2000-12

DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of December, 2000

DIT:Students Union

Follow this and additional works at: http://arrow.dit.ie/ditsu

Recommended Citation
Students' Union loses £36,000 on ball

By Samantha Rowntree

A DITSU-organised Hallo­ween event has lost the student union £36,000. "Spellbound", priced at £15 a ticket at Pearse Theatre, sold very few tickets and resulted in the event being called off.

Mr Vinny Dooley, President of DITSU, failed to inform the student body of the loss to the Student Union budget and instead wrote of the successful class rep meeting. This was where reps learned everything from public speaking to negotiation skills, and from how to be a councillor to organising your campaign. When Mr Dooley returned to work after a week's holiday, he said, "students were informed at DITSU council of the loss and it was up to class reps to relay the information.

Vinny Dooley: "students were informed at DITSU council of the loss"

Following this by saying that the initial results of a recent survey of students of DIT was that 90% still want an inter-DIT event. But a Students' Union source said, "it was a disaster because he didn't do it on his own. The student union were only told what the line-up was and where it would be held."

"I had a large input in organising the event, I hired the event management company," said Mr Dooley. "The two key things were the timing of the event and the lack of publicity. We found out after the event was booked that Pete Tong and Orbital were playing the Point the weekend after and also the UCD ball was on. There was not as good publicity as there could have been. We emailed people and had ads on the radio, but our posters were competing with the election campaign posters.

£1million for Chernobyl

By Aisling Casey

THOUSANDS of students took to the streets for the largest student charity event ever, 'The Fresher's 10k Walk', raising an estimated £1 million for The Chernobyl Children's Project.

On November 16th, over 10,000 third level students finished the race in the ongoing campaign for increased funding for the Chernobyl Children's Project. The event was organised at Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Kerry, and Dublin. The race was organised by The Chernobyl Children's Project at the Irish Council for Nuclear Disarmament. The event was initiated by the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) office in Cork, nine years ago. Doctors caring for children in Belarus sent an SOS reading.

"SOS Appeal for God's sake help us get the children out."

Adi Roche, executive director of The Chernobyl Children's Project, emphasised the need for constant support of the cause. "People may forget this, but it is somewhere in our unconscious. We were practically wiped out, our population was literally halved through starvation and mass emigration. We survived due to intervention, and that is why I am so sure the Irish people come together in such situations to help," she said.

In conjunction with The Chernobyl Children's Project, USI, Bank of Ireland, the walk was initiated and directed by DIT lecturer Joe McGrath. As a sign of their commitment to the event, Bank of Ireland donated £1 for every third level student accounted for in their bank this year.

"It didn't work because the posters only came out 10 or 12 days beforehand, you have to have much more promotion. £15 a head for a ticket is a joke. The nearest tickets have been so far is £10."

The bottom line is that it's a student event. Last year's Rag Ball was a success, but DITSU are not there to make money. The money is there to spend on us, so why are they trying to make money out of us?" he added.

Continued on page 3

Tick, Tock, Tick Tock

Beat the queues!

ReneW now!

Ask about your chance to win a £500 travel voucher when you buy your new card before 1st Jan 2001.

(All ISC/PASS card now available to all full-time students)
we go to extremes so you can too

wherever you hang out - take a dual PASS and ISIC Card

for further details contact: Mark Browne, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland 34 College Green (ph: 6793777) or Kayona Fagan, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland Camden Street (ph: 4784766) or visit the new Bank of Ireland student website www.autonom.ie
**College to form new film partnership**

By Miguel Delaney

The Dublin Institute of Technology is to form a partnership with the National Film and Television School (NFTS). The college is the first in Europe to form such an alliance with the school.

The partnership was announced on November 22nd at the Irish Film Centre in Dublin, attended by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the island, Ms Celine Maciagudiante. DIT President Brendan Goldsmith, and Irish film producer Noel Pearson.

The agreement was brokered by Dr Ellen Hazlekonz, Director of the Faculty of Applied Arts, acting on behalf of DIT in conjunction with NFTS Director Stephen Bayly.

Under the agreement the NFTS Diploma, Short and Graduate Training Programme (NSCTP), a Unit of the NFTS, will be allowed to offer a course leading to a postgraduate diploma in Film and Broadcasting in DIT.

Students will first get the opportunity to study the programme in early 2001.

At the announcement, Ms de Valera welcomed the alliance, praising it as a "life-long learning opportunity" for young Irish filmmakers. Dr Hazlekonz expressed her delight for DIT. "I think it's absolutely terrific that we've been able to obtain recognized qualifications from a world leader. The School of Media at DIT is responsible for producing highly skilled and employable graduates and alliances with partners such as NFTS really puts us on a global stage," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the NFTS, Director Stephen Bayly said that such a relationship "opens British eyes to wider possibilities and also makes available the excellent practical teaching of the NFTS's Short Course Unit to others in the European sphere."

Film and broadcasting students in DIT Aungier Street spoke of their feelings on the new partnership. Siobhan O'Connor from Cloudfap described it as "a good opportunity for people interested in film".

Celine Maciagudiante from Tráile is considering the new course as a choice after her degree.

However Gerard Quinn from Ballina, who plans to work in RT... said, "I feel a bit left out of this, we weren't informed and I don't know too much about it".

DIT, itself claiming a good record in producing Irish filmmakers, is entering good company in the agreement.

The NFTS, which is a leading international centre for professional training in television, film and media industries, offers full-time courses and a wide range of short courses for film, television and digital production industry professionals.

It is jointly funded by the British government with partners including United International Pictures, BSBY, Warner Brothers, BBC, ITV, Channel Television, Discovery Networks Europe and UCLA.

Over 700 of its graduates have totally nearly 400 international industry and student awards between them, including Oscars, BAFTAs and Emmys.

**Most students with disabilities at college**

By Samantha Rowntree

A NEW report, Provision for Students with Disabilities in Third Level Education, claims the number of students with disabilities attending third level education in Ireland has improved in the past five years.

The Higher Education Authority report shows only 850 students with disabilities or significant health conditions are studying in higher education. This represents less than one per cent of the total undergraduate population despite the fact that four per cent of the school-going population has a disability.

"DIT is very much in line with the HEA report," claims Ms Sheila Harrington, Head of the Disability Service in DIT.

"There's been a 27 per cent to 30 per cent increase in this year's number of students. The disability service is very pro-active; we had an induction day for students and launched a poster campaign in all the colleges.

"The advisors are there to facilitate students with their disability in their educational requirements."

Mr John Hayden, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority, pointed out that all areas of study may not be equally accessible to students with different disabilities.

Arts has the highest numbers of students with disabilities, at 27 per cent, with Business and Social Sciences at 15 per cent.

Engineering with 13 per cent, Science with 12 per cent and Art and Design with 10 per cent.

USI has called for an introduction of a five per cent quota intake of students with disabilities into third level education to reflect more accurately their proportion as a whole.

The new Equal Status Act passed in October outlaws all providers of goods and services from discriminating against the public on the grounds of age, gender, marital and family status, religion, race, sexual orientation, disability or members of the Travelling community.

This means that people can no longer be denied access to services like third level education simply because of their skin colour, sexual orientation or disability.

"This act means students see there's legislation in place to protect them," said Ms Harrington.

"The flexibility in the turnout shows how much students really do care even though they have rent and college expenses to think about."

**DIT/NTFS launch: Pictured from left to right: Dr Ellen Hazlekonz, Minster of State De Valera TD, Mr Stephen Bayley, NFTS and DIT President Brendan Goldsmith**

DIT/NFTS launch: Pictured from left to right: Dr Ellen Hazlekonz, Minster of State De Valera TD, Mr Stephen Bayley, NFTS and DIT President Brendan Goldsmith

---

**Students with disabilities at college**

By Samantha Rowntree

A NEW report, Provision for Students with Disabilities in Third Level Education, claims the number of students with disabilities attending third level education in Ireland has improved in the past five years.

The Higher Education Authority report shows only 850 students with disabilities or significant health conditions are studying in higher education. This represents less than one per cent of the total undergraduate population despite the fact that four per cent of the school-going population has a disability.

"DIT is very much in line with the HEA report," claims Ms Sheila Harrington, Head of the Disability Service in DIT.

"There's been a 27 per cent to 30 per cent increase in this year's number of students. The disability service is very pro-active; we had an induction day for students and launched a poster campaign in all the colleges.

"The advisors are there to facilitate students with their disability in their educational requirements."

Mr John Hayden, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority, pointed out that all areas of study may not be equally accessible to students with different disabilities.

Arts has the highest numbers of students with disabilities, at 27 per cent, with Business and Social Sciences at 15 per cent.

Engineering with 13 per cent, Science with 12 per cent and Art and Design with 10 per cent.

USI has called for an introduction of a five per cent quota intake of students with disabilities into third level education to reflect more accurately their proportion as a whole.

The new Equal Status Act passed in October outlaws all providers of goods and services from discriminating against the public on the grounds of age, gender, marital and family status, religion, race, sexual orientation, disability or members of the Travelling community.

This means that people can no longer be denied access to services like third level education simply because of their skin colour, sexual orientation or disability.

"This act means students see there's legislation in place to protect them," said Ms Harrington.

"The flexibility in the turnout shows how much students really do care even though they have rent and college expenses to think about."

---

**DIT/NTFS launch: Pictured from left to right: Dr Ellen Hazlekonz, Minster of State De Valera TD, Mr Stephen Bayley, NFTS and DIT President Brendan Goldsmith**

DIT/NFTS launch: Pictured from left to right: Dr Ellen Hazlekonz, Minster of State De Valera TD, Mr Stephen Bayley, NFTS and DIT President Brendan Goldsmith

---

**1fm for Chernobyl**

From page 1

DIT was heavily involved in the event. Over 1,000 students from all of colleges took part in the sponsored walk.

So far, DIT students raised an estimated £25,000, however the money is still coming in. DIT student Miguel Delaney said, "It was a good laugh.

We are the biggest body in Ireland and we showed our appreciation to the work of the project by taking part in the event. The money raised shows this."

Miguel added, "From the turnout, it was obvious that students were enthusiastic about taking part. There were thousands of students at Phoenix Park."

DIT Aungier site President, Peter Durning said, "There was a great turnout from DIT. The Chernobyl Children's Project is one of the most worthwhile charities I've ever heard of."

"The flexibility in the turnout shows how much students really do care even though they have rent and college expenses to think about."

---

**DIT/NTFS launch: Pictured from left to right: Dr Ellen Hazlekonz, Minster of State De Valera TD, Mr Stephen Bayley, NFTS and DIT President Brendan Goldsmith**

DIT/NFTS launch: Pictured from left to right: Dr Ellen Hazlekonz, Minster of State De Valera TD, Mr Stephen Bayley, NFTS and DIT President Brendan Goldsmith
A COMPREHENSIVE study is underway into the health implications of caffeine, targeting students' vulnerability.

Prof Jack James, of NUI Galway, will command a three-year £1.2 million research project examining the health effects of caffeine. "Students are a vulnerable group because of the coffee culture in college," he said. Prof James may even implement measures to ensure that college canteens provide the option of decaffeinated coffee.

"Advertising campaigns target students, especially new energy drinks compounding further their vulnerability," he claimed.

According to Prof James, students are generally unaware of the effects of caffeine because the manufacturers are the only source of information. Commenting on the role of manufacturers in the dissemination process, he said, "Some are even likely to claim health benefits for which there is no support."

Caffeine is a drug affecting the nervous system. Prof James claims that a single dose a day may even have a mood altering effect. "It is not a mood altering effect from using caffeine," he explained, "but rather a mood altering affect from not using caffeine, known as caffeine withdrawal." Symptoms of caffeine withdrawal include feeling poorly, tiredness and irritability, headaches and an inability to concentrate.

In an effort to educate people of the effects of caffeine, the EU-funded programme provides for the distribution of information through concerned organisations.

Prof James also stressed the importance of schools' and colleges as a source of information for young people. "The first step is to disseminate information," he said. "If students are well informed, they can make sensible decisions."

Caffeine is a constituent of the daily diet of more than 80 per cent of the world's population. It is a psychoactive substance and is socially accepted as a natural "pick-me-up", which improves alertness and concentration.

The strong demand for new energy drinks is causing worldwide concern because of the relatively high levels of caffeine included. Drinks such as Red Bull and Dynamite are marketed aggressively at young people, promising a buzz during times of stress.

However, with increased consumption or when mixed with alcohol, the health risks of these "high energy" drinks rise dramatically.

In 1998, Prof James concluded, "No evidence was found that caffeine improves performance, either in the context of acute or habitual use. On the contrary, performance was found to be significantly impared when caffeine was withdrawn abruptly after habitual use."

Research into the effects of Red Bull has been recommended in Ireland, following the death of an 18-year-old Limerick basketball player who died of unexplained Sudden Adult Death Syndrome.

The inquest heard that Mr Ross Cooney drank up to three cans of Red Bull before he died. However, lack of scientific evidence left the jury without circumstantial evidence of Red Bull's role in his death.

The drink that 'Gives you wings' claims to stimulate the body and mind. A recent survey showed that 75% of 20-year-olds became regular drinkers of Red Bull after trying it once. When clubbing, Red Bull is almost regarded as a fashion item. The maker's of Red Bull claim that the drink has been thoroughly and scientifically tested and further studies are not necessary.

However the European Commission's scientific committee concluded that more research was needed to establish a safe upper limit for caffeine intake in the diet.

The results of Prof Jack James's research will either set our minds at ease or scare us from ever consuming caffeinated drinks. Although the study will take three years to complete, information on the progress of the study will be available every six months.

Aisling Casey looks at coffee culture in colleges

**What you have to say . . .**

Do you think caffeine/Red Bull has an effect on people?

---

**Aisling Casey**

"Students are a vulnerable group because of the coffee culture in college."

---

**Aolfe Bonus - Degree in Business Studies**

"Considering the controversy of Red Bull in the media at the moment, it could be pretty dangerous, I've been warned. I used to drink Red Bull but not anymore. It makes people hyper. It's a stimulant."

---

**Tom Byrne**

"I usually drink Red Bull with vodka when I'm out. It keeps me awake. I don't think it makes me paranoid."

---

**Paul Gallagher - Film and Broadcasting**

"I drank a can of Red Bull a day during the summer and the caffeine didn't give me withdrawal symptoms. Red Bull usually has an effect on me but that's because I drink it with vodka."

---

**Paule Byrne**

"Students are a vulnerable group because of the coffee culture in college."

---

**Poul Gallagher - Film and Broadcasting**

"It helps me when I'm studying and keeps me awake. I don't think people suffer withdrawal symptoms from it."
Vinny Dooley
Overall President

The students' union would like to wish all DIT students and staff a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.
The Appliance of Science

By Samantha Rowntree

THE fourth year of Science Week Ireland took place between November 13th and 16th. DIT Kevin Street played their part and hosted a series of demonstration lectures.

"The Science of Crime", a lecture by Dr Sheila Willis of the Garda Forensic Laboratory gave an insight on how chemistry is used in solving crimes. Lecturers Dr Fergus Ryan and Dr Derek Neylan, of Kevin Street DIT, discussed the issue of genetics and asked whether the genetic revolution was way forward for mankind.

Science Week also launched a new website, Science.ie, Ireland's first interactive science, technology and innovation website. What do Dara O'Briain and model Natasha Byram have in common?

Well it's not looks for sure - they are both science graduates and are just two of the role models featured on this site.

Science Week gave people an opportunity to explore, discover and experiment with science. One of the most dramatic events took place on December 9th in Gleeson Hall. This was a musical performance demonstrating aspects of physics and acoustics called Plumbers Sinfonia.

The seven physics students from Irish universities directed by Gordon Douglas created music with an assortment of instruments made from plastic plumbing pipes. They used them to produce melodies sounds and to show the intimate connection between physics and music.

The performance included the eminent percussionist John Wadham, along with jazz guitarist Mike Neilson, who is a post-graduate student of physics and music.

Looking after your welfare

By Joanne Burke

WELFARE Week got underway in DIT colleges in the last week of November. The welfare offices were busy giving out information on the services on offer to DIT students.

Welfare officers also want to make the Welfare Office better known to students. A leaflet outlining both the DIT and Student Union services was produced.

Will Nelson, Welfare Officer for DIT Kevin Street said, "I have been handing out leaflets every day and on Thursday, I set up a stand in the foyer. I had leaflets on everything that we can do as well as any other relevant information such as housing rights and medical card application forms. I had quite a lot of interest and talked to quite a few students who might not normally come into the SU offices." DIT students can also avail of two medical centres, one in DIT Aungier Street and another at DIT Bolton Street, a discreet counselling service in every college, a chaplaincy service and career guidance office.

The Student Union Welfare Office also provides a range of advice for students on financial and medical matters. Short-term interest free loans of up to £60 are available from the Welfare Officers to help students to get back on track. However, to avail of these loans you must have a genuine cause, not for example a deep-rooted desire for a few pints. A student assistance fund is available to help students with expenses for dental or ophthalmic treatments.

This is for students who require routine dental treatment but are experiencing financial difficulties. However, the fund is only available to those experiencing severe financial hardship.

Each of the Welfare Officers were keen to emphasise DIT's open-door policy. Simon Clark, DIT Aungier Street's Welfare Officer said, "We are available any time to help with problems a student may be having, no matter how big or small. Whether you have a problem of any description, people simply want to talk to someone, then don't hesitate to call into the office anytime. The policy of the Welfare office is one of absolute confidentiality and discretion will be guaranteed at all times."

The campaign finished on December 1st, coinciding with World AIDS Day.

This year's theme was "men make a difference" and colourful posters emphasised the message. Red ribbons were on sale for £1 with all proceeds going to Aids research. Many students showed their support by buying and wearing the ribbons.

Hundreds of condoms supplied by the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society were given out free to the students in order to promote safe sex and to heighten Aids awareness. Any student who missed out can obtain information from any of the welfare offices.

Welfare Week and World AIDS Day are an important part of the DIT calendar. This year's campaign was as successful as any other year in reaching the students and letting them know about the services available. It also heightened HIV and Aids awareness and the importance of safe sex.

Canteen standards vary

By Marian Harrison and Caroline Keogh

THE quality of college canteens has always been questionable. With food being the second highest living expense for students, the reasonable prices offered by colleges have always been attractive.

However, the standards within the DIT colleges vary considerably and the students of Mountjoy Square seem to get the worst deal.

Space is obviously a problem in the Mountjoy canteen and it is the non-smokers who suffer. The canteen is too small to allow for an effective division between smokers and non-smokers and the obvious lack of proper ventilation does not help the situation.

Students, Lynne and Celine, found the food reasonably priced but not of high quality. They admitted to eating in nearby Carlin Brughla St, where they were satisfied with the food. Mountjoy's one redeeming factor is the fact that students can avail of an early hangover cure with the Irish breakfast being available from 8.45 to 11.00. Aungier Street compares poorly to this only managing to serve breakfast for one hour 10.00 to 11.00 daily. It is not surprising that Cathal Brugha Street food has a good reputation as it has both catering and environmental health course students.

The kitchen appears to be very hygienic and food preparation areas are in view. Karen one of the catering staff spoke of how they compared to other DIT colleges.

"We compare very favourably and this is evident in the amount of students from Mountjoy Square and Bolton Street who eat here regularly."

The prices are within a student's budget but the canteen itself is very disappointing being both dark and small and the students complained about this. Bridget commented, "you're walking around with your tray and there is nowhere to sit". There is light at the end of the tunnel however with plans for a canteen extension.

In sharp contrast to the previous two the canteen in Kevin Street is both bright and spacious.

However, packed lunches are banned between 12.30 and 2.00, which doesn't suit the cash strapped student who rely on their homemade hum sandwich.

Nearby Aungier Street, with its' up to date facilities ranks high in student opinion with students speaking of "value for money". However, the coffee is of poor quality resulting in students and staff buying elsewhere.

Overall students feel that the prices are fair, the food is cheap and the canteens aremissed. However, it is obvious that the standards, particularly in Mountjoy Square need to be improved.

It seems that the college canteen is not necessarily the evil it can be portrayed as, with the majority of students being satisfied.
FIRST YEARS, JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET BETTER.

OPEN AN AIB STUDENT ACCOUNT AND GET

£70 OFF SpeakEasy Trium Geo WAP mobile phone +£45 free calls

£29

OR

£60 OFF Philips CD Sound Machine

£39

AND

EXCLUSIVE OXYGEN KEY

Freefone 1800 24 1000

Visit any AIB branch
Greek delights

The Greek Islands have become an increasingly popular destination for Irish holidaymakers. Jenni Duggan checks out the idyllic island of Kos.

H

ewithout sufficient money to spend a week there earlier this year. Kos is one of the largest of the Greek islands and lies at the southeastern point of the Aegean Sea and is the closest of the Greek islands to Turkey.

With beautiful weather, all year round, Kos is an ideal destination in any season. Kos town is the capital of the island. This is where most of the tourist trade is located. Despite this, it is not a tourist trap and the town is still full of natural charm and beauty. There is something for everyone with a mixture of historic monuments, culture, colourful flora and fauna with modern bars and nightclubs.

The beaches in Kos town are nice and sandy but there do tend to get quite jammed with sun-baked tourists with loud music being pumped from nearby bars and restaurants.

If this is not quite your scene, it is well worth the effort to travel around the island to find some of the more scenic beaches. The most scenic and beautiful beaches are near the far end of the island.

There are much fewer resorts around the town of Kefalos and therefore fewer tourists. Here the views and the miles of sandy beaches are to die for. Paradise beach didn’t get its’ name for nothing!

There are lots of ways to get around the island. There are buses to most towns on the islands but if you think the buses in Dublin are bad, the buses in Kos are about five times worse. Cars, bikes and mopeds can all be rented for little or nothing. Mopeds are the way to go to Greece but while there are no traffic jams to contend with, there are the mad Greek drivers.

They all seem to drive mopeds but rather badly with no concern for safety so helmets are definitely recommended. I had never driven a moped before and with the dodgy Greek excuses for roads, there were a few near death experiences.

No holiday would be complete without a couple of good nights out.

Bar Street is the main drinking area of Kos town and is well worth a visit if you are a bit of party animal. It is a narrow street and every building is a bar.

There is even an Irish bar, surprise surprise called Molly Malone’s! Every bar hires a person whose job it is to entice people inside. In some cases they do nothing short of harass potential customers for their service.

Alcohol flows like water here and nearly every bar has a two for one cocktail offer or a free shot with every beer. It’s basically impossible not to get drunk. Being the closest island to Turkey, it is rather inexpensive to take a day trip on the ferry to the resort of Bodrum. The first thing that struck me was how different the two countries are despite being so close. Bodrum is a popular holiday resort. Turkey is a bargain hunters dream with shops crammed into little narrow streets.

Overall, I found Kos to be one of the most ideal holiday locations. There is something for everyone.

There are historical and cultural sites as well as some spectacular scenery but then there are still some tacky bars and larger lots and see some really beautiful scenery.

Unless you are doing a tour of the Greek islands, the best way to see Kos is on a package holiday. It is one of the cheaper destinations and often there are some really good deals, which won’t break the bank.

My advice is that this is really a place to check out.
**The Overall View**

**Ahern launches DIT-backed school computer programme**

By Dermot Keyes

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, recently launched the Dublin Inner City Schools computerisation (DISC) project, in which DIT has played a major role in the foundation and operation of the plan.

DISC, which was founded in February 1999, is directed by Dr Thomas Cooke of DIT’s Directorate of Academic Affairs, who is hopeful that the project can give students in Dublin’s inner city primary and secondary schools an opportunity to develop computer skills.

"Computers are an excellent tool for engagement and confidence building measures in the younger generation," he said.

The project caters for 4,500 pupils and 400 teachers in 11 primary and nine secondary schools in the north and south inner city of DIT, in conjunction with The National Centre for Technology in Education has allocated grants, equipment, and a co-ordinator for the implementation of the project.

Fujitsu Siemens have provided 48 computer packages to schools including Whittingfor Street and St Enda's in the south inner city, while Dublin Inner City Based Partnership have donated £2,000 to the project.

DIT's involvement in the DISC project is part of the Institute’s effort to enact "a number of strategies that address these problems as per the White Paper on Educating: Charting our Future and Partnership 2000 - Action for Social Inclusion." The document states that "a strategic and targeted response" is required to tackle the levels of social exclusion and disadvantage in Dublin’s inner city.

**SU lose money**

page 1

Mr Dooley said the price of the tickets was "an absolute bargain".

"The 4 of Us were playing the Olympia for £22.50 while we were offering The 4 of Us and a couple of other acts for £15," he said. "I have been cutting costs across the board. This year we didn’t go to USI for tracking but organised our own welfare officer training over the summer. There are plenty of other cuts planned to recoup the loss." He also said, "It’s part of the job."

Personally Mr Nangle feels, "as a student I would never have seen any of the £36,000 anyway. At a club and societies weekend away, we brought up that organisers of societies should get free tickets to DISC events, but the SU refused with Nicky Lawlor saying, "we are not there to reward you."

A whole event was a shamblles, if any other managing director lost £36,000 they would be gone," the £36,000 loss is a loss to the DISC central fund to which each student’s registration fee goes. This means the Student Union lost the equivalent of 130 students’ registration fees - a sum that could easily have been invested in the clubs and societies or in providing more facilities to benefit everyone.

**Charity race night successful**

AN exciting night ensued at the DIT race night held in the Gresham Hotel.

Mr Seamus Kiely, a food science and environmental health lecturer in DIT, carried out the event, in aid of Mr Mark Governey. Mr Governey, who graduated the few weeks ago, organised the event in aid of Mr Mark Governey. Mr Governey, who graduated from Cathal Brugha Street last year, was injured in a sporting accident leaving him paralysed.

Mr Kiely, who has organised race nights for charity and other deserving causes, described the night as successful. "On the night, there was a lot of good will, weather was good and we are very optimistic that everyone will be pleased.

The money from the night will be going to the Gresham Hotel.
New law makes it easier for students to get a drink

By Enda Murphy

A new law is to make it easier for thirsty students to get served. The Equal Status Act, which came into effect on October 1, means pubs can no longer refuse to serve students because it has an over 21s or over 23s policy.

The Act has limited pubs’ reasons for refusing to serve all providers of goods and services to discriminate against the public on the basis of age. The Act will be enforced by the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations, which can award compensation of up to €5,000.

“As long as students are coherent, and sober, they should get served,” claimed one, who is manager. But there is one very important thing. There can be no ‘parties’ on the doorstep.

However, some DIT students remain sceptical. Student Barry Hussey claims things will stay the same. “Bouncers see students as scum, scurril students can never get in. It’s all about how expensive your shoes are.”

Publicans can still refuse to serve someone who does not look over 18. A Garda crackdown has forced bars to scrutinise student’s ID cards. But Ray Kelly of Bedfords, 85 Suffolk Street, insists: “Students have to prove they’re over 18 if they want to get served. If they can’t prove it 100%, we will refuse them. There’s so many fake ID’s out there. It is a thin line and the law is strict. We could be closed down for a week if we served under 18’s.”

But the Vintners’ Federation of Ireland says the right to refuse people is non-negotiable. Speaking at its AGM, the president, John Mansworth, said the VFI was delighted its right to refuse was now “enshrined” in legislation. He added the Act gives pubs control to ensure customers, staff and families can enjoy their visit without fear of unsavoury messages, intimidation or violence. The VFI claims the Act benefits students. “Once they have proof of age, they can be served.”

Choir releases Christmas CD

THE DIT Chamber Choir is launching their first CD entitled, Carols for Christmas.

The CD was recorded in Trinity College Chapel and also features live recordings from a performance in Christ Church Cathedral. The list includes, Good King Wenceslass, Deck the Halls, Come All Ye Faithful and many more festive favourites.

The Chamber Choir, formed in 1991, has received many awards for their work. Under the direction of Ms Bernie Sherlock, conductor since 1995, the choir has won the C扶kwich Cup for DIT Chamber Choirs in five consecutive feis Ceolos.

Ms Sherlock conducted for two years in the Live Academy and has extensive choral experience with both children and adult choirs.

The DIT Choral Society’s Christmas Concert takes place in St Ann’s Church, Dawson Street on December 13th at 8pm. The programme for the evening will begin with Mr Met’s Requests. The vocal soloists are from the DIT Conservatory of Music and Dance.

In 1996 was brought together staff and students from all DIT colleges to perform. From their first concert in Christ Church Cathedral, performing works by Vivaldi and Britten, to their National Concert Hall debut in 1997, the choral society has been very active in DIT.

The Christmas Concert will include the DIT Chamber Ensemble, consisting of a select group of senior part-time and full-time students of the School of Engineering and former students.

Ms Sherlock will conduct the concert, which will conclude with a seasonal selection of well-loved carols in traditional and new arrangements.

Tickets for the event are available at the door or telephone 4023370.

DIT students successful in Irish Times Debating competition

In a first round debate with eight teams, four teams propose the motion, four teams argue against the proposition, with the winning team advancing to the next round. The first speakers on each team speak first and are later backed up by their partners during the second half of the debate. A bell is rung after one minute, after two minutes, after seven minutes, when there is a double bell. Speakers who continue for longer than 30 seconds are penalised.

Points of Information may be offered from the end of the first minute until the end of the sixth. They may only be offered by participating speakers on the opposing side of the debate.

To offer a point of information, a speaker should stand up and clearly say “Point of Information” in such a way as to attract a person who judges the point. If the speaker is not clear, the judges may decide to discontinue the debate.

Four different speakers for their service.

Vital components of a successful campaign are: argument, counter-argument, rebuttals, and the ability to offer appropriate points of information.

The debate can be difficult to incorporate into a debate about a public debate register, it is regarded as a useful tool to win over an audience. Hugh O’Reilly and Keith Lehan, students at Montjoy Square DIT, laid it on heavily in their bid to have save CJH from any further suffering.

Two DIT students from the MA journalism class at Aungier Street were successful as individual speakers and go through to the second round of competition.

Part-time work

With beautiful weather, all year round, this is an ideal destination in any season.

First individual PhD awarded

The granting of degree awarding powers which were given to DIT from the Department of Education in 1996, was realised in the last few weeks. The first PhD in Science was awarded its first DIT Doctorate at St Patricks Cathedral.

The book was launched at a recent event and in the run-up to the event, a new law was introduced, which will make it easier for students to get served.

The Secretariat General of the Department of the Marine Institute, Dr. Brian Walsh, has launched a book on the future of marine science in the UK. The book has been co-authored by Colm Jordan, Burke Street Celtic, who has been co-writing a book on the future of marine science in the UK.
With Christmas just around the corner, our DIT astrologer predicts what festive delights are in store for students everywhere

Leo (July 24 – Aug 24)
The past couple of months have been very stressful. But the year ends on a happy note. Christmas will be an exciting time when an unusual present transforms your life. Last New Year’s Eve was a bit of a downer, so get ready for some serious partying this year. The stars also predict a change of job, which will have you ringing in the New Year in style.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sept 23)
Virgins are obsessed with throwing the perfect party and this Christmas will be no different. But instead of concentrating too much on everyone else having a good time, relax and enjoy yourself! Your natural allure and great sense of humor will help the party go off with a swing. Any party you throw this Christmas will be one to remember!

Libra (Sept 24 – Oct 23)
As the planet Jupiter moves into your third house of communications this month, Librans will be sure to have fun with a capital F, no matter what you are doing! Unlike the rest of us, you love to Christmas shop. And after a hard day’s spending, you love to let your hair down and party with all your friends.

Scorpio (Oct 24 – Nov 21)
This year will be one of the most enjoyable. Christmans and an unexpected present makes it even better.

Destiny is a familiar sweet smell.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 20)
If you have been feeling blue, then take heart. Good times are on the way. The next three weeks will be filled with tempting Christmas party invitations. Just be careful not to over exert yourself with all the festive frolics! A celebration at work will have you feeling light headed but will have cleared up feelings of resentment that you were being taken for granted.

Destiny wears a red suit.

Aquarius (Jan 21 – Feb 19)
Remember last Christmas? Disappointing wasn’t it? Well take heart. This year will be an improvement on last.

A new love in your life will score major brownie points when they give you a thoughtful and imaginative gift. Even family home life will improve this festive season and any family rifts will be resolved in time for the New Year.

Destiny rings your doorbell.

Year-end horoscope predictions 2000

Wishing all D.I.T. students a Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year

BE INDEPENDENT!

A jolly good sport every Monday...
...on Thursday its the business...
...on Saturday, get into the Weekend!

Every day the students paper!

Irish Independent
Ireland’s National Quality Daily.

Student Price only 50p
Cathal Brugha Street - 5
IT Tallaght - 2

IN an extremely exciting football game at the IT Tallaght complex in Clonshaugh back in October it was the more attacking side that emerged victorious for this FAI Second Division encounter. 'CBS' bullied the Tallaght outfit back into contention on the half-hour, after an early two-goal blitz, but an inability to hold on to their lead by the hosts allowed the IT to force a replay. The second half saw much of the action from the Clonshaugh team and ultimately IT bowed out to Tallaght, but they will take a lot of pride from their performance overall. The game was all the more disappointing due to the fact that our players had played with sore heads the next opening two games in the IT Tallaght's half of the pitch. An excellent move involving Stephen Conroy, Ronan McNeill and Damien Deasy pierced the Tallaght defence. It was the introduction of fresh legs in the second half that saw most of the IT's attacking threat. "Our first home game is against Cork IT on the week after next," said Sean O'Gorman, "and we will be trying to go as far as we can against the CBS. "We love you George".

By Dermot Keyes
DIT Badminton club lost their opening two games in the IT League, but Club PRO Ciaran McKeon remains confident that the new year's series of games will signal an improvement for the team. It was a baptism of fire for the team," admitted McKeon, following away defeats to Tralee IT and Carlow IT. The IT Tallaght's few excursions into DIT territory in the second half, our boys were surprised by the counter attack, allowing the CBS to capitalize and score the winning goal. But for a piece of magic from goalkeeper John McMahon, the CBS would have restored their lead.

With Tallaght heads down, Cathal Brugha Street surged forward in search of the equaliser and from Conroy McMahon gave the CBS the lead. Adam Shehabeddine fired home the fourth with a superb strike with the outside of his right foot, to secure the tie.
J1-2001
A SAYIT ODYSSEY
USA

The only student travel company where you can book and confirm your J1 application online.

Flights confirmed at time of booking.

Only £100 deposit secures a place.

Our unique Independent Traveller Programme with over 100 US destinations to choose from.

Applications accepted from January 3rd.

www.sayit.ie

SAYIT, FREEPOST, 13, Crown Alley, Temple Bar, Dublin 2
Get your coat you've pulled!

For eight years, DIT Cathal Brugha St have run an annual computer dating night in aid of various charities. Every November the third years of Hospitality Management take it upon themselves to play cupid with interested (or desperate!) students from the DIT.

This year, it all took place in Fraziers on O'Connell Street on November 30th, where Lyrae, lurex and Ben Shermans were out in force.

Every participant in the computer dating had previously filled out a form describing their vital statistics and the vitals of their ideal partner.

As they arrived at Fraziers, each was given a tag, with the corresponding tag given to their computer-generated match.

The matches ranged from the traditional Romeo and Juliet to the more modern East and Digifone and there were more than a few serious hopefuls - though they were trying their best to look disinterested - earnestly scanning the name tags for their prospective other half.

For an added incentive (as if one was needed) Budweiser donated a few kegs and pints to the good cause for the first few couples who arrived on the night. So where did the idea come from?

The man behind the scheme is Daire MacGuill, a lecturer in Databases in Cathal Brugha Street.

Daire explained that it was actually a student of his who was having difficulties with the class that inadvertently came up with the idea.

One day the student in question, Declan Bolger, turned around to Daire and in an attempt to explain the databases to himself asked if it was all about putting different specifications into a computer and letting it match the relevant ones up, like computer dating.

When Daire agreed with this analogy, Declan simply wanted to know why they couldn't do it.

So they did. The scheme is now in its eighth year, and every year the students have raised roughly £1000 for the charity of their choice.

This year the money raised will go to two charities, St. Michael's House and the Irish Kidney Association.

Four hundred people filled out forms and one of the main organisers, Michelle McAuley, explained that it was surprisingly well-balanced between males and females, with only a small number of extra men participating.

She also pointed out there is no discrimination against people who had made a preference to be matched to somebody of the same sex. "Daire was full of praise for the many students who helped organise the night." They're great, they do an awful lot of work.

"If dating for a good cause is your bag, there is a list of tips to your charitable side, why not take part next time?"

After all, the person of your dreams may only be a tag away!

IrishMates.com
An exclusive meeting place for Irish singles!

Computer dating

If you missed out on this year's computer dating, why not get a head start and try some of these websites? Who knows, the person of your dreams could be just a mouse click away!

www.maybefriends.com

One of the newest websites to join the internet dating revolution, Maybefriends.com offers users the chance to get in contact with a whole database of people for friendship or romance. We've all heard the radio ads and maybe, just maybe, the idea sounded like a bit of a laugh.

Although you don't need to register to search the ads, you must register to get in contact with the authors of the ads.

An added incentive to register soon is the fact that the site will remain free until January 2001, but after that a charge of £10 per month or £90 per year will apply.

Registration takes about 20 minutes, and other users on the site will only see whatever nickname you deem suitable for yourself.

So if getting in contact with individuals nicknamed "Tarzan", "WenonDnMyHeadln" or "Mr Fish" sounds appealing, then maybe this is the site for you.

If you do decide to go ahead and meet someone from the site, there is a list of tips on the site, ranging from the obvious - letting someone know where you're going - to the downright sensible, such as keeping an eye on your drink.

www.irishmates.com

Boasting that it is the largest singles network on the internet, irishmates.com offers Irish singles a forum for meeting for friendship, love or marriage.

However, like most thing in life today, love comes at a price - £15 to be exact.

The one-time payment allows users access to all the upgraded STAR services.

Without parting with any cash, users just get the regular set of service, with access to the singles database.

But if that special someone isn’t really the worth the time, effort or £15 of your hard-earned money for the STAR services, then forget it.

Move on.

Who knows, the person of your dreams could be just a mouse click away!

As they arrived at Fraziers, each was given a tag, with the corresponding tag given to their computer-generated match.

Safety Tips

✓ Do not give out personal details such as phone number, address, etc, when chatting on the internet.
✓ Avoid giving out details such as your surname, address if you are making a date over the phone.
✓ Arrange to meet in a busy public place that you can escape from quickly.
✓ Arrange for a friend to come along to meet your date and to come back at a pre-arranged time. Agree on signals to indicate whether you would like your friend to stay.
✓ Always tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.
✓ Do not invite the date back to your house, go back to their house or accept a lift home initially.
✓ Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable don't arrange a second date or give out personal details about yourself.

*From the Suzy Lamplugh Trust
It's the day after the Christmas party. You've shagged a colleague on the weekend after the Christmas party, you've shagged off the boss's wife, and you can't find the contraceptive. Well at least the first two were fun. But a hangover isn't. It's hell. There are ways to avoid it, though.

Remember first that alcohol isn't all bad. Small amounts can make our blood cholesterol better. Red wine is especially good. The French down tank-loads of the stuff, and they hardly ever get nasty diseases.

Experts say you should never head down to the pub without having eaten. Food soaks up alcohol so you stay sober for longer (if that's what you want!).

The best drinks are grape-based ones like gin and vodka.

They have less "congeners" (the more congeners a drink has, the more miserable the headache you'll find yourself with in the morning) than drinks like lager and stout.

Never mix your drinks. If you guzzle several types of drink, your body will be confused. It won't know which congeners to process first.

Food with fructose (fruit sugar, the stuff that's in Fructis shampoo, by the way) is supposed to be great. But the experts can't explain why.

If your body wants to get sick, then let it. Never fight it. Embrace your vomiting! Don't be embarrassed; it's natural, so take care of the business.

Roll with it; have a good time. Make funny noises like "buck" as you spew your guts out. (At least you'll feel better afterwards)

Now many people believe the best way to avoid a hangover is to head straight to the "leaba". That is incorrect. When your body's awake, it can process the alcohol better, so every hour you stay awake is an investment in your good health the next morning. And before you go to sleep, drink a pint of water (if you can face another pint at that stage).

Your body needs water if it's to process the alcohol properly, and this will give it all the water it needs.

Ok, so you've ignored the experts' advice, and your head is throbbing. Never mind, because there are still ways to make yourself feel better.

Pop a couple of aspirins, and pour yourself a cup of coffee.

It's a start: the headache will lessen, and the caffeine in the coffee will perk up your blood levels. Then hop into the shower so you'll feel fresher.

If you're feeling up to it, eat some digestible food that won't have you retching into the toilet bowl later on. Sugary foods like ice cream are to be avoided.

Avoid thinking disturbing thoughts. It's too late now for regrets. You depress you, and make hangovers worse, so put off those grevelling apologies for at least twenty-four hours, until the hangover is cured.

Ignore people who say the best way to avoid hangovers is to not drink. We all, from time to time, let ourselves go a little bit. If you drink too much, you will always get a hangover; if you alter your drinking habits you can lessen the intensity of those hangovers without having to actively sensible

There are no miracle cures for hangovers - sometimes you just have to sweat it out. Or never get drunk.

Like that's gonna happen...!

A wet adventure!

Karl Quinn and John O'Shea of DIT Sailing Club recapture the sights, sounds and fun of a weekend at Carlingford Lough

Anyway, as sailing was the purpose of the weekend, Caoimhe Warren (our fearless leader) along with Ian and Garrath (three sailing instructors from DIT) decided to test the waters in Laser Picos and sailing was deemed alive again.

Most people got to sail on Saturday morning, but unfortunately not all, as famous "Carlingford Kettles" blew up and with the winds now blowing in every direction simultaneously (and all Pico's down in the water), we discovered that hangovers are quickly cured by icy cold swims.

"Perfect Storm" conditions meant we had to retire to the hostel for lunch. However, Caoimhe did get a chance to instruct Karl Quinn in a Pico and when Karl took sail they flew vertically and horizontally through the water with both pace and grace.

Due to hazardous weather conditions and an inability to walk steadily (even on land), instead the decision was made to descend a jagged edged 40ft cliff in the local quarry. The journey to the quarry took about twenty minutes with a steep uphill climb.

One by one we got to the top of the quarry and abseiled down. All this fun lasted until about five in the evening before we set back (through

Sailing Club on a night out from left; Orla McAnallen, Melanie McGovern, Emma Butler, Karl Quinn and John O'Shea

DIIT Sailing Club hit the waters of Carlingford Lough last month.

Blair Witch (forest) for dinner. Saturday night saw us in one of the many late bars in Carlingford village where we stayed until we headed to the local chopper "the van" followed by an attempted sing song session up in the grounds of the castle.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear allowing us another spell on the water, but the wind was light so it was quite uneventful. We had a little fun throwing people off boats and into the water and a few of even tried a spot of pier jumping (into freezing cold water). In the afternoon the instructors informed us that the weather 'may change'.

We grudgingly agreed and as every one was so tired we once more went to the pub to watch the Celtic-Rangers game, where, suspiciously, we discovered the adventure centre staff already in situ, as the sun streamed in over the calm sea.

Sure what could we do but join them and wait for the bus to take us home. All in all the trip was a great success and we are all looking forward to the next one, we are all grateful to Caoimhe for organising everything, so a big 'thank you' to the boss!
Always check out the delivery time. There's no point ordering 3 cups (www.buy4now.ie) DJT Independent Rice shadow of this Krispies If you are worried about security or credit card fraud, many sites use a websi~e. thei • online.shGps.hcwJ! Stuffed Chicken Breast for 30 minutes at Ingredients - 1 wine glass of extra virgin olive oil - 3-4 Garlic cloves, crushed - 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened - 1/2 cup green pepper strips - 1/2 cup red pepper strips - 1/2 cup green pepper strips - 1 teaspoon vegetable oil - 2/3 cup crisp rice cereal - 1/2 cup powdered sugar - 1/4 cup raisins - 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, rosemary and basil to the centre of each breast half. Roll up chicken with cheese inside; tuck in ends. *Roll in flour, the dip in egg, coat with breadcrumbs. Place in ungreased 13x9-inch baking dish; bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes. Stir wine into remaining herb butter in small saucepan; keep over low heat until butter melts. Pour over chicken; bake for 20 minutes. Heat oil in large pan over medium heat. Add red and green peppers; cook and stir until crisp-tender. Add rice; toss lightly. Heat thoroughly. Serve chicken over rice. Pour pan drippings into small saucepan. Dissolve cornstarch in 1/4-cup hot water. Add to drippings; heat until mixture boils and thickens, stirring constantly. Serve with chicken and rice. Garnish with oregano and rosemary.

Christmas Cookies Ingredients - 4 cups mini marshmallows - 1/3 cup margarine - 3 1/2 cups crisp rice cereal - 1 1/2 cups M&Ms Melt marshmallows and margarine in heavy saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally until smooth. Pour over combined cereal and M&Ms; toss until lightly coated. Gently shape mixture into 1/2-inch balls. Place on wax paper. Stand at room temperature until set. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

Christmas convenience
By Cara O'Brien
Well, it's that time of year again. Time to dust off those hiking boots and prepare to scour the shops looking for the perfect presents for your nearest and dearest, doing battle with the throngs for the last PlayStation 2. But if you don't feel like going head to head with an army of crazed shoppers or standing for hours in the cold, taking advantage of the internet and shopping from the comfort of your own home might be just what you need.
After all, why suffer sore feet and blisters if you can have the gifts delivered to your house?

Buy4Now (www.buy4now.ie) Shoppers can find everything from food and DIY products to fashion and electrical goods. Being the ultimate in convenience, the site also has a special Christmas shop with all the gift ideas you need. From CDs and toys to executive gifts, the website offers a wide range of goods. Apart from the convenience, the best bit about shopping from Buy4Now's Christmas store is the gift wrapping service. You can even have your own personal note attached.

Ivenus (www.ivenus.com) For those of you who haven't been paying attention recently, Ivenus is the web network for European women. And what would a women's network be without a shopping channel? Beauty products, lingerie, electrical goods...the list goes on. Ivenus also have their own Christmas shop, where Christmas candles and fabric snowmen are just waiting for you to buy them.

If you are more partial to DVD movies, Ivenus has quite a good range available, including the current top ten.

The Indigo store (www.indigo.ie) Indigo's online store is also worth a visit. Browse through their list of presents, from jewellery to cameras and camcorders.

For those of us on a budget, the website offers a range of authentic crafts. Apart from the convenience, the best bit about shopping from Buy4Now is the gift wrapping service available online. Even if things aren't quite that serious, forget about saying it with flowers. Personally, I think jewellery says it better.

Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk) Books, CDs, DVDs, videos. Amazon has them all. Whether it's the latest releases or the not so popular CD you want, Amazon can usually find it for you somewhere. For Christmas gifts, the site may prove invaluable - you can browse by price, person or interests.

A gadget shop features MP3 players, webcams and DVD players.

And for those of you who are sick of getting unwanted presents, Amazon allows you to set up your very own Christmas wish list that can be viewed by friends and family.

Tips for shopping online:
Always check out the delivery time. There's no point ordering something for Christmas if it won't arrive for six weeks.
If you are worried about security or credit card fraud, many sites use a secure server when asking you for credit card details. This usually appears as "https" on the address bar.
Like stores, most online shops have their own returns and refunds policy. To avoid any confusion, read up on the terms and conditions before you place your order.

IF you are lacking a little in the Christmas preparations department, don't panic. Even if you are heading home this Christmas, why not surprise your friends and family (who are seriously tracking, here's some examples.

Rosmary Roast Potatoes with Garlic Ingredients - 10 medium potatoes - 4 x 5ml spoons dried rosemary, crushed - 1 wine glass of extra virgin olive oil - 3-4 Garlic cloves, crushed - 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened - 2 tablespoons ground oregano - 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed - 1/2 teaspoon dried basil - 4 ounces Swiss cheese, cut into 8 strips - 1/4 cup all-purpose flour - 1 egg, beaten - 2/3 cup dry white wine - 1 teaspoon vegetable oil - 1/2 cup red pepper strips - 1/2 cup green pepper strips - 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper - 1/4 cup carpet of garlic powder - 1 tablespoon cornstarch - 1 tablespoon cold water - Fresh oregano and rosemary sprigs for garnish

Make Christmas cookies with marshmallows and M&Ms - 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper - 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened - 1 tablespoon ground oregano - 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed - 1/2 teaspoon dried basil - 4 ounces Swiss cheese, cut into 8 strips - 1/4 cup all-purpose flour - 1 egg, beaten - 2/3 cup dry white wine - 1 teaspoon vegetable oil - 1/2 cup red pepper strips - 1/2 cup green pepper strips - 4 cups cooked rice - 1 tablespoon cornstarch - 1 tablespoon cold water - Fresh oregano and rosemary sprigs for garnish

Christmas Recipes Ingredients - 4 cups mini marshmallows - 1/3 cup margarine - 3 1/2 cups crisp rice cereal - 1 1/2 cups M&Ms Melt marshmallows and margarine in heavy saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally until smooth. Pour over combined cereal and M&Ms; toss until lightly coated. Gently shape mixture into 1/2-inch balls. Place on wax paper. Stand at room temperature until set. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

White Christmas - 3 cups Rice Krispies - 1/2 cup dessicated coconut - 3/4 cup powdered milk - 1/2 cup powdered sugar - 60 g (2 oz) mixed candied fruit, chopped - 60 g (2 oz) red and green candied cherries, chopped - 1/4 cup raisins - 125 g (4.5 oz) white chocolate chips, chopped Brush a 9 x 13" pan with oil. Line base and sides with paper. Mix the Rice Krispies, coconut, powdered milk, powdered sugar and all fruit together in a large bowl. Chop up the shortening, place with the chocolate in the top of a double boiler or bowl over simmering water. Stir until mixture is melted and smooth. Combine chocolate and Rice Krispie mixture. Press into the prepared pan and refrigerate until set. Remove from the pan, allow to stand for 10 minutes. Cut into squares with a sharp knife.

Why not surprise your friends and family by adding your own Christmas recipes?
reviews

The Last word in beer

The time for cheesy compilations

The Ultimate Christmas Album (Polygram)

Large record companies are notorious for churning out cheesy compilations every so often make a quick buck and Christmas is no exception. Polygram's offering, this festive season, is the prime example. The DIT Rock Society, imaginatively titled, The Ultimate Christmas Album.

However, whether this is the "Ultimate" seasonal collection is debatable. When you think of Christmas tunes, classic hits such as East 17's "Stay Another Day" and Whigfield's "Last Christmas" spring to mind. Don't they? Well, obviously they do in Polygram as someone there thinks this title is the definition of everyone's favourite holiday. The double CD does, however, include a few recognisable classics such as Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" and The Pogues' "Fairytale of New York." But overall, it lacks any festive direction.

With one too many musical clangers such as Cliff Richard's "Saviour's Day" and Hanson's "What Christmas Means To Me," The Ultimate Christmas Album is the antithesis to everything wrong with the modern Christmas. Rating: 2/10

Ally McBeath: A Very Ally Christmas (Epic)

Oh dear, TV's favourite whining lawyer and her singing conscience, impressively powerful cover of the Joni Mitchell classic "River" and there is even a husky rendition of "Winter Wonderland" by Macy Gray. Ally, aka Calista Flockhart, attempts the sexy classic "Santa Baby" and even her tune of "I'll Be Home For Christmas" is better than anything sung by the lovely Vonda. However, this travesty of an album is sure to be a Top 40 hit on both sides of the Atlantic as 20 million fans tune in worldwide to watch the capers of the TV's nitziest lawyers. Rating: 4/10

Rebecca Kelly, samples the latest Christmas album releases to get you into the festive mood

Vonda Shepard have decided to torture albums. With top pop-tastic tunes from the seventies, eighties and nineties, the collection is sure to even have your grandparents dancing on the dancefloor.

The No. 1 Dance Party Album (Universal)

No Christmas or New Year's Eve party is complete without one of these albums. With top pop-tastic tunes from the seventies, eighties and nineties, the album is a must for you fanky divas out there.

With classic disco dazzlers such as "It's Raining Men" by the Weather Girls and "Dancing Queen" by ABBA, the collection is sure to even have your Granny boogying on the dancefloor. Other cheesy party hits featured on the album are "Come on Eileen," "I'm too Sexy," "La Bamba" and "Finger Feet" by Mad. So if you only buy one cringe inducing album this festive season, then buy the No. 1 Dance Party Album and ring in the New Year in drunken disco style. Rating: 8/10

clubs

Rock your socks off

In the midst of the current pop invasion, led by the lovely Britney and of course our own fantastic five, Westlife, lies a small, revolutionary sect of hard rock musicians.

It has often been said that the 90's have buried rock under a blanket of pop but thanks to venues such as Whelan's, one faith in rock and roll is revived from time to time.

One such occasion recently was the staging of the Kevin Si DIT Rock Soc, which showcased three college bands.

The first was a student band from DIT Bolton Street and went by the name of FACHE. Playing their own songs mostly, they did one cover from hardcore rockers Korn. FA.CHE were a five-piece band with two guitars, drums, bass and violin.

The crowd were informed that there was also a keyboardist, but that piece of information failed to reach us over the lead vocalist, Mo Curtains' incessant wailing.

The second band was a group called Presence. Playing their own songs mostly, they did one cover from hardcore rockers Korn was a very competent band, most notably Chris Synes on drums. Thomas Brunkard on lead guitar showed great skill but the absence of a second guitar was obvious.

He did however, jump off stage during their last song's mid guitar solo which was pretty impressive. It was a pity, however, that their set was so short, as both the band and the crowd were just starting to warm up when they stopped playing.

Speaking afterwards, the band cited a number of influences, from Rory Gallagher to the man himself, Frank Sinatra.

They spoke openly about the rock scene in Dublin, saying that it was very hard work for so little reward.

But we were most impressed with the band's charm, both on and off the stage. If you want to sample more of Presence and their unique brand of rock it roll, you can visit their website at http://presence.iuama.com. Although a date has not been set, their next gig will be in Dun Laoghaire in aid of Children in Need.

Last up were the Phase. The band were probably the most together of the whole night.

They already have a single out with Polygram (now Universal records) but under the guise of a dance band. More recently they have introduced guitar to their impressive mix of sounds. Sounding not unlike Stone Roses, the lead vocalist, Anthony Squire had a style similar to Ian Brown.

Without a doubt, In Phase were the most commercial of the three bands. But what was even more amazing was the fact that this was only their second gig as a rock outfit. Celtic fans note: In Phase did the soundtrack to the Celtic v Bordeaux UEFA Cup match, and will be heard in the RTE programme 'Mushrooms and Parachutes', which is due for broadcasting in mid December.

Overall, the night was a rocking success and a note of congratulations must be awarded to Leonard Colucci of the DIT Rock Society who's professional organisation paid off. Watch this space for future DIT Rock Soc events.

The Pogues' "Fairytale of New York" is really a Vonda Shepard record. However, this travesty of an album is sure to be a Top 40 hit on both sides of the Atlantic as 20 million fans tune in worldwide to watch the capers of the TV's nutziest lawyers. Rating: 4/10

The Last word in beer

Presence entertained the crowd with a good mixture of original material and covers. Lead vocalist Sarah Carol appeared very comfortable.
BLESS THE CHILD
(Cert 15, Opens January)

It must be irritating for Gloria Stuart to have lost that Best Actress Oscar to Kim Basinger a few years back (she was the elderly Kate Winslet in Titanic), and Basinger was the high-class prostitute in L.A. Confidential.

Here was a woman with 57 film credits to her name and what was probably her last chance to win an Academy Award…then along comes Kim Basinger in the one film she’s ever been good in and nabs the Oscar from under Mrs Stuart’s nose. Some you win, eh? Anyway, cast that superfluous fluff from your minds for the time being.

Bless the Child stars Ms Basinger as Maggie O’Connor, who is a Good Person. You know this because she smiles at complete strangers and always has a wayward yellow glow around her. One Christmas evening, her wayward sister (Angela Bettis), who is Good but misguided, appears out of the blue at Maggie’s doorstep.

She promptly leaves again, but not before leaving her newborn child in Maggie’s care. Maggie, being a Good Person, instantly becomes a Good Mother and dedicates her life to little baby Cody.

Six years later, the Plot occurs. I won’t elaborate on it here because you’ve heard it many, many times before. The Child turns out to have a Special Gift. The wayward sister returns, only now she’s become involved in a strange cell. A series of child murders are baffling New York police.

Maggie retains her weird the likes of Sense and Sensibility, The Ice Storm and Ride With The Devil, I’ve never seen any of them, but if Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon is anything to judge by, I certainly will be in the near future.

I’ve heard tell that directors who’ve cut their teeth on years of Drama or Comedy or whatever - that these are the people who end up creating the most astonishing action-sequences.

I don’t know how true this is in Ang Lee’s case, or how much we should lay credit to fight co-ordinator Woo-Ping Yuen (he worked on a little-seen art film you may have heard of, called The Matrix). But the fact that the action sequences in CTHD are astonishing, mixing the actor’s acrobatic skills with the typically Hong Kong “wire-fu”.

There is the danger that people not used to such effects will react with anything from bemused puzzlement to downright ridicule.

For those of you who can suspend your disbelief for a moment, you’re going to have the breath ripped right out of you.

From what I’ve heard tell that the former was - quite frankly - amazingly bad. Red Planet need only have had a black screen for two hours and it still would have been better than that woeful Brian De Palma film.

Well, thankfully enough, Red Planet doesn’t blow a fuse and go on a homicidal rampage.

**1/2

RED PLANET (12, Opens December)

Pushed back by Warner Bros to a winter release date to avoid a clash with Mission to Mars, Red Planet is the debut feature of Anthony Hoffman, a commercials director best known for his Budweiser advertisements.

Red Planet concerns that old SF staple - the near future. The earth, predictably enough, is dying, and the Mars Terrafoming Project has mysteriously malfunctioned.

And naturally, a crack team of mismatched individuals, led by Carrie Anne Moss (The Matrix) and Val Kilmer are sent out to find out what’s gone wrong on the eponymous Red Planet.

Comparisons with Mission to Mars could only taint Red Planet with faint praise, as the former was - quite frankly - amazingly bad. Red Planet need only have had a black screen for two hours and it still would have been better than that woeful Brian De Palma film.

Well, thankfully enough, Red Planet doesn’t have a black screen for two hours. It has some solid acting, even if Terence Stamp is criminally under-used, a half-decent plot twist (as long as you don’t watch the trailer, see the poster or read any kind of information about it whatsoever…) and some impressive special effects - which, it must be said, we’ve come to expect nothing less of.

Red Planet’s cardinal sin lies in its banality, rolling one science-fiction cliche after another. Can anyone remember a film like this where nothing went wrong? When the ship didn’t get hit by an asteroid/meteor/plane/device? When the crew actually get along with each other?

When the on-board robot doesn’t blow a fuse and go on a homicidal rampage? Anyone?

**1/2

Anthony Hopkins as Titus

TITUS (18, Opens December)

One of Shakespeare’s least known plays is given an exceptionally visceral and explosively visual screen rendition in director Julie Taymor’s Titus. Based on her own stage version of Titus Andronicus, which won several awards back in 1994, Titus finds the eponymous General Titus (Anthony Hopkins) returning home after decades of fighting for the glory of Rome.

Titus is a stubborn man, bound in tradition. He ignores the pleas of his prisoner Tamora, Queen of the Goths (Jessica Lange) as he orders the ritual sacrifice of her eldest son.

He creates a rift with his own sons when he supports the plainly unsuitably (but legally correct) Saturninus (a sneaky Alan Cumming) as Emperor - all of which comes back to rebound horrifically on he and his family.

The Rome we see is a hallucinatory mix of costumes and images from the last two thousand years. Centurion armour is worn alongside WWII uniforms, bows and arrows are used with machine guns, and horses are flanked by motorbikes.

The general effect is one of sensory overload. The hallucinatory setting is similar to the beautiful “intermediate” sequences in The Cell but without the lacklustre plot. Okay, but what is it like? I hear you scream. This is Shakespeare for the Natural Born Killers generation.

This is often incredibly violent with moments of truly black humour thrown in for good measure. While the story may drag a little in the middle (you can only take so much betrayal, murder, rape and mutilation before it gets passe…) it is the finale that will have you sitting bolt upright in your seat. A stunning film, but not for the faint of heart.****
SPORT

Sports brochure and website officially launched

By Brian Healy

The development of sport in DIT has been given a boost with the launch of the official Sports website and the Institute's Sports and Recreation Brochure 2000-2001, on Friday, November 24 at the Aungier Street site.

The Director of External Affairs and Chairman of the DIT Sports Council, Dr Declan Glynn launched the initiative before a gathering of student representatives of DIT clubs, managers and guests.

Dr Glynn stressed the importance of the development of sport in DIT and said that the new programme coincided with an increased interest in sports throughout the institute.

He also praised the efforts of the website administrator, Eoin Bolohan, for her help in developing the website.

DIT Mountjoy Square Sports Officer, Niamh O'Cathain, took the assembled throng on a trip through the website, which aims to include a results service in the near future.

Karting club win in Waterford

DIT Karting Club recently travelled to Waterford to compete in the Munster championships, which took place in the Bonnerworld Karting track on the Waterford/Kilkenny border, writes Dermot Keyes. The team did very well in the competition, winning by a large margin ahead of Cork IT and Waterford IT.

The DIT championship Simon Clarke met mechanical difficulties and failed to make the finals. Karl Bonar who finished third in the DIT championships won convincingly ahead of fellow DIT driver Mark Mckayntyre.

The event was sponsored by Heineken and all three teams went back to Sheffs for some beer tasting!!

"Even though my driving abilities were not up to scratch on the day, I felt it was a great day of diving and was very proud of my team for winning," commented DIT Karting President Ray Nangle.

The January edition of the DIT Independent will focus on the Karting Club, the biggest sports club in the Institute.

Ray Nangle will talk to Dermot Keyes about how things have been going for the DIT Club of the year, which has already put 485 members behind the wheel of a kart this year.

With 1,085 members, along with considerable sponsoring, the club is enjoying heady times. More on DIT Karting next month!

Briefs

By Dermot Keyes

HOCKEY

All the DIT sites were involved in the Irish Colleges Hockey Association Plate Finals and A Finals day. DIT Bolton St and DIT Kevin St were competing in the Plate finals where Limerick beat Tralee in the Finals.

And DIT Mountjoy Square, Aungier Street and Cathal Brugha Street competed in the Finals on Thursday November 23 in the VEC Grounds in Crumlin where Cork beat CBS.

The Trials for the Irish Colleges Hockey Association Representative Team are on Wednesday December 5 2000 in the heagin grounds, Crumlin from 12.00 p.m. to 4.00pm.

The best players across the province will be selected from the trials.

SOCCER

The Trials for the Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFA) team take place on Wednesday 5th of December in Terenure VEC Grounds.

DIT soccer's Michael Whelan announced that the trials for the DIT team to compete in the 2001 Collingwood Cup take place on February 3 in Terenure.

For further information on all things soccer in DIT, Michael can be contacted on 01 679 3735 or at michael.whelan@d1t.ie

MOUNTAINEERING

"We went down to Doolin on December 2 and 3 for a weekend and plan to get a few words together for the DIT Independent about the trip," said the Mountaineering Club's "designated journo," Ruth Philips.

Ruth has pledged to capture the entertainment of the weekend, promising to divulge in detail "the pub escapades as well as those on the mountain top." Can't wait for the January edition!

WORK EXPERIENCE USA is accepting applications for the J-1 Visa program NOW!

Call for a free Info Pack: 01 679 3735
41 Wellington Quay, D2
ireland@workexperienceusa.com
www.workexperienceusa.com
Planet Murphy & The Palace Nightclub, Camden St. Open 7 nights 'til late. Come early.