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DIT: Students Union

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New DIT entry system queried

By Dermot Keyes

A LEADING social commentator and DIT lecturer has questioned the merits of a new third-level entry system, which will cater for pupils from secondary schools, saying it may not succeed in its projected format. However, the convenor of the programme in DIT has asked for the plan to be given a chance to work before its possible faults can be identified.

Sean Byrne, a Business Studies lecturer in DIT, told the Aungier Street told the DIT Independent that a "complete bypassing" of the Leaving Certificate points system, along with several other additions to the current plan could make the new system feasible. "There is a number of problems for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in entering third-level education," said Mr Byrne. "This is of course the problem of motivation that has to be got over as well as the lack of support that such students receive both domestically and in college itself. If aptitude tests and an interview were incorporated into the plan and if the new system bypassed the Leaving Certificate result altogether, then it could succeed."

DIT, along with six of the country's universities have adopted the new system and it is believed that approximately 100 places will be allocated to each of the third level bodies involved. The programme will allow students to enter college courses via "direct application," without having acquired the minimum points requirement that the traditional system entails. This was a point that the man responsible for the programme in DIT emphasised. "I think it's important to recognise that DIT will be operating a minimum entry qualification rather than judging applicants by what they achieved in the Leaving Cert," said Peter Brown. "We must also consider the fact that in the near future all the Faculties in DIT will see a drop in the demand for courses, thereby we will see a drop in the points as well. Colleges need to put aside places for disadvantaged students in the near term. We've come together on this and this is a positive step which needed to be taken."

Despite this, Mr Byrne believes that the Government and the third level institutes involved have not learned from previous attempts at bridging the socio-economic divide. "We already know that there is a high drop-out rate from socio-economic areas of disadvantage. The colleges that have done the most work in this regard also have experienced the highest drop-out rates." "If we adopted a 'second chance' education policy, allowing people to come in a couple of years down the road after the Leaving Cert, they would then see the value of further education."

"We wish continued success to both the high flyers and those who simply enjoy it."

Sports Committee and the voluntary work of all staff involved throughout the Institute's varying codes. He concluded his speech on an optimistic note when he spoke about the new governing body of DIT, which will be chaired by Professor Pat Farrell. "He is a distinguished sportsman having played soccer for Ireland during his career and his experience will be a valuable addition to this institute."

TRACY Piggott spoke of the honour and heart-felt gratitude she felt when asked to speak at this year's DIT Sports Awards, which were held in the Hilton Stakis Hotel on April 4.

The RTE Sports presenter said that she was "delighted and flattered to speak" at the awards and also admitted to being "not really sure of what was required of myself" when giving her address.

"I've been fortunate to be involved in sport all my life and I've been very lucky in the many pursuits that I've enjoyed over the years," Piggott congratulated all the recipients of awards on a night when DIT Handball Chief scooped several awards. But this was a night of recognition for all the staff, as well as the athletes who have made this foot-and-mouth interrupted year a particularly memorable one, which was marked by DIT's first ever appearance in a Collingwood Cup Final. For his part, DIT President Brendan Goldsmith applaud the efforts of everyone involved in sport within the Institute when he addressed the large attendance at the gala evening. "I'll be the first to admit that all of you have achieved what you have under extremely difficult circumstances," he said.

"We're hoping to make progress in the future, given the rather mediocre facilities that we have available to us at the moment. "We wish continued success to both the high flyers in DIT sport and to those who simply enjoy it."

TRACY Piggott, guest speaker at the recent DIT Sports Awards in the Hilton Hotel in Dublin


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**USI Calls for Full Social Partner Status**

The THE Students' Union at the Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) has decided to request Social Partner Status for all full members of students in Ireland (USI), including the students’ union in the Republic of Ireland. This is one of the largest representative bodies in Ireland. According to Cian O’Callaghan, Deputy President of USI, who was calling on the Government to grant USI full Social Partner Status, "The views of 140,000 college students must be taken into account in negotiations on national partnership agreements," he said.

WIT Students’ Union felt that this was a number of greater national union strength and the voice would be strengthened if USI was President of the Students’ Union. "This was said under-funding of students' unions was not addressed at the upcoming USI congress as a matter of urgency," he said.

The current under-funding of students’ unions makes it very difficult for unions to provide the services they are required to deliver. "The lack of adequate resources also prevents existing union services from being properly maintained. This is an issue that can best be addressed nationally by USI," he said.

WIT will be calling on the Government to give full Social Partner Status to USI. The fifth college to join USI, along with Tech, Trinity, the Limerick Institute of Technology, and the Waterford Institute of Technology, said under-funding of students’ unions is a matter of urgency.

**Next year’s DITSU**

**Overall President:** Marguerite Fitzpatrick.

**Aungier Street**

President: Karl Bonner.

Deputy President: Noel Renehan.

**Bolton Street**

President: Neil Crommyn.

Deputy President: Donna Mulligan.

**Mountjoy Square**

President: John McKenna.

Deputy President: Jennifer O’Connor.

**Kevin Street**

President: Desmond Alvey.

Deputy President: Lyndsey Jones.

**New DIT entry system queried**

**From page 1**

In his experience in the DIT Faculty of Business, Mr Byrne said that a vast majority of mature students from disadvantaged backgrounds "truly realise their potential" at a later age.

"Some incentive must be offered to such students and we have already seen numbers that most do very well after taking a few years out from education, having been at the same time wanting to get something else from life."

He also identified a need for greater Government commitment to the plan and an upgrade in resources within the plan were the plan to truly meet its potential.

While conceding that Mr Byrne was correct in his assessment of the standing of the Brendan Goldsmith, President of Dublin Institute of Technology, on DIT’s anniversary celebration.

The Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Mr Noel Dempsey, was guest of honour and more than 300 representatives from all sections of the construction industry attended the event.

This new award, valued at £1,500, will be given each year to the best overall student graduating from DIT’s Construction Economics & Management Degree course.

**Discussion forum for holiday goes launched**

Those of us planning to go on a travelling this summer will get the chance to share our views with the other third level holidaying clan on the ‘Traveller’s Chat’ discussion board on ebookers.com.

The discussion board is a place for travellers to leave their holiday stories, be they embarrassing, funny, or even incriminating! To leave a message or answer a query in the discussion forum, travellers must be registered users and can log in with existing login name and password. The discussion forum was launched across all of the ebookers websites in Europe on Thursday April 19.

The General Manager of ebookers.ie said that the forum "is a great addition to the website, allowing users to share advice and show their own holiday experiences. In particular, we feel that the fact that ‘Traveller’s Chat’ is communal will enhance the quality of advice offered to our users and will be an extremely valuable resource especially for those planning a trip to a European destination."

Traveller’s Chat can be reached by logging onto www.ebookers.ie and clicking on the left button on the left-hand navigation bar on the website.
October 2000

Student's drink spiked at ball

A DIT student fell victim to what her doctor described as the work of culprits who knew what they were doing. Lyndsey Jones, who is a part-time DITSU officer, had collapsed at the Kevin Street/Mountjoy Square Fresher's Ball which was held at the Temple Theatre. An ambulance was called to the scene by friends of Lyndsey, after her drink had been spiked with sleeping and epileptic tablets.

"I was thinking about it after; I just thought, my God, what just happened?," said Lyndsey. "I bring my drinks everywhere. She had not even tried to go out that night but had been persuaded by her friends to go to the Ball. "I had a drink in my hand and I said 'I'll be back in a second, here hang onto that and I went off to the bathroom. So I came back and just picked up a bottle and had the last bit. I didn't even know if it was mine because there were so many bottles there, so I just carried on drinking and talking to the lads."

An hour or so later, the effects of the drink began to kick in. so later, the effects of the many bottles there, so I just mine because there were so many there. So I came back in a second, here hang onto my hand and I said 'I'll be back in a second, here hang onto that and I went off to the bathroom. So I came back and just picked up a bottle and had the last bit. I didn't even know if it was mine because there were so many bottles there, so I just carried on drinking and talking to the lads." An hour or so later, the effects of the drink began to kick in. So I came back in a second, here hang onto my hand and I said 'I'll be back in a second, here hang onto that and I went off to the bathroom. So I came back and just picked up a bottle and had the last bit. I didn't even know if it was mine because there were so many bottles there, so I just carried on drinking and talking to the lads." An hour or so later, the effects of the drink began to kick in.

In what proved an interesting year, the DIT Independent did its best to cover the events that mattered in the biggest third level institution in the country. Here's a month-by-month account of some of the stories that made the headlines

Public Private Partnership for Grangegorman?

Further investigation is required into the notion of Public Private Partnerships and new college projects following the news that DIT's proposed move to the Grangegorman site is being considered for a PPP agreement.

"There's no reason why the Government shouldn't give the money to DIT so we can build it ourselves," claimed DITSU President Vinny Dooley. "It would save us a lot of hassle...PPP is just a term used for a more complicated loan."

In 1995, DIT commissioned architects Scott Tallon Walker to carry out a study on the new campus in Grangegorman, from which a £150 million investment was envisaged. But it may be as many as seven to eight years from now until the campus is fully operational.

November 2000

DIT Council 2000

February: DITSU Overall President Vinny Dooley resigned

Union should have checked it out

DITSU President Vinny Dooley responded, saying the onus was well and truly on the students to fill in the necessary forms properly and to check if they are eligible for election. "It's a horrible thing to happen but rules are rules," he said.

Simon Clarke subsequently won the sabbatical election in Aungier Street and said that the disqualifications had taken from the final election results.

December 2000

DITSU loses £36,000 on Spellbound Ball

The Halloween 'Spellbound' Ball, the brainchild of DITSU President Vinny Dooley, was cancelled due to a lack of ticket sales. It is believed that the cancellation of the event cost DITSU £36,000.

Dooley said that DITSU Council had been informed of the loss and that it had been "up to class reps to relay the information."

Dooley added that Council had been told that had timing and bad publicity were the main factors for the loss. One DITSU source said that the event had turned into a "disaster because he did it on his own. The Student's Union was only told what the line-up was and where it would be held."

Dooley admitted to having "a large input" into the organisation of the event but concluded that the timing of the event and the lack of publicity were the two major stumbling blocks upon which the Spellbound event fell.

The price of the tickets (£15) was cited by many as a major turn off for a majority of possible party revellers, though this was also denied by Dooley. "The price was an absolute bargain," but added "I take complete responsibility for the loss."

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Mount Carmel students rewarded in links programme

By Dermot Keyes

APRIL’S voting of DITSU! Council was described by Kevin Street President Nicky Lawlor as the “crucial meeting in the history of the union.”

Despite the brevity of the meeting (approximately 30 minutes), it was confirmed that DITSU! had sold the car which had been purchased by outgoing President Yvonne Fitzsimons. While on the subject of the outgoing Council, Deputies were informed that, for the first time ever, DITSU! had yet to receive its official letter of resignation from office. Lawlor apologised for the delay in receiving the letter but said that the issue should be finally resolved before the next meeting of the Union on May 1.

Lawlor also congratulated all candidates running for office in the DITSU! Elections and complimented Societies Officer Shay Cantwell for the excellent job he performed in her organisation of the first ever DITSU! Societies Awards, which were held on March 26. It was also confirmed that the Dr. Tommy Cooke, President of DIT Bolton Street recently visited Mount Carmel Secondary School on Kings Inn Street to present certificates, scholarships and the Cantwell Memorial Medal to students participating in the latest Staffordshire Programme. The programme, which was established by Shay Cantwell and the then home school liaison officer in 1996, has reported on in previous editions of the DIT Independent and is now an integral part of the Community Links Programme.

Students from DIT Bolton Street give up their evenings to supervise students from Mount Carmel, who carry out their studies on the Bolton Street site. Cantwell was tragically drowned in the summer of 1996 and each year a medal is presented to a student in his honour.

Shay was a final year engineering student at Bolton Street and demonstrated great enthusiasm and initiative helping to establish the scheme. His mother, Betty, brother Sean and sister Aisling attended this year’s presentation of the medal.

Yvonne Fitzsimons was the recipient of this year’s medal, as she was identified as the student who had the greatest progress this year as a result of the scheme. Margaret Shannon and Jennifer Boyd both received Gaeltacht scholarships.

Last year’s winners of the same awards Karen Fitzpatrick and Jennifer Kelly were so delighted with the prize that they have since saved up to finance a return trip! Any student wishing to get involved in the programme should contact Dr. Tommy Cooke of DIT or Ms. Christine Murphy at Mount Carmel Secondary School.

DITSU! Council report

By Nicky Lawlor

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This year’s DIT Seachtain na Gaeilge has been postponed. “It was supposed to happen before Easter but a number of unforeseen circumstances arose which did not allow it to take place,” said Overall President elect Marguerite Fitzpatrick. “Personally, I would prefer to have a proper Seachtain na Gaeilge rather than a one-day event.” she added.

DITSU!’s website is to receive a long-awaited overhaul, after almost two years of non-activity on the site. Kevin Street Deputy President Wil Nelson said that DITSU! Limited had established a provisional budget to go ahead with the redevelopment of the website. Web design company Heller Visuals has been commissioned by DITSU! to rebuild the site at a conditional cost of £8,000.
Focus on . . . Alcohol and Students

Alcohol and students have become big news in recent months, especially in the light of the growing number of violent incidents in Dublin this year. Campus.ie investigates what moves are being made to ease a growing problem.

IN 1999 alone, alcohol related problems cost the country €1.7 billion, taking into consideration the healthcare costs and the costs of road accidents, crime and absenteeism.

Binge or recurring heavy drinking is increasing in Ireland, particularly among the young. According to a Royal College of Physicians working party, alcohol accounts for 12 per cent of hospital expenditure and 20 per cent of patients admitted with non-alcoholic illnesses have a history of heavy drinking. The net result is the chronic levels of liver disease, heart disease and other alcohol related illnesses that take such a toll on our health service.

The Mater Hospital in Dublin recently appointed the country's first hospital alcoholism counsellor in response to the flood of patients with non-alcohol related illnesses that take such a toll on our health service. Former nurse, was initially hired to help establish the level of alcohol problems among patients at the hospital. Her shocking findings led the hospital to ask her to stay on as a part-time counsellor, advising patients on their drinking habits. The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Annual Cost of College Survey 2000 breaks down student expenses into various categories such as fuel, telephone, accommodation, medical expenses and alcohol, to name a few.

Alcohol was shown to be the second largest expense, proceeded only by rent, for students living away from home in Dublin, at €68 per month. Students living at home in Dublin were shown to spend €73 per month, the largest expense by far, followed by the cost of travelling, almost €50 less.

This also marked the first time the USI specified "alcohol", as an independent category which previously had been assumed to exist in the "leisure" category - proof in itself that the subject merited more attention.

In a culture where the best ads are for alcohol and where huge swathes of the media, sport and the arts rely on alcohol sponsorship and advertising, how can any young person not assume that drink is anything other than a benevolent force?

Fine Gael’s spokesperson on health, Gay Mitchell, recently called on the Government to comprehensively address the role of sponsorship and advertising, and to ban drinks advertisements and sports sponsorship deals.

If the experience of other countries is anything to go on, this measure could be effective. Countries with a ban on spirits advertising have about 15 per cent lower alcohol consumption than countries with no bans.

Countries with bans on beer and wine advertising have about 11 per cent lower alcohol consumption than countries with bans only on spirits advertising, according to the National Alcohol Policy.

A spokesperson from the Department of Health’s press office said a decision to review sponsorship of sporting events nationally had not been taken.

The student market is a very valuable one for the breweries, as it is a consolidated one where they can establish loyalty products and lines and carry out valuable market research.

The main providers of recreational opportunities for students in colleges are Clubs and Societies of the seven Irish Universities (C.S.U.); the Student Union, and Pubs and Clubs in the City, which are all heavily characterised by association with the promotion of alcohol products.

In the face of this, it is a third level institute’s responsibility to create an environment and adopt policies which facilitate and encourage students to have a responsible attitude to the consumption of alcohol.

An alcohol policy is currently under consideration of the Conference of Heads of Irish Universities (C.H.U.).

This is a corporate body representing the Heads of the seven Irish Universities, which aims to promote the development of education and research in the universities by the formulation of collective policies, strategies and programmes.

Only UCC and NUI Galway have fully implemented policies on alcohol company’s sponsoring society events or sporting events on campus, although UCD recently established a committee to develop a policy.

The committee which includes Student Union representatives, is expected to report before the end of the academic year. "So far we have looked at various positions on alcohol sponsorship, and the associated problems with it, as well as the policies of other colleges," said UCDSU President Eamon O’Lionnain.

UCD’s committee was established after members of the governing authority expressed concern over the alcohol environment among young people, in the wake of the death of an 18 year old student outside the Burlington Hotel last September.

UCC has one of the most strict policies on alcohol. From next year, all clubs in UCC will be sponsored by a centralised fund by a single major company, eliminating brewery and alcohol sponsorship in the college.

The current situation is that all clubs fund for themselves, with various alcohol promoters sponsor different clubs and societies. Spirit promotions have long since been banned on campus, following an accident involving a student falling into a river.

The next step is to implement stricter policies within the college's two on-campus bars. "We're trying to get rid of "beat the clock", "drink till you drop" promotion, and to ensure that if a student is drunk, they're not served any more," said UCCSU’s Welfare Officer, Phil O’Callaghan.

O'Callaghan asserts that the policy has been broadly welcomed by students and because of the campus's city location, "students wishing to get drunk go into town to do it”.

"We’ve no problem with students drinking, we’re just trying to stop binge drinking," that is the challenge facing students unions throughout the country.
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THIRD year engineering students at Dublin City University (DCU) came a step closer to solving Dublin's public transport problem by designing autonomous robots that can drive, collect and deposit passengers, sound horns and flash lights, all without the assistance of a driver.

The students used a handy board for the project, which is a micro control developed by the renowned MIT. Each RoboCab controls itself - there are no joysticks or remote controls sending instructions to the car.

Students worked in small teams and were given six weeks to design and build their RoboCabs.

"The idea is students will learn a lot about self discipline and project management, by working in teams, while undertaking a particular technological challenge," Dr Noel O'Connor of DCU Electronic Engineering Department told campus.ie.

The project integrates a number of different aspects of engineering, according to Mr O'Connor.

"Students have to design the mechanical structure of their robot (using Lego building blocks and various gearing mechanisms), decide what electronic sensors to use and how to connect them to the controlling microprocessor. They have to write the software programme that provides instructions to the micro-processor and enables the RoboCabs to drive, pick up passengers and take them to their desired destination without human intervention."

He stressed that the project was devised for educational reasons as opposed to research.

"The robots that result are not something that could be sold commercially - they are merely demonstrations of various concepts."

RoboCab competition winners, Paul McAuliffe, New Anthony Murphy, Siobhan Murphy and Violaine Ragot, beat off 17 other prototypes that competed for the title of RoboCab champion.

Three years after its inception, the competition continues to gain momentum. Last year's competitors had to devise a robot mini-moon, which had to find its way around the maze, without prior knowledge of the maze layout.

The project was co-funded by businesses, like the electronic component suppliers.

Ericsson to sponsor MLE

ERICSSON has announced it is to become a sponsor of Media Lab Europe, a new research and development centre recently established in Dublin, Ireland. Ericsson will contribute Euros 2.5 million over five years to the centre.

The contribution will see Ericsson become a member of Media Lab Europe's new sponsor research consortium and will support five Ericsson research fellows over a five year period, to research and develop new technologies and potential uses of wireless communications for the future.

The £150 million centre brings together areas that can be tied into technology, including music, cinema, psychology, video and linguistics. Media Lab Europe is an independent, university level research and education centre with the aim of creating a highly interdisciplinary environment that offers industry a new model of access to research, activity and intellectual property.

The Dublin-based independent arm will be set up along the same lines as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a huge emphasis on inter-disciplinary research, bringing together areas that can be tied into technology, including music, cinema, psychology, video and linguistics.

Ericsson has been a longstanding sponsor of the Media Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. This commitment by a company of Ericsson's stature is solid evidence of how Media Lab Europe's innovative approach is appealing to major corporations," said Dr. Rudy Burger, Chief Executive Officer of Media Lab Europe.

"We see the development of new applications for UMTS and other wireless networks as an essential part of Ericsson's strategy to continue to lead the development of the mobile Internet," stated Hakan Ericsson, Vice President Research at Ericsson. "From discussions with our customers we get the clear message that innovative mobile services will be a key contributor to the success of UMTS and future systems. The research to be conducted at Media Lab Europe will be a significant contribution to our applications research and our future product development," he continued.

Ericsson provides total solutions covering everything from systems and applications to mobile phones and other communications tools.
At the annual congress of the Union of Students in Ireland, held in Ennis, Richard Hammond was elected as President for the next academic year. Hammond, who had failed to secure the DIT mandate following hustings at March's DITSU Council meeting at Cathal Brugha Street, saw off the challenges of Eamon O'Lionainn and Gareth Williams to secure the post for the 2001-2002 period.

Hammond (23) is a law graduate of University College Cork and has served as Southern Area Officer for USI. Upon election in Ennis, he reiterated claims he had made before DIT students back in March. "It is only by giving students adequate financial support that we will ensure equal access to education," said Hammond. "To achieve this we must empower students and students' unions through the ballot box. We must push for the implementation of a number of measures to increase student voter turn-out. Issues such as on-campus ballot boxes, Sunday voting and Internet voting must be addressed.

The President-elect also spoke of the USI's need to "tackle the creeping moves to turn our colleges into 'degree factories'. There must be accreditation for student involvement in clubs and societies activity. Such accreditation is a crucial step in encouraging and enabling students to receive a fully-rounded third-level education."

As expected, former DIT Aungier Street President Colm Jordan was returned as Education Officer. But one of the election's more interesting winners was the unopposed Deputy Presidential candidate Ross O'Donoghue of Mary Immaculate College in Limerick. His performance at the Cathal Brugha Street hustings was 'interesting' to put it mildly, when he admitted to standing for the post despite having no policies. Instead, O'Donoghue said that the issues of primary interest and concern to the student populous of USI would be the source of policy formation for the year ahead. John Paul Swaine of University College Dublin was elected as Welfare Officer with John Friend Pereira of Mary Immaculate College selected for the Equality position.

Delegates call for on-campus ballots and weekend voting

DELEGATES at Congress called for the introduction of on-campus ballot boxes and weekend votes for all future general election and referenda in an effort to encourage greater student voting.

According to USI statistics, the Republic of Ireland experiences the lowest level of first-time voters in Europe, with just 40 percent of such voters visiting polling stations on decision day.

Outgoing USI President Julian de Spainn said: "That if previous experience is any guide, 60,000 of the first time voters in the Republic will not use their vote. USI is expected to launch a voter registration campaign during the summer, according to president Julian de Spainn.

That's the equivalent of an entire population of a city the size of Galway failing to exercise the democratic right to vote," Political apathy amongst third-level masses, said de Spainn, "will have serious implications for the future of democracy," if left unaddressed.

USI is expected to launch a voter registration campaign during the summer, according to de Spainn. "We will be urging all our members to register to vote and we will also be publicising to our members the details of the policy positions of all candidates in relation to student issues."

Next year's USI officers

President: Richard Hammond
Deputy President: Ross O'Donoghue
Education Officer: Colm Jordan
Welfare Officer: John Paul Swaine
Equality Officer: John C Friend-Pereira

Former Aungier Street President: Colm Jordan, re-elected Education Officer
By Nicky Lavlor President DITSU Kevin Street

When asked to write a couple of hundred words on "how I got on this year," I didn't know the answer. If I said I had a great year, people would disagree, and if I said I had a poor year, people would also disagree. All I can do is give my point of view of it all.

We had our training at the start of the year and right from the stars is to fight for student issues, i.e. the grant, course problems, and to organise events and entertainments for the year. The reason I ran for this position was because I enjoy my friends and even more so, seeing other people enjoying themselves.

When fighting for such issues as increasing the grant, I realised that a student organisation can never be truly satisfying one, whether or not you win the battle. If we achieved a £250 a week increase in the grant, our opinion of the system would be that "this is not enough." It is a never-ending battle and one which will definitely not be completed within this year, I'm afraid.

Compare that task with the task of organising the Freshers Ball, which starts as an idea in your head during the summer months, and finalises by putting on a great event at The Temple Theatre some random Thursday night. That's what I mean by enjoying myself.

The day-to-day running of a Union is much more work than people sometimes think. At this point, let me explain that when a student comes into the office with a serious problem and is seriously worried, there is nothing worse for that student that leaving with a weight lifted from their shoulders. To see how big or small the problem was. In my opinion, students see the students union as the blokes who organise the events for the year, there is more, but in fairness that's what I do in my first year, and that's what I want to improve on.

A Christmas Ball without Christmas music and no snow machine - when running an event like this you hope everything runs smoothly and as planned. However, on arrival at the Red Box, the management told me that the heating was a safety risk. Their minds were made up. When I told all arrived, DITSU players didn't work so we were left with no option but to end the event.

One of the hardest things I had to do in my two years in Ditsu, was to cancel the Rag Ball. I thought that it was a good idea for 200 people at a foam party in Ice, or 800 in the Tivoli. Reflect now on the Rag Tag - 1500 people, venues, lots of drink, no inci­dents, no arrests. I class this as a personal win for the year, and one I will remember for quite some time.

Cheers.

Nicky Lavlor

By Peter Durning DITSU Aungier Street President

When I was asked, what and what experience! This job was an experience that is unparalleled with anything I have encountered in my life. What I have seen and learned could never be repeated by any other job I may embark on in the future. I have so many memories, which I treasure and I will never forget.

By Marguerite Fitzpatrick DITSU Bolton St President

The average day in the past year has been full of ups and downs and a whole lot of in-between. Getting together with the leaders of some of the finest clubs and societies in DIT.

Thou day on whatever clothes I might have and after a quick diploma of lunch or having the odd bottle of plonk and there! Catching up with the gang in the common room, checking out the posters, or getting into the Temple the night before only to be thrown immediately back out, provided the light comical relieve that I needed.

For the majority of students, this year has been the best they have had for years. In fact, if we look ahead, it's probably the best year the Union has been in Kevin Street.

Gabrielle Dalton in Bolton Street

By Damien Fallon DITSU Mountjoy Square President

At this stage of the year I can't help but feel I have been brutally honest. I genuinely believe that the democratic process, which is the main ethos of our constitution, is failing DITSU.

It seems that year after year the members throw the wrong type of sabbatical officer, from a Mountjoy Square perspective, to the DITSU Bolton St President.

By Catherine Power Site President DITSU Cathal Brugha St

It depended scavenger, I think out. I start time friends and open dra­

Of it was feet is to me Tmding to back April 2001 pass stay tuned! the Ieamt year of the old the explain.

And I have never been last tuned! P.S. There is one session left - stay tuned.
Radio retrospective

A 5 I sat propped against the computer that had been my closest companion all week. I felt the slightest bit smug. As one of the folks in my class of ten that was certainly not looking forward to becoming a radio reporter for a week, I couldn’t believe just how much I’d enjoyed it. Running between the newsroom on the fourth floor on Aungier Street and the radio studio at the other end of the corridor, I had learned many a good thing about myself and saw qualities both in myself and the rest of my class that I didn’t think we had to be honest.

I was in the lucky position of seeing both our classes’ one hour shows went everyday (a morning and evening show) and got to do a pretty good bit of on-air blabbering as well. As one of the news editors (Lisa Denny was the other) I was responsible for writing the news and finally got to be a bit of an Ed Winchester, Des Cahill or maybe something in between.

Anyway, Monday morning April 2 came along and the half-darkness that six a clock offers greeted me for the first time in may months. By half past six, the chin was up and I was reading the front page of the Irish Times. The sun peered over the top of the Odeon on Harcourt Street as I promenaded my way down.

By half-past six, the chin was up and returned the keys from whence they came. Keyes the rebel pegged it back down the stairs again and returned the keys from whence they came. Keyes the rebel still doesn’t have a familiar ring to it.

The hours passed, the news scripts were written and the reports behind the critically acclaimed ‘Farmwatch’ series (what do you mean you didn’t hear it) while Fiona Hynes and Sueanne O’Leary held their own as producers of The Rush Hour. The highlight of the week for me was undoubtedly the sports chat I came into the evening show for with the show’s presenter John Paul Gilbourne and Brian Healy. It was great fun and it was nice to have a blather about something I actually know some little bit about. But our station manager was the legend of the week.

The obilient Pat Hannon was an absolute star and kept all our chins up whenever we dropped them and provided all his years of knowledge and expertise to make us feel proud of what we had achieved that first week in April. I’d just love to do it all again.

DITFM was run by the communications students in the first week of April. Dermot Keyes recalls a week of hair pulling, sleep deprivation but ultimate satisfaction for himself and classmates, ending with a couple of cans of Dutch Gold!

What impressed me immensely was the way everyone involved in DITFM went about their business.

The film and broadcasting students ran their shows very smoothly and were a pleasure to interface during the top of the hour bulletins. Lisa was a fine news editing colleague, while the 11 o’clock crew of Janice Gaffey, Deirdre Ni Cheallaigh and Aoife Stokes provided me with many moments of fun and excitement.

Laurence Mackin was our technical whiz as well as the brains behind the critically acclaimed ‘Farmwatch’ series (what do you mean you didn’t hear it)

The evening was hosted by Hugh O’Reilly of DIT Drama Society, who was awarded Best Society Individual of the Year.
Drama Week

By Anita Conway (DIT Societies Organiser)

DIT Drama Week proved to be a massive success. Although the idea of Drama Week is not new and innovative in itself, this event deserves special credit as it was the first of its kind in DIT. It has also brought previously segregated site groups together under one umbrella and brought a more cohesive and integrated approach to student drama in the institute.

The success of the week was illustrated through the participation of so many students with over 300 people attending the plays throughout the week and 100 students being directly involved in the week from acting, directing to stage crew and front of house.

The DIT recognised and appreciated the success by awarding the DIT Drama Society the "best society" award and "best event" award at our DIT Societies awards night. During the week each group, four in total, performed shows in a professional theatre environment beginning with Kevin Street performing John B Keane's "Big Maggie." Mountjoy Square wrote its own play "A room with a loo" and performed it in front of a capacity crowd of 120. The students from Aungier Street wrote, produced and directed their own show called "Urban" and finally Bolton Street performed "the naked sketches" which included excerpts from Shakespeare's A Midsummer Nights Dream and a short piece of original work.

The week ended with the awards night - Oscar style, dinner in the presence of interest with eventually put an end to the Trade Organisations (WTO) dismantling all barriers to free trade. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the power behind them, will seem on the face of it a fair trade for some and will will want this scenario to enfold in the near future. The judges had attended each show and wrote critiques that were circulated on the night, judges were ex-member of the DIT Drama society, Donal Mc Loghlin who works with a Nina Theatre company, Barbara Gray a graduate of the London theatre Academy and Mark Phillips a graduate from the DIT Media Production course who now works with Windmill lane production.

The following awards were presented:

Best Actor - Michael O'Loughlin (Room with a loo) Mountjoy Square

Best Actress - Marie O'Sullivan (Room with a loo) Mountjoy Square

Best Comedy Performances - Bolton Street in the excerpt of Mid Summer Nights Dream.

Best Play - Urban - Aungier Street. A play written and directed by Hugh Travers and Garry Duggan, Manhattan whisper was part this production which consisted of a series of monologues on living in Manhattan.

Best Moment - Hugh O'Reilly "It will be alright on the night" - Kevin Street where an individuals improvisation skills were on show when he had forgotten his lines.

Best Individual in each site was an award given to an individual that the directors and presidents felt had participated well and benefited both personally and artistically by being involved in the society.

Best Actress - Maura O'Dwyer - Aungier Street

Best Actor - James Carroll - Kevin Street

Niail Mc Carly - Bolton Street

The awards night proved the perfect way to end such a fantastic week. Finally I would like to conclude that levels of organisation and professionalism were outstanding. Many people were responsible for its success: all committees and society members, our sponsors AIB, Guinness and Hugh O'Reilly, President of the society who received a standing ovation at the awards for his work.

The audience assembled for one of the four performances put on during Radio Week

Three ladies on the stage do their best Patrick Kavanagh by the canal impression

Will the next decade see education, public health and social welfare pass from the hands of the government into the hands of private business interests?

Will the vice-like grip of large corporations on television and media allow words like pay-per-view to transform to pay-per-learn or pay-per-heal as profit driven organisations scramble to buy up the rights to all social services? Unnervingly the answer seems to be yes.

Such a nightmare scenario now appears closer on the horizon as large corporations and institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organisations (WTO) and the power behind them, the 8 (the Group of the world's seven richest nations and Russia), push to know more or get involved in the social services dependency on large profit driven corporations.

In recent times there seems to be an emerging worldwide force that does not want this scenario enfold and who feel that 'our world is not for sale.'

More and more groups often diverse in nature but united together have emerged worldwide in voicing the concern and anger, against what they see as the growth of global corporations intent on putting profit before people.

This has not been restricted to countries abroad and the seeds are now being planted in Ireland in the formation of the umbrella group of Globalise Resistance.

Intending to unite individual people and groups, whether environmentalist, debt-campaigner, anti-capitalist, all the above or those simply concerned about social issues, Globalise Resistance attempts to unite and inform those who want to know more get involved in the struggle.

Over the coming weeks Globalise Resistance hopes to expand and involve more groups and individuals who are concerned by the social and environmental consequences of corporate globalisation in Ireland and abroad and the increasing tendency to put profit before people.

Of significance in the coming months will be the annual meeting in Genoa, Italy this July, Power by business and often U.S. based concerns there is a likelihood that even more barriers to free trade will be dismantled and laws designed to protect human needs, the environment, workers rights and to prevent abuses to human rights and child labour will be severely compromised.

Such concerns are not ungrounded and can be observed in the privatisation of the telephone market and ongoing privatisation of the transport and energy sector within Ireland.

If the troubles experienced in the U.K. with the privatisation of the rail network and in California with its energy crisis sector, which has experienced several electricity shortages due to mismanagement following its privatisation, are anything to go by then such handing over of public bodies might need to be reconsidered entirely.

In the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meeting next year, where such services will be at their most vulnerable, it is vital that the people continue to become aware and pressurise their elected representatives at every level with the belief that our education, health and public bodies might need to be reconsidered entirely.

It will be at Genoa that Globalise Resistance will hope to add a sizable contingent of Irish people to attend and demonstrate a "people's abhorrence" to what is been proposed. Additionally it is an aim to hold a solidarity protest during the meeting.

Those wishing to get involved can simply join the mailing list, come along to any of the meetings or view the website:

http://globalise-resistance.cj.net or email: globalise_resistance@yahoo.com

Ronan Moore is currently studying for a MSc. in Sustainable Development at DIT Bolton Street.
Peje was one of the worst hit towns by the war, where buildings were either bombed or burned, killing hundreds of people and leaving thousands more homeless.

A
t at only 23, Mary Faherty was a qualiﬁed civil engineer working in one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. As well as a good income she also knew the downside - stress, bills and mortgage payments. Like so many young people, there was something nagging her, the pace of life, the constant talk of money and house prices, of getting a bigger car and other luxuries, so she upped and left, for Kosovo.

She is now an aid worker for the aid agency, GOAL, in a small, war-torn town of Peje. "I was just getting so sick of the whole rat race in Ireland, because it has just got so money oriented. Whereas this place reminds me of who I would imagine Ireland in the 70's was like, maybe 20 years ago. People are very generous, and friendly, and they care about each other more. It's less about money and more relaxed, whereas in Ireland people are just getting a bigger car and a bigger house'.

Obviously concerned for her safety, Mary's family were reluctant to let her go at first, but realising how selfish a mass, out so and so lost their homes and buildings were begun to imagine on her definitely do 13 first, herself only finds have before the war, Albanians, clarifies a drastic comparison to her home.

Mary has been turned upside down. As well as a charitable, but also fast growing civil engineer working in one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. As well as a good income she also knew the downside - stress, bills and mortgage payments. Like so many young people, there was something nagging her, the pace of life, the constant talk of money and house prices, of getting a bigger car and other luxuries, so she upped and left, for Kosovo.

Mary has found it easy to adapt to life in Peje and imagines by standards of other countries in which you can work for GOAL, like Sierra Leone or South Sudan, that she has quite a "cushy" number. It's not that different to home, you have Internet, loads of restaurants and cafes and most people speak English.

She also feels quite safe walking around the streets at night by herself, which is something she couldn't have begun to imagine on her ﬁrst day here.

"I remember one of the things I was surprised at was the army presence here, you know the Kfor soldiers and tanks and trucks. I was like "Oh my God", but now that I'm here, I'm like "what the hell do they do all day", because it's not like there is a lot of trouble over here, but then you see these guys walking around with machine guns and it's like, "why? Why are you here? What are you doing?" Obviously if they left there would just be a massacre of Serb villages, but it doesn't seem to be here to do the job'.

Peje has been turned upside down and half way back again in the last two years, but the remaining Albanians are still in shock from the war and daily connect with the locals who start on a voluntary basis are doing it with some altruistic vision. I also think most people that start with GOAL do so with good intentions of trying to better things, with their own selfish reasons too. Like because you get to go to a different country. You get to go over to a set up. You have a house and an immediate circle of friends, so there are a lot of advantages to it, and it's something different you can do for a year and then go back to whatever you were doing before'.

"I would think from reading the horrific news stories about Kosovo, that it would completely change your whole outlook on things. Instead, over the past four months Mary has learned how much of an insane and lucrative business aid work actually is. "I don't think it has changed me at all. It has just opened my eyes a bit more as to how the world really works. Like I would have always thought NGOs are all voluntary based, but a lot of volunteers are earning high wages."

Mary earns her reward in her job and enjoys the progress that her work provides. She makes an average of £300 a month. Not bad when you consider that her housing and transport expenses are all paid for and that everything costs next to nothing here anywhere. She tells me though, that some of the volunteers here could be earning hundreds and even thousands more. Another striking thing that she has noticed, which will have it's revenge soon, is the fact that NGOs are setting higher wages by local standards, for construction workers, than teachers and doctors are paid. "I don't think it's a healthy and a good way of doing things, to come in and completely change the whole running of things entirely. When the agencies have all gone, they [the locals] are going to go back to their normal salaries, which could cause bigger problems later.'

To get away from the daily realities, Mary leads a surprisingly ordinary life, like reading, watching videos, dining out and playing football. "There is never really a dull moment, it's not as if you are sitting around thinking what am I going to do now. One of the things she does misses from home though is a good disco, as she reminds me of the UNICEF party where we abused the Bob Marley DJ all night for some reason and danced until the morning."

Mary admits that spirituality more than religion is what has guided her so far. Her philosophy on life seems to reﬂect that, and is maybe the reason why she is here. "Do what you want to do. Don't be motivated by money. Try to cause as little harm to others as possible. Try to keep a positive attitude and beware that we are just passing through."

Mary is certainly a muse for the value of life, and in the past four months she has realised how precious life really is. Her break from Ireland's money mayhem has opened several doors and her path for the future is destined to be a busy one. After her year here, she has plans to go back to Ireland for six months and get involved in some housing projects.

No matter what happens though, she can deﬁnitely see herself in and out of aid work, and is looking forward to spending another year with GOAL in the future, perhaps sunny South America this time too.
I want to get to the next level
By Darragh Clifford and Eoin Murphy

CIVILISED Apes were recent winners of the DIT Battle of the Bands. Held in Eamon Donans of Temple Bar on Tuesday, March 27th, Civilised Apes overcame opposition from two other acts to claim first prize of two days studio time. The gig was organised by the DIT Rock Society, which is based in Kevin St. Civilised Apes were deserved winners, were musically very tight, with some catchy original tunes, especially “Today”.

The three piece, consisting of Cormac Keely, James Kearney and Justin Rattigan, showed great rapport with the audience. Their approach to the songs pointed to Green Day and Offspring influence. Basically, the band even performed an up-tempo version of John Denver’s “Leaving on a Jet Plane”, much to the surprise of the audience.

Overall, the band was very professional in their performance. They seem to enjoy themselves on stage while never forgetting the job at hand.

Unfortunately, problems with equipment meant that they had to go without drums for two songs. But Civilised Apes overcame this with competent versions of Green Day’s “Time of Your Life” and James Taylor’s “Fire and Rain”.

The lead singer, Frances Downey, possessed a haunting voice that seemed almost out of place amongst the leather-clad audience. Guitarist Alan Finney was impressive and braved a soothing instrumental. There were clear influences from Nick Drake and the Frames and in different surroundings would have received greater applause. In a jaunty finale the played the theme music from that old t.v. favorite “The Littlest Hobo”.

While the task of opening the competition was daunting, they coped well, though the duo spent more time looking at each other than at the audience. Huckerbunny are usually a three-piece and DIT graduate Thomas Norton was absent due to personal commitments.

Huckerbunny are at present recording an album. This summer they plan to tour Chicago and if you want to catch them before they go, their usual haunts are the blue room and Doyle’s of Fleet Street. It was a credit to the judges that a talented band was considered even if their style was a dramatic contrast to the other finalists.

The third band to perform was Playground Psychotic. An all female band, Playground Psychotic played a mostly heavy metal set. Their shy personalisities were in total contrast to the music they were performing. Unfortunately, their set became repetitious and they ran out of ideas, ending the band and the struggle to maintain the audience’s attention.

Clara Gannon on lead guitar showed great skill, but more work must be done on their overall performance if they wish to go further.

The event’s organiser Leonora Colucci was thrilled with the success of the competition and applauded all contestants. She was pleased with the success of the Rock Soc. and is looking forward to next year. She felt that the competition was hindered by the poor level of assistance she received from the DITSU.

While Clubs get great attention it appears that societies are left by their own devices and the results the Rock Society have achieved are impressive.
Film Reviews

War, Mummies & Lara!

Dermot Keyes takes a look at the movies which are set to hit the big time over the summer holidays.

Tomb Raider
Starring: Angelina Jolie, Daniel Craig, Jon Voight
Director: Simon West

A previous member of the Bruckheimer stable, Simon West could well be rubbing his hands with glee over the success of his latest action flick, Tomb Raider: Episode II. The movie is likely to replicate next year's Tomb Raider's success with its box office take on a potential sequel. Jolie was always the first choice that Simon West had for the role. Her performance as Lara Croft's inception as a female action superstar is likely to provide the box office boost that the movie requires.

Having already confirmed that she is contracted to at least another two movies of judo kicking, gun toting, hotpants wielding action, Jolie was always the first choice that Simon West had for the role. Following the surprise success of Tomb Raider two summers ago, Jolie is back, with the action set a decade after her first desert duel with Imhotep, played with frightening intensity by Arnold Vosloo. The Mummy's mistress (also the Pharaoh's squeeze), who set the ball rolling all those millennia ago by having an affair with the delightfully named Ank-su-Namun (Patricia Velasquez) and we all know the story from there.

The story largely focuses on Namun, who was a peripheral character in the original movie and her antics bring about a series of events which, you've guessed it, lead to the return of the Mummy to twentieth century Egypt.

With a supporting cast that includes Donna Air of MTV fame (I kid you not) and WWF star 'The Rock,' it looks like another 100 fun minutes of brain candy for all who love swords, wars, CGI soldiers and some pretty ladies.

Universal Pictures are so happy with 'The Rock's' performance in the movie as the Scorpion King that he has seemingly already signed a deal which will see him star in a prequel to the original Mummy movie, which will be filmed in the UK and will be given the official title The Scorpion King.

This is one movie that has a lot to live up to if it is to prove as successful as the original.

Dermot Keyes

From the last word in beer to the Mummies

The Mummy Returns
Starring: Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz, Jon Voight
Director: Stephen Sommers

While the world waits for Indiana Jones 4 to finally happen (and we're assured that it will take place some time before Harrison Ford reaches retirement age!), the next best thing to Indy and his whip looks like Brendan Fraser with his.

Following the surprise success of The Mummy two summers ago, Fraser is back, with the action set a decade after his first desert duel with Imhotep, played with frightening intensity by Arnold Vosloo. The Mummy's mistress (also the Pharaoh's squeeze), who set the ball rolling all those millennia ago by having an affair with the delightfully named Ank-su-Namun (Patricia Velasquez) and we all know the story from there.

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Dermot Keyes
By Dermot Keyes

DIT Handball Club was rewarded for a year of high achievement at the fourth annual Sports Awards, which took place at the Hilton Stakis Hotel in Dublin on April 6.

The Handball Club claimed the Club of the Year award and the efforts of organiser Padraig Gaffney were described by DIT Sports Committee Chairman De Declan Glynn as "exceptional." With success in the Dublin Senior League, a number of members representing Ireland at World Championship level in Minneapolis, as well as a number of successes at All-Ireland level, it truly was a year to remember for all involved in the club.

For his contribution to the club's effort, Padraig Gaffney was awarded the club Executive of the Year prize and earned further plaudits from Dr Glynn.

"He has been a great contributor to the improving status of the game in DIT and has greatly increased the profile of the club."

Handball club member and World Under-19 Handball champion Dessie Keegan was one of the night's All-Star winners and was rewarded for a year of high achievement both for DIT and his native Ballaghaderreen club.

The Badminton Club was awarded the most improved club of the year award, much of the credit deservedly being given to co-ordinator Ciaran McKeon, whom Dr Glynn said had "illustrated tremendous dedication and commitment" to his position.

Ciaran secured sponsorship from Budweiser, maintains the club's website and has helped to organise several social events during the year.

Presentations were also made to Billy Winter DIT Canoe Club for his efforts throughout the year and a similar presentation was made to Colin Brennan of the Olympic Handball Club.

The other All-Star award on the night went to DIT's soccer captain Robert Hederman, whose efforts for the college (the team reached this year's Collingwood Cup for the first time ever) and club Tolka Rovers have caught the eye of several scouts cross channel.

DIT's first batch of sports scholarship recipients were also rewarded for an outstanding year of commitment and success both at intervarsity and club levels. James Murray (Irish Cerebral Palsy Soccer squad), Fiona Healy (golf), Paul Campbell (athletics), Barry Lambert (hurling) and Maria Lynch (athletics) were the first five such athletes to receive such awards in the Institute.

Speaking after the awards ceremony, DIT President Brendan Goldsmith congratulated all those who had contributed to the DIT sporting year and added: "We hope that we can take the scholarship issue to a higher level."

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**Irish Independent**

**10 Tickets to Ardal O'Hanlon Must be Won!**

You can choose to do either quick or cryptic clues, the answers are the same.

### Across
1. Time to get spectacles for telling the time (11)
2. Egg poachers (7)
3. Being defeated (6)
4. Egg poachers (11)
5. Assimilates (7)
6. Memory defect (7)
7. Friend getting expert to build a royal house (4,2,5)
8. Neglect to tidy up a region (6)
9. Memory defect (7)
10. Of a town or city (5)
11. Spreads without moral transgression (6)
12. I regain a new order in Africa (7)
13. Neglect to tidy up a region (6)
14. Nodding (5)
15. Pained (7)
16. Of a town or city (5)
17. Minimum (5)
18. EGK's (5)
19. Pained (7)
20. Memory defect (7)
21. Nodding (5)
22. Of a town or city (5)
23. Being defeated (6)
24. Fabrics (5)

### Down
1. A sharp one needed for embroidery? (11)
2. A sharp one needed for embroidery? (11)
3. Being defeated (6)
4. Egg poachers (11)
5. Of a town or city (5)
6. Being defeated (6)
7. Memory defect (7)
8. Being defeated (6)
9. Of a town or city (5)
10. Of a town or city (5)
11. Of a town or city (5)
12. Being defeated (6)
13. Of a town or city (5)
14. Egg poachers (7)
15. Of a town or city (5)
16. Of a town or city (5)
17. Of a town or city (5)
18. Of a town or city (5)
19. Of a town or city (5)
20. Of a town or city (5)
21. Of a town or city (5)
**Man U believe it?**

Has Ryan Giggs been more valuable to Manchester United than Roy Keane? Was Paul Ince a better servant than Nobby Stiles? Is Nicky Butt better than Paul McGrath? And is Eric Cantona Manchester United’s greatest ever player, ahead of George Best and Duncan Edwards?

Apparently so, according to the results of Manchester United Magazine’s recent poll to determine the greatest 100 United players and the result leaves the validity of such a vote open to question.

Celebrating the magazine’s 100th issue, the results were controversial. When Cantona came out on top, with Best second, many critics complained that the Frenchman finished ahead of the likes of Best, Charlton, and Keane.

However, the fact that Cantona came out on top is no surprise. As Sir Alex Ferguson pointed out “when Cantona arrived everything changed”. On his arrival in November 1992, he became United from challengers to champions with nine goals. Then, following his role in the double win of the subsequent season, he became the Old Trafford idol since Best. He was also a genius, as his volley against telescoping Benfica in the 1994 poll, proved. Cantona was also capable of producing when it mattered most, like his winner at St. James Park in February 1996. His bad-tempered streak further endeared him to the Old Trafford crowd.

However, many have combined about the result of the poll, not least George Best, who said he was “disappointed” to finish behind Cantona. Best, like Charlton, proved a turning point for Manchester United. Best’s debut in 1963 rejuvenated a side still recovering from the Munich Air disaster. In two years the title had returned to Old Trafford. Best was also a genius, as his one-man destruction of Benfica in 1966 showed. In 1967, following another title success, Best was named European footballer of the year and in 1968 helped United to their first European Cup. That is the argument many have with Cantona. Despite his brilliance in England, he never truly performed in Europe for United. Meanwhile, Best, Law, Charlton, Schmeichel and Keane are all European Champions.

Another complaint of the poll, was the fact that so many current day players take high positions. While this does not surprise, it is the most successful period of the club’s history, some results are ludicrous. Luke Chadwick makes it into the list, at 97, despite having only played 11 times at the time of voting. Reserve keeper Van Der Gouw is considered better than original Busby Babe Ray Woods. Meanwhile, Bruce Grobbelaar is placed higher than Shay Brennan and Kevin Moran, and Johnny Carey, arguably the club’s greatest ever captain, is behind Nicky Butt and Phil Neville. The reason for such results could be the majority of voters in the poll are either under the age of 15 or one of United’s many late 90’s fans. And that is the problem with polls such as this.

Since the magazine’s target audience is younger fans and United’s foreign support, the result should be no surprise. What 12 year-old is going to place Gordon Hill ahead of Gary Neville? While United’s “biggest fan” from Reykyavik is never going to place Liam Whelan ahead of his beloved David Beckham. But this sort of thing is seen in all these type of polls which have persistently cropped up since the turn of the Millennium. In Channel 4’s quest to find the most influential musician of all time, Robbie Williams came number one. In the Observer’s poll to find the greatest sporting moment in Bootham’s ‘golden era’, the result was no surprise. What 12 year-old is going to place Gordon Hill ahead of Gary Neville? While United’s “biggest fan” from Reykyavik is never going to place Liam Whelan ahead of his beloved David Beckham. But this sort of thing is seen in all these type of polls which have persistently cropped up since the turn of the Millennium. In Channel 4’s quest to find the most influential musician of all time, Robbie Williams came number one. In the Observer’s poll to find the greatest sporting moment in Bootham’s ‘golden era’, the result was no surprise...
**Bouldering on!**

By Kevin Marnane  
(DIT Northside Mountaineering)

**Round one**

The first round of the Irish Bouldering League for 2000/2001 was held in the lovely city of Galway at their premier educational facility, NUIG.

The Galway lads, knowing where the talent lies, imported a couple of route setters from our own fair city. Along with the very capable setting of the routes, they also provided some more entertainment in the form of some hare-raising unicycle antics!

Nigel Callender, the infamous junior supremo decided it was time to make his mark on the big boy’s circuit. And a fair size mark it was too! Callender must find it hard to kick old habits thus chris­tFInals definitely called for in foot something colossal! 19 was held in the lovely

and old DIT climbers that braved the rest of the magnificent to make his mark on the big change reputation of the college untarnished and I believe we did an impressive enough job, if I do say so myself!

Even with finals looming, Sue showed her usual impressive climbing, keeping a firm grasp on the top ten ladies with 100 points and a ninth place finish. Not bad for a hard working final year!

As for me, the sock pulling seemed to do the trick with this happy camper coming out with double my NUIG score at 144 points. That score gave me a nice shove up into 15th place and a much more respectable result.

**Round three**

Cork beckoned for the third round but obviously not loud enough for me to make the long trek down...so sorry no news.

**Round four**

Round four saw me back on the train headed for Belfast and the annual OwneffiL. This year we were treated to the sight of the Callender seemed a bit confused when he was told that he had come in second to the mighty Alistair Wilson. Wilson put on a flawless show to pip the young whippersnapper and collar himself as elusive Male A number one spot. Ms. Flanagan was back in DIT keeping the heads turning as she leapt through the Male A ranks. She won herself no less than 125 points and jumped nine places up into 28th place. Watch this foot and mouth puts its head out! (Editor's note: Could be waiting until the next college year to see how they did!)

Due to the foot-and-mouth score, the mountaineering club's training programme has been delayed until possibly June, said DIT Mountaineering Chairman Gavin McManus. The program will include mountain skills training, multi-pitch training in Glendalough and RCI training.

**Sports Awards**

**Deadline May 15th**

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