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**Forum : the Magazine of the DIT Students' Unions, No. 2, 5th
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DIT Students' Union

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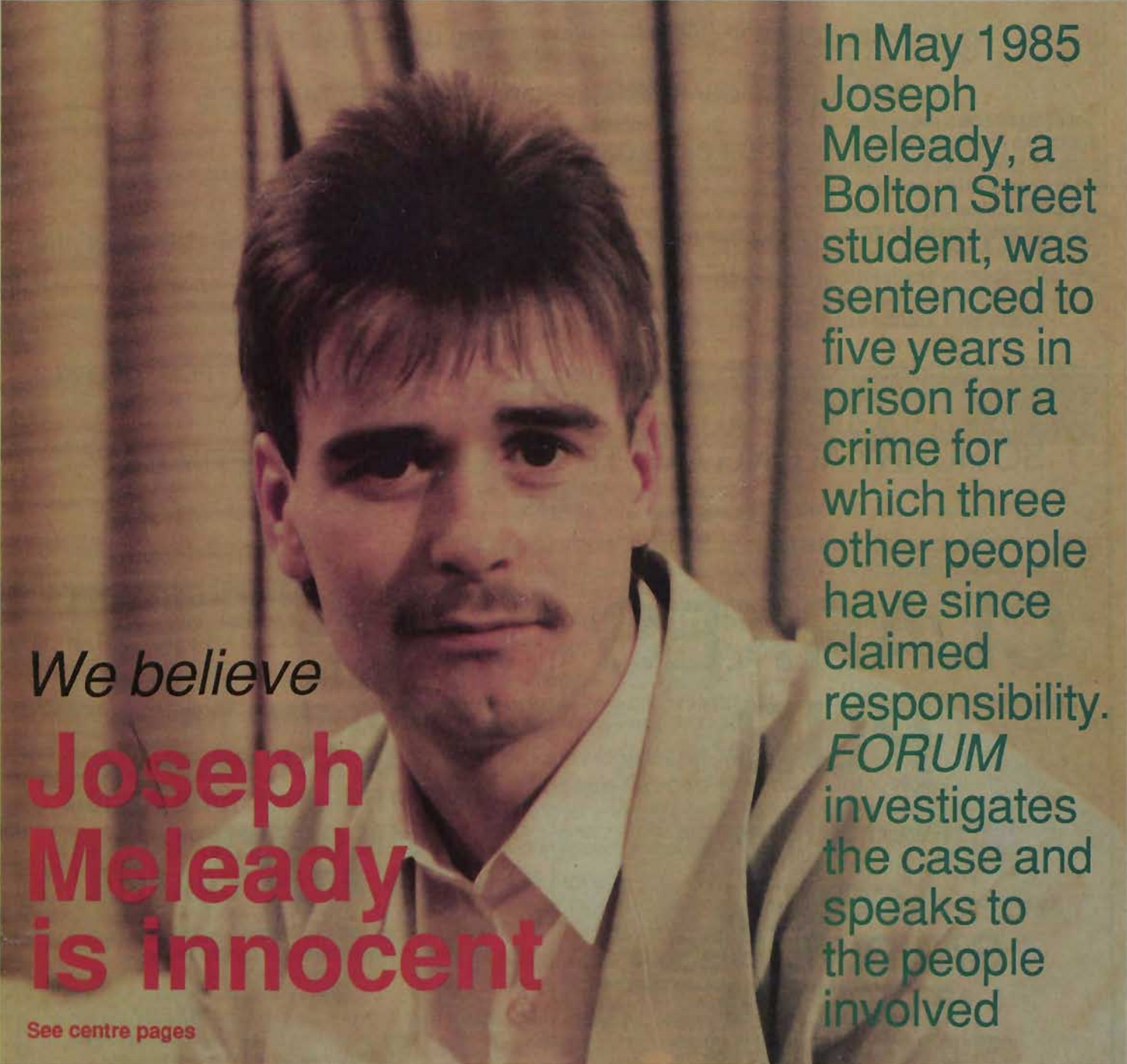
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FORUM

The magazine of the DIT Students Unions

No 2 - Mar 5 1987 - Free of charge to students and staff in the DIT Colleges



In May 1985 Joseph Meleady, a Bolton Street student, was sentenced to five years in prison for a crime for which three other people have since claimed responsibility. **FORUM** investigates the case and speaks to the people involved

We believe

Joseph Meleady is innocent

See centre pages

PLUS

The Dublin City VEC - Who They Are And What They Do

News and Views from around the Colleges

Student Shops And Staff Jobs Still Under Threat

Mickey Whelan on Sports in the DIT

Plus reviews and previews - books, plays and films

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Editorial

TRADING PLACES

As our report on page 11 shows Student's Unions in Bolton Street and Kevin Street are as insistent as ever that the trading services they offer be allowed to continue in the next academic session.

Their stand is to be applauded for two reasons.

Firstly on economic grounds; it is wrong that at a time of high unemployment (250,000) and high emmigration (30,000 annually) for college authorities to be restricting student union services so severely that they face the prospect of having to make staff redundant. The decision is all the more perverse given the fact that it is being proposed by senior pensionable public servants none of whom will face redundancy no matter what the economic state of affairs the country is in. It is worth noting in this context that senior college authorities have already taken a position on these matters even though their political superiors in the VEC, have yet to discuss the issue. The phrase "Yes Minister" springs readily to mind.

Our second reason for supporting the students' unions is again economic. Student union trading provides a necessary supplement to the capitation money - 11% last year. This money goes to fund Clubs and Societies and other activities including important work in the student services area.

Without it, union activities will inevitably be hit. The V.E.C. have done very little in the area of student services - in fact they reallocated the government cleared post of student services head to a person to work in the new computerised admissions section in DIT Mount Street. The very least the VEC can do is to allow the unions the ability to operate in this area.

We urge the VEC to see sense in the student union proposals and act accordingly.



Michael Nugent, Editor Forum Magazine

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41 Mountjoy Square Dublin 1
Tel (01) 363044
The magazine of the DIT Students Unions

Excellent Response

We can only express ourselves as delighted by the excellent response to the first edition of FORUM magazine. It has received praise from students and staff alike, not only in the DIT but also beyond. We believe that FORUM magazine has the potential to be the catalyst that can change the face of communications and publications in the Irish student world.

If this is to happen it is ultimately up to you. The magazine can only do the job it was set up to do if we are kept informed of what is happening in and out of the colleges. We are pleased to see that this has started to happen, even after only one issue has been published. We apologise to those whose contributions were not used; they will be kept on file for future editions. Keep writing.

In this months issue ...

Newsdesk ... Pages 4, 5, 6, 14, 21

An extended look at news and views from the DIT Colleges and beyond.

Who are the CDVEC and what do they do? ... Page 7

One in five DIT students surveyed in last months FORUM poll did not know what the CDVEC is. This month we tell you.

Time to take sports structures seriously... Page 11

FORUM talks to Micky Whelan, PE teacher in Bolton Street College of Technology.

The Shops Campaign ... Page 15

An update on and analysis of the DIT trading dispute after a month of postponed VEC meetings and increased student action.

We believe: Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan are innocent ... Page 15

An analysis of the case of the two Tallaght youths, one a Bolton Street apprentice, who were sentenced to five years in prison for a crime for which three other people have since claimed responsibility.

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Women - A Force For Change: a reprint of an article by the late President Samora Machel of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Apocalypse Then ... Page 22

Michael Cullen talks to war photographer Richard Boyle

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Matt Connolly, President Kevin Street Students Union and Karen O'Sullivan, President Cathal Brugha Street Students Union, talk about their year in office.

Getting the Abbey habit ... Page 26

FORUM talks to Kathleen Barrington, Abbey Community and Education Officer

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An extended Carolyn O'Doherty reviews the latest offerings in the cinema and theatre world.

Letters ... Page 31

Write to us on any topic - FORUM Magazine, 41 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1



Eamon Kelly

Kelly Captivates Kinema

Abbey Actor Eamon Kelly performed to a large crowd in Bolton Street's Kinema on Wednesday last, March 4, as part of the rag week activities in the college.

This is the second year that Eamon has appeared in Bolton Street, and he is building up quite a following among students who now avail of discount Abbey tickets through the Students Union Shop.

USI wins theology grants victory

After many years of lobbying and activity USI have finally been notified by the Taoiseach's office that the bar on theology students receiving higher education grants has been lifted.

The decision means that hundreds of theology students will now be better funded while at college. Previously these students had been barred under a clause

in the constitution which stated that the state shall "not endow any religion". USI had argued over a long period that many theology students were studying the subject as an arts or humanities discipline and had no intention of going on to the priesthood.

Following pressure during the Dail lobby organised by USI in October, a number of deputies, who in some cases were unaware of this bar, raised the matter in the Dail and within their parliamentary parties.

The result was that the matter was

referred to the Attorney general by the Taoiseach and a favourable ruling resulted.

USI President Patricia Hegarty stated that she welcomed wholeheartedly this decision and said it displayed the benefits of a strong national union and a coordinated approach to dealing with grant anomalies.

She hoped that all students would get involved in future USI actions to clear up further grant anomalies such as the two honours rule and the bar on mature students.

Mountjoy Pirates reach final

The College of Marketing and Design rugby team, the Pirates, have reached their first ever Gleeson Cup Final.

The team committee, Eric Doyle, Daragh McCarthy and Andy Meargher, have extended a thanks to Shay Drohan for the sponsorship they obtained from Guinness. A date and venue for the final has yet to be decided, and the committee are confident of a large turnout from COMAD on the day.



Bolton Street students outside the Dublin Central Count Centre on February 19

Bolton Street students picket Election Count in Shops & Staff campaign

Several students from Bolton Street College of Technology placed a picket on the Dublin Central Election Count Centre after last month's election.

The picket was part of the ongoing campaign against the closure of the student shops in the DIT colleges. College Authorities are still adamant that restrictions will be placed on student trading outlets by the beginning of the next academic year.

Aidan Kerins, student representative on the Dublin City VEC, has expressed satisfaction at the level of student involvement, which he says is unprecedented over such a long campaign.



The Technological University Group with Principal Michael O'Donnell in Bolton Street College of Technology

Technological University Group Visits DIT Colleges

The international study group investigating the possibility of an Irish technological University last month visited Bolton Street and Kevin Street Colleges of Technology and the NIHE in Glasnevin.

During their visit they held informal discussions with department heads and student union representatives.

The DIT Inter Student Committee are currently preparing a submission to the study group, which was set up by the outgoing Minister for Education and includes professors from Ireland, UK, Canada and West Germany. They are to begin their discussions this year.

USI to march on Thurs 12th

The Union of Students in Ireland in association with all third level colleges are holding a march leaving Parnell Square at 2pm on Thursday March 12th to Dail Eireann.

The march is to highlight to all politicians the problems facing third level education because of the ever rising fees and lack of a proper grants system. Some colleges are also planning a one day all out strike to coincide with the march.

Society budget to be frozen

An investigation by Bolton Street Students Union into financial irregularities in the Architectural Technician Society budget may result in that societies budget being frozen.

This follows alleged discrepancies in an application for funds submitted to the students union to go on a trip to Berlin. Union officers are remaining tightlipped about the affair until a meeting can be arranged with senior members of the society.



At the Cathal Brugha Street Dress Dance - Michael Bristow (Treasurer Food and Bev Soc) and Paula Newman (chairperson Debating Soc)

Cathal Brugha Street Dress Dance a success

Among The Dublin College of Catering held their annual dress Dance in the Burlington Hotel on February 6 last. Monkey suits and spectacular evening dresses added to the occasion, which overall was regarded as a huge success, according to Angela Malone.

On the night the students present extended a special thanks to the organising committee, namely Conor Lawlor, Diane FitzGibbon, Anne Murphy and Robert Hurley.



The Rathmines Soccer team that drew with Limerick RTC on Feb 12

Rathmines through to AIB Soccer Finals

An equaliser in the 57th minute against Limerick CoACT from David Savage was enough to secure a place for the Collge of Commerce in the finals of the AIB cup.

The first half of the match, which ended 1 - 1, saw many missed chances from the Rathmines side, but their defence was caught off guard when Limerick broke away and went into the lead on the stroke of half time. After the Rathmines equaliser, ten minutes into the second half, they continued to attack and despite penetrating runs down the right wing from Niall 'nibs' Brennan, the game ended as a draw.

Five minutes from the end Joe O'Rourke made a brilliant shot at goal but his shot cleared the crossbar.

The finals of the AIB cup will be held in Letterkenny in March.

Hegarty to Run again for USI Presidency

USI President Patricia Hegarty is expected to announce her intention to run again for the position of President at USI national congress in Portrush next month.

Nominations must be in by March 21 and it is expected that she will be returned unopposed.

Other USI officers expected to run for a second term include Deputy President Sean O hArgain and Campaigning officer Nick Reilly, both of whom are expected to contest O hArgain's present post along with Paul Kavanagh from Queens University Belfast.

Marty Dwan from Letterkenny



USI President Patricia Hegarty

RTC is expected to run for the position of Union Development Officer, Steven Grogan of Galway RTC is expected to be elected Education Officer and Tadhg Daly from Cork RTC is seeking election as Campaigning Officer.

It is not yet known who, if anyone, will be contesting the post of Womens Rights Officer.

COMAD team tipped to win WUS Third World Debate

The College of Marketing and Design team participating in the World University Service "Debates for Development 1987" have been performing exceptionally well, according to WUS Education Officer Michael Holmes.

Coming from a DIT College COMAD originally started out as outsiders. However, after their performance in beating the Rathmines College of Commerce team, Andrew Storey, co-ordinator of last year's winning TCD team, predicted that they could be this year's champions.

They next meet either UCD or Maynooth on March 11.

The winning team's prize is a week long trip to Africa.

The debates are organised by World University Service Ireland, a third world agency run by staff and students from Colleges and Universities throughout Ireland.



Paraclimb Club to Visit Clare

The Bolton Street Paraclimbing Club had a very successful parachute jump last month, with over twenty students taking part.

This event was in addition to twenty four students who took part in a hang gliding outing earlier in the year.

The club now plan a week long visit to West Clare in June of this year, according to Club President Masud, pictured above.

Lenten Lectures '87

A series of lectures entitled "Creating Irish Awareness" are being organised by Bolton Street chaplain Father Des McMahon.

The lectures will be in the Kinema each Thursday from 1.30 to 2 pm and will have speakers from the Simon Community, St Vincent De Paul, the Salvation Army Focus Point, Sr Stanislaus' Society for homeless girls.



Dodge City Slickers in Kevin street College

Dodge City Slickers Draw the Crowds

The Dodge City Slickers have played in both Kevin Street and Bolton Street colleges so far this year. Their outlandish stage act is gaining quite a reputation for the band on the Dublin gig circuit.

Earlier this term they have played to a packed audience in the Gleeson Hall in Kevin Street and during the Bolton Street Rag week they played their second visit to the college.



PD Deputy Leader Michael Keating addresses the Bolton St Class reps

Keating Supports DIT Students in Trading Campaign

At the Bolton Street general meeting that called for the one day strike against the proposed closure of the student shop in the college, the Deputy leader of the Progressive Democrats, Mr Michael Keating, addressed the students and pledged support for the campaign.

"It is wrong that jobs should be put in jeopardy by this form of action" he said. "The students unions should not be penalised for showing initiative and providing a valuable service to the students of the college."

He said he would do whatever he could to help ensure that the shops stay open.

DIT Shops Campaign March Next Tuesday

The DIT Students Unions are to march to Dail Eireann on Tuesday March 10 to highlight for incoming TDs the continuing threat to student shops in the DIT.

The march will leave from Parnell Square at 2pm and will arrive at the Dail at 3pm.

The students unions are urging all students to participate in this action, and are hopeful that the level of student support will remain as high as it has been so far during the campaign.

"We hope people will not fall into the VEC trap of letting things go on until exams are just around the corner and then forgetting about the problem" says Matt Connolly, President of Kevin Street Students Union and Student rep on the DIT Governing body.



Matt Connolly - DIT Student Rep

Newsdesk Items

Items for inclusion in next month's FORUM Newsdesk must be in the FORUM office in the College of Marketing and Design by Tuesday March 24. The next issue will appear on Thursday April 2.

Cathal Brugha St Amsterdam Trip

One hundred and ten students from the College of Catering spent 5 days in Amsterdam on an educational visit last month. They went via Dun Laoighaire, Felistowe, and Brugge.

In all, it took 28 hours to arrive there. The first night was spent in the infamous Leidsplein district, where the students partook in an evening of entertainment.

Mr Paddy Meagher of Heineken Dublin had arranged with his counterpart for a trip of the well known Heineken brewery, one of the biggest in Europe.

The students extended thanks to the organising committee, including Daniel Pedreschi, Colm Duff, Conagh Cremmennis, Carla Cerasi and Maura Sweeney.

Lysaght condemns rag week excesses

College of Commerce Students Union President Paul Lysaght this week condemned the "irresponsible behaviour of some Rathmines students" during rag week in the College.

Problems arose after a coach trip to Newry resulted in complaints from the coach company and other complaints arose from incidents in the college itself.

"This behaviour is juvenile and impresses nobody" said Mr Lysaght. "All it does is cancel out the goodwill generated by attempts by the majority of students to use rag week to make money for charity".



Paul Lysaght - Rathmines SU President



CDVEC Back Row: Tomas Mac Giolla, Barry Earley, Sean Lyons. Centre Row: Charlie McManus, Pat Carey, Aidan Kerins, Seamus Uas Puirseil, Patrick Donegan. Front Row: Michael Cotter, Michael O'Halloran, Liam Arundel (CEO), Liam FitzGerald, Michael Donnelly, Mary Hanafin.

Who Are the Dublin City VEC and What Do They Do?

1. HOW ARE THEY CHOSEN ?

After each Local Government Election the newly elected members of the Dublin Corporation decide who will sit on its sub-committees. These sub-committees include, among others, the City of Dublin Vocational education Committee - the CDVEC.

As with all local government sub-committees the CDVEC is composed of political nominees, who may or may not be members of the Corporation themselves. Also like all local government subcommittees it is likely to be dominated by nominees of whichever party is in a majority on the Corporation. This party is currently Fianna Fail.

2. WHO ARE THEY ?

Of the fourteen members of the current CDVEC, eight are members of Fianna Fail. These include the Chairman, Councillor Liam FitzGerald TD, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Michael Donnelly, Councillors Andrew O'Callaghan, Pat Carey and Mary Hanafin, Mr Michael Cotter, Mr Barry Earley and Mr Seamus Uas Puirseil.

There are two members of the Labour Party on the committee. These are Councillor Michael O'Halloran and Mr Patrick Donegan. Fine Gael have one nominee, Councillor Charlie MacManus. The Workers party are represented by their party leader, Alderman

Tomas Mac Giolla TD. There is one independent member, Mr Sean Lyons, who was nominated by the Fianna Fail group on Dublin Corporation.

The final member is Mr Aidan Kerins, President of the students union in DIT Bolton Street and chairman of the DIT Inter Student

One in every five DIT students who answered last month's FORUM survey did not know what the CDVEC is. This month we let you know.

Committee. He represents the views of the 25,000 full and part time students in the DIT Colleges, which are governed by the CDVEC.

3. WHEN DO THEY MEET ?

The VEC meets at least twice a month during the academic year. It holds one full meeting per month, which is open to members of the press who may wish to report on the activities of the committee. It also holds one policy meeting per month, which is held in closed session. The full monthly meeting discusses

matters under a set agenda covering the activities of the committees twenty six sub-committees. The policy meeting has a more free agenda, with its remit being to examine and develop policy direction in the committee's colleges, schools and subcommittees at any given time. The CDVEC normally meets in the boardroom in the College of Catering on Cathal Brugha Street on the first Thursday (policy meeting) and on the third Thursday (full meeting) of each month.

4. WHAT DO THEY DO ?

The CDVEC oversees the operations of the committee's various sub-committees. It is responsible for the maintenance and development of vocational education in the city of Dublin. In addition to the six DIT Colleges the CDVEC also controls twenty two second level schools in Dublin.

The sub-committees of the CDVEC include the Finance and Building sub-committees, the Staff Relations Group, Comhairle Le Leas Oige (the Dublin City Youth Service Board), the Adult Education Board, the sub-committee for Ringsend Technical Institute, the sub-committee for Ballsbridge College, the sub-committee for the Liberties Vocational School, the sub-committee for Crumlin College, the sub-committee for Rathmines senior College, the Board of Studies, the Career Foundation Board, the

Curriculum Development Unit, the Schools Psychological Service, the Sports Advisory Council, and the Dublin Institute of Technology Governing Body. The DIT Governing Body has itself got various sub-committees. These include the College Councils of the six DIT Colleges at Kevin Street, Bolton Street, Rathmines, Mountjoy Square, Cathal Brugha Street and Chatham Row, plus the academic Council, the Apprentice Education Board and the Student Services Council. Most of these sub-committees also meet monthly, and all have at least two main committee members on them.

5. WHERE DO THEY LIVE ?

Should you need to contact any member of the CDVEC on any matter pertaining to your education, the following are the addresses of the committee members:

- Cllr Liam FitzGerald TD (Chair)**
117 Tonlegee Road, Raheny, Dublin 5
- Cllr Michael Donnelly (Vice Chair)**
33 Glendoher Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.
- Cllr Andrew Callaghan**
52 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2
- Cllr Patrick Carey**
62 Bourne View, Ashbourne, County Meath
- Mr Michael Cotter**
51, Sefton, Rochestown Avenue, Dun Laoghaire
- Mr Patrick Donegan**
121 Shanard Road, Santry, Dublin 9

- Mr Barry Early**
161 Sutton Park, Dublin 13
- Cllr Mary Hanafin**
B Simonscourt Castle, Ballsbridge, Dublin 14
- Mr Sean Lyons**
30 Coolmine Woods, Clonsilla, Blanchardstown
- Ald Tomas Mac Giolla**
49 St Laurences Road, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
- Cllr Charles Mc Manus**
12 Walkinstown Drive, Dublin 12
- Cllr Michael O'Halloran**
141 Ardlea Road, Dublin 5

"... It now appears likely that in the medium to long term there will be no unified campus for the DIT Colleges..."

Seamus Uas Puirsell
16 Hampton Cove, Baile Bridin, Co Dublin
Aidan Kerins
c23 Claremont Court, Glasnevin, Dublin 11

6. WHAT IS THE DIT ?

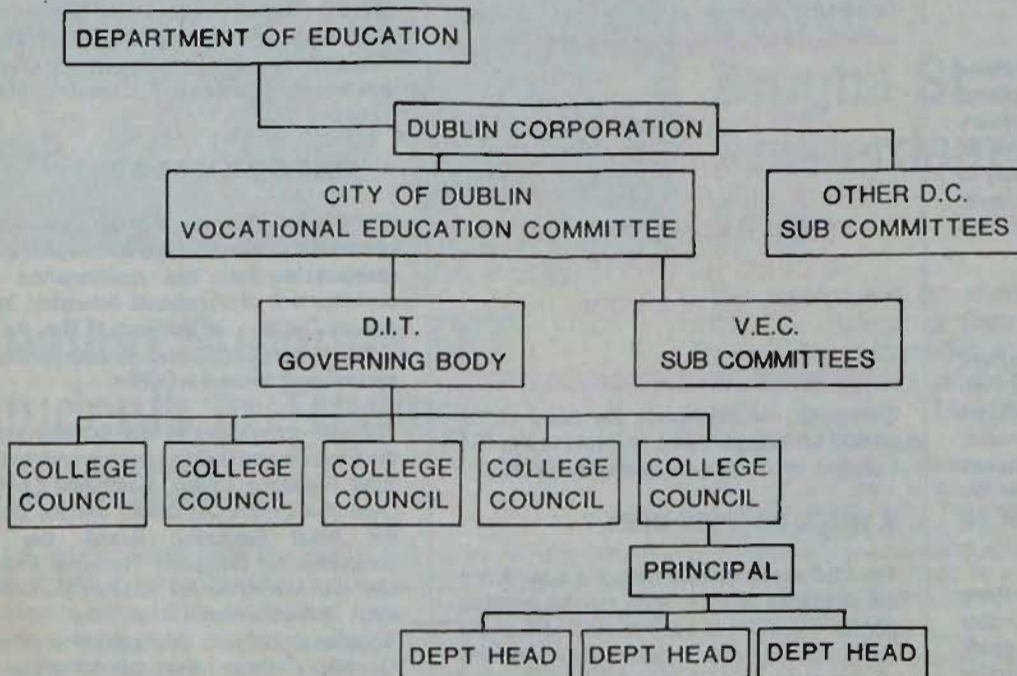
The DIT is the Dublin Institute of Technology - a subcommittee of the CDVEC called the DIT Governing Body was set up in 1978 to work

towards the development of a unified Institute comprising the six third level colleges of the CDVEC. The Governing Body meets monthly to co-ordinate and discuss motions from the six DIT College Councils, the Joint Academic Council, the Apprentice Education Board and the Student Services Council.

The original intention of the VEC was to house most of the Dublin Institute of Technology on the site in Glasnevin now occupied by NIHE Dublin. This proposal, known as the "Ballymun Project". Delays in determining exactly what was proposed for the site resulted eventually in a committee being set up by the Minister for Education in 1974 to develop the NIHE as an independent institute on the site, and decide which VEC courses should be transferred to it. The CDVEC resisted what it considered to be attempts to break up the DIT and the NIHE eventually began operation, without any VEC courses, in 1980.

It appears now likely that in the medium to long term there will be no unified campus for the DIT colleges, though it is intended to move the Colleges of Commerce and Marketing and Design to the old Jacobs building on Bishop Street, near Kevin Street College of Technology. New extensions to Bolton Street and Kevin Street colleges are at present being completed and the colleges of Catering and Music have recently increased their facilities through the use of rented accomodation.

The VEC Chain of Command: From Department of Education to Department Head



Student representatives sit on the the CDVEC, the DIT Governing Body, and the College Councils.

Each Students Union nominates a representative to sit on College Council, normally the Students Union President.

The DIT Inter Student Committee, comprising the presidents of the DIT Colleges at Bolton Street, Kevin Street, Mountjoy Square, Cathal Brugha Street and Rathmines, nominates the student representative on the VEC and the DIT Governing Body.

7. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DIT AND THE COLLEGE COUNCILS ?

The College Councils are subcommittees of the DIT Governing Body. The chairman of each College Council is a member of the CDVEC. The other members of the College Council are representatives from DIT Governing Body, college management (ie the principal), college staff, local trade unions, relevant business sectors to that college, and the students union of that college.

The College Council meets once a month and takes decisions on the internal management of the college. It can make recommendations to the CDVEC on issues such as staffing levels, course structures, fee levels and so on. These recommendations must first be passed by the DIT Governing Body before they reach the VEC.

8. WHAT ARE THE DIT COLLEGES ?

The DIT Colleges are the third level colleges of the City of Dublin VEC. They are:

The College of Marketing and Design Mountjoy Square

Formerly the School of Commerce and Retail Distribution, COMAD is charged with preparing students for careers in business and design, helping businesses with short courses, management training programmes, and mid-career training, and helping research in business and economics and design. The college publishes an international journal of market research which has contributors from Europe and the United States.

The College of Commerce Rathmines

The College of Commerce has full-time courses in Business Studies, Communications, Data Processing, Advertising, Legal Studies, Transport, and Public Relations, and a wide range of related part-time courses. A four-year degree level course in Business Studies was introduced in the early 1960s. The college has close connections with many aspects of business and the media.

The Dublin College of Catering Cathal Brugha Street

Since it was opened in 1941 the College of Catering has offered courses in home management, dietetics, and home economics teaching, expanding from the early 70's into Environmental Health, Tourism, Food Processing, and other technical catering subjects. It has produced many of the technical and managerial staff in the hotel, catering, and tourism industries in Ireland.

The College of Music Chatham row

The College of Music has 2,500 students, and pupils may be admitted as early as 5 years old, although about half of the work is third level. There is a keyboard section,



CDVEC Head Office, Town Hall, Ballsbridge

which takes up half of the activity, an orchestral section, and a vocal, operatic, and dramatic section. The most important entry criteria are recognisable potential and honest effort.

The College of Technology Bolton Street

The Bolton Street college has courses in Architecture, Surveying and Building, Engineering, and Printing. Wholtime courses in for professional qualifications in the construction field last four years, except for Architecture which lasts for five. Direct involvement with community activities helps

**" ... The Department
of Education can dictate
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charged by the VEC
by threatening to cut back
on its grant ..."**

to relate coursework to practical situations in social experience.

The College of Technology Kevin Street

Kevin Street is celebrating its centenary this year as a college where applied sciences have always featured strongly in the curriculum. There are departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics/Statistics/Computer Science, and Physics.

9. WHO FUNDS THE DIT ?

The DIT is funded by the Department of

Education through the CDVEC. Theoretically the CDVEC is an independent body capable of raising its own finance through tuition fees and other means, but in practice it depends so much on its annual grant from the Department of Education that it cannot make its own way financially. As a result of this the Department of Education can dictate the level of tuition fees charged by the VEC by threatening to cut back on its grant if it does not comply with the Department's wishes.

10. WHERE IS THE CDVEC BASED ?

The Head Office of the CDVEC is in Town Hall, Ballsbridge. However, the DIT is run from its own office at 14 Upper Mount Street. It is through here that all admissions are dealt with, but it is through Ballsbridge that scholarships and ESF grants are administered. The main staff people at VEC Head Office are:

Liam Arundel - Chief Executive Officer.
The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the overall implementation of committee policy. He sits in attendance at all committee meetings.

Molra O'Donovan - Principal Officer
The Principal Officer is deals with the day to day administration of the CDVEC. She also sits on the Student Services Council.

Tony Dawson - Finance Officer
The Finance Officer is in charge of the distribution of committee funds. He presents a monthly report to the VEC Finance Subcommittee.

Eamon Tuffy - Education Officer (DIT)
The DIT Education Officer coordinates the academic / admissions side of the DIT. He is based in Mount Street.



Micky Whelan

Micky Whelan had won every honour in the gaelic football game and was a member of the National coaching council of the GAA for several years before becoming PE teacher in Bolton Street College of Technology. He has held that post for two years now, and in that time he has seen and taken note of the major deficiencies in the VEC system when it comes to sport.

He is involved mainly in Gaelic football and to a lesser degree hurling at a DIT level but is also involved at a Bolton Street level with the GAA club and he would like to see that developed in terms of inter college games and competitions. Bolton Street have about forty people actively involved in the Gaelic club and could field a first and second, and possibly a third, team. Micky Whelan believes that they should have more opportunity to compete with students from the other DIT colleges.

"It's not just GAA" he says. "I'd like to see inter college activities on a wider scale and I'd like to see a much more vibrant and strong internal DIT situation where students from the DIT Colleges would come in contact with students from the other colleges. Its one of the failures of the system that this sort of activity is not inculcated amongst students. Look at soccer. There's plenty of potential there. The DIT colleges have traditionally been strong in soccer. The structures exist for a more active inter DIT sports system but I don't think in practice it exists. And I think its mainly because there's nobody to co-ordinate it".

Micky Whelan believes there should be somebody in the system responsible for co-ordinating sports in the DIT - they fixtures, the structure -without taking away from the autonomy of the individual clubs within the

TIME TO TAKE SPORTS STRUCTURES SERIOUSLY

FORUM talks to Micky Whelan, PE Teacher in Bolton Street College of Technology, about the problems faced by DIT students in participating in college sporting activities.

colleges. This person need not necessarily be seconded from a post to do this but it should, he says, be within somebody's brief to do so.

The DIT, he points out, has sporting facilities and staffing levels that are completely unsuitable for its position as the second largest Institute in the country. Micky Whelan expands on this point in a report he has drawn up for submission to the CDVEC Student Services Council on sporting facilities in Bolton Street College.

"The only facilities available to students are the sports fields at Whitehall and Terenure" he says in that report. "These are generally only used for inter college games, but on the odd occasion inter college soccer or gaelic tournaments may be held at Whitehall sports ground. With all due respect, the playing surface of the gaelic pitch at Whitehall is deplorable, and in winter quite dangerous. The dressing room facilities are far from pristine but sufferably adequate, and the toilets and showers were suited to another era, with hot water at times non-existent. I suggest remodernisation would not be out of line if these grounds are to be used with long term implications".

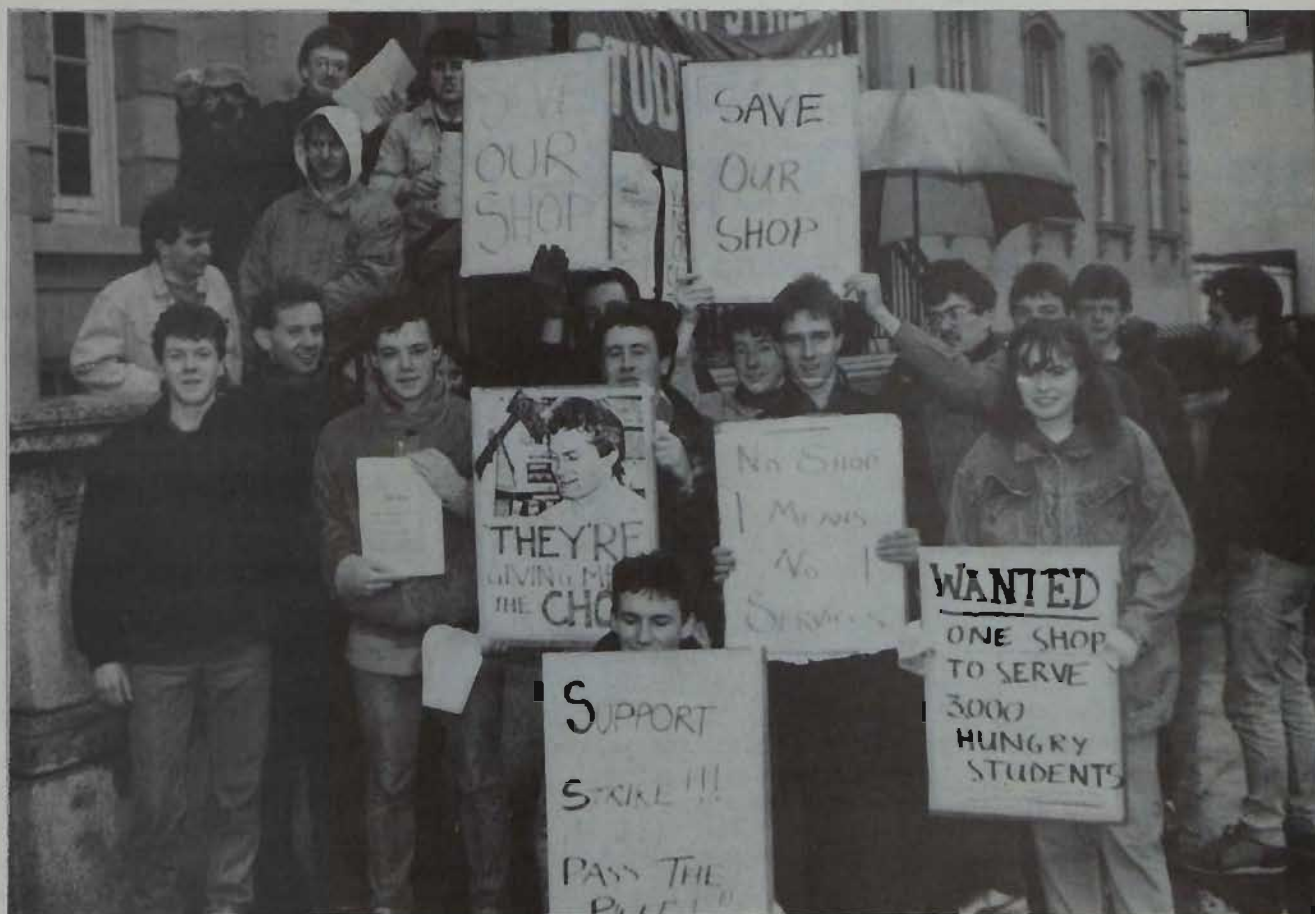
The DIT gaelic team will next year be in the second division of the Higher Education Leagues, and will be playing against teams like Trinity College, who have a sports complex in Santry plus sports grounds within their college environment including excellent indoor facilities. UCD have a huge fieldhouse encircled by playing surfaces both artificial and real, and running tracks. Micky Whelan feels that the DIT students are equally deserving of facilities such as these. "Sport is an important part of everybody's development" he says. "Elit you cannot have

sport running properly unless there is a commitment to proper facilities and finance for those facilities. Another problem for DIT students is that under the present system students interested in participating in sport have to organise everything themselves. You can't do this if you are also studying - or at least most people can't. Whereas if you had a situation where somebody was responsible for the structures and the fixtures then students could more easily find time to just participate".

But sports for Micky Whelan does not just mean the obvious team sports such as football and hurling, rugby and athletics. He believes that the instruction phase of the PE programmes in colleges should be timetabled differently to allow more time to be spent on such sports as orienteering, tennis, golf, swimming etc - what he calls "life skill" sports.

"It is activities such as these that people can continue to enjoy for the rest of their lives" he says, "but within the present system we cannot teach them unless the timetable allows at least a half day or four hours at a time in order to get to outside locations. It's something that wouldn't cost any extra money so the lack of finance argument can't be used against it. All it requires is the will to do it and some extra work in timetabling before the start of the year".

Whether Micky Whelan's ideal of a properly funded and structured sports sector within the DIT will ever come about will indeed depend on whether the political will to bring it about exists at college and VEC level. Whether that political will exists will depend on how seriously the students of the Institute are prepared to take the need for sporting facilities, and let the authorities know what you want. Let them know.



Bolton Street students picket the College during their one day strike on February 11

Bolton Street Students Strike as VEC Postpone Meetings

A one day all out strike of students in Bolton Street College of Technology on Wednesday February 11 last has escalated the dispute over the threatened closure of student shops in the DIT Colleges. And a class rep meeting in Bolton Street last week voted for a continuous canteen boycott, lasting till the end of the academic year, to be activated in the college.

The matter is now reaching a critical stage, according to Bolton Street Students Union President Aidan Kerins, who is also a member of the Dublin VEC.

The February VEC meeting was to have discussed the issue, but it had to first pass through two subcommittees - the Student Services Council and the DIT Governing Body. Both of these meetings have been postponed - one of them twice - making it impossible for the VEC to discuss the matter until its March meeting.

"This is an absurd situation" says Aidan Kerins. "There have been three important meetings postponed in recent weeks for nonsensical reasons. The Student Services Council meeting of February 5 was called off because nobody from the VEC had brought a

AN UPDATE ON THE DIT SHOPS CAMPAIGN

copy of the trading report that was to have been discussed. The DIT Governing Body meeting of February 16 was called off because there was a General Election coming up and many of those involved in the DIT were also involved in political canvassing. Then on the morning of February 23 an emergency meeting of the Student

Services Council - which had been arranged after the collapse of the February 5 meeting - was postponed for no reason, less than two hours before it was to have taken place".

At the Bolton Street meeting that called for the canteen boycott, many students felt that the VEC was using delaying tactics in order to prolong the time before taking a decision on the issue. But the students made it clear that they would not be put off by these sort of tactics and would continue to campaign until a satisfactory solution could be attained.

The Student Services Council meeting was rearranged for Thursday March 5 with the trading report again on the agenda for discussion. From this meeting it will go to the DIT Governing Body on Monday March 16 and then to the VEC on March 26 for a final decision.

What has caused the Shops Dispute?

The background to the DIT trading campaign

At a meeting last September to discuss the layout of the Students Union area in the new college extension at DIT Bolton Street, it was first learned that attempts were being made to curtail the services offered to students by the students unions through their trading outlets and common room facilities.

At the meeting were Eamon Connor, Admin Officer for the DIT students unions, Aidan Kerins, Bolton Street President and Michael Murphy, vice principal of Bolton Street college and the person in charge of space allocation in the new building.

It was learned by the union representatives that the college authorities had reservations over certain aspects of student union trading. It was proposed that from next September the student shop would only sell what it was 'allowed' to sell by the college authorities, and that pool and video games would be banned as they were 'non conducive to education'.

At a DIT Inter Student Committee meeting held later that week it was reported that similar problems were arising in DIT Kevin Street and Mountjoy Square. Kevin Street, like Bolton Street, was acquiring new canteen areas in its extension and as such the college felt that there was no longer a need for the students union to continue providing such a broad range of goods through its shop and coffee bar. In the College of Marketing and Design the whole question of the existence of a student union shop and office area was being debated. In the interim the College of Catering had opened its first student run shop and had employed a full time manager to run it.

The students unions formally objected to any attempts to curtail goods sold through their shops. They said such a move would undermine their financial base and place their staff members jobs in jeopardy. At the present DIT Students Unions Ltd employ four full time shop staff who are assisted by seven part time staff.

According to the relevant college authorities, as college canteens were being vastly expanded the service offered by them to students would improve and so there was no longer a need for the unions to fill the void that had been left by the college's inactivity. The students unions disagreed with this view.

"The students unions right to trade is not dependant on what similar services are being provided by the college" says Aidan Kerins. "We find that the college's heavy handed attitude towards our shops totally unacceptable. For ten years now we have run a shop which has been open twelve hours a day selling a broad range of goods to both students and staff. The college canteen opens for less than five, never bothering to cater for the two thousand part time students who use Bolton Street student shop. The student shops are run on a non profit making basis. The profits made on confectionery, tea and coffee is used to subsidise the prices of course related materials such as stationery, calculators, safety equipment and so on. The income from common room facilities - pool and video games - goes directly to the funding of sports clubs and societies. We have spent too much time and effort developing our services to have them cut back because somebody now feels that they cannot handle fair competition".

The Student Services Council of the Dublin VEC set up a subcommittee to look into the question of student trading. It interviewed everyone concerned and issued a report on student union trading. The report recommended that the college principals should have the final say in what trading went on in each college. The students unions objected to this. A proposal by the students unions to amend the report is on the agenda when the it goes to the Student Services Council for ratification on Thursday March 5th. A final decision will then be taken by the VEC at its next meeting on Thursday March 26th.

The DIT student shops campaign has seen unprecedented involvement in actions ranging from petition signing and canteen boycotts to mass demonstrations and a one day all out strike by students, according to the DIT Students Unions.

And students union representatives have had several meetings with college authorities in an attempt to negotiate a satisfactory settlement to the issue.

"There seems to be reluctance on the colleges' side to achieve a settlement before the end of the academic year" says Matt Connolly, student representative on the DIT Governing Body. "It was as a result of these failed negotiations that the students had to embark on more militant actions".

PETITION NEVER DELIVERED

"The contempt with which some people have treated the students is evident in the fact that a petition of almost two and a half thousand signatures which was handed into VEC officials in Ballsbridge on December 2nd last year, for delivery to the CDVEC Chairman Liam FitzGerald TD, never reached him" he continues.

"How can they expect us to continue with peaceful lobbying while they treat us in this manner? At this late point in the year students are beginning to accept the fact that this campaign will possibly drag on to the next academic year".

BALLSBRIDGE DEMO

The demonstration outside Ballsbridge Head Office at which the petition was delivered attracted almost one thousand students, according to Aidan Kerins, student union president in Bolton Street.

Addressing the students at that demonstration, he said that he would not allow the VEC to deal with the students union staff members' livelihoods in such a flippant manner.

"In the case of Bolton Street, Jimmy Kane has been employed by the students union for five years as shop manager. Under his direction the shop has thrived and now offers the best service to date to both staff and students in the college. It is scandalous

DIT Shops Campaign Sees Unprecedented Student Involvement, Say Student Unions

to expect us to make Jimmy redundant after his efforts over the last five years. It has been suggested that our shop staff could be absorbed into the VEC system and not lose their jobs. This is a nonsense. The VEC cannot employ additional staff because of the government public service jobs embargo".

MORE SENSIBLE

"Even if they could take people on, they could be more sensible with the public's money than to be spending it on providing a service that already exists at no cost to them. It would be a lot more beneficial to the students of this Institute if the relevant authorities spent as much time and energy in trying to provide a decent student services backup rather than trying to close down existing services" he said.

ALL COLLEGES AFFECTED

Though the campaign has so far been at its most intense in Kevin Street and Bolton Street, all DIT students will be affected if the trading report is passed without the students union amendment. The College of Marketing and Design



The Ballsbridge Demonstration on December 2nd

students union has already had serious trouble at the start of this year when the college authorities actually moved the union shop and office to a different room over a weekend.

COMAD Students Union President Anne Boylan will be proposing a canteen boycott in the college if the students union amendment is not accepted at the

Student Services Council meeting on Thursday March 5th.

VEC DECISION

A final decision on the shops issue is scheduled to be taken at the VEC meeting on Thursday March 26. A full report and analysis will appear in next month's *FORUM*.

Trading Report Amendment Proposed By Kerins

The Student representative on the Dublin City VEC, Aidan Kerins, is to propose an amendment to the trading report which would mean that the present level of services being offered by the students unions would not be curtailed, but that the unions would be willing to negotiate with the colleges on any planned expansions to the services.

"The report's findings will give more control to the local college principal on the question of trading within a college," he says. "We are quite willing to discuss our trading at a Student Services Council level, but we have taken steps to co-ordinate our trading under the auspices of our company DIT Students Union Ltd, and we are not prepared to have this work fragmented by localised deals and arrangements that will prevent us from providing a



Aidan Kerins

worthwhile service to our members".

"The local authorities in three of the colleges have already outlined their objections to services such as tea and coffee being offered to students through their shops. As far as we are concerned the shops will sell what the students, not the college, want them to sell".

Colleges Haven't Objected Before, Says Connolly

At no stage in the development of the shop services did college object to the range of goods on offer or suggest that it was inappropriate that new services such as tea or coffee should be sold, according to Matt Connolly, student representative on the DIT Governing Body.

"In Kevin Street, for example, a water supply was laid on without problems" he said. "From time to time tensions have arisen over the video machines aspect of our trading, but apart from self-imposed removal of 'gambling machines' this never looked like being a threat to existing services".

On the provision of a twelve hour catering service for students, it was due to the college's inability to do so that we saw no alternative but to invest in equipment, staff, and energy to establish certain services, he



Matt Connolly

points out.

"In fact" he says "There are several instances where colleges welcomed student trading as it relieved pressure on them to provide similar types of catering services. In Bolton Street the college actually protected the shop from local trader criticisms of unfair competition".

Champions

DIT beat Limerick in GAA Division Three Final

The DIT Gaelic Football team came out victors in a hard fought game against Limerick CoACT to win the final of the Higher Education league division Three, winning by two goals and six points to Limerick's seven points.

The match was played in foggy conditions on a soft pitch in Roscrea, County Tipperary.

DIT had the better of the early exchanges with some fine play from Paul McLoughlin (Bolton Street), Seanie McNiff (Cathal Brugha Street) and Cian Long (Bolton Street). Cian Long's two goals proved to be the decisive

factor in the game, which at times proved to be a bruising affair. Seanie McNiff played a blinder at corner forward and was by far the most effective of the striking force.

Outstanding in defence were Declan Phillips, Willie Lawton and Fergus Rowley, with Mick Egan and Peter Daly sharing the honours up front with Long and McNiff.

Overall however, it was the allround team effort and skill that impressed most, and which brought the first cup of the year for the DIT Gaelic football Club.



DIT Gaelic Football Captain Fergus Rowley is presented with the Higher Education Div 3 trophy after the game against Limerick

Bolton Street take part in Equestrian Intersarsity National Championships

On february sixth to eighth Bolton Street Equestrian Society took part in the Intersarsity events in Queens University Belfast

It was the first time in many years that Bolton Street had entered such an event and the trip was quite successful, according to members of the society.

The team, consisting of nine Bolton Street students from a range of courses, took part in Prix Caprilli, Dressage and Show-jumping events.

Thirteen colleges took part in these national championships and Bolton Street was placed fourth in the showjumping, Conor Crowley being in the rosettes in the individual category.

Since then Bolton Street have also competed in the National tetrathlon hosted by Maynooth

College on the 21st and 22nd of February. Four club members braved the elements and were pleased with their performances in this four phase event of swimming, running, shooting and horseriding.

University College Galway are hosting the next Equestrian competition on the 21st and 22nd of March, at which Bolton Street also hope to be represented. Meanwhile, subsidised lessons are taking place on a weekly basis for those members who are not quite so ambitious.

The Bolton Street teams at the Intersarsity national championship in Belfast were Conor Crowley, Aonghus Patterton and Lesley Burke (showjumping), Michael Butler, Niall Clancy and Gemma O'Farrell (prix caprilli) and William Moore, Linda Perle and Eileen Gilna (dressage)



Action from Tolka Park last Tuesday where Cathal Brugha Street won the DIT soccer league B section final

Cathal Brugha Street win DIT Soccer Final

A two goal sequence in a thirty second spell in the first half was the highlight of an exciting 3 - 2 victory by Cathal Brugha Street against Kevin Street College of Technology in the final of the DIT soccer league B section at Tolka Park last Tuesday.

Cathal Brugha Street, who were considered to be the underdogs before the game started, put on a

splendid performance, scoring the first goal and taking the lead again after Kevin Street equalised, eventually holding on to win the B section title.

The final score accurately reflected the play after a thrilling first half was followed by determined efforts by Kevin Street to get back into the game as the final whistle approached.

Cover Story



Joseph Meleady (left) and Joseph Grogan - convicted and sentenced to five years in prison for a crime that many people believe they did not commit

Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan: Did The Courts Get It Wrong?

1. THE CRIME

On the 26th of February 1984, Eamon Gavin heard a car starting outside his home in Cremourn, Templeogue. It was a dark night. He asked his twelve year old son, Paul, to look out the window. Paul looked out and told his father there were people starting the family's car. What followed was a horrific crime, and one which shows how serious and dangerous the crime labelled "joy-riding" by the media can actually be. It is necessary in order to convey the seriousness of the crime to describe in detail what happened.

Eamon Gavin ran out and tried to open the drivers door and the right rear door of his car. The three youths in the car had locked the doors, and the driver began to reverse. Eamon Gavin jumped onto the bonnet of the car and lay across the windshield to try to block their view. The driver turned and twisted the car, starting and stopping very violently, in an attempt to dislodge him. Mr Gavin slid down the bonnet, gripping the lip where the bonnet meets the windshield. The car drove forward to a T junction about 150 yards from where it had been stolen, and had to stop before moving onto the busy Firhouse Road. Gavin jumped off the car and

stood in front of it with his hand on the bonnet. He told the youths to run away and said he would not follow them. They ignored

Two young men from Tallaght, one a Bolton Street student, have been sentenced to five years in prison for a crime for which three other people have since claimed responsibility.

his plea, and drove forward towards him, forcing him to again jump onto the car bonnet. They then drove onto the Firhouse Road, narrowly missing a collision with another car,

turned right onto Knocklyon Road, and accelerated to a speed of over sixty miles an hour, swerving from side to side in an effort to dislodge Mr Gavin from the car bonnet.

Inside the car one of the youths found a three quarters full plastic container of windscreen cleaning fluid, which the front seat passenger threw at Mr Gavin, hitting him on the head. Someone found a heavy Bank of Ireland gold umbrella which Mr Gavin had been given as a Christmas present. The front seat passenger leaned out of the window, and started to hit Mr Gavin with the handle of the umbrella. He struck him repeatedly on the shoulders, arms, wrists, hands and head as the car was travelling at over sixty miles an hour. Mr Gavin suffered cuts and bruises, including a burst blood vessel in his shoulder. After being hit twelve or thirteen times, Mr Gavin managed to catch the umbrella and throw it to the side of the road. It was at this stage broken in two from the ferocity of the blows being rained on Mr Gavin and the car bonnet. During all of this time the car had been stopping and starting, braking violently and accelerating wildly, and swerving from side to side along the Knocklyon road.

At this stage the back seat passenger found a heavy metal safety container containing



Mrs Kathleen Meleady and Mr Paddy Meleady - Collecting signatures outside the GPO every Saturday for a petition on the case

two gallons of petrol in the boot of the hatchback car. He leaned out the side window behind the drivers seat and rested the can on the top of the car, then picked it up and prepared to throw it at Mr Gavin. Mr Gavin shouted at him that it was full of petrol and that it would kill him. "That's right we will kill you" the youth shouted back. "We will kill you, you fucking bastard". All three youths were laughing at Mr Gavin and the one with the petrol container shouted to Mr Gavin that if he didn't get off the car when they slowed down they would kill him and burn him.

The car slowed down to a crawl and Mr Gavin rolled off the bonnet and landed on his feet. He walked to the passenger window and asked the youths not to wreck the car. They said that they wouldn't and drove off in the direction of the nearby Superquinn store. Mr Gavin began to walk towards his home, and was offered assistance and a lift by the driver of another car. He later attended Dr Steevens Hospital where he was X rayed.

2. THE DESCRIPTION

On arrival home, Eamon Gavin gave a description to Garda Pat Thornton of the people who had stolen his car and assaulted him. Garda Thornton's notes were later read out in court. He said that Mr Gavin had said one of the people was aged sixteen or seventeen years of age, of slight frame, short hair, wearing a black leather jacket, with a dark complexion and a peaked hat. He said that the other person had fair curly hair, shortish. He said there was a third person in the back that he couldn't see. He could give no further details of the people who had stolen his car.

3. THE IDENTIFICATION (1)

On Monday March 5th 1984 Eamon Gavin

was contacted by Garda Thornton and asked to come to Rathfarnham Court. He says that he had contacted Mr Gavin after becoming aware of the court list for that day. He said in court that he thought from the names he had been given that it could be possible that some of them had been involved in the incident. He denied he had given Mr Gavin any indication that he believed any specific people in the court had committed the crime.

There were between thirty and forty people in the courthouse, about half of them teenagers. Eamon Gavin says he did not recognise any of them as the people who had taken his car. He then went from the courthouse to an annex, where there were about nine or ten people. He says he then recognised the driver and front seat passenger of the car sitting on a table. He says he then walked out to Garda James Broe and pointed out Joseph Grogan and Joseph Meleady as being the passenger and driver of the car. Garda Broe then went over to the two youths and asked them to come over to Mr Gavin. He told them they had been identified by Mr Gavin and cautioned them that anything they said would be taken down and could be used in evidence against them. Some time later, he says, his son Paul arrived and was asked by Garda Broe to walk around the courtroom and see if he could identify anybody. Garda Broe says that Paul Gavin pointed out Joseph Meleady as being the driver of the car. He then asked Paul Gavin to formally identify Joseph Meleady. Garda Broe says that Paul Gavin did this. Joseph Meleady says that Paul Gavin looked at himself and Joseph Grogan, that Garda Broe said "is that them", that Paul Gavin said nothing, that Garda Broe said again "is that them" and Paul Gavin then said "yes, that is the driver".

Both defendants were arrested by Garda

Thornton, who had arrived at the courthouse.

4. THE IDENTIFICATION (2)

Mr Paddy Meleady, father of Joseph Meleady, was also at Rathfarnham courthouse that day. His son was in court on another charge and he wanted to show the court that Joseph had a concerned parent. Paddy Meleady was present when the identification took place. He says he saw things happening in the courthouse about which he has asked to be able to give evidence at the first and second trial but has not been allowed.

Whatever happened in Rathfarnham Court that day, there was certainly no formal identification parade, as is normal in a case such as this. Garda Thornton was later to say in court that although it would have been fairer, it was not practical to hold a formal identification parade, that it was very difficult to gather up twenty youths all at once, and that they might have had to hold a dozen identification parades had they done it formally.

5. THE COURT CASE (1)

During the court case on May 7th 1985 Mr Gavin was questioned on the events of the night. He was confident and articulate and told the jury that he was 100% certain that the two youths in court were the youths who had stolen his car. He said he had identified them in Rathfarnham Court on March 5th and that he had described them to Garda Thornton on the night of the crime. He said that their faces were indelibly marked on his brain for the rest of his life. Despite his confidence, Mr Gavin's evidence was not consistent with his recollections on the night of the incident.

Mr Madden, appearing for the defence, pointed out that Mr Gavin's statements to the Gardai were dated March 5 and March 6, with a further statement on April 25. All three statements were made after, not before, the identification in Rathfarnham Court. The only description given by Mr Gavin before the identification in Rathfarnham Court was the description given to Garda Thornton on the night of the incident. When questioned on this description, Mr Gavin said he had told Garda Thornton that the passenger had longish fair hair and the front seat passenger he would recognise mainly by his dark deep set eyes. He had in fact told Garda Thornton that he could not see the person in the back, and that the front seat passenger had shortish fair hair. He did not remember whether he had told Garda Thornton that the driver had a peaked hat. He remembered that he had said that the driver had a dark complexion. Joseph Meleady, who Mr Gavin says was the driver, was in court and did not have a dark complexion. Mr Gavin accounted for this by saying that Joseph Grogan had lost weight and had become paler since the incident. He said that he had told Garda Thornton that Joseph Grogan had had a bluish jacket with sheepskin inside and a sheepskin collar. He had in fact not told Garda Thornton anything about what the passenger had been wearing.

Mr Gavin explained his confusion by pointing out that after such a harrowing incident as he had gone through, a person probably wouldn't recall everything. Mr Madden suggested that this was indeed likely to be the case, and that it was likely that because of the trauma of the event Mr Gavin's recollection could be faulty in his identification of Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan. Mr Gavin denied that this was a possibility.

6. THE COURT CASE (2)

The witnesses for the defence of Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan did not stand up as well to cross examination as did Eamon Gavin. They were less confident, less articulate. They were questioned aggressively on minute details of their alibis for the night. Though they all maintained consistently that they had been with or had seen Joseph Meleady or Joseph Grogan on the night in question, the details they gave were inconsistent or contradictory.

Joseph Meleady said he was at a fire in a field having a few drinks. It was usual for him and other youths in the area to do this. He said he was with a friend called Michael McCormack, and they were joined at the fire by Bernard Nugent and Bernard Grogan. At about half seven or a quarter to eight he said that he went to his girlfriend who was babysitting in a flat in Dominick's Terrace, about ten minutes walk from where the fire was. He said they stayed in the flat listening to music and watching television and left at about half past eleven.

Under cross examination by Mr Eamon Leahy, Joseph Meleady was asked what Michael McCormack was wearing on the

night. He could not remember. He was asked what type of bag the beer he and Michael McCormack had bought was carried in. He said a brown paper bag. He was asked when he got to the flat who turned on the record player. He did not know. Mr Leahy accused him of inventing the story and told him there was not a word of truth in what he had said.

Sharon Eccles, Joseph Meleady's girlfriend, was asked what type of bag the drink that Joseph brought to the flat was in. She said she thought it was a plastic bag. She thought it was brown. She could not remember whether she gave him cheese sandwiches or ham sandwiches.

Bernard Nugent was inconsistent in his evidence. He said he was able to recall the night because he was told the following day by Joseph Meleady that he had been arrested. Meleady had not in fact been arrested until a week later.

Mr Leahy suggested to both that their evidence was a fabrication put together to extricate Joseph Meleady from his present difficulties.

Joseph Grogan told the court that he had left his house just before six on the night of the incident. He had walked to Dominick's Shops in Tallaght village and met his girlfriend,

Florence Scott, at about half past six beside a fire behind the shops. He then went to the off licence to buy some cans of drink and came back to the fire. Four of his friends, he said, were at the fire and would give evidence for him. They were Thomas Enright, Shay Keane, Alan Keogh and Tracey Corpe. He went for cigarettes at about half past seven and met another friend, Rory Hynes, and his girlfriend, Tina McArdle. Both of these were also to give evidence for him. He then went back to the fire and stayed there until he had to bring Florence to a bus stop. Cross examined by Mr Leahy, Joseph Grogan was also asked what type of bag the beer he had bought was in. He said it was a kind of a yellow/brown bag. He was asked did it have a handle, did it have the name of the shop or a brand of beer written on the side of it. After giving evidence, Mr Leahy suggested that his evidence was a complete fabrication. Joseph Grogan said no, it was the truth.

Tracey Corpe verified Joseph Grogan's story, but could not remember the date of the Sunday night in question. Thomas Enright was asked why he had not gone to the gardai before the case and said that he was with Joseph Grogan on the night. Alan Keogh verified Joseph Grogan's story. He was asked what conversation took place that

"I feel very strongly that in all probability a miscarriage of justice has occurred" - T.D.

On November 10 1986 Mervyn Taylor TD wrote to Paddy Meleady saying that he had presented Alan Dukes with a petition calling for a review of the case. He had written to Alan Dukes saying he felt there were a number of very disturbing features in relation to the conviction of the two youths.

Mervyn Taylor said that it seemed to him that the evidence of identification was completely unsatisfactory. The normal procedure to be adopted in relation to doubtful identification would be to organise a properly conducted identification parade at which the injured party would be invited to select the person who it is alleged committed the offence from a line of people of similar build, height etc. Instead of that, he pointed out, the gardai brought the injured party to Rathfarnham District Court where he identified two people who happened to be in the court at that time. He pointed out that both youths had consistently denied their involvement in the crime and that two other youths had said that they were involved, and Grogan and Meleady were not.

He said that there must at the very least be a serious doubt that an injustice had occurred and said that he felt very strongly that in all probability a miscarriage of justice had occurred in this case and that it should be rectified.

Mervyn Taylor said that he knew the Meleady family personally and knew them to be a completely honest, upright and hardworking family in every respect and he said that he was very unhappy about the outcome of what had happened. He asked Alan Dukes to examine the case personally and hopefully intervene. No such intervention has taken place, despite increased involvement from political figures inside and outside the Tallaght area.

Mervyn Taylor has said that he will continue to campaign for the release of Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan. He has said that he will campaign for cross party support in the new Dail for a call to review the case. Already all four TDs elected from the Tallaght constituency have pledged their support for a call for a review of the case.

"A very real possibility that Eamon Gavin may have got it wrong"

The whole history of criminal law shows mistakes have been made by well meaning people in relation to identification, according to Solicitor Garret Sheehan. This, he says, is no criticism of the injured party in this case, but there is, he says, a very real possibility that Eamon Gavin may have got it wrong.

"Clearly in the light of the fact that this young man from Tallaght (Gus Dunne) has now made statements saying that he was in the car, that we know that Brendan Walsh was in the car, because he pleaded guilty and we know that there were only three people in the car - If this is true and if Gus Dunne is telling the truth then of necessity a mistake has been made and, at the very least, either Grogan was not involved or Meleady was not involved. And if a mistake has been made in relation to one then it is clearly possible that a mistake has been made in relation to both"

The other factor, says Garret Sheehan, is in relation to the trial itself. One of the problems is that maybe not enough research has been done in relation to juries in this country, but it has been done in Canada and tests have shown that the witness that comes across as being more confident is the one who is believed more readily.

"It is possible in this case that the jury, who were clearly impressed by this man's evidence, may not have paid the kind of attention that the defence counsel would have liked to certain matters in relation to the identification; namely the time, the light, the fact that they were identified some weeks later" says Mr Sheehan. It also seems significant, he says, that in this particular case such a big group of people seem to believe that a miscarriage of justice has occurred. This, he says, rarely happens on

the scale that exists in this case.

And Private Investigator Billy Flynn, who is investigating the case, says that the handling of the case by the Gardai has been exceptionally unsatisfactory, to say the least. There is a lot to explain about some of the evidence in the case, or rather the lack of it, he says. Only one person's fingerprints were found in a car that had been driven furiously with three people inside for some period of time, and that was the prints of the person who had pleaded guilty. No fingerprints were found in the car they had stolen previously and had left outside Mr Gavin's house.

Billy Flynn also believes that the Garda investigation into the matter has been unduly influenced by Eamon Leahy, who appeared for the prosecution in both trials.

night, who was the first person he talked to. He could not remember. He was also asked whether Joseph Grogan had his beer in a plastic or paper bag. Rory Hynes was asked was it a rainy night, was there a starry sky. He said he did not take much notice of the stars. He was asked exactly when prior to that night he had met Joseph Grogan at night. He could not remember. His girlfriend, Tina McArdle, was asked what she had been doing on 26th of February 1985, and on the 26th of May the previous year. She could not remember. Mr Leahy suggested that there was a conspiracy between the witnesses, that they were fabricating stories and lying.

7. BRENDAN WALSH

At the trial evidence was also given by Brendan Walsh, another Tallaght youth who had been charged with involvement in the same crime. He had pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years. He gave evidence at the trial to the effect that Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan were not the other two youths in the car with him on the night of the crime. He said that he was the front seat passenger, and that it was he who had assaulted Eamon Gavin with the umbrella. He would not say who the other two people involved were. Mr Leahy suggested that this was untrue, that the other two people involved were Joseph Grogan and Joseph Meleady, and that Brendan Walsh was fabricating the story to get Meleady and Grogan out of the difficulties in which they found themselves.

8. THE VERDICT

After retiring for approximately thirty five minutes the jury found Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan guilty on two charges each;

malicious damage to Eamon Gavin's car and assault occasioning bodily harm to Eamon Gavin. Both Meleady and Grogan had had previous convictions. They were sentenced to two years each on the malicious damage charge, and five years each on the assault charge. Both sentences were to run concurrently and both youths were committed to St Patrick's Institution.

9. THE AFFIDAVIT

Following the trial another Tallaght youth came forward to the Meleady and Grogan families and said that he was involved in the crime and that Meleady and Grogan were innocent. He made a signed sworn statement to a solicitor and on the basis of that new evidence a retrial was applied for. This youth has since been charged with perjury for signing the affidavit and we cannot name him or give any details of his alleged part in the incident as the matter is at present sub judice.

10. THE RE-TRIAL

On the basis of this new evidence being available, a re-trial was granted on November 11 1985. The date was set for November 26 1985 in the Circuit Court. At this re-trial Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan were defended by a new legal team led by Mr Feehan.

The trial lasted two days during which Eamon Gavin was intensely cross examined by Mr Feehan. Though he made minor factual errors similar to but far less frequent than those made by the defence witnesses in the first trial, Mr Gavin again was articulate and convincing, more confident in terms of

presentation of evidence than in the first trial, though more hesitant and uncertain than at the first trial on some of the content. He made mistakes over dates and days. He could not remember the year of his car, and hesitated when asked whether it had tinted glass. When questioned on the identification of Meleady and Grogan in Rathfarnham courthouse, it transpired that Mr Gavin had been asked several days before the visit to Rathfarnham court could he visit it on that day. He denied, then admitted, that he had entered the courtroom wearing dark glasses to disguise himself. He said that Garda Thornton had suggested that he wear a disguise. He said had been given a lift by Garda Thornton from the corner of the road down to the courtroom. He said that he had asked Garda Thornton were the boys inside and Garda Thornton had said he didn't know, he hadn't been in. He denied that Garda Thornton had suggested that there were two specific people he should identify in the courthouse. Garda Thornton in evidence admitted that previous to the courtroom incident he had formed suspicions of who might have been involved in the crime, and that those suspicions included Meleady and Grogan. He denied suggesting to Mr Gavin that there were two specific people he should identify in the courthouse.

The youth whose affidavit and new evidence had brought the re-trial was not called as a witness. Nor were Meleady, Grogan or any defence witnesses. Fearful of a repeat of the first case where the defence witnesses were torn apart by Mr Leahy, Mr Feehan decided to fight the case on a legal technicality - that visual identification alone is not sufficiently strong evidence to base a conviction on. The Casey case, heard twenty five years ago in the Supreme Court, set a precedent that judges should inform juries that visual

identification alone is, relatively speaking, less reliable than other forms of identification, and that there have been cases where people have been convicted on the basis of visual identification alone and have later been found to be innocent. Mr Feehan argued that the judge should not allow the case to go to the jury. The judge disagreed. The jury, who were not aware that it was a re-trial and had heard or seen no defence witnesses, found Meleady and Grogan guilty. Two people from the public gallery shouted out that the driver of the car was outside the court. The judge asked if that was so, why he had not been called as a witness.

11. THE APPEAL

An appeal was held on April 28 1986. At the appeal the decision of the court was upheld. Brendan Walsh Snr, the father of the youth who had pleaded guilty at the first trial, said the decision was disgraceful and clearly unjust. He said he would have no sympathy for Meleady and Grogan if they had been involved in the crime, but they were innocent. Brendan Walsh Snr was given an opportunity to apologise. He would not and said he was not the only person in the court who was upset. He said the decision diminishes the rights of every citizen. He was found guilty of contempt of court and was sentenced to six months in prison or until he purged his contempt. After four days in prison he purged his contempt. He is now involved in the campaign for the release of Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan and for an immediate and detailed review of the case.

12. THE ESCAPE

After the appeal had failed Joseph Meleady told his family that he was no longer prepared to do time for a crime he did not commit. He said he felt that the legal processes had exhausted themselves. A week later he escaped from St Patrick's through a hole he had made in the roof of the prison kitchen. He has been on the run since, but has indicated that he would be prepared to serve time for the escape if his name was to be cleared on the conviction.

13. THE CAMPAIGN

On September 16 1986 the Meleady and Grogan families, together with seven other local people, set up a committee to coordinate the campaign for the release of the two youths and for an immediate and full investigation into the case. Three days earlier Garret FitzGerald had said he would look into the case after being presented with a petition signed by over one thousand Tallaght people calling for the pair's release. On 30 September copies of the petition were sent to Alan Dukes, then Minister for justice, along with copies of letters from social workers, priests and doctors from the area who were also calling for a review. The campaign has continued since then with the coordinating committee meeting every week to review progress.

14. GUS DUNNE

On December 3 1986 the RTE programme Today Tonight included an interview in silhouette with a youth who said he was the driver of the car. He said that Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan were not involved in the crime. He said he was not prepared to give himself up, because "you don't commit a crime to turn yourself in, you do something to get away with it". Everyone in Tallaght knew the identity of this youth. His name is Gus Dunne. The Gardai were made aware of his identity by relatives of the convicted pair. On February 8 of this year, the Sunday World published a front page interview with Gus Dunne in which he admitted that he had driven the car, and again confirmed that Meleady and Grogan were not involved. He was then living in Killarney working as a labourer in a relative's sawmills. He said that if the convicted two were pardoned and there was a new trial, he "won't be around if that happens". He was

briefly questioned by the Gardai after the Sunday World interview, but was not detained. He has since returned briefly to Tallaght, and is now believed to be living in Jersey.

15. THE SITUATION NOW

Three people have now said that they stole Eamon Gavin's car in February 1984. They are Brendan Walsh, who has served two years after pleading guilty, Gus Dunne who has told RTE, the Sunday World and many people in Tallaght that he committed the crime, and a third youth whose alleged involvement in the case is sub judice. All three say that Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan are innocent. Eamon Gavin is still convinced that he is correct, and that Meleady and Grogan are guilty. Joseph Grogan is still in jail, serving his five year sentence. Joseph Meleady is on the run, and has said he will give himself up if there is a review that will allow him to clear his name.

We Believe

Joseph Meleady And Joseph Grogan Are Innocent

On the grounds that a person's innocence is presumed until he or she is found to be guilty beyond reasonable doubt, we believe that Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan are innocent. We believe that the courts made a wrong decision in convicting Meleady and Grogan. We believe that they had not got before them all available evidence in either the first trial in May 1985 or in the re-trial in November 1985.

That the courts did not have before them all available evidence in the first trial is clear by the decision to hold a re-trial. This decision was taken on the basis that a jury may have come to different conclusion had they had the benefit of hearing this new evidence.

That the re-trial did not hear the new evidence upon which its granting was based is a matter of fact. A tactical decision was taken by the defense counsel that it would be better to fight the case on a legal technicality - that visual identification alone can prove to be unreliable as evidence. We believe that this decision was a wrong one, and that the courts should have had the opportunity of hearing the new evidence.

We believe that until Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan are tried by a court and jury who have an opportunity to hear all of the available evidence, there will always be grave doubts in the minds of many people about their conviction.

There are many other matters - important matters - raised by this case. The question of whether or not the presentation, rather than the content, of a person's evidence in court can unduly influence the outcome of a trial. The fact that under our present laws it appears that Joseph Meleady and Joseph Grogan cannot be re-tried, despite any amount of new evidence becoming available. The fact that a person can give an interview to a national paper saying that he committed a very serious crime for which somebody else is serving time, and saying that he will abscond if there is an attempt to hold a new trial, and that that person can be allowed to freely leave the country without being charged with either involvement in the crime or wasting police time.

But while these arguments are debated, Joseph Grogan is in prison. While these arguments are being debated, Joseph Meleady is a fugitive from the law. They should both be pardoned or released on compassionate grounds - options open to the Minister for Justice - while awaiting the outcome of a complete and immediate review of the case.

Open FORUM

The need for emancipation

The emancipation of women is not an act of charity, the result of a humanitarian or compassionate attitude. The liberation of women is a fundamental necessity for the revolution, the guarantee of its continuity and the precondition for its victory. The main objective of the revolution is to destroy the system of exploitation and build a new society which releases the potentialities of human beings, reconciling them with labour and with nature. This is the context within which the question of women's emancipation arises.

Generally speaking, women are the most oppressed, humiliated and exploited members of society. The woman is exploited even by the man who is crushed under the boot of the boss and the settler.

How can the revolution triumph without the liberation of women? Will it be possible to get rid of the system of exploitation while keeping one part of society exploited? One cannot only partially wipe out exploitation and oppression, one cannot tear up only a half of the weeds without even stronger ones spreading out from the half that has survived.

How then can one make a revolution without mobilizing women? If more than a half of the exploited and oppressed people consist of women, how can they be left on the fringe of the struggle? To make a revolution, it is necessary to mobilize all the exploited and oppressed, and consequently women as well. If it is to be victorious, the revolution must eliminate the whole system of exploitation and oppression, liberating all the exploited and oppressed. Therefore, it must eliminate the exploitation and oppression; it is forced to liberate women.

The basis of women's alienation

To speak of the emancipation of women clearly implies that they are oppressed and exploited. It is important to understand the basis of this oppression and exploitation.

Let us begin by saying that the oppression of women is the result of their exploitation; oppression in society is always the result of imposed exploitation. Colonialism did not



WOMEN A FORCE FOR CHANGE

By Samora Machel

come to occupy our country for the purpose of arresting us, flogging us and beating us with

kill the sense of justice and criticism, to reduce the individual to passivity and make him

To mark International Womens Day on March 7th, **FORUM** reprints an article by the late Samora Machel, President of the People's Republic of Mozambique. He was killed in a dubious air crash off Mozambique late last year on his way back from a meeting of the Southern African Front Line States which discussed sanctions against South Africa.

palmatoria. It invaded and occupied our country for the purpose of exploiting our wealth and labour. In order to exploit us, in order to quell our resistance to exploitation and prevent us from rebelling against it, it then introduced the system of oppression; physical oppression, through the courts, the police, the armed forces, imprisonment, torture and massacres; and spiritual oppression, through obscurantism, superstition and ignorance, designed to destroy the spirit of creative initiative, to

accept his exploited and oppressed state as a normal thing. Humiliation and contempt came into being in the process, since he who exploits and oppresses tends to humiliate and despise his victims, regarding them as inherently inferior beings. And then racism appears, the supreme form of humiliation and contempt.

The mechanism of women's alienation is identical to the mechanism of the alienation of the colonized man in colonial society, or of the worker in

capitalist society.

From the moment when early man started to produce more than he consumed, the material foundations were laid for the emergence of a stratum in society which would appropriate the fruits of the majority's labour. This appropriation of the product of the masses' labour by a handful of people in society is the essence of the system of exploitation of man by man and the crux of the antagonistic contradiction which has divided society for centuries.

As soon as the process of exploitation was unleashed, women as a whole, like men, were subjected to the domination of the privileged strata. Women are also producers, and workers, but with specific characteristics. To possess women is to possess workers, unpaid workers, workers whose entire labour power can be appropriated without resistance by the husband, who is the lord and master. In an agrarian economy, marrying many women is a sure way of accumulating a great deal of wealth. The husband is assured of free labour which neither complains, nor rebels against exploitation.

Hence the important role played by polygamy in the rural areas of a primitive agrarian economy. Society, realizing that women are a source of wealth, demands that a price be paid for them. The girl's parents demand from their future son-in-law the payment of a bride price - lobolo - before giving up their daughter. The woman is bought and inherited just like material goods, or any source of wealth.

But what is more important is that compared with, say, the slave, who is also a source of wealth and an unpaid worker, the woman offers her owner two added advantages. She is a source of pleasure, and above all, she produces other workers, she produces new sources of wealth. This last aspect is particularly significant. Society grants the husband the right to repudiate his wife and demand repayment of the lobolo should she prove barren, or if the husband thinks she is. It can also be noted that in many societies, mindful of the value of the labour power of the women's children, the principle is established that the children belong to the mother's clan or family, especially if the husband has not paid the entire lobolo,

wealth. This situation has led to the excessive emphasis on women's fertility and the transformation of the man-woman relationship into a mere act of procreation.

But a particular situation emerged. Owing to his control over the masses, the exploiter acquired vast riches, vast estates, large herds of cattle, gold and jewels and so on. Yet despite his wealth he was still mortal, like other men. The problem then of the fate of his wealth - in other words, the question of inheritance - became crucial. Women are the producers of heirs.

It is therefore clear that the exploitation of women and their consequent oppression starts in the system of private ownership of the means of production, in the system of exploitation of man by man.

The nature of the antagonism

We have seen that the basis of the domination of women lies in the system of economic organisation of society, private ownership of the means of production, which necessarily leads to the exploitation of man by man.

Let us be clear on this point. The antagonistic contradiction is not between women and men, but between women and the social order. The fact that they are exploited explains why they are not involved in all planning and decision-making tasks in

society, why they are excluded from working out the conceptions which govern the economic, social and political life, even when their interests are directly affected. This is the main feature of the contradiction: their exclusion from the sphere of decision-making in society.

But apart from the antagonistic contradiction between women and the social order, other contradictions of a secondary nature also arise between men and women as a kind of reflex.

The marriage system, marital authority based solely on sex, the frequent brutality of the husband and his consistent refusal to treat his wife as an equal, are sources of friction and conflict. If they are not correctly solved, these secondary conflicts may become more acute and produce such serious consequences as divorce.

But however serious they may be, these factors do not alter the nature of the contradiction.

Men and women are products and victims of the exploitation society which has created and formed them. It is essentially against this society that men and women should fight united. Our practical experience has proved that the progress achieved in the liberation of women is the result of the success gained in our common struggle against colonialism and imperialism, against the exploitation of man by man, and to build a new society.



The College of Catering team in the Berkeley Court Hotel on Feb 28

College of Catering Finish Third in National Hotel and Catering Business Game

A phantom hotel was taken over by no less than fifteen teams from around the country last weekend, with the task of examining the case history of a problem-beset hotel and then compete with each other in finding the best solution.

The game was organised by the Irish Hotel and Catering Institute and was held in the Berkeley Court Hotel for eight hours on Saturday February 28.

The Dublin College of Catering had three teams competing - one of which finished third. Pictured on right is Mary Keating (H Dip 4), a member of that team.



Mary Keating at the case study

Bolton Street SU To Organise Career Talks

Bolton Street Students Union is organising a series of career talks over the next month for final year students, along with mock interviews.

Included in the series is a talk by Mr Finbar Callanan, Director of the Institute of Engineers in Ireland, to final year engineering students, on the topic of "Interviews and Communication". Mr Sean Coakley of the ESB will also talk to the students on "Interview Techniques and the Job Market".

Interviewers for the mock interviews were organised with the help of the Institute of Engineers in Ireland.

Sean Finnegan and Tom Burgess of Sales Placement will talk to the surveying students on "Job

Interviews and Applications". These talks and interviews are sponsored by the Bank of Ireland.

The careers seminar for final year Architects will cover the different options that architects should consider when entering the job market.

There will be a speaker from the C.I.I. talking about their European Orientation programme, and a speaker from O'Keefe's Advertising to discuss the marketing aspect of the architectural business. This seminar is sponsored by AIB.





Last month the Communications Society in the College of Commerce invited Richard Boyle - photographer, film-maker, co-writer of *Salvador*, Irish-American Sinn Feiner - to talk about himself and his work to an audience of students. Michael Cullen went along for some tips.

Apocalypse Then ...

The last American in Cambodia before the Khmer Rouge took over is wearing a green Clerys jumper with a gold harp crest. He sits on a high stool in a circle of space, holding a glass of red wine that he had to ask for in French (this being Rathmines), and looks like he's being grilled in a giant microwave oven. This man could easily be mistaken for a Furey brother, or make tea on a corporation stove without looking out of place.

"In 1981 I felt I had gone as far in still as I could and started making documentary films. Documentary is a good way to break in," he says coolly. "My problem was that I made ones that went against the grain of republicanism in America. Oliver Stone (director of *Salvador*) had seen my documentaries; he said 'This is great' to the last one, where I did a take-off of *Apocalypse Now*."

Richard Boyle was a war photographer and reporter in Vietnam, Israel, Belfast, the Lebanon, and other hot spots around the world. He says that he took his camera to war because conventional work was boring. "I bought a ticket for Vietnam, and went. I had done some other work before going there, but that was where it started for me, taking photographs at 15 dollars a shot. Who wants to listen to them beating their gums in the Dail?"

"As this is my first feature film it's more of an honour," he says of the news he got in Dublin that his screenplay for *Salvador* was nominated for an Oscar. "Everything in the film is true - all the events are basically true. What does it cost to go to a film here? - If you feel you got your three pounds' worth, that's fine."

The initial plan for *Salvador* was to hire the real Salvadoran army and shoot the story of Boyle's experiences in the country where

they happened. He and Oliver Stone flew down and delivered a phony script to one of the generals. In that version, the generals were the heroes, and the rebels were the enemy. "But the rebels shot this general while he was playing tennis. I had to do a hasty exit when they found it was a phony script."

The next plan was to go to Mexico. "There were problems with the Mexican army, like they didn't show up. Sometimes they got lost. But in the tank battles and all that, it is the Mexican army. The other problem was that we ran out of money - the film inched along like the Argentine counter offensive."

The first choice for the James Woods/Richard Boyle part, he reveals, was Martin Sheen. "But he was too old."

"So we finished the film, and then the real problems began. The distributors wanted us to cut the happy ending. Oliver and I both fought that cut. Our script was two-and-a-half hours long, and I wanted to put out two-and-a-half hours. But you are controlled by the distributors."

"The film opened in New York with no publicity and the film died. Then we couldn't get national distribution."

Richard is surprised at the reception the film, and his appearance on the *Late Late Show*, received in Ireland.

"I was drunk the other night and the guards saw me and recognised me, and gave me a lift home. More people saw the show than saw *Salvador*."

We were helped by the *Late Late Show*, and it's doing well through word of mouth. In Dublin, the audience even laughed in the right places and cried in the right places."

Richard isn't much of a cinema-goer himself. "I don't have time," he says. "I rent. I'll go through five to ten films

in a night, and maybe only see one the whole way through."

I ask him whether if Vietnam were happening now he would still want to go out there. He nods half-heartedly. Did any of the reporters working with him support the war?

"In the beginning we all supported it. But for some that didn't last long, once you got over there."

There was a practice in Vietnam, he says, where the South's government issued press statements of what was happening in the fighting, statements which could be coloured pro-American. "A lot of reporters never left Saigon. They just got the reports."

"There was one time where a story was developing along the Communist border, and it was impossible to get there. I knew something was going on, and I kept asking was anything going on. In the end, I dressed up as a green beret. The first chopper in the group I went down in was shot down. When I got to this place, I found 100 Americans trying to hold off 4,000 Vietnamese."

"The commander had told them he wanted 15 men to go out on a reconnaissance. They said 'Screw you', and they revolted, and organised a petition to say that they weren't going to fight any more. They gave the petition to me to take out and I sent the news back home."

In the field Richard carried two Nikon camera bodies, he says, and a standard 28mm and 135mm lens. "A 50mm if you were doing a lot of available light." He and his equipment were often shot at, but never hit, and the only time he lost film was when it was confiscated.

The reporters in Vietnam used grass as "a way to unwind." "Grass was a dollar a kilo. Some people drank, and some people smoked. There was an initiation ceremony for new reporters where we had a party and

baked these biscuits full of grass to give them."

"I have been harassed by the British Army," Richard says. "And I've lived in the North quite a bit. I am an outsider but I think I have got a good idea of the place." He calls the coverage on British television "open propaganda", and regrets that "the American press don't want to hear about what's happening unless it's something spectacular."

Richard comes across, in particular in his *In Dublin* article, as an anachronistic Republican. The students who interviewed him in bars across town, or listened to him in college common rooms, must have nodded bemusedly, most of them, at his "I'm really one of you" sloganeering: "unfortunately there is no Sinn Fein in the US"; "maybe there is a proud new young generation of young Irish men and women coming along", and his cynicism: "Lack of guts is probably the main factor of politicians, whether in the Dail or the US."

"My ears got blown out in Vietnam," he explains, when he has to strain to hear some of the questions. He doesn't smile very much, especially for the camera ("put a pint in my hand and I'll smile"), and his answers are short, terse, and unemotional. When the session finally ends his face loses none of its redness or wrinkles.

"Of the 15 reporters who started the same time as me, three are still alive," he says, arching a pale eyebrow. "I said to Dith Pran (Sydney Schanberg's photographer, and subject of *The Killing Fields*) 'we're both incredibly lucky to be alive', and he said a lot of it is luck, and maybe there is somebody up there looking out for me."

He stands still for one more photograph, and then moves away to ask his friends about finding a pub.

Getting the Union Going

FORUM talks to Matt Connolly, President of Kevin Street Students Union and a member of the Dublin Institute of Technology Governing Body



Matt Connolly, President Kevin Street Students Union.

FORUM: As somebody who was elected as president of Kevin Street Students Union without any previous involvement in the unions work, what were your views of the student movement?

MATT CONNOLLY: While I was doing my course I always saw Kevin Street Students Union as a place where you could go for a cup of tea or coffee or watch the occasional film. I never saw it trying to defend its members in the way that other Dublin Students Unions seemed to be doing. It seemed to be run by the same group of people year after year, and they seemed to be more interested in getting their own free tea and coffee than in fighting for a better deal for the students of the college. But I realised that there was no point in just complaining about how little the Union was doing unless I was willing to get involved myself.

FORUM: So how did you actually get involved?

MATT CONNOLLY: It was around this time last year. I went up to the students union office to find out what they were going to do about the recently announced fee increase but the people there were more interested in playing the guitar than in what I was asking about. I then asked for a nomination paper for the students union elections and they asked me what position I was running for. When I told them President they seemed shocked that an ordinary student could be interested in running the unions work, without even knowing any guitar chords. But I took the paper and told them I was going to be elected and I was going to get the union going again.

FORUM: And how did the students react?

MATT CONNOLLY: My class supported me and so did a lot of other students. There were two union hacks running for the post of

President, and a woman who was involved in one of the clubs in the college, and myself. Even though the students knew I did not have the experience they were aware that I was committed and willing to work, and that was more important to them. I topped the poll and got elected.

FORUM: And was your lack of experience a disadvantage?

MATT CONNOLLY: The outgoing president had just lost a vote of no confidence and was asked to resign. I felt this was good as it showed that the students weren't prepared to

"... I realised there was no point in just complaining about how little the union was doing unless I was willing to get involved myself ..."

put up with full time paid elected officers doing nothing. I realised that there was a lack of communication, and that was not a problem that needed experience. You don't need experience to talk to people, and outline the problems facing the union and students in general. You don't need experience to recognise that it is student involvement and awareness that is going to make the difference between what had been happening and what should be happening. What I had experience of was the appalling conditions in which I as a student was expected to work, and the ever rising fees that had caused some of my friends to drop out of college. It seemed to me that my experiences were far

more relevant to students, they were the problems facing all students, and were not being taken up by the supposedly "experienced" students union officers.

FORUM: And how have you faced up to the problems since you took up office?

MATT CONNOLLY: There were many internal problems that had to be sorted out first. I was expected to sort out these problems even before I took up office as the outgoing president had resigned. Some of these problems were very serious, in relation to employees. I saw at least one employee being treated with the utmost respect by the outgoing executive while, as is realised now, this employee did not always have the good of the union at heart. On the other hand, our secretary was working very hard and conscientiously but was not given the respect she deserved. This, being the most serious problem at the start of my term of office, has now been solved and the students union staff are a lot happier and more productive in their work. We have also halted the abuse of students union equipment - photocopiers, video games and so on - that had been common last year. The executive last year were not prepared to take up these problems and just let them reach a stage when they were no longer petty but were approaching a serious level. This too has been sorted out and overall, the union is better run and more capable of dealing with the political problems we should be facing up to.

FORUM: You have had a lot of problems with space allocation in the new extension.

MATT CONNOLLY: Yes. The college is moving to a new extension within the next month or so. The library and canteen facilities will be increased to four or five times their



Matt Connolly

present size. There will also be twenty five new extra classrooms. The Students Union are also expected to move to the new extension. But there are major flaws in the proposed layout. The students Union as it exists at the moment is in one centralised area with its own coffee bar, common room, shop and games room. However the college authorities want to split the students union area into six small rooms in the new extension, on three different floors beside the library and beside classrooms. There are no facilities for the students union coffee bar and shop to continue, or to hold our weekly lunch time concerts and films. The new canteen will have serious problems coping with the larger number of students that can be seated, as they will not have an increase in staff due to the government jobs embargo. This problem will be made worse if the students union coffee bar is closed. The new canteen will not be able to function.

FORUM: What has the students union been doing to combat this threat?

MATT CONNOLLY: We have been doing a lot. We have got the students involved under the guidance of the Students Union executive and an action committee set up to deal with this specific issue. We brought up the issue at College Council and DIT Governing Body level. We have held a one day closure of the Students Union area to show students and staff what the situation would be like next year if we are not allowed to function. We held a mass picket outside VEC Head Offices in Ballsbridge and handed in a petition signed by over 1200 students to the Committee. We have had a canteen boycott with the prospect of more to follow. We have picketed College Council and caused it to be moved from its normal venue to the principal's office at the prospect of ordinary students airing their views directly to the Council. We have

been causing problems for the people who caused the problems for us in the first place. These actions may seem very militant - things did reach a stage where the College Authorities would not speak to the Students Union - but it shows that students are prepared to become involved when it is necessary; when they see the severity of the problems facing them and they see their union trying to serve their interests. However, negotiations are ultimately the cornerstone of any solution, and these have started again and are ongoing with the prospect now in sight of the Students Union

"... students are prepared to become involved when they see the severity of the problems and they see their union trying to serve their interests ..."

being situated centrally and able to function properly in the new building.

FORUM: What of your work on the DIT Governing Body?

MATT CONNOLLY: The six colleges of the Dublin Institute of Technology have one centralised Governing Body. It was set up in 1978 to coordinate the workings of the VEC third level colleges and create a unified institute. I am presently the student representative on the Governing Body. It meets once a month, except in general election months when knocking on doors must obviously take priority over running an Institute serving 25,000 students. The

Governing Body ratifies the minutes from each College Council, from the Joint Academic Council, the Student Services Council and other sub committees. It then makes recommendations based on these minutes to the main VEC Committee, on which Aidan Kerins is our student representative. This representation is very important - without it we would not have an official say in the running of the Institute. In fact, we would not even know what decisions were being taken - decisions that effect us and our members. The problem with the DIT Governing Body is that all of its decisions have to be ratified by the VEC, who are dealing with the problems of twenty two post primary schools, the schools psychological service, the Curriculum development Unit and Comhairle le Leas Oige as well as the DIT and its colleges. The problems of running second level education are completely different from the problems of running a third level system, and as the DIT is meant to be a unified Institute, surely it should be able to take its own decisions and have the final say in the running of the Institute instead of being a subcommittee of the VEC.

FORUM: Does this unity carry through on the students union side?

MATT CONNOLLY: Yes. Over the last three or four years the DIT unions have been working much more closely together on problems that are common to all of us - fee increases are decided at VEC level and must be tackled in a co-ordinated way. The shops campaign this year is a very good example of the potential of the students unions when they unite. And it is not just confined to fighting problems. This year we have centralised purchasing of certain shop stocks and leasing agreements for photocopiers, video machines and other equipment. This magazine is published jointly by the DIT students unions and should help to professionalise our communications and ensure that everybody knows what is happening not only in their own college but throughout the DIT. There are however problems with centralisation, especially with regard to the centralised funding of clubs and societies under the new system imposed on the unions by the VEC.

FORUM: You have been very involved at a national level in USI actions this year.

MATT CONNOLLY: I feel it is important to have a national union to represent the views of students at a national level. It is the logical extension to having a students union in a college. And USI have achieved a lot for students over the years. But I feel they rely too much on the same type of campaign -

marches, occupations and so on - and don't develop to counteract the changing nature of the problems that face them. I also believe that too much emphasis is placed on outside issues to the detriment of the educational work of the union. But it is important that people with different views on how the national union should operate stay involved and fight for change from within - too many people take the easy option of just not getting involved and saying that USI does nothing relevant to them. Any organisation can only be relevant to the extent that you are prepared to become involved in it. The problems taken up by USI are national problems - they will not be solved by any single local union or by a fragmented group of local unions. And they are problems that effect all students, whether or not their unions are affiliated to USI. I would encourage all DIT students to become more actively involved in the working of the national union.

FORUM: What are your plans for next year?

MATT CONNOLLY: I hope to return to my studies next year. I have completed two years of an electronic engineering course and have another two to do. However, having spent a year working in the union I would not be prepared to just leave and hope that next year things will continue to improve. I will obviously stay involved in the running of the union, either as an active student or as a member of the executive - if the students will have me back! If necessary I will take guitar lessons and become a hippy, but hopefully the electorate will love me for what I am.

FORUM: There are those that suggest that your musical tastes are closer to the Johnny Cash end of the spectrum.

MATT CONNOLLY: No, that's just the clothes that I wear. And despite my involvement in students unions, I have no intention of spending any time in San Quentin. I really like Duran Duran and Husker Du with a bit of The The occasionally.

FORUM: What about hobbies?

MATT CONNOLLY: What about them? I like the odd lemonade - very odd - and I like watching Monty Python and College Council.

FORUM: And bringing your bike on the bus.

MATT CONNOLLY: No comment.

FORUM: What do you most want out of life?

MATT CONNOLLY: A long one.



Karen O'Sullivan, President Cathal Brugha Street Students Union

SETTING PRIORITIES

Karen O'Sullivan explains that as a part time students union president she has prioritised her work into rebuilding the internal credibility of Cathal Brugha Street SU

FORUM: How did you first get involved in the students union in Cathal Brugha Street?

KAREN O'SULLIVAN: When the elections came up last year I felt I could contribute a lot to rebuilding the morale and credibility of the students union in the college. I hadn't been particularly active in the union up to then but I had gone to general meetings and had a fairly good idea of what the union was about. Over the last few years the union hadn't been treated as seriously as it should be. The elected officers were not always doing the job they were elected to do, and students believed that in some cases people were abusing their positions and were not working for the good of the students. While the outgoing executive had made great strides in improving the situation there was still a lot to be done before the union would have the credibility it needed with the students.

FORUM: So what did you see as your priorities at the start of the year?

KAREN O'SULLIVAN: Firstly we had to make sure that the people involved in the union were putting in the effort they should and doing the work they should be doing. We had

to build up the level of sporting activity within the college which had never been high. A tight control was needed on the financial end of things. This was perhaps the main problem area in the past, with people being unable to manage the scale of controlling a budget of up to twenty eight thousand pounds. As I was only taking on the position as a part time post and was continuing with my studies at the same time, I had to prioritise rebuilding the union internally. This meant that some of the outside work I would have liked to have been more involved in - the DIT Inter Student Committee, the running of DIT Student Union Ltd - had to take a back seat. It was important for me to take this decision, as if I had tried to combine all of the duties normally associated with a full time post I would not have been able to do any of them properly. I feel that by setting these priorities regarding the internal rebuilding of the union we have left a foundation for next years executive to build on.

FORUM: You also opened the first full time student shop in the college this year.

KAREN O'SULLIVAN: When I took up office

at the start of the academic year one of my immediate tasks was to expand on the existing student shop service. There used to be a small shop open for one hour each day, during lunchtime. It sold a very limited range of stationery, pens and so on. It was clear that there was a demand for a full time shop with an expanded range of stock. The executive took a decision to open up a shop on a full time basis so we then had to determine how best to utilise the limited space we had available to us - the students union has only a small shop and office space as well as our common room area - so we arranged for a carpenter to build the shelves and counter. We took in an initial stock order including cigarettes, sandwiches, minerals, confectionery and a far broader range of stationery than was previously available. We advertised for a full time shop manager and held interviews early in October. Seamus Murphy was employed and the shop opened two weeks later. It has been an incredible success with a monthly net profit of about £290 so far. This has gone beyond our initial expectations, and we are very pleased.

FORUM: Have there been any indications that your shop might be in danger of closure in the aftermath of the VEC student trading report?

KAREN O'SULLIVAN: None so far. It appears from the trading report as it exists at the moment that the principals in each college will be responsible for taking the final decisions as regards trading in each college, and our Principal Mr Lawlor has not indicated that he wants to close our shop. However, we support the principle of students unions having the right to trade and we will oppose the report if it results in other DIT unions losing their shops because of decisions by their principals.

FORUM: What are your views on USI?

KAREN O'SULLIVAN: The same as my views on the DIT Inter Student Council and DIT

Student Union Ltd. - I feel that it is important to have a national union to defend the interests of students at a national level, but because of the part time nature of my post and the priorities I have set myself in terms of rebuilding the union internally, I have not been able to involve myself in external work. In any case, our own union is not affiliated to USI and I see no prospect of us re-affiliating before the end of my term of office.

FORUM: I believe your union is also involved in providing students with contacts for full and part time employment.

KAREN O'SULLIVAN: Yes. One of the positions on our executive is that of Employment Officer. The very nature of the catering industry means that there is a lot of part time work available during the year, particularly in the run up to Christmas. The responsibility of the employment officer is to coordinate the efforts of potential employees with those of potential employers. At the start of the year she establishes contact with all previous employers who have used the service and investigates whether any further names could be added to the list. She then takes details of all work offers and communicates the information to the students. In any one academic year between four and five hundred students would have worked on a function through the system. It has also been very successful this year.

FORUM: What are your plans for next year?

KAREN O'SULLIVAN: I obviously intend to continue with my course. I am studying for a degree in Hotel and Catering Management and am in my second year of a four year course. While I would love to stay involved with the students union and see our efforts in laying a foundation for next years executive come to fruition, I will not have the time to be as involved as I have been this year. I will however be available at any time that any of next years officers need any information or advice that I may be able to help them with.

Kathleen Barrington has been involved in the Abbey "since the Queen's days". Along with Joe Dowling and Nuala Hayes, she founded the Young Abbey in the 1970, a group which spent two years going around schools bringing theatre to the pupils until lack of finance stopped the venture. They then set about looking for outside sponsorship and along with Gemma Hussey they founded the now well established Team Educational Theatre.

Kathleen is now Education and Community Officer with the Abbey. Though still an actor, her priority for the next six months at least will be to ensure that the Abbey builds up contacts, mainly with students, but also with educational and community groups. She believes that the Abbey, as the National Theatre, has a duty to do other things than just put on plays for audiences to come in to.

"We are trying to actively encourage young people in particular to become more involved in theatre, and to at least see it as one of the possibilities they will consider when they are deciding where to go out for an evening" she says. "The theatre can provide a magic atmosphere that is completely different to watching a film in a cinema or a play on television and many young people are missing out on this. The two obvious barriers are lack of awareness - the notion that theatre is something that only a certain type of person goes to, and certainly not *me* - and of course cost. The price of a theatre ticket - up to £8 a go - can make it very difficult for young people, and particularly students, to afford to watch a play".

Kathleen is hoping to tackle both of these factors through her work as Education / Community Officer. Groups of students can now book in advance to watch an Abbey play for £4 each - half the current normal cost of the tickets. Already in the DIT groups from Bolton Street have taken up the offer and both the students and the Abbey have been happy at how well it went.

The problem of preconceived notions of the theatre 'not being for me' is also being tackled. Talks by directors and designers and tours of the theatre are being arranged to show how the theatre works, from props, lighting, painting, front of house, box office to marketing and the whole managerial business.

"The tour gives you a complete picture of the theatre and what it offers" says Kathleen. "You come in and you get a talk on the founding of the Abbey and how it has developed until today, and then you go on stage and see the set for the current show, with all the props laid out, and experience what the stage is like from the actors' point of view. Then you go up to the control room and see how the lighting operates - what sorts of problems are likely to arise and how they are solved, how to ensure that the correct part of



Students relax in the College of Catering Common Room



Kathleen Barrington

GETTING THE ABBEY HABIT

FORUM talks to Kathleen Barrington, Abbey Actor and recently appointed Community and Education Officer

the stage is properly lit and so on. Then you go up to the wardrobe area and the rehearsal room, and see how it is set out for the play currently on, with props and markings and so on. Finally you talk with a person from our accounts department, and she explains about the budgeting for a production, and the scale of finance involved in keeping the whole show going. The person who actually conducts the tour is Leslie Scott, who has just retired after spending a lifetime working with the Abbey in the lighting area, so he really knows what he is talking about and he is fascinating to listen to. But overall the tour, which takes about an hour, gives you a feel of what it is like to work in a theatre and I think gets across the fact that acting is not just fun - it is a job, like any other, but one which can bring pleasure to people".

But does such a tour not run the risk of shattering the illusion of the theatre by making people too aware that the play is brought to them by actors and backstage people with accountants and business people hovering around in the background?

"Not at all" says Kathleen. "The tours have so far been very successful. Of course you know that the actor is an actor and you've maybe met him before, and you know that

when he goes out that door he doesn't really go out into a path. But that doesn't affect you once the show starts. It's the magic of a live performance. Your imagination takes over and if the acting is good enough it doesn't matter that you know the actor is going to storm off the stage dramatically and then wait around doing her knitting before coming on again in the next scene. The actors have to distance themselves from the emotion of the scene - otherwise they would lose the judgement needed for a good performance - but the audience can let themselves go and enjoy experiencing the story that is being played out for them.

In fact, says Kathleen, if anything, knowing a bit about the background can help you enjoy the play more. "It's like a musician going to a concert or a footballer watching a football match" she explains. "If you know what to look out for, if you know that some particular thing that has been done was particularly difficult to do, then you appreciate it all the more".

But with so many counter attractions available why should people consider going to the theatre for a night out, instead of the cinema or the pub?

"Well, of course, I'm biased" admits Kathleen. "Because I love the theatre. And it doesn't have to be straight theatre - it can be variety, anything - as long as it's a *live* show. I think you get a buzz out of that that you don't get in any other form of entertainment. I mean, cinema can be great and all that, but the difference between going to a film and going to a live show is that going to a film you're separate there, you're experiencing it, but there's never the sense of the whole audience being together - even in comedy, it's your own private sense of humour. But the extraordinary thing is, if you are at a live show, you are part of a whole *group* of people and it's just .. the *excitement* that can build up .. the really intense excitement that can sometimes result in a *magic* thing happening that can't be scheduled for when you're working on a show. You can have been working towards a certain thing and you see a certain way of doing it and there's an interaction and you know what effect you're trying to get but sometimes there's just a simple *magic* thing that takes over and when it happens there's a thrill that you experience and you know that everybody in the audience is getting the same experience at the same time .. for that one moment everything goes right and there's a combination of the sheer perfection of what has just happened together with the collective emotional and subconscious effect on the audience - it's almost supernatural. It's not something you can really explain or describe - it's something you have to experience - but it is something that can only happen at a live show and it's something really very special. I think it's happened to me twice, maybe three times in as an actor and I've also experienced it from the audience's point of view while watching others acting. It's magic".

And the audience, says Kathleen, are also part of the play. "You can rehearse a play for ever but when you go on for the first night it's just a completely different thing - the whole thing just starts to come to life. And different nights different things happen, even though you are doing the same thing, it can be just the way the audience are feeling .. the audience adds colour and life to the whole thing and are actually part of the action. This is particularly evident in a comedy - you get a laugh with a particular line one night and you don't the next and you think maybe I'm doing something wrong but you're probably not - it's far more likely that it's just the different audience that's changing the atmosphere".

The reaction by student audiences since the Abbey started its group discount rates and its community and education programme has been encouraging, says Kathleen. There has been a particularly strong response from Bolton Street students. Any DIT student interested in finding out more about the scheme can contact Kathleen at the Abbey Theatre, or get further information from your college students union.



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Tom Conti - sexiest voice of all time

Heavenly Pursuits
(Arriving mid-March)

This lovely, lyrical film stars another of my all-time favourite actors; Tom Conti (and not just because he has the sexiest voice of all time!) and it co-stars, you've guessed it, Helen Mirren. She keeps popping up all over the place, could she be the next Smeryl Creep, no, no, she's much too versatile! Her credits include 'Cal', 'White Nights', 'Mosquito Coast', and John Boorman's 'Excalibur'.

In 'Heavenly Pursuits' she plays a music teacher, Ruth

Children of a Lesser God ..

Children of a lesser God.
(Arriving mid-March).

Everyone will be rushing to see this one as a result of the excellent play in the Project last year. At least, if you didn't see the play, don't miss the film, and even if you did see it, don't miss the film.

It stars William Hurt as the teacher, James Leeds who has an extraordinary talent which is teaching the deaf to speak. He joins a new school only to face the most complex professional and personal relationship of his life when he meets the compelling Sarah Norman (Marlee Matlin). Sarah, formerly a very gifted student, has taken a job as a

cleaner in this school and remains in isolation, refusing to learn to speak. James is determined to reach the beautiful Sarah, but is opposed by various parties (teachers seem to run into this sort of trouble a lot!) They eventually start to fall in love and torrid sex (sorry! erotic) scenes follow. But all is not as straightforward in their love affair and through Sarah, James learns that we can never possess what we set free.

This film is guaranteed to melt even the iciest of hearts and what makes it even cuter is the fact that William Hurt and Marlee Matlin are really having an affair in true Hollywood tradition! You get it all right here!



William Hurt and Marlee Matlin - now really having an affair! The joys of Hollywood ..



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The Field
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"One of the best Irish plays of this century ... powerful ... well worth seeing" Irish Times.

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With Carolyn O'Doherty

Chancellor, who works in the Blessed Edith Semple School in Glasgow. Edith Semple died in 1917 with one miracle to her credit and the school authorities are seeking two more to be able to raise her to sainthood. Tom Conti plays 'the teacher who clashes with the authorities' Vic Mathews, who seems himself to be capable of a few miracles (wonderful speaking voice aside!). Soon his achievements with the children take second place as further happenings prove even more miraculous for Vic, and everyone involved becomes absorbed in heavenly

pursuits (Note how I cleverly brought the title in there!)

The subsequent glare of publicity, hostility from some directions and adoration from others give Vic and Ruth's romance a rocky ride.

This is a film that is easy and enjoyable to watch with lovely natural performances from both stars and the support cast. Recommended.

(Incidentally, B.A. Robertson wrote the music for this and did you know that he also composed the 'Wogan' theme tune? This page for trivia!)



Harrison Ford's attempts to create a utopian existence for his family become a desperate fight for survival in the Mosquito Coast

The Mosquito Coast..

The Mosquito Coast. (Savoy)

This is the latest in the Ford/Weir partnership, the last being 'Witness'.

This is a diversification of roles for Ford. Here he plays Allie Fox, a man disenchanted with life in America who uproots his family from their world of fast foods, unending soaps and strip joints and takes them to the, until now, unspoiled world of Honduras. The character of Allie reflects the most American of characters - the rugged individual who seeks to carve out a new world for himself.

But Allie is an overreaching hero. He finds nature unacceptable unless his mind has improved it. He applies Western technology to his garden of Eden only to discover that he has carried with him the destructiveness of the

civilisation he thought he had left behind.

It's got all the thrills and excitement of the 'Indiana Jones' films (I bet Harrison Ford is really sick of people comparing all his films to 'Indiana Jones') but it does give Ford a chance to show us that he can act as well as cope with special effects. His co-star on this expedition is the prolific Helen Mirren who gives the excellent performance that we have come to expect from her.

Rising above the story of Allie Fox is the universal theme of how individuals, groups, and governments who become too self-righteous can also become potentially destructive.

This is a great film and I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I would say that even if you aren't a Harrison Ford fanatic, you will still appreciate this film.



Porkys Ten: the philosophical analysis. Matthew Broderick, Mia Sara and Alan Ruck go for a drive in daddy's prized red Ferrari and the Day Off begins ...

Ferris Bueller And The Meaning of Life ..

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (Adelphi)

"Life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around, you could miss it"Ferris Bueller.

This, I can hear you mutter (yes, aerial ears is at work again), is another American teenage movie about sex and growing up the American Way, and you could be right, but this film doesn't pretend to have a moral or to be anything other than a great deal of fun, which it is.

It stars Matthew Broderick in the role of Ferris Bueller, a rather magical young man who, one day, gets an urge to cut school, (Real cool!), and head for the windy city of Chicago with his girlfriend, Sloane, and his best friend, Cameron. (Weird names, huh?)

He experiences a whole day of freedom and with a bit of ingenuity, courage and a red

Ferrari, proves that life at 17 can be a joy.

Of course in order to get the day off, he had to lie to several people about various ailments he had, and in the course of the film these people try to thwart his efforts at having a good time, but Ferris's good fortune is at work, and, Ferris, philosophical to the last, gets off scot-free.

The only other member of the cast that I recognise is young Charlie Sheen who plays the demanding role of the 'Boy in the Police Station'. He's knocking them for six in the much praised and talked about 'Platoon' which is showing in America at the moment. He's also the son of Martin Sheen and brother of Emilio Estevez. I wonder will all these become members of that lucrative club; The Brat Pack. Watch this space, folks!

With Carolyn O'Doherty

An excellent Thriller ..

At Close Range. (Arriving mid-March)

This stars Christopher Walken (late of 'View to a Kill') and Sean Penn, (late of Madonna, who sings the theme tune 'Live to Tell') They play Brad Whitewood Senior and Junior respectively. Junior's Pa left his family when Brad was a lad and returns when Brad is a teenager, having made his fortune from ill-gotten gains. Dad Brad is now a professional

criminal. Naturally, little Brad takes after his father and starts hitting local shops while daddy is emptying warehouses. Of course a girl interferes in their idyllic existence (Awwwww!). Eventually, son turns against father and Brad the Lad's gang reach a rotten end at the hands of his father's gang and so does this mean that Dad Brad is willing to destroy his own son to protect his empire? Go see it to find out. It's one of the best thrillers I've seen



Christopher Walken plays pro criminal Brad Whitewood Sr in the excellent 'At Close Range'

Chekov at the Gate..

Uncle Vanya

We told you in last month's edition about the play then coming to the Gate. 'Uncle Vanya' by Chekov stars T.P. McKenna and was, in typical Chekov style, depressing. The

acting was excellent from the entire cast, but I think the T.P. McKenna part could have been played by any number of good actors - not to detract from his performance, but the publicity factor worked well for the Gate. The one major criticism I did have was that the sets seemed to consist mainly of torn curtains. When the set changed after each scene, they simply pulled across another torn curtain! Necessities of the Recession, I presume! But worth a visit, and nobody seemed to go home displeased with the night's entertainment.

Keane at the Abbey

The Field

To the not so regular (or not at all) theatre goer, the Field is probably as good a reminder as you'll get of how entertaining an evening at the theatre can be.

It's got all the bits you'll remember from Shakespeare at school, including the inevitable 'tragic hero' - known here by the very unshakespearean name of The Bull McCabe. Played by Nial Toibin, The Bull is a vicious little man (well, a vicious big man, to be more accurate) who will not hesitate to, cheat, threaten, blackmail, steal from and lie to the poor simple folk of Carraighthomond in order to get his hands on a field he needs to graze his cattle. The field is being

sold by an old widow who, naturally enough, wants to sell it for more than Bull wants to pay. The situation gets more complicated when a foreign type businessman arrives to buy the field for a factory site and Bull, who underneath it all has a passionate and genuine love for the field and the land which is totally beyond the imagination of a mere city-dweller like my good self, tries to change the newcomer's mind, to tragic effect.

However, true to Bob Geldof's banana republic "black and blue uniforms, police and priests", in come the pillars of society to restore sanity and peace - or do they? Find out if you can get your hands on a ticket.

STUDENTS HAVE MORE SENSE THAN MONEY

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FORUM letters

MONEY FOR NOTHING ?

Dear Editor,
Why does nobody do anything about VEC members getting expenses for attending meetings that they don't really attend? Every VEC Committee member gets more than £15 for every meeting of the VEC or any of its subcommittees (of which there are over twenty). Fair enough, you might say, if they put themselves out and go to these meetings in what isn't a full time job, then surely they should be recompensed.
But what I object to is people going to meetings, waiting for the attendance book,

just signing their name so they get the money, and then going without even asking a question or commenting on anything. I have heard politicians joking about this in pubs. They don't care about the country or about education. It's up to us to show that they should. And the other politicians who know this is going on should do something about it as well.

Yours,

A COMAD student
(Name with Editor)

BLOOD FROM A STONE

Dear Editor,
Now that the Student Services Council has finally decided how much money each college receives towards clubs and societies, the system for distribution of finance is now, albeit late, running a little more smoothly.
Some clubs still have not come to understanding the procedure under which we issue club and society cheques.
1. There is an Administrative Officer, Eamon Connor, who does the books and signs ALL the cheques.
2. He works for the 5 DIT Students Unions one day in each College, (Monday-Cathal Burgha St. Tuesday-Bolton St. Wednesday-Kevin St. Thursday-Rathmines. Friday-COMAD).
3. If you want a cheque for something, the cheque will only be for the amount stated.
4. If you want a cheque - you must fill out a cheque requisition form (available in the S.U. Office). This requisition form must be handed in before the Admin. Officer's day in that particular union and cheques will only be made out on that day.
Please note and follow these guidelines, towards a more efficient Students Union.
Yours Sincerely,

Conor Lawlor
Deputy President
Bolton Street Students Union

USI AND SECTION 30

Dear Editor,
I am writing re the late news feature in the February 1987 edition of Forum. I would like to point out to Mr. Paddy McPoland of U.S.I., that while section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act is normally reserved for so called 'subversive elements' the Act does not discriminate and was instituted to protect the ordinary citizen from any corrupting element.

With that in mind, I agree that Mr. Graves may not have been subverting anything, he did perpetrate an assault and should have therefore been charged under Section 42 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

Yours Sincerely,
Rom Bates.
DIT Cathal Burgha Street.



Butch Bulphucker in action at the Drama Art and Music Festival

KEVIN ST AT THE D.A.M.

Dear Editor,
The D.A.M. Festival time of year again was upon us two weekends ago (Feb.20-22), in Sligo RTC. The Drama, Art and Music Festival to give it its full title is an annual event where all RTC's and DIT colleges have an opportunity to portray their talent in a competitive atmosphere. But as the story goes, it was lunchtime on Friday 20 Feb. and the "love bus" had departed from Kevin St. in a blaze of unbridled apathy, destination Sligo with several rest periods most notably Mullingar

and a graveyard on the N4. Only one "travel sickness" casualty was reported, a bespectacled guy from the Drama Society who answers to the name of Dave Ryan. After several hours we arrived in the downtown metropolis of Sligo, 30 different groups with pseudonyms ranging from Smith to Smythe (with a y and a downstairs toilet) checked into the hotel.

It was surprising that Kevin St. were the only representatives from the DIT, surprising in the fact Rathmines and COMAD were the original organisers of the event. But what the hell this fact is only of academic consequence.

In case of any extreme Editorial pressure, being exerted on my delicate body, I shall retract any references to "Alcoholism: the students best friend" and "Paddy Marks: I found this strange oriental smelling lump under my bed, officer", type scenarios.

Anyway the outcome competitionwise (literary licence), was that the Photography Section was won this year again by Mark Maharaja, Kevin St. (you spell Magahran) who won a Sligo finger pottery bowl which he smashed for the second year running (artistic temperament, apparently!).

The Drama group again surpassed themselves but seemed somewhat miserable at the post show press conference.

In the Music section, Kevin St. entered three bands: "Watershed" niddled their things and seemed happy enough, "Pagan Masturbation" gave it their all but did not win the coveted fingerbowl. However "Butch Bulphucker and the Serocptic Mangemites" were sublime, resplendent in their 'Paris Nouveaux' attire. Lead singer Butch Bulphucker stood at the end of the show and said and I quote "I love the kids, do it to me one more time".

The DAM is now an institution, a shrine to the artistic potential of all students, if a psychic student can motivate fashion then a banana can swim.

Long may it reign.....
Diamond O'Farrell
(TechDipAppSc, nearly)
Kevin Street

ANDY WARHOL RIP

Dear Editor,

Andy Warhol, the painter who made fame into an art and became its greatest exponent, died recently on Sunday February 21.

Andy Warhol himself was the artist who produced those repetitive paintings of Campbell's soup cans, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis and Chairman Mao, and was most famous of all for being famous.

Without doubt his ambition was to become an artist of world fame so that everything he did would instantly become wonderful and to a large part he did realise that ambition. To know about the man was to love him and all the kids knew and loved him. May he rest in peace alongside his controversial image and his fellow "pop" artistes.

Printing this letter would be the kids' tribute to the man who claimed that commercial art could be art and that art could be commercial.

Yours Sincerely,
Anthony McGee
(One of the Kids)
Kevin Street

"I only came in for a coffee"

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