat thinks "Christmas is great" as he gets off work for days. When asked what he would like for Christmas he replied "a magic wand so I can change all my old records into Compact Discs, as they may never be changed to compact discs by the manufacturers".

Pat intends to spend Christmas at home with his sister and family.



Pat Kenny: "A Magic Wand"



Aidan J. Kerins; "Off to Cuba

### AIDAN J. KERINS

When Forum approached the D.I.T. Inter Student Committee Chairperson Aidan J. Kerins and asked him to express his views on Christmas, he replied "I think Christmas is a strange experience for D.I.T. Students. We are lulled into a false sense of security by thinking we can have a semi break from academic work, and then usually two days before classes break up, at least five lecturers arrive in with projects to



# FORUM CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

be done for New Year".

Mr. Kerins when quizzed on what he wanted for Christmas replied "I would like to think that everyone from the D.I.T. has a good Christmas holiday and can avoid any disasters during the break". He had an interesting reply to the question as to where he would be spending Christmas. "Contrary to an article in "Phoenix", I do not have any plans to spend Christmas in Cuba!" Aidan hopes to get away for a weeks holiday, but has no plans as of yet.

## MICHAEL O'DONNELL

Forum approached Michael O'Donnell, Director of the Dublin Institute of Technology. Michael O'Donnell feels Christmas is a "Time of joy, a family occasion where people have the opportunity to meet and relax together". When asked what he would like for Christmas Mr. O'Donnell said that he would like to see a "greater improvement in the employment situation, giving an opportunity for graduates to put their talents to good use at home". Mr. O'Donnell is returning to his family home in Kerry for Christmas holidays.



Michael O'Donnell: "More Employment for graduates"

## LIAM FITZGERALD T.D

Liam Fitzgerald T.D. and member of the V.E.C. intends to spend Christmas in Dublin with his family. His reply when asked about Christmas was "it is difficult to find time with my family, so at Christmas we try to spend as much time as possible together". Mr. Fitzgerald feels that Christmas is a "wonderful occasion, a season of good will which brings out the best in people". The best Christmas Liam Fitzgerald could receive is a peaceful Christmas sitting by the fire with his family.



Liam Fitzgerald: "Christmas by the fire"

## MARY O'ROURKE

The Minister for Education Mary O'Rourke feels Christmas is a joyous time of celebration and time for families to be together. When the Minister was asked what she would like for Christmas she replied "the best Christmas present I could have is a quiet peaceful Christmas with my family". The Minister would also like "Peace and tranquility in the country for the festive season". The Minister indicated that she would be spending Christmas in Athlone with her family and friends.



Mary O'Rourke: "Peace and Tranquility"

## Grace McCue, Deputy President Kevin Street, talks to Walter Cantwell.

Kevin Street College would certainly not have survived this long without the continuous input of work from Porters, Maintenance staff and Cleaning staff. Credit is long over due to these workers without whom this college would certainly not function as it does. Mr. Walter Cantwell, better known as the infamous Wally recalls some of the memories of his past sixteen years working in the college.

His position was to work with the tradesmen and to maintain various areas in the college. His starting pay was a mere £20 a week but as he claims "£20 in those days would go a long way, what I earn now lasts no length of time."

Q. How old were you when you started work Wally?  
 A. "I'll give you an idea, I had black hair and I didn't wear glasses I'll be sixty next year but I certainly don't feel it. I'm still free and single, I do all my own washing and ironing but I can't light a fire, well not in my flat anyway, I'd blow the boiler."

Before joining the squad in Kevin Street, Wally worked on various ships in the Irish, the British and the Swedish Navy. He has seen many countries and he is never short of a tale to tell.

"I was a boxer in my former years, they called me Rinty, they did, after the famous boxer Rinty Monaghan. I could lift weights.... no bother and I could take anyone on."

Wally recalls a trip to South America, "One of the lads from the ship was with me, and he says Rinty, do you want some of this pudding. I says where did you get that from and he pointed to a tree. Well there was a net with pudding hanging from the tree surrounded by flies.....hundreds of them and he was eating it. I nearly got sick!

Q. Wally, how do you get on with other maintenance staff?

A. "Ah sure many of the lads I started with are now gone, I have worked with a few strange characters over the years but I get on well enough with everyone.....I remember one year, one of our lads was out the back sunbathing, relaxing, eyes closed when he got a nasty awakening.....One of the other lads (no names mentioned) chucked a large bucket of cold water over him, those were the days!!

The present maintenance squad include Maurice, Christy, Brendan, Frank, Jimmy and of course Wally. Just recently the first woman joined the team, Lily. She has already proved to be a good worker and as Wally explained, she is well able to handle any cheek she receives from the lads.

"It reminds me of when I was in the Navy" says Wally "when the Wrens were taken aboard the ship."

His co-worker and partner in grime is Mr. Jimmy Brown. Jimmy started his job in the college about six months before Wally and both keep an eye on each other to make sure the work is done.

TO BE CONTINUED.

# SPORTS DESK

## PARACHUTE JUMP WITH THE COLLEGE OF COMMERCE.

A group of students organised by Cathy McGovern, will be taking the plunge on Sunday 13th December. The jump is being held in aid of the Rape Crisis Centre. Each student has raised £100 to take the jump and we wish them all the best - although we hear that the cut backs have now affected the Ambulance service.....!

## A.I.B. COLLEGES CUP - SOUTHERN SECTION

Rathmines 2  
Cork RTC 1  
S. Bushell, M. Connell.  
No. 10

Sub: J. O'Rourke for G. Malong - Halfway thru 2nd half.  
Cork scored 5 minutes in the second half.

On a day where the elements dictated the pace both Rathmines and Cork contrived to serve up a competitive albeit unattractive game of football. The first half was a dull affair producing no goals and a lot of hard tackles. Cork had the edge with a lot of nice work down both wings but got little change out of the Rathmines defence.

Going into the second half both teams had it all to play for. Indeed, only five minutes of the half had elapsed when Cork took the lead. The Cork No. 10 somehow found space for himself amongst five or more Rathmines defender and coolly put the ball past the keeper. Rathmines, renowned for their comeback ability, lifted their game and scored the goal shooting through a group of players from the edge of the box. Cork RTC almost scored on the rebound and continued to the Rathmines goal for the next 10 minutes. However, Rathmines settled down to play some nice football and got their reward in the 82nd minute. Mark Connell of Rathmines latched on to a long free-kick from his sweeper Alan Kehoe and forced the ball over the line. Cork with the exception of one free kick never looked like equalising. At the end of a hard 90 minutes it was Rathmines who came away, deservedly, with the two points.

College of Commerce 2  
Bolton Street 2  
Scorers:

Mark Howell, Colm De Borca, Joe O'Rourke, Roy Robinson

In a very tame first half an hour, shots or goals were few and far between with Rathmines being the better side. In the 37th minutes, good harrassing by Rod O'Callaghan forced the Bolton Street defence into a mistake and the ball ran loose to Mark Howell who coolly slotted the ball to the net.

The 2nd half started with Bolton Street on the attack but the Rathmines defence held firm. 15 minutes from the end, a long clearance out of the College of Commerce defence was flicked on by Mark Howell for Joe O'Fourke to run onto and place the ball past the Bolton Street goal-keeper with ease. Immediately after the restart Bolton Street were rewarded a penalty which Colm De Burca scored from. With virtually the last touch of the game, Ray Robinson scored from a close range header to level the scores. This was a game that the College of Commerce should really have won because they put in a lot of effort and were not properly rewarded for an excellent performance.

## College of Commerce 1 Carlow RTC 2

The College of Commerce were behind after 5 minutes when the Carlow left winger latched onto a loose ball to score. The rest of the half, was spent in the Carlow end of the pitch by the College of Commerce. Seven minutes from half time, Rathmines were rewarded a penalty for hand ball in the penalty area. Dave Savage duly scored.

The College of Commerce bombarded the Carlow goal for the full 45 minutes of the second half without any luck. Chance after chance went begging as the Rathmines forwards touch deserted them in front of goals. With only 2 minutes of the match remaining, disaster struck for the College of Commerce. The Carlow centre forward scored with a header completely against run of play. Again this is a game that the College of Commerce should never have lost, even though their performance wasn't up to the standard they displayed against Bolton Street.

## C.O.M.A.D. MOUNTAINEERING SOC. THE HILLS ARE ALIVE!

COMAD Mountaineering and Hill walking society began what promises to be a year

of hectic activity with an entertaining and informative lecture by Mr. Paul McGuckian on Thursday, 12th November.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. President Keane welcomed all members of the society both new and old and briefly outlined forthcoming events. Mr. McGuckian, himself a veteran of many strenuous climbs, continually emphasised the need for GROUP co-operation and the importance of collective assistance rather than individual flair and exhuberance. He also contented that all equipment be of the highest standards, emphasising that as far as mountaineering is concerned quality is of much greater importance than price. Mr. McGuckian concluded his speech with some amusing anecdotes concerning his own climbing experiences.

On Sunday, 15th November a large contingent of COMAD mountaineers partook in an enjoyable hike in Djouce Woods, Co Wicklow.

Programming Supplies Officer, Mr. A.J. Gormley expressed satisfaction at the number and enthusiasm of the members.

## GOLF CLUB NEWS

The first of three Leinster Universities Competitions took place at the Castle Golf Club on 16th November. In spite of the bad conditions the scoring was still good. The Bolton Street team fared particularly well and filled three of the first five positions. Gary Bowes (68) and Clive Foot (68) finished third and fourth respectively with Ronan Kelleher shooting 74 to win best gross.

The next Leinster Universities' Competition takes place in February in Elm Park but before Christmas a student v. staff match will take place.

## BEARS VICTORIOUS IN GALWAY

The Bolton Bears kept their unbeaten record and their Gleeson Cup hopes alive with a well deserved win over Galway R.T.C. in Galway on Wednesday 27th November. The score was Bolton Bears 12 Galway R.T.C. 4.

In a tough match the Bears pack showed their domination in the loose and set up some very good possession for their fine set of backs who ran the ball at every opportunity. Their hard work paid off and out-half Peter O'Flynn scored two tries which were both converted by right wing Patrick Garrick. The Galway try came from their Connact under 20 interpro, Fintan Finan.

# FROM RAG WEEKS TO RICHES

Wanna be a star?

Wanna have a whole lotta fun?

Wanna make money for charity?

Then join the Rag Week Bonanza in 1988.....

read on thrill seekers.

"Raising money for charity ain't no easy thing, but if it can be done at all, its worth a try". So says Paul Prenter DIT Ents Officer on the possibility of organising a joint Rag Week to raise money for charity next year.

In the DIT so far, Rag Weeks have tended to be about skiving off lectures for a week,

getting pissed and generally having a good time. Nothing wrong with that; but the element to fund raising for charity has been sadly lacking. Only two Colleges, COMAD and Cathal Brugha Street, have in the past few years, made any serious attempt at raising money for charity.

"Its sad but true", says Aidan

Kerins, President, Bolton Street Students Union. "We have been less than successful in the fundraising area. Queens University Students Union have a hugh Rag Week which not only raises a lot of money for charity, but also gets good publicity for the Students Union. There is no reason why we couldn't do the same".

1988 will also be Dublin's millenium year when a lot of attention will be focused on Dublin. As Dublin Corporation's third level Institute, the DIT should make some contribution towards the millenium festivities. It would also be a fruitful way of raising money to some of Dublin's deserving charities.

"They key things we need are people", says Paul Prenter. "We need people to sell Rag Mags, collect money and generally be game for a laugh for whatever stunts are going".

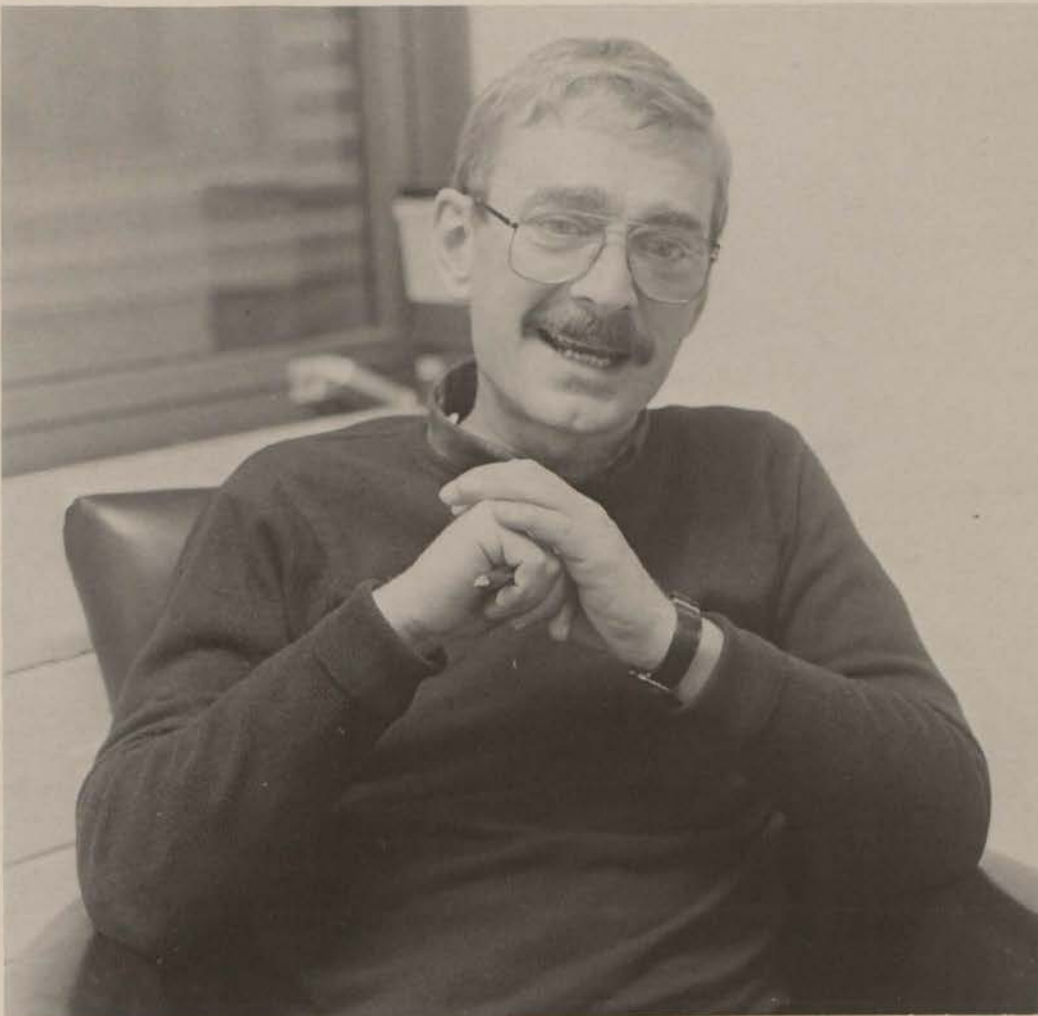
So what is planned and how will it be organised?

"I've already asked local Ents. Officers to set up Rag Committees to try to get people involved", says Paul. "I think overall we should run a number of specific events, one each day of Rag Week and then let each local college do its own thing". Events discussed so far include a Rag Mag to be sold in the city centre, a fun-run in Phoenix Park, a Folk Festival and Inter College Pub-Quiz. Students in the College of Catering are considering trying to make the biggest sausage-roll in Ireland and then raffling it off for charity! The possibility of running a joint Rag Ball has also been discussed.

"However, local rag week parties are very popular and successful and it remains to be seen how this should be handled", says Paul.

The actual amount of money to be raised will obviously depend on the events planned; the enthusiasm and the people. "I think we should pick a target of money to aim for and work towards that. While the target should be substantial it should also be realistic", says Paul.

*Any one interested in getting involved in Rag Week or if you have any ideas for stunts, etc., then contact your local Student Union Office.*



## RUNAWAY TRAIN

A tough convict, kept in solitary for 5 years, is returned to regular prison life. Two days later he escapes with a younger prisoner, closely followed by the less-than-gentle warder. The scene is set on a train whose driver has died from a heart attack. John Voight plays the leading role to perfection and while the plot is slightly unimaginative, the excellent acting more than compensates.

This captivating thriller is definitely recommended.

*John Voight as 'Manny' in Runaway Train.*



## A CHILDS CHRISTMAS IN WALES

A Christmas musical based on the story of Dylan Thomas - adapted for the stage by Jeremy Brooks and Mitchell.

This magical account of the poetry own childhood, and of Christmas in a small town where everyone knows everyone elses business has become a modern classic.

Well worth a visit.

## "FACE TO FACE"

are a new up and coming band on the Dublin scene. They have been together just one year and are hoping to hit the big time soon.

Kevin Smith, keyboard and Mick Heffernan, electronic drums were members of 'Casablanca' and Colm Goodall, rhythm guitar who also manages the band was a former member of the 'Miami Showband'. Both Rory O'Connor, lead guitar and Liam, bass guitar have played

with various other bands. Their approach is very professional and they really know how to get a crowd going. They play everything from Bon Jovi to Sting and Phil Collins and their adaptation of "Roxanne" by the 'Police' and 'In The Air Tonight' by Phil Collins are excellent. They perform a lot of their own songs and at the moment are in the middle of

recording their own single "Son of a Gun" which will be released in January, so look out for that.

One criticism I have to make and that is that their sets are very predictable but that didn't stop me from going to see them 3 times in ONE week! They have regular gigs in Gibneys, Malahide on Mondays for all us



## CAT PEOPLE

Irena, a beautiful young woman, joins her brother in New Orleans, where she learns the truth of her family's heritage and the awful destiny that lies ahead.

Natassia Kinski plays the leading role excellently, while the tension built up throughout is quite tangible. The story told of Irena is very sad, torn between destiny and morality.

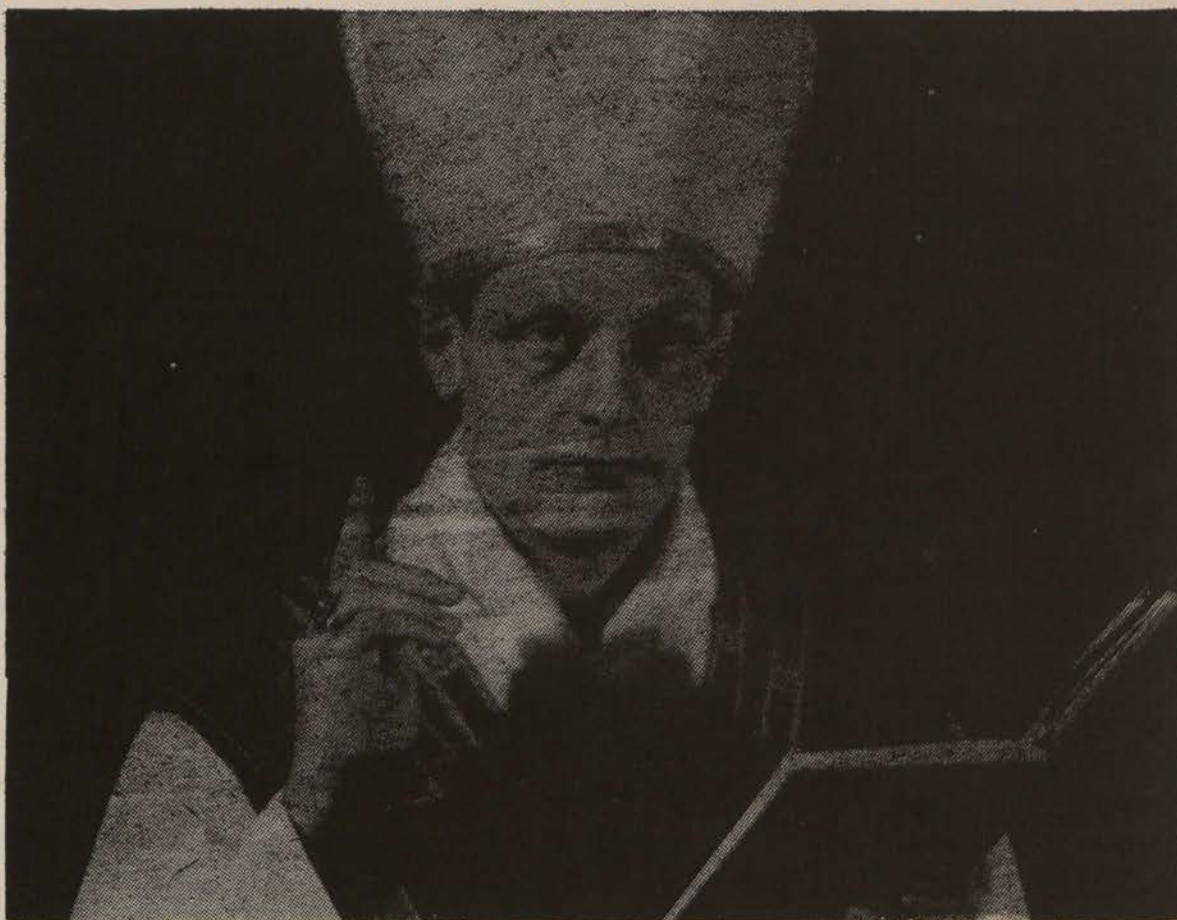
A classic tragedy. Recommended with an excellent plot.

poor college students which is free. They play Saints in Howth on Wednesday, Newry Thursdays, Joe Mayze Skerries on Fridays, and Drogheda on Sundays. They have a good sense of humour and only expect you to do one thing and that is to enjoy yourself. It has been said that they are well on their way to being the best live band on the Irish scene today. *Gloria Fearon.*

## BROWN- BREAD

This is an account of the day in the life of three 'Dublin Heads' who decided to kidnap a bishop. The play, written by Roddy Doyle, a school teach in Kilbarrack, was first performed in the S.F.X. Hall and then in the Olympia Theatre. To be fair, the play was extremely funny and the audience in the Olympia laughed heartily throughout. The acting also was first class with an exceptional performance from Brendan Gleeson

who played the father of one of the kidnapers. One criticism which could be levelled however is that the characters' portrayal while being funny, failed to show any of the depth of intelligence and feeling of working class people. An over use of Anglo-Saxon vocabulary enhanced this view. A criticism such as this might be undeserved as the play was not intended for the large audiences it has achieved when it was written.



## SARCOPHAGUS

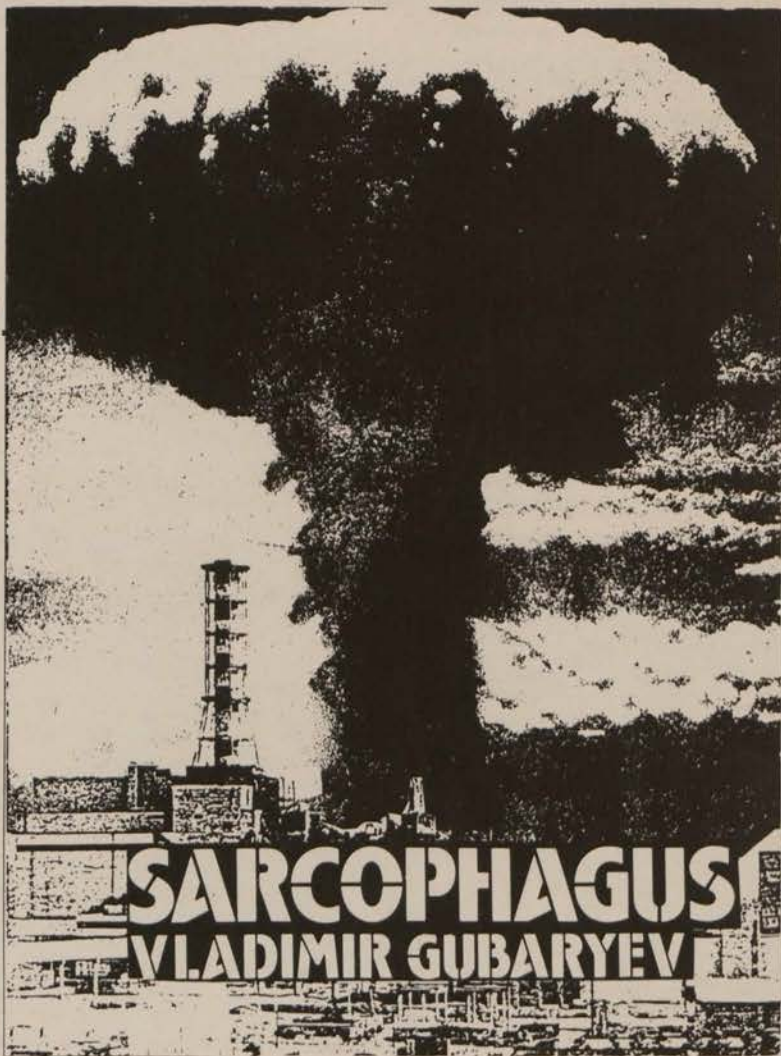
By VLADIMIR  
GUBARYEV

Set in a Isolation Clinic receiving victims of the explosion at the Nuclear Power Station at Chernobyl (USSR). This moving play takes up to the heart of the disaster and into the heart of a terrifying new human predicament.

Author, Gubaryev, Science Editor of Pravda, was sent to cover Chernobyl and was the first journalist on the scene. His ex-

perience there was so devastating that he found straight news reporting to be inadequate. He felt compelled to speak directly to an audience and the result was Sarcophagus. The author has fused science and art to produce an astounding piece of theatre.

This play should definitely be seen.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I have been in Bolton Street for the past 2 years, experiencing the overcrowded and poor facilities that prevailed. I was delighted with the overall improvements in college facilities that the opening of the new extension brought, especially with regard to the excellent social areas.

While recognising that these areas are not fully furnished (as yet) I was greatly annoyed with the total disregard students have shown for the area, especially concerning the amount of litter left lying around. Surely students of this day and age are capable of disposing of their litter in an appropriate way.

Hopefully the situation will improve with the arrival of the new furniture.

Yours faithfully  
Helen O'Sullivan

Dear Editor,

I would like to draw your readers attention to the 'inhumane' conditions that exist in the C.O.M.A.D canteen and art/design areas. The temperature in the canteen approaches tropical levels at rush times. Smoking makes the situation worse, but is not the sole cause for the lack of oxygen.

Furthermore, the art and design area is a glue sniffers paradise with several aromas of different volatile liquids floating around the area; posing a major health hazard to both students and staff in the area.

When are these problems going to be sorted out by the Dublin Institute of Technology powers that be.

Yours faithfully  
Dave Dwyer  
C.O.M.A.D.

Editors Reply,  
Sir,

Well actually a motion was put down by C.O.M.A.D. Students Union president Daithi O'Connor to the College Council in relation to this problem.

The V.E.C. at their last meeting have referred the whole matter to their building officer, John Murphy for action. We will get in touch with John in January and find out the plans for the installation of extractor fans or another ventilation system and a progress report will be carried in the next edition of Forum.

Editor.

Dear Editor,

I have been in Bolton St. for the past two years, experiencing the overcrowding and poor facilities that prevailed. I was delighted with the overall improvement in college facilities that the opening of the new extension brought, especially with regard to the excellent social areas.

While recognising that these areas are not yet fully furnished, I was greatly annoyed with the total disregard students have shown for the area especially concerning the amount of litter left lying around. Surely students of this day and age are capable of disposing of their litter in an appropriate way.

Hopefully the students will improve with the arrival of the new furniture.

Yours sincerely,  
Helen O'Sullivan, 2nd Architecture.

Dear Editor,

With regard to the advertisement in the November edition of FORUM, concerning the D.I.T. Logo Competition, I wish to draw attention to the confusion caused by the advertisement closing date, "October 30th 1987".

I would be grateful if some clarification could be given on this point.  
Yours sincerely,  
Brendan Lang,  
Kevin St.

Well Brendan, unfortunately we do not give cash prizes for spotted errors in FORUM (Much to the relief of our Administrative Officer). However we do appreciate the letter. In fact the closing date should have read "December 30th 1987". As a result of the confusion though, this has now been extended to January 31st next.  
Editor.

Dear Editor,

While the design team of the new extension in Bolton Street deserve the highest praise for their efforts it appears that one very important consideration was overlooked, that of the plight of disabled students in the college.

It was only recently when I spent ten days on crutches that it really came home to me how ill equipped the college is in relation to handicapped persons facilities. The number of flights of stairs was always a problem but the two new spiral staircases are impossible to negotiate on crutches. The only lift serving all floor levels is a fair distance away in the old building. (The same lift that broke down twice during my time on crutches). Other problems include the narrowness of the seats in lecture theatres. One positive note is the disabled persons toilet on the extension's first floor.

Disabled people should be to the forefront of the minds of the planners who design buildings such as this.  
Yours sincerely. Dermot Bolger, Final Eng.

Dear Editor,

As a student within the Dublin Institute of Technology for several years now, I have made some observations in relation to the evident lack of active cultural societies in the colleges, which I would like to share with the readers.

The Dublin Institute of Technology Inter Student Committee give out more than £80,000 to different sporting club and course related/cultural societies around the colleges.

There can be no denying that in the past few years, Dublin Institute of Technology sporting clubs have excelled themselves and brought much honour to the Institute. It is, however, in the area of cultural activities that we tend to fall down.

The Irish Language society, in Bolton Street, seems to have lain dormant for the past few years. As have the Friends of Italian Opera Society.

I do not believe that within the 24,000 young people attending courses here, there are not at least 20 people in each college, who would be interested enough to set up an Irish Language speaking society or other cultural societies of that ilk.

It might be of interest to hear some of your readers view on this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
Aodhán O'Céirín, Uachtaran, Sráid Bholtúin, Baile Átha Cliath 1.

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who risked jail by occupying the Department of Education Head Office on Thursday 29th October 1987.

I would also like to verbally reprimand those students who ventured home or down town while their class mates marched for their survival.

Yours faithfully, Michael O'Neill, College of Commerce, Rathmines.

# And banks are faceless institutions?



*Student Officer – Mary Connor  
Bolton Street, College of Technology*



*Student Officer – Garry Stokes  
College of Marketing & Design*



*Student Officer – Therese Mitchell  
College of Commerce, Rathmines*



*Student Officer – Ciaran Lynam  
34 College Green*



*Student Officer – Brian Cummins  
College of Catering, Cathal Bruagha Street*



*Student Officer – Aundreana McGibney  
Kevin Street, College of Technology*

Well we'll let the above faces end that illusion. They're our student officers.

They've been dealing with students for quite some time and they know pretty much what's happening.

So you don't have to worry if the cheque is coming late when the landlord's coming early. Or if you find you've to buy the plane ticket when you apply for a J1.

Or when it suddenly dawns on you that the professor's own "indispensable" text book is a mere £30.

Our student officers will be there to lend a hand. But luckily life isn't all loans.

There's a free ISIC card and Countdown card for all first year students, saving you £5 on the cards

themselves. And any amount once you put them into use.

On the subject of cards there's PASS.

"Strange" you may think but we are aware that there's life after midnight. Unlike other Cinderella banks, our PASS card lets you get at your cash 24 hours a day.

Then there's the cheque book and card.

Very handy, very flexible.

And free to use.

Provided your account is in credit.

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