

2007

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the compact



14

MAY 2007

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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DESIGN

Jamie Hogan
Graham Hayes

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Adam Lester, Jamie Hogan, Deirdre Keane, Conor Mulhern

COVER IMAGE

Neil Manifold

THANKS TO

Mairéad Butler, Neil Brennan, Deirdre Keane, Niall Lennon, Alastair Graham, Conor Mulhern, Yuvraj Parihar.

A heartfelt thanks to all our contributors, throughout the year.



WELL, the last issue of the compact is usually a good indication that the end is drawing near! In true Irish style, the weather gets amazingly good as soon as exam time draws near, and sitting inside studying becomes intolerable, typical! We have managed to get icecream into the shops to provide a little respite, so hope that helps...

Well it's been nothing if not an eventful year, and I hope its been everything you expected from DIT Students' Union. From some fantastic events and campaigns, to some excellent progress in areas of representation and advice, we have again grown bigger and better at what we do.

Just to pick a few highlights, I suppose the biggest for the union in terms of long term strategic goals was my appointment by the Minister for Education to the Grangegorman Development Agency, which places us in a very strong position in terms of having a say in the overall Development of our new campus. I have to thank all involved in assisting me in over 7 months of lobbying for this position, especially Ber and Horse in USI, and our Chairmen, Kevin O Driscoll and Peter Mc Kenna.

The Well Fair Campaign was excellently run in conjunction with RAG week, both of which were a great success, with the students on the ground raising in excess of €10,000 for Enable Ireland and the Lifeboats. The Fashion Show was deservedly voted Society event of the year, and was a tremendous success.

USI Congress was also a great couple of days for the students who represented DIT, with an active contribution from all involved, and we got most of our important motions through. Hamid also was elected to the position of National Education Officer, and I wish him the best of luck with this.

Also, after a very shaky start to the year, our shops have come around to being profitable and viable for the first time in years, and this is down to the hard work of Paula, Mark and all currently working there. This is complete vindication in the face of some very unhelpful interference from external entities.

And none of this could be done without the assistance and involvement of the student body as a whole, so to all who spent a little/lot of, time working within the union for good of the whole student body, thanks a million! Without these people, we could not have functioned in the way we did, and without your help and input the union would not be the strong representative body it is today.

It is important that DIT Students' Union grows stronger and broader at every opportunity, and we must ensure this continues to happen. With the imminent appointment of our CEO, we will have a full staff structure for the first time since the strategic review, and this will make an immense difference to all involved. I would like to wish our incoming sabbaticals the best of luck, and I have every confidence they will continue the strong work put in over the past two years. I'll be involved in a minor capacity in my role as a student rep on the Grangegorman Development Agency, but as I leave DIT Students' Union after 7 years in DIT, I just want to say a simple 'Thank you' to every one who has assisted me in anyway, you all know who you are.

Enjoy your summer and the rest of your lives, Slán,

—Bob.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Mark Breen, Mairéad Butler, Kevin Byrne, Naill Farrell, Graham Hayes, Niall Lennon, Lina Hacker, Eva Hogan, Alastair Graham, Hamid Khodabakhshi, Pamela Mahon, Cíaran Nevin, Yuvraj Parihar, Mark Smith, Graham Hayes, Eric Fitzgerald, Irene Waishe, Alan Breathnach

Class Rep Convenor Reports 07



Ciarán Nevin

Convenor for Bolton Street

A big hello to ye all, I hope ye are all keeping well, and that the year is treating ye well. I'm no sooner saying hello than its time for me to say goodbye.

My time as Class Rep Convenor in Bolton St. is almost over. I suppose it's only proper that I thank everyone that I worked with throughout the year, and also to thank all my fellow students for their relentless support. I'm going to nip the 'thank you' in the bud now before I start sounding like an Oscar winner.

My mission today is to bring it to your attention that if you are reading this, it is quite likely that you are eligible to become a Class Rep Convenor for next year. The nominations are now open so move fast. What's it all about? Your main priority will be to run the Class Rep system in your site. You will also attend different meetings, which decide how the college and the union are run. I could fill a page with the responsibilities but the good news is that I could also fill a page with the privileges, not least the fact that it is a paid position, and there are loads of sandwiches knocking about. I must go now and cry myself to sleep, goodbye my friends, goodbye...



Ita McMahon

Convenor for Aungier Sreet

My final year in Aungier St. is drawing to a close and I have to say it has been my most interesting year in college so far! Thanks to my position as Class Rep Convenor, I finally got a taste of what real college life is all about.

The biggest achievement for me this year, has been the huge improvement in catering within the college, notably the canteen and the deli. Having had several meetings with the manager of Campbell Catering, I have managed to reduce the prices of condiments, ensure a greater variety of foods to cater for all tastes and the overall quality of the food has vastly improved. We've also had the highest class rep attendance at meetings this year, which is really important so that what I do can be representative of what Aungier St.'s students actually want.

The only low of the year I can think of is that the library is still not open on Sundays, which is a crying shame as many students face difficult exams. Hopefully this can be transformed into a major high for next year's students!

Finally, thank you to everyone who has given me help this year. Big up to Broadback Deering, our Communications Officer for doing a brilliant poster control job! Andy and Donal who have helped me on an ongoing basis including the hanging of the bat which took hours I tell you! Raymond Garrett – thanks for all the help with the canteen and the biggest thank you in the world goes to Eve, my amazing SSA who has helped me out on countless occasions – thanks a million dude.



Alastair Graham

Convenor for Kevin Street

So you want to be a convening rockstar?

'Why on earth should I run for Convenor?' I hear many of you saying (very quietly). Well, I'm here to try and convince you. Or maybe just give you a bit of a laugh. Or maybe even just to help fill up space, because someone didn't submit an article in time...

No, actually, it IS worth running for this position. It's at varying times fun, challenging, interesting, rewarding, dull, and fabulous... I mean, where else can you get a decent paying part-time job that works around your college and social life? Seriously, we are PAID to do this. Sure, sometimes the meetings are late starting, and run for what seems like forever, but that's democracy in action. Us convenors make decisions that affect you the student... for example, this year we got computer facilities upgraded for third years, and ran some good events around the place.

Basically, your role as convenor is to Convene (obviously) Class Rep Meetings on your site. You'll have to chair said meetings, keep everything in order, stop rowdy class reps from shouting, put up posters, go round all the classes announcing thing, pretty much do whatever is needed to raise the profile of the Students' Union in Kevin St (and maybe pick up some free hoodies along the way)!

All in all, the position is worth doing, and you will get both personal and financial reward. Just get yourself nominated, and see you at the vote!



Conleth Stanley

Convenor for Rathmines

The academic year started off with a bang here in Rathmines. Work, work, work may be the ethos of what student life is supposed to be, but we all know that students only want to play, play, play!

Life here has been hectic to say the least. All our social events have been squeezed in between academic and performance related deadlines - even as I write this I'm caught between rehearsals for the College of Music Rush Hour Opera tonight and trying to get to all the relevant classes today with essay deadlines imminent. Student Recruitment has been traditionally slow as it has been for many a year in Rathmines. But on this occasion I believe I have a network of support from each of the years and courses studying here, with our common goal to make student life as enjoyable as possible.

The Student Union social life has been slow here this year, but I aim to get more going after next year, as the main issues this year so far have all been academic. We're all up to our eyes, there's more structures to consider, and we're trying to get the best out of all the opportunities and facilities that are available. Hopefully in the future I'll have something more tangible and exciting to report.



Rebecca O'Neill
Convenor for Mountjoy Square

Well how to sum up being a Class Rep Convenor eh? Well it definitely isn't as boring as the plain old job description of chairing the Class Rep Meeting anyways, and you'd be surprised to see how much work you'll cram into those 10 hours a week!

Despite the running around like a headless chicken during the busy times its been one of the most memorable years yet for me in the union (and hopefully not the last!). From Inductions, to Comedy Nights, Class addresses, to Class Rep Recruitment and beyond being Convenor has personal rewards that are unparalleled.

Mountjoy Square has seen a new life breathed into it this year with our flourishing Societies like the

Reject Muzikal, Dance Soc and Drama (as always). Art and Design Week is getting a fantastic revamp this year thanks to our part time officer and is set to wow all of DIT for years to come.

Although representing the Square is very important to me there's nothing like the huge sense of participation and involvement you get from working on other sites and with the other Convenors, and personally this year I think this year we've had the best team yet. There's still a good deal of work to be done as regards ents and events on the Square but where there is a will! It's a job like no other out there where you get to know students, staff and your site like the back of your hand. When you're backed with such a great support from the staff, sabbaticals, Class Reps and LPIT like I have been this year you can't go wrong here in Mountjoy Square!

HEY YOU!
Do YOU have what it takes to be the **Class Rep Convenor** & represent the students on your site?

Nominations Open Now
Closing on April 18th at 1.00pm
Elections take place later this week at the Class Rep Meeting

It's challenging, fun and you get paid!
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Get more details from www.dituu.ie or your local Students' Union Office

Campus 2006/07

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How does COMPENSATION work?



To help make your exams and assessment time a little nicer, your Students' Union are having a competition. There are some great prizes to be won and the first entries will receive a bottle of water or a pen when they enter. Class Reps can collect competition entries for their whole class or you can drop into your local Union office and collect one yourself.

What happens if I'm SICK and MISS an EXAM?

What's a P/C1 FORM for? (personal circumstances)

DITSU NEWS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DEPT

WILL YOU KICK ASSESSMENTS?



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR...the sun is shining and the ducks are back in the pond in Bolton St so it's getting close to Exam time!

And it also means that its time for your Students' Union to run the Will You Kick Assessments? information campaign. Our objective with this campaign is to advise you of your rights, clarify some of the more vague parts of the exam rules, known as the General Assessment Regulations and to explain some of your options if you find yourself in difficulty before, during or after an exam or assessment.

We've got a special section on our website www.ditsu/examstuff.ie with some FAQ's that we're asked regularly.

We know that many of you don't realise that the DIT offer a number of options if you think that you haven't done as well as you thought in an exam or assessment. For example, if you've had an illness, accident, or family crisis that has affected your performance you can submit a Personal Circumstances Form (P/C1) and we explain what's involved in filling out this form correctly. There's also info on what you can do if you're unhappy about your marks and want to get a Recheck or how you go about Appealing your results.

Our job in the Students' Union is to ensure that every student is aware of their rights, how the regulations operate and can be used to their advantage.

We're here to help – all you have to do is ask.

www.ditsu.ie/examstuff

If you can't find the answer to your query on the website you can call in to one of the Union offices or e-mail us at academicaffairs@ditsu.ie or contact Hamid, the Vice-President or Mary Scally at (01) 402 4110.



RANDOM RANTING
CIARÁN NEVIN

anyway. Brian Cowen who looks strikingly like an environmental disaster. Michael McDowell who I can't help but think just wants the whole world to burn anyway. We have Enda Kenny who supports endangered wildlife by allowing it to live on top of his head. Pat Rabbitte is too busy sneering to even realise there's an election on. All of Sinn Féin are concentrating on the emissions from pipe bombs and machine guns, in fact they claim to have been conducting research into it for over 30 years, and have always been in support of a green campaign.

So after all that, is there any politician actually doing their bit for the environment? Well I thought and thought, and thought of Mary Harney (never a pleasant experience). But I wondered how much she saves on home heating oil each year, by putting on the pounds, how selfless. No sooner had that thought entered my head than one of her been driven around in her ministerial car, by the size of her, I'd say she gets no better than 3 miles to the gallon.

In truth no-one really gives a shite, every five years, they come up with something to make us feel guilty about and that's all there is to it. The only really green issue in this election is the drinking water in Galway. There's only one thing stopping me from buying a Range Rover, and that's that I can't afford it. We should be getting tax breaks on Range Rovers and the like, so that we continue to get this good weather. Think of it now, no more spray-on Ronseal tan, which means no more brown stains on bed sheets, which means less use of washing machines, which means its good for the environment.

My conclusion is that things aren't good or bad for the environment, because they cancel each other out. But things are good or bad for politicians, even global warming. God be with the days when you had 14 old fridges and a Ford Cortina lying in your back garden, and the neighbours admired ya for saving them the trouble of helping ya bring them to the dump.

Keeping it Clean

Ah it's hard to make sense of all this global warming craic. For the first time since record began, it has been possible to wear a t-shirt in the month of March, and our politicians see it as an election issue.

“GOOD WEATHER?, no we can't have that, down with good weather.” In the last election, only one party had a green plan in their manifesto, and that, not surprisingly was the green party. This time around, all of the parties have a green manifesto, so to counteract that; the Green Party have become the 'Tie-dyed Green Party' in an effort to become more 'cool'.

So what's it all about? Ireland won the Triple Crown, entered the world cricketing elite, lost the Eurovision, the Celtic tiger was basking in the sunshine, and

we were drinking smoothies and wearing shorts. Life was getting good, and then they tell us things are bad. That all this good weather comes at a price, it's a bit like sleeping with someone who has Chlamydia, it might be fun at the time, but you will pay for it. The thing is, I wouldn't mind caring for the environment, if the people at the top did too.

We have an environmental minister who drives a big Mercedes around the place preaching to everyone about the importance of lowering emissions. There's the leader of the Green Party, Trevor Sergeant, who cycles everywhere, but he's a big bollix

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John Lawlor, Head of the School of Manufacturing and Design Engineering, with Alex McFadden, Richard Gore, Valentina Nicosia and Stephen Walker - all members of the winning RISSA team

Bolton Trust-DIT-Steorn Student Enterprise Competition 2007

THE FINAL OF THIS year's Bolton Trust-DIT-Steorn Student Enterprise Competition took place in DIT Aungier Street at the end of March. In a tightly contested final, the winners were the RISSA team - five students in their third year of the BSc (Hons) in Product Design. Congratulations to Richard Gore, Alex McFadden, Valentine Nicosia, Stephen Walker and Siobhan O'Keeffe who won the top prize of €5000 for their presentation of their product

- "a new type of visor with a heating element demister."

This competition, which carries a total prize fund of €12,000, generates huge interest in DIT and this year attracted ninety entries from teams right across the Institute. These were reviewed by a panel of adjudicators who drew up an initial shortlist of thirty-two teams to participate in the quarterfinals. Eight teams came through that stage to the semi-finals and eventually four made it

through to the final stage. In addition to the first place prize of €5000, the second prize was €2,500, third prize was €1500 and fourth prize was €1000. Each of the four runner-up teams were presented with a cheque for €500.

Congratulations to all the winners and competitors, and to their tutors and mentors. Here is the list of the final four teams:

First Place* and winners of the top prize of €5,000

<p>RISSA <i>A new type of visor with a heating element demister</i></p>	<p>Presented by: Richard Gore Alex McFadden Valentine Nicosia Stephen Walker Siobhan O'Keeffe</p>	<p>Students on the 3rd Year of the BSc (Hons) in Product Design DT001/3</p>
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2nd Prize of €2,500

<p>SCAFFA GRIP <i>A covering to be applied to scaffolding to reduce the risk of slipping</i></p>	<p>Presented by: Eimear Fitzsimons Stephen Carson Colin Conlon Cillian Hunter Sean Kelly</p>	<p>Students on the 3rd Year of the BSc (Hons) in Product Design DT001/3</p>
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3rd Prize of €1,500

<p>A J OILS <i>A business that produces oil and animal feed from rapeseed</i></p>	<p>Presented by: Andrew Fallon and John Kinsella</p>	<p>Students on the 3rd Year of the (Hons) Degree in Manufacturing & Design Engineering DT023/3 School of Manufacturing & Design Engineering</p>
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<p>Z-TOX</p>	<p>Presented by: Alex Hughes Laura Daly Mervin Colton Amy Devoy</p>	<p>Students on the 4th Year of the BSc (Hons) in Management DT351/4</p>
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Want some DITSU Gear?

The summer of 2005 saw the donation of more than 300 items of DIT Students' Union merchandise to both Mexico and Kenya.

This project was initiated and overseen by the Class-Rep Convenor in Bolton street that year, Hamidreza Khodabakshi (Current Vice President Academic & Student Affairs). The donation included RAG T-shirts, Convenor, Class Rep, Councillor and PTO T-shirts, all of which could not be used in Ireland as they had the old DIT Students' Union logo on them. There had been plans to dispose of or recycle the merchandise, however Hamid's idea was looked upon favourably as an act of charity and goodwill.

The name of the organisation that distributed the t-shirts in Kenya is, 'The Friends of St. Luke's Hospital', Dublin 6. The kind of work that they do and the communities that they work with fundraise to support different

projects, and finance the purchase of equipment and fund continuing research. Their website is www.friendofstlukes.ie.

The t-shirts were distributed to the poor children in villages that were passed through along the course of their walk. Unfortunately the names of the people in the photographs are not given but they came from the Sagalla Hill and Wundani villages in Kenya.

The name of the organisation that distributed the t-shirts in Mexico is, 'Sr. Anne Therese', Poor Servants of the Mother of God, New Mexico. They teach poor children and provide food and clothing, some of which are supplied by charitable donations. The t-shirts were distributed to the children and adults in their school and district.

(Unfortunately there is no website or photo's available for the organisation in Mexico)

Chaplains Report

DONE AND DUSTED, another year is coming to an end. The great expanse of summer time lies ahead, job hunting, possibly study for repeats, heading off on a J1 and possibly all three? Either way we hope you have a great summer. This term saw the beginnings of the SAPs (Student Action Projects) Programme in Kevin St and Bolton St. The aim of the programme is to give you the chance to experience different kinds of volunteering on projects which affect people on a local, national and international level. Here is a short synopsis of what you did in six weeks of this years programme.

For the six weeks in which we ran this programme you have managed to raise over €1452 euro for Daffodil day. Not only that but local charity Ruhama has €200. Ruhama works with women who are involved in prostitution and have been trafficked into the sex industry in Ireland. They provide a non judg-

mental, supportive service to these women. Their work is very relevant in modern Ireland particularly as more and more women are brought into this industry here from abroad against their will. This term some of you headed off to Brother Kevin's kitchen in Bow Street. Kevin's kitchen feeds over 500 homeless people every day in Dublin. They do tremendous work and they rely on the generosity of people in Dublin to volunteer in the centre on a daily basis.

The Trocaire Lenten Campaign also formed part of the programme. At this point we might remind you to bring back your Trocaire boxes, many boxes were taken off us but we are unsure how many of those were returned to Trocaire. A pilgrimage to Lourdes was also on our agenda. We had hoped to bring some students to Lourdes to help the ill, infirm and aged on their pilgrimage journey We may not be going this September however but we do hope to go at Easter time next year. We also

had a couple of students involved in an adult literacy programme in the local Dublin area.

Here is a quick overview of what has been happening. Next year we have a bigger and better programme in store for you to participate in. You have already, helped and affected the lives of hundreds of people by giving so much as an hour to us. Thank You! If you have always wanted to make a difference and your not sure how to simply keep an eye out for our posters and brochures in September, contact your chaplain and he or she will hook you up to the programme. If you want to change the world you must start begin in your back garden. Surprise yourself Be a SAP! Have a great summer, Deirdre (Kevin St.) and Pdraig (Bolton St.) Chaplains.

DIT NEWS

DIERDRE NÍ CHEALLAIGH



Socialists should get a job

STUDENT INSIGHT
KEVIN BYRNE

While enjoying my lunch in DIT one day, my eyes caught a catchy red poster "Socialist Workers Party. Revolution in the 21st Century. People and planet over profits." To which us business students up here in Aungier Street had a great laugh.



Mac Monkey or PC Junkie?

STUDENT INSIGHT
GRAHAM HAYES

As a person who uses computers on a regular basis, I am constantly bombarded by Mac users harping on about how great their Macs are. They spout the usual marketing lines that come out of the 'visionary' Steve Jobs mouth, like 'Macs never break' and 'It just works.'

Take it from a person who is forced to use both systems, Macs don't 'just work'. When it comes to connecting to a proper business network, so that you can do proper work, they are slow, cumbersome, and annoyingly simple. The fact that if you connect to another computer, and decide to restart, you have to go through the whole process of setting them up again is one of the most idiotic ideas in computing I have ever seen.

And when they do break, they break bad. And because 'they just work' there is no community support among mac users. They amount of

The articles in this column are opinion pieces by Students of DIT. DITSU does not necessarily agree with or endorse any of the views expressed here



A Hairy Affair

STUDENT NEWS
DIT BOLTON ST

Hairy engineer Anton White Orbaek is chopping his famed dreads to help educate desperately poor beach kids in Cambodia. The well-respected DIT Bolton Street student and renowned juggler has groomed his dreads for nearly four years...

We thought it was just a joke, a comic strip that some clown stuck up for cheap lunchtime humour. But what's really funny is - these whacos are deadly serious!

It always amazes me as to why some students fly the flag of socialism. Perhaps it's the free third level education and living off the parents that makes it so easy to be a blind socialist because socialists don't respect hard earned money.

Speaking of third level tuition fees and lots of disposable drinking money, it's important to publicise and remember two important facts which my socialist fans don't want you to know. Firstly, free third level education was given to you by Fine Gael (our Conservative party). Secondly, the Irish minimum wage, one of the highest in Europe, was brought to you by the Progressive Democrats (our Liberal party).

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying "everything is great" like Enda Kenny is always telling

Macs that I have had to come fix because the user couldn't find the solution on the internet is ridiculous.

This brings me to my next point. The next thing I always hear is that Macs came up with the 1st computer with icons, which every one else copied. One name for all you misinformed people in the 'Mac community'. Xerox. They came up with it first. It was called Xerox Star, and while it did not make a big impact, they were before Apple. In-fact when Apple went to create its own computer with icons and windows, they hired the 3 top people in the Xerox Star project. As for another line from the 'Mac Community', Mac innovates, everyone else copies..... again, your wrong.

When Apple realised the fact that having a computer designed only by themselves meant that they were crap, they decided to build a PC,

Well he has a history with hair...but after hearing about the plight of impoverished Cambodian children, Anton decided to shear his golden locks. By getting friends and strangers to sponsor his snipping, Anton will raise €3,500... that will go to a progressive school for 1000 children.

Anton, 22, from Dalkey, Co Dublin, is backing the Cambodian Children's Painting Project (CCPP) at Serendip, Ochheuteal Beach. The children come to the beach to supplement their families' income and now a school has opened for them. Anton says, 'education in Cambodia is a very expensive commodity. But as little as €3.50 a month will pay for a child to go to school and learn to read and write, enabling them to have a better future. 'I hope to raise €3500 which is the equivalent to 1000 children going to school for one month or 110 children; for one year.' The School's Anna's Kitchen provides lunch, cold

people. The point I'm making is the two parties who socialists have a habit of degradingly referring to as 'right-wing parties' have done far more for us students and the poorest people in this country than the socialists could ever hope to do. While socialists have their old protests for the sake of protesting, other people get things done.

Global warming is the latest front being explored by the socialists in their anti-Capitalist agenda. Apparently they're going to put a stop to global warming and pollution. They plan to achieve this by abolishing waste charges. Now I don't know about you, but before the bin charges were introduced, I never recycled and I probably wouldn't give a toss about recycling if the bin charges were abolished!

For the purpose of this column I planned to ridicule socialist policies. I'm sorry to say that after extensive research, I'm simply unable to do so because they don't seem to have any policies. The official web-sites of the main

and put it in a Mac case, and market it as a sign of revolutionary innovation. In my mind that looks like copying someone, yeah? But then, Macs would do that would they?

Lets us look at the new 'Boot Camp'' software for Macs. This allows you to run Windows on your Mac. Again, is this not copying some one? It is to combat the fact that 90% of applications people actually need are done for windows. I'm not talking about some gimmicky 'iLife' like software, but the things people actually need, like autoCAD, and major business software accounting packages to name two very random examples. Why would you buy a Mac, and then spend an extra €400 to run windows on a mac, when you could buy a PC that does that for you for less than that?

The new 'revolutionary' computer Mac OSX, well it is a rip off of a PC one, UNIX. Mac didn't

drinks and first aid. The children have already painted 5000 oil paintings in the school's painting project that encourages their creative initiative, awareness and good behaviour. Shearing Anton's fleece is a top job as this guy has always stood out over his hair... or lack of it. Anton has an artistic element to his hair.

The preteen spiked up his hair when he was to Dublin to catch the Cure. Anton lived in an idyllic county Clare village, nestling along the banks of Lough Derg. One morning Anton's Dad got a call from the village's primary school headmaster: "Have you seen Anton's coloured hair?!" Dad replied: "Yeah! Great isn't it!" "Oh, ohhhhh, yes..." the headmaster rung off. Then Anton's family began running out of towels. His Mum says: "all the towels turned wild colours green and purple because all Anton's friends came to get their hair done."The Post Mistress knew when Anton was back from holidays as

socialist movements are full of rhetoric about how Capitalism is evil and Marxism is good.

Of course, how could we doubt that? There have been so many upstanding socialist leaders throughout history. Socialist leaders such as Joseph Stalin, Slobodan Milosevic, Saddam Hussein and Kim Jung III have contributed so much to their societies and the wider world.

This is why I get the feeling that the socialists closer to home, are just having a laugh, or perhaps looking for attention. I wonder whether the socialist students will be as dedicated to the lost cause when they graduate from college and get a job.

I'd have liked to challenge the socialists about this by saying 'put your money where your mouth is.' But unfortunately socialists only want to spend other people's money- your money! As a last piece of advice, be careful if you're out drinking with socialists. They tend to run off as soon as it's their round.

innovate the fact there is no viruses for them, they copied someone else who happened to have no viruses. And managed to screw up one of the most powerful pieces of software ever written, dumbing it down.

And as a lead on from that, it brings me to the Mac monkeys. Why would you be proud of a user base that prides themselves on the fact that they can't even turn on a computer. They designed a system that even your great-grandmother could use, which is great, but it isn't a good thing if you are trying to sell the system to high level companies. From what I can see the main users of Macs are the 'Arty-Farty' type, who know nothing about computers, and only use it because its what the used in college.

In doing the 10 minute research for this article I asked one or two random student what they thought, and I think that Katelynn Parent had the best one, 'Macs are just crap.'

the other kids' hairs coloured again. On moving to Dublin Anton shaved his head in secondary school the day before David Becham shaved his golden tresses. Anton was suspended... no skinheads allowed. His parents were away so authorities called for Anton's guardian who was Dick Massey, the shaven-headed drummer of The Commitments.

TRUE BLUE



Poppy prints, punchy colours and sinfully short hemlines...it can mean only one thing, summer is here. Slouching around in oversized jumpers is no longer an option; hiding behind a cool pair of shades is the shape of things to come.

FASHION
PAMELA MAHON



huge range to choose from as do Topshop, Retro and BT2. If you've had enough of save the rave, opt for funky off-the shoulder numbers a la Guess, for a sultry, sexy style or funky ethnic prints, saluting the hippy vibe that's been cruising the catwalks. Wear with shorts, minis and jeans for a cool, unfussed summer's eve.

Jeans are staying skinny but for a bit difference, opt for high waisted or brighter fabrics like bleached denim, stone and white. If you're feeling particularly brave, try bold colours like orange, blue or red. Wear with sandals, pumps or flip-flops for understated daywear or dazzle in staggeringly high platforms or wedges by night.

All in all, this summer is set to be a sizzling mix of hot new looks so whatever you do, make sure to take a leaf out of just one of them...even if it is just a pair of funky new shades!

OUTFITS:

Main Image: Jeans by Marc O' Polo, for similar see Miss Selfridge; Boob tube; Urban Outfitters; White jacket, Topshop; Blue belt, Wild Child; Skinny blue belt, Pennys; Sunglasses, H&M; White Bangle, Claires Accessories; Other accessories, as before.

Left: Blue Boob Tube, Topshop; Shirt, for similar see Dunnes; Shoes, Topshop; belt, Wild Child; Sunglasses, H&M.

Below: Blue Dress, Topshop; Black belt, for similar see A-Wear; Scarf, Topshop; Shoes, Topshop; Silver Hoops, Topshop; Silver Bangles, H&M; Blue bracelets, Pennys.

Model: Carol Mahon

Blue is splashed around the catwalks and high street alike. From ultra-marine and cobalt to the infamous electric blue, you'll be hard pushed to find a rail without it. It's one of those colours that you tend to dismiss until it is paraded in front of you as is the case of late but you don't have to embrace it full force, add a sprinkle here and a smidgen there and you may just be surprised with the result.

Like the other vibrant party punching colours gracing our summer palette (bright orange, shimmering amethyst and egg yolk yellow), opt for blocks of it in easy shapes. With daring shades, simplicity is key.

The 80s poppy street vibe continues with the high street hailing cool high shine sportswear, motif tees and flashes of intriguing arm candy and accessories. Topshop reigns supreme in this fascination with plastic fantastic. They are sporting cute little bomber

jackets in a candy coloured palette from green and purple to white and hot pink... you'll find one fit for every ensemble.

But this summer isn't all about an explosion of colour. Safe bets like putty and white are still very much style staples. This nautical or Riviera trend is perfect for glorifying beautifully tanned limbs (even if it is only Johnson's!) Crisp and clean in sharp cuts and tailored separates, they add a touch of fresh elegance.

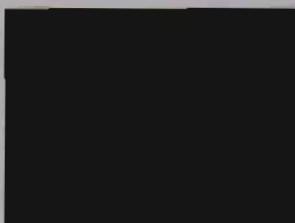
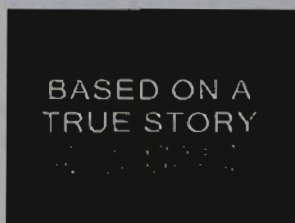
Florals will also be of budding interest to Fashionistas this summer. From intricate tulips and cute daisies to full blown blooms, they bring a fresh, cheery simplicity to daywear and can look great when worn with minimalist jewellery and espadrilles.

However, if you're feeling it's a little bit early to bare all, the tee is around to expose just enough. Urban outfitters as always have a



DO YOU TUBE?

ENTERTAINMENT
NIAL LENNON



ANOTHER UNPRODUCTIVE DAY IN THE LABS? FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN ONLINE FOR 5 MINUTES WHEN IN FACT IT'S BEEN 5 HOURS? HAD EVERY INTENTION OF DOING WORK WHEN YOU WENT ONLINE BUT HAVE DONE NOTHING? ODDS ARE YOU HAVING BEEN CLICKING YOUR WAY AROUND YOUTUBE CONVINCING YOURSELF THAT THE NEXT CLIP WILL BE YOUR LAST.

Well here is a list of some of the top rated clips to help convince yourself that there wont be any harm in letting that assignment wait just that bit longer. They all have a certain quality I'm sure you will agree that justify re-watching it 2 or 10 times, be it for purely not believing your eyes the first time round or the hope that next time you watch the sling shot kid might actually fall out {if we all wish hard enough maybe it might just happen}. Enjoy!

1. HILARIOUS SLING SHOT VIDEO:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjiKdYF-isE>

My personal favourite and I'm pretty sure the woman next to him didn't want him to make it out of this alive.

2. FIRST QUESTION WRONG ON WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMriTkE3igY>

Surely there is some sort law against people like this bringing down the worldwide average IQ level.

3. ANCHORMAN + 300 CUT

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-u9SzVdVGI>

Two great masterpieces, surely created with the other in mind, brought together at last.

3. FREAK ACCIDENT AT FOOTBALL MATCH

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIKdK-T-jZM>

God letting us know what he thinks of Americans playing soccer.

5. FAMILY GUY VS. CHRISTIANITY

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBZQfAYfH7s>

Now, this is just a small selection of the stuff (s**t?) that can be found on the 'Tube, but I must warn you, once you get in there, you'll be clicking around for ages, and the day will quickly go by before you realise it!

Horoscopes

ENTERTAINMENT
MARK SMITH

ARIES March 21st to April 19th

A celestial alignment highlights an importance of the colour red this month. Beware of the man in red shoes he has not paid his taxes.

TAURUS April 20th to May 20th

Have you ever tried adding wool to mushroom soup? No me neither, why would you do that. Your power animal is the Ostrich.

GEMINI May 21st to June 21st

A new love interest emerges from an unexpected place. Loitering at bus stops has finally paid off. Buy some Post-its.

CANCER June 22nd to July 22nd

I am getting a strong feeling that you cheat at mini-golf, shame on you. You have an irrational fear of eggs, this pleases me, protect my unborn children.

LEO July 23rd to August 22nd

A man in power who wears a threatening moustache attempts to undermine your intelligence. Unfortunately he's right to do so. Luck can be found at Tesco.

VIRGO August 23rd to September 22nd

Don't play mini-golf with any Cancers, not because they cheat but because the moon has moved into you second quarter, that can't be good.

LIBRA September 23rd to October 22nd

Do you feel overwhelmed by work? You're doing a BA, what are you complaining about. The girl with the orange ribbon can cure your shingles.

SCORPIO October 23rd to November 21st

Look after your eyebrows. I feel you have an internal conflict, allow this conflict to spill over into a fist fight, ultimately you will win.

SAGITTARIUS November 22nd to December 21st

Where do you think your going, I have yet to predict your destiny get back in bed you cretin. A keen attitude will spark aggression.

CAPRICORN December 22nd to January 19th

Have you found the way? Do you know your path? Why do birds suddenly appear? I will not be addressing any of these issues, sorry

AQUARIUS January 20th to February 18th

A meeting of spinning planet thingies, definitely means something important, the importance is unclear. In the mean time buy de-icer, don't ask questions.

PISCES February 19th to March 20th

I have received a message. Beautiful Russian women, want English husband, please send bank details to confirm age and address. This can only mean good things for you.





Grangegorman Update

The Grangegorman Development Agency has been up and running for over 6 months now and has been getting busier and busier for the last while.

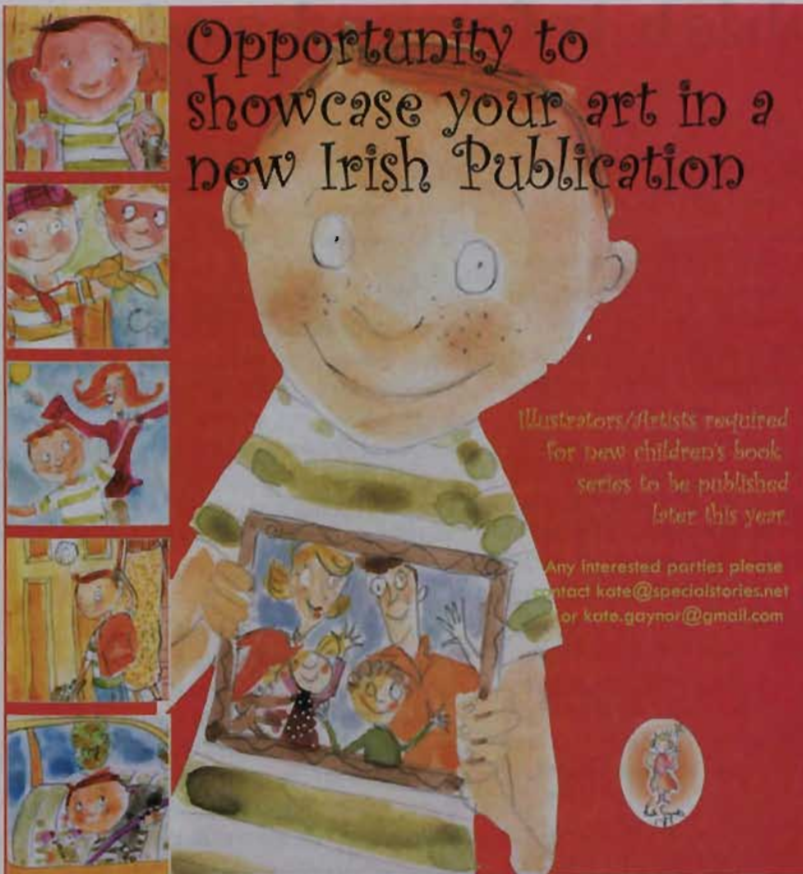
The new CEO, Gerry Murphy has just been appointed. He comes with a strong background in major construction projects, including the M50 and the Port Tunnel, and is a very welcome addition to the team.

The master planning team selection is in its final phases, and it is envisaged that we will have our master planning team in place in July. This will see the next phase of development kick off, with the planners taking over the current design briefs to fine tune the overall brief and produce a master plan.

Over the next few weeks, a public consultation of the process of development is taking place in some of the local areas, and it is then planned to move the display boards to a semi permanent home in DIT, possibly Bolton St. This will explain fully the progress to date and

the planned phases, and should be of great interest to staff and students alike.

We are currently finalising our plans for office and activity accommodation and facilities in Grangegorman, as well as the necessary student accommodation, which we are negotiating over at the moment, and will have these ready for the appointment of the master planners. For any info, e-mail me on president@ditsu.ie. Lastly, I would like to thank Noel, Paul, Terri and all the gang in the Campus planning office for all the assistance over the past two years, I hope we have the success deserved after all the work put in!



Opportunity to showcase your art in a new Irish Publication

Illustrators/Artists required for new children's book series to be published later this year.

Any interested parties please contact kate@specialstories.net or kate.gaynor@gmail.com

Calling All Artists

Special Stories Publishing MD Kate Gaynor is searching the country for students to take part in a very special type of project. The search is on for illustrators and artists to create the artwork for a new series of children's books that deal with somewhat unusual topics like bullying and parental separation.

Students who take part in the project will have the chance to see their work published and on display in libraries and schools all over Ireland and also eventually in the UK and Europe.

Any interested parties should contact Kate at kate@specialstories.net or kate.gaynor@gmail.com for further information.

Check out www.specialstories.net to see this new Irish publishing house's most recent collection of titles for young children. There are seven stories in all dealing with asthma, diabetes, leukaemia, foster care, adoption, spina-bifida and cleft palate.

Like throwing hammers? Especially at people from UCD or Trinity? Then Ultimate Frisbee is probably the sport for you!



ENTERTAINMENT
ALAN BREATHNACH

IF YOU HAVE NO IDEA what Ultimate actually is, the best description I've heard is that it's a cross between American football and netball...but fun.

Ultimate is a non contact sport that can be played indoors or out. A team has five players indoors on a basketball court sized pitch and seven outdoors on a pitch 64m by 37m. The aim of the game is to get the disc from

your endzone into the opponent's endzone. It sounds a lot easier than it actually is.

The team that starts with the disc is actually the team on defence (discs are flipped before the game like a coin to decide this). The game begins by 'pulling' the disc to the opposing team, i.e. throwing it as far down the field as possible. The offensive team have to work back up the field by passing the disc, but players are not allowed move once they catch the disc. The earliest tactic everyone learns is 'cutting.' The offensive team lines up horizontally and make quick runs, dummymyng and feigning to lose their marker, to or from the disc. Cutting from a stack is one of the most basic plays but there are many more, both for offence and defence.

Personally my favourite defence is the 'Comedy Zone.' For this, after pulling, the whole defence stand on their endzone and leave it to the other team to try to get past them. It may not sound effective but I've seen it in action and it worked. The offensive team were so confused about what to do they dropped the disc multiple times! (it was UL for anyone interested)

Since there are no referees in Ultimate it is up to the teams playing to referee the game and call fouls if they happen. This is called

'the spirit of the game'. It is based upon respect and fair play. Every player is responsible for their own actions on the field and it's their responsibility to call fouls if they commit them. It may seem odd and unlikely but it does actually work. To show how important spirit is, every tournament has a trophy for the most spirited team.

The level of Ultimate played in Ireland is on the rise and DIT is definitely keeping with the pace. In the opening tournament of the season in DCU, two DIT teams dominated the tournament by finishing first and third after having played each other in the semi-final. Even though our efforts were plagued by injuries, we still managed to win the plate (the second tier prize) in interschools which were held in Limerick. Our coach, and MVP for the year, Roger 'Podge' Beatty is a member of the Irish Ultimate team and will be representing us at the world championships this summer. Discs in Turmoil, the DIT team will be travelling to Amsterdam to take part in the Windmill Wind Up Tournament this June along with the UCC team and teams from Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Scotland and England.

'Robust' debate which informed and entertained

A debate between Progressive Democrats Senator John Minihan and Sinn Féin Councillor Daithí Doolan held at Aungier Street on Wednesday 28th March left spectators informed, enraged and engaged in equal measure.

Organised by the DIT Debating & Politics Society, in conjunction with the Young Progressive Democrats and Ógra Sinn Féin, it was described as a "very well informed debate" by guest chairperson Bryan Dobson, the anchorman of RTÉ One's flagship news broadcast, Six One News.

The motion put before the house was that "the PDs have failed the health service." With Cllr. Doolan speaking in proposition of the motion and Senator Minihan speaking in opposition, fireworks were practically

guaranteed, given the acrimonious political relationship between Sinn Féin and the Progressive Democrats.

Cllr. Doolan began the debate. After obligatory thanks and praise, the Sinn Féin councillor began his speech with the statement that "Elections should be about politics and ideology, not accountancy. Cllr. Doolan also claimed the PDs were 'obsessed' with privatizing the health service, stating that Sinn Féin would strive towards the development of a world class, public health service that would provide free care to all. This would be funded through 'general, progressive taxation', with Cllr. Doolan claiming that the main challenge would be to 'rectify and radically reform the health system.' With the statement that 'rights are universal, not negotiable', Cllr. Doolan clearly set out his party's aim of establishing a free public healthcare system in line with their socialist policies.

After a rousing applause for Cllr. Doolan's speech, the task of convincing the audience present that the PDs had not failed the health service fell upon Senator Moynihan's shoulders. The Senator highlighted that, over

the past number of years, there has been no greater change in any area of the government than the health service. Describing his own party as a party that strives for reform, Senator Moynihan claimed that, although people were afraid of the problems within the health service, they were more afraid of change. He acknowledged that such reform would be a gradual process, and not something that would occur with 'a click of your fingers.' The crux of Senator Moynihan's speech lay in his claim that public and private healthcare could work in tandem for the benefit of healthcare overall in this country.

Both speakers were allowed the opportunity for a rebuttal, an opportunity which they eagerly seized. Cllr. Doolan stated that Senator Moynihan's enthusiasm for the development of private healthcare was an admission on his behalf that the government had failed the public health sector, while Senator Moynihan vehemently, and most ably, denied this.

DIT NEWS

ERIC FITZGERALD

How does **COMPENSATION** work?

What's a **P/C1 FORM** for?
(personal circumstances)

WILL YOU KICK ASS ESSMENTS?

What happens if I'm **SICK** and **MISS** an **EXAM**?

What's the story with **EXAM APPEALS**?

If you have any Questions about Exams & Assessments contact your local Students' Union office, log on to www.ditsu.ie/examstuff or call Hamid (The Vice-President) or Mary Scally on 01-4024110

DO YOU HAVE A DRINK PROBLEM?

Do you need help?



**HELP
IS
AVAILABLE**

Contact:

Alcoholics Anonymous

Tel: 01-453 8998

Email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie

Website: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie





DITSU NEWS
MARK SMITH

Sitting on the Fence?

Are you one of those students who haven't got a good thing to say about the college or how it's run? If you are and can't be bothered doing anything about it and want to keep whinging then why don't you turn over to the fashion pages because none of this is going to interest you.

FOR TOO LONG I've been sickened by the number of people who moan about issues such as lectures, staff or IT problems and are happy just to keep moaning about them without bothering to get up off their arses and trying, just trying to make a difference.

Well here's your opportunity. Did you know that a lot of the decisions regarding your education and college experience are made by some of your fellow students? DIT Students Union Governing Council (GC) is the highest decision making body within DIT Students Union, and works on policies as important overall as academic & staff problems, library opening hours and IT issues to those which affect the individual student on a day to day basis like the quality of canteen food or lack of bog roll in the toilets.

GC meets once a month and is made up of the three sabbaticals, the six convenors and representatives from the six main sites, and is an opportunity for students to have their say on how the union is run. This is important, this is our union and we get to say what goes around here. This is the opportunity you've been waiting for

to stand up and off load every shitty element of college life you've had to endure onto someone who is in a position to try to make changes.

Each Governing Councillor position is open to any student, they are elected from your local site class rep meeting, if you need to know when your next one is on then ask your class rep, if they don't know then elect a new one because they're probably useless. The benefits from being a councillor are quite enjoyable too, apart from being able to involve yourself in fairly lively debates with students from other sites food and drinks are provided afterwards and once a year we have an away council where we head off down the country, hold the meeting and then head off on a night out, for free, and I know that's the price you like.

So if you're the type of student who goes around saying 'the lecturers are crap', or that 'RAG week was shite', or that 'the library's never open when I need it too be', here's your opportunity to put your money where your mouth is, get down to your local Union office, tell them you want to be a Governing Councillor and make a difference.

“Water polo? But how do you get the horses into the water?”

I must have heard the line a thousand times, but I still hold my composure and begin to explain how water polo has actually been named one of the top five roughest sports you can play,



SPORT
IRENE WALSH

I BELIEVE IT IS ALSO one of the most satisfying sports. That usually wipes the smirk from their faces. This year D.I.T. was handed the Host baton to plan the national water polo intervarsity event, and the organisation began way back in September by chairperson of the club, Irene Walsh and treasurer Graham Cullen. Assisted by the experience of our coach, Conor Sheridan, the hard work culminated in a great sporting battle on January 27–28 in Falls Leisure Centre, Belfast.

A quick overview of the sport for those without experience of this most glorious of pursuits; a 25m swimming pool —deep at both ends—, two goals, two teams of seven players, one ball and four eight-minute quarters to sort the men from the boys (or the women from the girls in my case). Although any act of brutality, namely punching, head butting and the likes, is punishable by Sin Bin, water polo is about as ‘full contact’ as a sport can get. All sorts of grabbing, pulling, dragging, and twisting goes on beneath the surface, away from the bank-side referee’s line of vision, in order to gain a positional advantage over your opponent. The ball, similar to a volleyball but heavier and with a more textured surface, is passed from player to player, each person only using one hand at a time, with the aim of shooting it past your opposing goalkeeper at the end of the pool. In order to become a top water polo player, it takes high levels of fitness, flawless technique and some serious leg muscles.

As the first year that D.I.T. was able to field a full ladies’ team, we were glad to have even gotten through the qualifying stages back in December, and any progression in the tournament proper would have been a bonus. Our lads had high hopes going into the

competition, having an impressive intervarsity record, reaching semis, finals and even winning in years past. Our ladies team - Jo Flahive, Ailbhe Gannon, Anna Murphy, Aine McBride, Irene Walsh, Elaine Walsh, Amy Woodcock and Elaine Wynne - were beaten by our first opponents (last year’s champions) Trinity, but held it together to overcome UL in a tighter encounter, winning 7-3. Meanwhile the lads’ team, consisting of Derek Basin, Daragh Denver, Ray Cranley, Thomas Foy, Simon McLoughlin, Robert Monks, Eoin Nolan, Stephen O’Brien, Conor O’Dea qualified for the semi-finals after winning their group.

After nursing our bruised/scraped bodies, we donned our glad rags to sample the finest of Belfast’s nightlife. All of the teams headed to Thompson’s Garage nightclub, where we got to, ehem, mingle and apologise for earlier infringements in the pool. The craic was ninety, and the best thing was that due to superb

organisation, matches weren’t to start until 1pm the next day!

Sunday brought more tension to the group games, as positions for the finals were on offer. The girls battled against UL and came out with a hard-earned victory, qualifying us for the final for the very first time. The lads, however, came up against arch-nemeses NUIG in their semi-final and despite fighting long and hard, were beaten 5-3 in the dying seconds.

Taking on Trinity once again in the final, our girls psyched up in war-paint, and prepared for battle. We threw everything we had at the opposition, but unfortunately their experienced team, with many national league players, were just too strong for our young squad and they took the trophy for another year. We were presented with engraved medals by the President of the Irish Water Polo Association. The mens’ game saw N.U.I.G. take on Q.U.B., where the Queens lads took the title 8-3. After the medals were awarded, the fantastic staff of Falls Leisure Centre were presented with a D.I.T. water polo t-shirt for their great work and friendliness. As always, the real action took place out of the water, and a great night out was had by all - Bebo is a testament to that! As a competition, all of the colleges praised D.I.T. for the meticulous organisation and next year it’s over to D.C.U. to uphold the standard. Meanwhile four of our D.I.T. players have been selected on the Celtic Nations panel, a national university team chosen from the best players at the Intervarsities, to represent Ireland against Scotland and Wales in Cardiff this April. They are Eoin Nolan, Conor O’Dea, Elaine Walsh and Irene Walsh. If the ‘Varsities is anything to go by, it’ll be one hell of a weekend!





Photos:Mairéid Butler

Borneo Calling

Kuching, —capital city of Sarawak Province—
Borneo is not the rugged frontier jungle town I was expecting...



TRAVEL
MAIRÉID BUTLER

Kuching, capital city of Sarawak Province, Borneo is not the rugged frontier jungle town I was expecting. Flying in you see skyscrapers rising out of the jungle, loads of industry and they even sell Toblerones in the airport. There's an Irish pub of course, with lovely warm bottles of Guinness on offer but no bridge across the river which divides the town so the you have to jump in a sampan to cross over and back. Especially good fun after a few beers. Most of the populace of Kuching is employed with trimmers fending off the jungle from swallowing up roads and engulfing buildings (and sweaty paddies who stand around gawping).

A few miles upriver, though, it's a different world. Apart from some pretty rough logging roads the rivers are the main way to

travel. The local People are mostly Orang Ulu (upriver people) who are incredibly friendly, polite and helpful which is quite a surprise considering that until about 60 years they were head hunters. Now they are all busy working in the tourist industry and Man Utd shirts seem to have replaced the tribal clothes. Despite the Palm oil plantations and intensive logging there are still huge tracts of rainforest completely untouched and you can take a boat upriver to these places if you're brave enough. I did to Bako National park which can only be accessed by small boat which speeds up the coast for a few miles, dumps you on a jetty and then disappears. The jetty has groups of monkeys hanging around checking out what they can rob from you. These little furry gurrriers long ago lost their fear of people and swoop in grabbing

your bags and sunglasses. They work in groups and often one will try to distract you while the others fleece you - (just like being at home in Ballier, then)

Accommodation and transport is basic, the jungle is full on, the heat unrelenting- never drops below 26c even at night and the mosquitoes are as big as your head and aggressive but its worth all the hardships. In three days I saw proboscis monkeys, long tailed macaques, monstrous wild bearded pigs (not half as funny as they look if you get in their way), snakes, lizards, huge butterflies, Orang-utans, kingfishers and loads of comedy creepy crawlies. They found a cobra in someone's room at the lodge the night I stayed there but didn't tell us until next day so it was just the mosquitoes, the heat and the deafen-

ing cacophony from the jungle, which kept me awake that night. The thought of a cobra under the bed did for the rest of the time.

The Bako national park is one of the few places in the world where you can see the meat eating pitcher plants and the Rafflesia - the biggest flower in the world with some blooms of up to a metre wide. It only opens for a few days, it stinks like rotten meat and I had to trek for three hours through the mud in torrential rain in a plastic poncho (Platoon stylee) just to see it. Brilliant.

Over all despite the stings, bites, scratches, heat rash and lacerations Borneo was the best holiday destination I've ever been to - once you get to Malaysia or Thailand it is quite cheap to fly there (Air Asia) and

accommodation, transport and food is very cheap and mostly very good. I'd give the Frog porridge a wide berth though.



Rafflesia Flower—About to ingest curious onlooker



Taxi—Kuching Style

Vive Le France

Businessmen coming home on their kids' scooters, cops on rollerblades (and kids not tripping them up). Yes, Erasmus is very much about immersing yourself in a different culture (a very different culture.) In fact, there's a lot of things you find yourself learning about La France and 'Ze French.'



TRAVEL
EVA HOGAN

Learning...that Sunday really is a day of rest

That's right, on a French Sunday, you must banish all habitual shopping trips – with approx. everything closed, Sunday really is a day of rest. Coming from somewhere in which the modern shopping centre is the sole place of worship, this is a *vrai* culture shock. Now don't get me wrong, patisseries, boulangeries and similar essentials are at your disposal most of the time; it's just the supermarkets, pharmacies and other luxuries that take their Sunday siestas. (Who needs Motilium when you can have a baguette instead, eh?!) This Sunday siesta business does however encourage you to get off the (very) beaten shopping track and indulge in a bit of culture - going to the Louvre, admiring the nude sculptures etc. Actually, there is no 'etc' – our inspection of David and co is about the extent of our appreciation of art...

Learning...that some people buy REAL Louis Vuitton bags

Living in what we've come to christen 'The French Foxrock', you learn to expect streets lined with bank machines instead of trees and a coiffure per capita - but designer grannies?! Yes, members of the more mature community (of Neuilly, anyway...) can be seen strutting their stuff looking more fashion conscious than well, us (IMHO) - and to even entertain the thought that it might be a fake is a fashion faux pas in these parts. Of course, sporting a Louis Vuitton bag in one hand doesn't exude quite the same class when there's a walking stick in the other but hey, not even the French can be chic all the time...

Learning...the hard way (again)

Coming from the land where an Irish Summer is more reliable than its public transport, the Parisien underground is yet another source of ooh-ing and aah-ing. In fact, the Metro is quite the handy little bugger...literally in some cases. Yes, with trains coming every deux minutes you'd imagine you wouldn't break your neck trying to make one...and you wouldn't - you'd just break your hand instead! excuse my impatience, ineptitude and – oh

lets face it – inebriety, I had the pleasure of getting my wrists caught between the doors of a particularly unforgiving Metro. Ironic the cause of my would-be painful and shameful experience is the reason it was neither of the above. I have since however caught Frenchies doing the same thing (God, at least I had an excuse...) It's true, as modern people we're all in a hurry – some cultures hurries are just less justified than others.

Learning...that the grass is not always greener (just less wet)

Being away, you begin to realise just how much you take for granted at home. Watching 'Friends' with the words and lips in synchronicity, peeing in McDonalds without having to buy something first...but most of all what you miss is - in the absence of your parents (pockets) - affordability.

Take nightclubs where, with solely the well-being of your coat in mind of course, they force you to hire a hangar for the night (because after a €20 admission fee, you haven't paid quite enough just yet). It's enough to drive you to drink...well, if you could afford one!

Yes, at home, you might think you can't afford to drink before you go out, but in pricey Parea, you can't afford not to. In fact, if you want to have a good night (besides coughing up €10 a beer-head), the only way to do it is to get drunk beforehand. Of course you wouldn't want to get too drunk now (you have to pay to pee remember...).

Yes, it's true what they say - change can be a good thing... just so long as you can change back again!



TRAVEL
LINA HACKER

Éireann Go Breá

People keep asking why the hell I love Ireland. I know that it's – excuse my language – F*cking expensive! I know there are way too many scumbags and D4s around and all the culchie accents are at times confusing if not disturbing (how can people talk like this?) – not only for foreigners.

But you who live here your whole life don't really see the beauty of this amazing island anymore. Just go down to the Ring of Kerry and experience this fantastic strip of oak wood : You can nearly see the leprechauns and fairies running and flying about. Or visit the North East coast of Ireland – nothing but cliffs and sheep for miles. Or have you ever been to those charming lakes between Roscommon & Sligo.? Take a walk there on a beautiful summer day, see the trees reflected in the smooth water surface and enjoy the sight of a romantic church ruin.

Not only does Ireland have a beautiful countryside but also nice towns. Galway is full of beautiful buildings or the beaches of Bray are amazingly relaxing and only five minutes away from the main street. So stop complaining and start exploring.

Appreciate your beautiful country





The DIT Battle of the Bands has been established as the premier outlet for Musical talent in DIT.

venue with eastern European interior design and fantastic audience created a unique atmosphere of the event! In the future BoB may (hopefully) become one of the biggest annual events in DIT promoting music and talented students in Dublin.

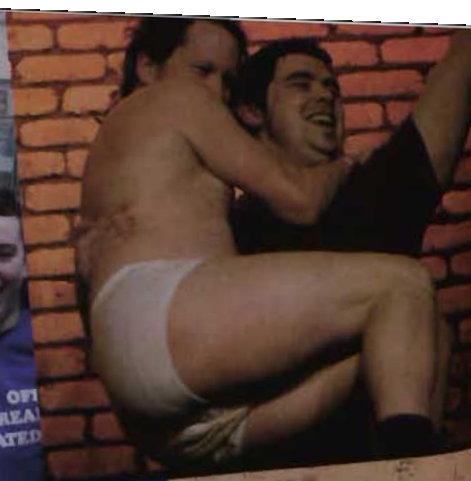
After a 2 year break, a few 1st year students from DT412 Event Managers and a new music society(MuSoc) decided to continue the new music tradition in the college. Now in its 3rd year, BoB (as it is affectionately known) has seen a variety of amazing Dublin underground rock bands.

This year set was bigger than we expected with huge interest from the DIT students. After preliminary eliminations, 13 best bands competed for the prize of 12 hours recording time in the Electra Studio in Temple Bar Music Center and a voucher for equipment. Heats and Final took place in Pravda. In the final (after a bit of controversy on the part of the audience re the judges decision) we heard four very talented bands. Animal Channel, Ebo, Carpe Dic and the winning band Invocation.

Overall, DIT Battle of Bands '07 was a big success. Great rock music, an uncommon







Year in Review 2007





YEAR IN REVIEW

MARK BREEN

This past academic year was a busy one, with DIT students out and about probably more than most! The year started off with Freshers' Week which was a roaring success, welcoming the new 1st Years into DIT in style. The Freshers' Ball in Spirit was an experience, the queue snaking well down the road for most of the night.

Fair play to all of you who descended on Break for The Border for the Halloween Ball. The effort put into some of the costumes belied belief and the night itself was a party-and-a-half with Big Generator rocking the place.

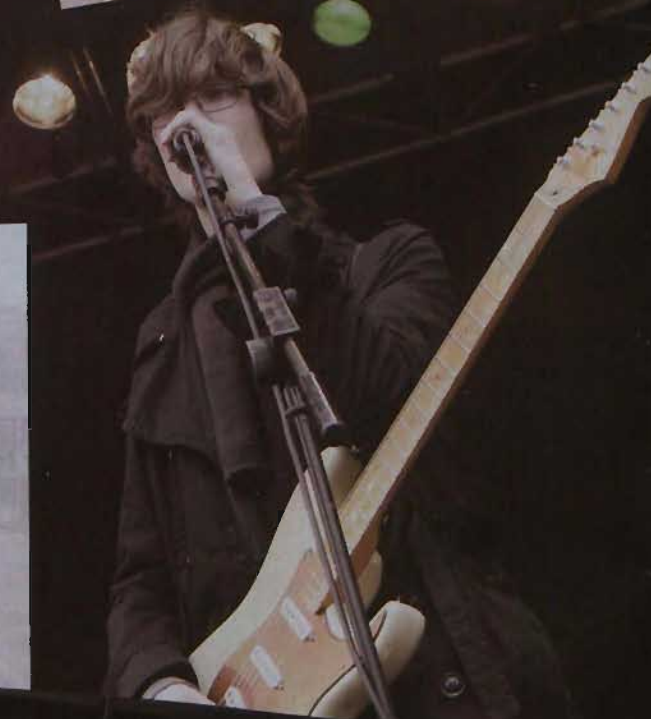
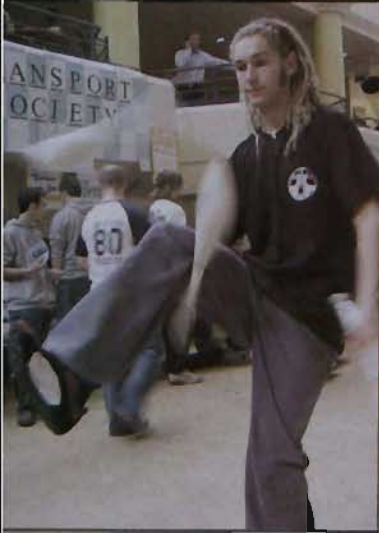
We welcomed the Saw Doctors back for Tradfest '06 in Vicar Street and the night will definitely live long in the memory!! All the favourites were banged out by the ever-young boys from Tuam and they really enjoyed the show (even having shoes flung at them!!)

A huge congratulations must go to all involved with the DIT / A Wear Fashion Show '06. It was a magnificent night, with the production value definitely warranting a special mention.

RAG Week, of course, coincided with SHAG Week with ALL SORTS of shenanigans taking place during the week. €10,000 was raised for the two worthy charities, Enable Ireland and the RNLI (Lifeboats). The Monday saw the bravest of the brave take to the Irish Sea out at the 40 Foot in a sponsored swim / dive / paddle type-thing. Tuesday night was the RAG Ball in Tripod. There was Blue Moose doing their thing and a load of breakdancers over from the UK who spiced up the night with their show. Wednesday daytime was the Carnival Day in Aungier Street with Director blaring out the tunes and the bungee jumping attracting the usual crowd of fearless students. Wednesday night was the SHAG Ball in Break for The Border with the two

strip shows for the boys and the girls. It was a crazy night and cheap as chips! Sure where would ya get it? The usual fun and games was going on across the sites during the week with regurgitators, bands, freestylers etc all keeping us smiling.

And NOW it's wind down time. Ye are all doing your exams and looking forward to the Summer I'm sure. Keep an ear and an eye out as we're trying to organise a couple of parties for ye towards the end of exams!! We're already planning and plotting for next year, so enjoy your summer and we'll see ye in September!



xposed

...the best and worst
of Irish students

Just e-mail in your
most outrageous photos
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or text them to **086 244 89 33**
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30 city breaks **2 Global Interrail passes**
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OR 100's of Videogames, Gig tickets,
CDs and DVDs

**SEND IN
& WIN**



WIN!!!

Flights, InterRAIL Passes
DVD's, Gig Tickets & more

MY HATE LIST



THOSE STUPID THICK 'RETRO' GLASSES THAT IDIOTS WEAR. FACE FACTS FOUR EYES, YOU DON'T SEE DUDES IN WHEELCHAIRS SWAPPING IN THEIR KIT FOR A 'RETRO' STYLE CHRISTY BROWN CART DO YOU?



SMOOTH PEANUTBUTTER.



WHAT'S THE POINT?

CONVERSATIONS THAT START WITH:



CONVERSATIONS THAT END WITH:



IRISH PEOPLE WITH AMERICAN ACCENTS



THE MATRIX SEQUELS....



THOSE CARLSBERG ADS "IF CARLSBERG DID MONDAYS..." SOME OUT OF TOUCH AD EXEC GIMP TELLING ME WHAT MY PERFECT DAY WOULD BE.



MY PERFECT MONDAY WOULD INVOLVE ME, A MG-42, THE BANANA SPLITS AND AN ARMY OF MARAUDING ZOMBIES....



"EMOTICONS". EVEN PEOPLE WHO I RESPECT USE THEM IN EMAILS.



BLOKES WHO THINK THEY'RE WACKY OR ZANY BY SAYING THAT THEY FANCIED AQUA MARINA FROM STINGRAY



WE ALL FANCIED HER.

DUBBED PORN. LIKE SMOOTH PEANUT BUTTER, WHAT'S THE POINT?

