Students to hit streets for election

Meeting of DITSU Council, Kevin Street SU President Des Alvey informed councillors that students will be asked to discuss issues such as the grant, facilities and the pending Grangegorman approval during the campaign. Voters will be asked by lobbying students to sign a pledge, promising to raise issues concerning DIT and other education matters with candidates when they arrive at their doorsteps.

"Over the last few years students have gone out and marched on Government Buildings, and these protests have not made the impact that was desired," said Alvey. He urged councillors at the Cathal Brugha Street meeting to embrace USI's new campaign, encouraging as many DIT students as possible to become actively involved.

In conjunction with the new strategy, USI is encouraging students to use their vote in an attempt to maintain the momentum of its recent campaigns. At present, 135,000 third level students in the Republic are represented by USI and its President believes a large turnout from students next summer would make a significant impact on the formation of the next Government.

"Successive governments have failed Ireland's students and a general election is the best time for students to have their issues addressed," said Richard Hammond. "Unity is vital, and everybody needs to be on board and willing to participate. Our message is very simple, be heard, register and vote," he added.

DIT lecturer Mairead Doyle being congratulated by colleague Damien McHugh on her recent retirement from the Rathmines School of Journalism. See page 3.

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Goldsmith rejects PAC comments

IT Independent

December 2001
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By Aiding Casey

EDUCATION Minister Dr Michael Woods has been criticised by USI for his delay in implementing two recommendations his Department had promised to consider a year ago.

Last year, Dr Woods outlined his strategy on student grants and to date the issue remains unresolved, according to the Minister. After continual lobbying by USI to fast-track the issue, the Minister agreed to set up a Special Project Team to discuss the issue.

According to the Minister, this team would then carry out a comprehensive review of every aspect of the maintenance grant, and other student supports, to ensure their relevance to the needs of present day third level students.

USI President Richard Hammond condemned the Minister for taking the matter "off the agenda" in March deadline. "Yet again the Minister has failed to deliver on his recommendation to the Department," he said.

"Many students are now forced to rely on their own education because of financial problems, yet the Minister seems to be deliberating on his own policies," Hammond said.

Hammond continued stating "the current situation is nothing short of disgraceful. At the moment only 39% of students are in receipt of present day grants. In comparison with inflation in recent years, the figure is insufficient, according to Hammond. "Not only is the figure woefully inadequate, but its value has actually eroded in recent years due to inflation," he said. Hammond commented that the Minister has "abandoned" the issue.

"The doctor must generally have his or her practice within seven miles of where the student lives, and must agree to accept the new patient."

"DITSU President Marguerite Fitzpatrick fully supports USI's drive on meningitis because of the medical card's availability to students without insurance.""
Dr Brendan Goldsmith became the President of DIT in 1993 to serve a ten-year term. Eight years on, Aoife Stokes spoke to him about his achievements as president and about the current issues facing DIT.

Aoife Stokes: How challenging or not have you found the presidency of the state’s largest third level institution to date?

Brendan Goldsmith: I’ve found it exciting, challenging, certainly very rewarding but it has been a lot of hard work.

AS: How difficult is it to co-ordinate the six campuses of DIT under the one umbrella?

BG: It’s a hard task to bring previously independent colleges together, to bring different cultures together. They all have their own strengths but they want others to change to suit them, not to be the ones to make changes. Prior to 1993, there was a loose federal arrangement with a co-ordinated non-executive body, this is now executive.

AS: What gain do you believe university status would bring to the college?

BG: I have said all along that there are two dimensions to this. Firstly, the question of autonomy in the university situation, you can do things that are needed, make the changes required. Whereas if I need two technicians instead of one lecturer, I need to get permission from the Department of Education despite the fact that it doesn’t cost any more money. There is also a status issue involved. The DIT needs a full degree of autonomy. The Higher Education Authority (HEA) is becoming responsible for DIT and other institutes. University Status is possible in the future for DIT. The Nally report gave a number of measures over three to five years for DIT and that time is nearly up. If we’re ready to go we’ll initiate the process for a reapplication for university status. The ambition hasn’t changed. DIT is not asking to become a traditional university, that’s not what we’re about.

We’re more about say a university of technology in the European sense of the term.

AS: Do you think that there is any way in which the power structure of DIT could be de-politicised?

BG: The Human Resources Director will be taking up post in the college in December which will help things but DIT is undergoing one of the largest changeover management processes ever in higher education. All organisations politically are in the process of massive change.

AS: What about the findings of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

BG: The comments of the PAC were outrageous. DIT’s financial systems are the tightest I know. There was one individual engaging in criminal activities. We may not have been in a position to prove so in a court of law but we stopped him and he resigned. It was very unfair to our financial people.

AS: Do you see any solution to the massive drop out rate in DIT?

BG: The drop out rate varies from faculty to faculty but it’s not something unique to DIT. We’ve been bringing in different people but it’s a long slow process and at the end of the day most third level institutions have the same problem. Irish students tend to be very young coming into higher education and the CAO system is very rigid so if you make the wrong choice you have little choice but to drop out an reapply.

AS: Are you aware of the issue at the Portland Row campus?

BG: Certainly, it’s a major problem but it’s a landlord problem and not ours. It’s not a very satisfactory location but this is typical of the problems DIT has. There are no other suitable locations, we don’t put students there just because we’re being bloody minded about it. Just any office environment wouldn’t be suitable for Art and Design studies, it needs to be a suitable environment. Certainly we’ll do our best to improve the situation. We’re not putting people in an unsafe or unhealthy environment.

Basiclly the whole buildings situation depends on Grangegorman. The whole future will depend on Grangegorman, it will be a critical factor in deciding what we do. Certainly we expect some movement on the Grangegorman issue before the end of the year.

AS: At the start of your presidency, what did you hope to achieve during your term?

BG: In broad terms, one of my objectives was to get DIT up to the stage where it could award it’s own PhDs. Secondly I wanted to get a campus worthy of an institution like DIT. I felt I have succeeded totally in the first. If Grangegorman were to come into effect, I would have achieved in my two primary objectives. But more than that I wanted to incorporate research into the activities of DIT. There is still a long way to go on the research front. Education has changed and we live in a much more knowledge based society. DIT needs not necessarily be research led but to be research informed.

AS: What plans do you have when you finish up your presidency?

BG: I have managed over the last eight years to stay involved in mathematics, two PhD students graduated this year under me. I am also still publishing research papers, not as much as before. So at heart I’m still a mathematician.

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The issue of student voting is a matter closer to this paper and recent developments at USI and DITSU are to be welcomed.

The Union’s voter registration campaign has been slowly gathering momentum in the countdown to the general election. This month’s sitting of DITSU Council alerted them to the need for an active campaign and all, has kept the campus issue on the long finger. There is no avoiding the Government’s hedging on Grangegorman. What is clear is that the campus is rammed full of the site, as the Eastern Regional Health Authority is likely to let its wish in as it currently occupies buildings in the site. Mr Ahern has yet to afford effective attention to what is the biggest single issue and largest single rural institute in the country. Why? Obviously not wishing to upset ERSWA, which falls under the authority of Health Minister and potential future leadership challenger Michael Martin, Mr Ahern has written cordial letters to DITSU where he has spoken of any issue but as of yet has failed to do so. His inaction has not been seized on by any opposition which might rank amongst the most astute in the history of the state, which is where another Dublin Central TD has not been up to scratch.

Despite all the shortcomings of this Fianna Fail-Government (the continuing Tribunal controversies, the James Simmons case, the Eireann shares fiasco, etc), Fine Gael has failed to make political gain on any of these issues and has little or any attention to the Grangegorman issue.

Considering how well Deputy Jim Mitchell lead the Public Accounts Committee’s DITC investigation, it is surprising that he has not sought the opinion of DIT students in his constituency. One of the reasons he may not have could well be that Deputy Mitchell’s low run continued to the general area that attend DIT. And lest we forget, the constituencies of Dublin South Central and Dublin South East, in which DIT sits and is located, with the latter the political home of Labour Leader Ruairi Quinn, have not produced a plethora of protesting noises for the campus.

It is a unique situation in third level Ireland and the Irish political landscape that there is an issue so powerful that influential politicians, namely Mr Ahern, Mr Mitchell and Mr Quinn, are all based within walking distances of the respective DITC and DITSU offices. The last word is over, how often have the same desserts non-suit and tie occurrences of any such spoken to the students, the people that really matter?

Will the Grangegorman report gather dust in a Merrion Square drawer or will it mark the first approach? Though one would wish to be positive and hope that action will be taken on the matter, it would not be the biggest surprise of 2002 to see the plans for “Campus DIT” once more put on the shelf.

After all, what potential party of the next government, namely any of the above mentioned, will wish to get their fingers onto the issue which is of paramount concern to a group that has no major effect on the voting pattern in the capital? It is unlikely that it is important as both DITSU and USI make an impact be that through a high profile campaign, the media, knocking on doors, etc, on those that are not given in these.

He will take patience and persistence, but if this campaign is to succeed, Professor O’Connor and Richard Hanrahan would transform DIT into a position that requires a re-iterating of the strength of his USI Presidency, then surely that time is now.

Is DIT currently developing an e-learning strategy? The DITC have stated in the past that DIT’s e-learning strategy is in the planning stages, yet those who can vote in these areas. To date, DITC are yet to state whether or not an e-learning strategy is being developed.

Apathy is nothing new in the university, but the opportunity for a new DITC-enabled DITC strategy. The e-learning industry continues to develop and expand into new markets, such as business and interpersonal skills. It is also aimed at specialist vertical markets like health care.

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College improves its e-knowledge

By Aisling Casey

In an effort to create awareness of the development of a campus-wide e-learning strategy, DIT held a seminar on the topic last month.

The conference was held in the Hilton Hotel to encourage DIT staff to get involved in the new project.

The aim of the e-learning strategy is to build competencies and capabilities through the extended enterprise of employees in DIT. E-learning is an internet based strategy, which provides a range of online education, companies worldwide are providing products ranging from online masters degrees to technical certification for programmes and other information technology workers. However, it has expanded beyond its traditional training to new markets, such as business and interpersonal skills. It is also aimed at specialist vertical markets like health care.

It has since caught the eye of DIT and through the use of state of the art technology the e-learning project set out with support from each campus and at a distance. As e-learning has become one of the fastest growing sectors of the traditional education and training, it will help the Institute maintain core competencies and react quickly to competitive influences and market needs, both in Ireland and abroad.

By Aisling Casey

Despite the distraction of the World Cup play-off in Tehran yesterday, the Tigers’ front row in the forthcoming friendly against young students attended DIT Exploring Chemistry, as part of Ireland’s annual Science Week.

DIT lecturer Dr John Fox presented a lecture entitled Science Week programme, which included an interactive demonstration a picture of Ireland Science Week programme, which included an interactive demonstration lecture entitled ‘The Magic in Chemistry’ presented by Randal Hendy and John Daly in DIT Kevin Street.

Dr Fox gave an illustrated lecture on the applications of chemistry in the detection of crime. He discussed the detection and analysis of various drugs such as cannabis, heroin and LSD. He also explained how car painters are involved in testing for drug use in road traffic accidents. As a former Garda now working in a CSI laboratory, Dr Fox is no stranger to detecting trace evidence. He showed the group how trace evidence is removed from the crime scene and subsequently examined to find the culprit or the role of the expert witness in a criminal case.

The lecture was designed to appeal to Leaving Certificate students with an interest in forensic analysis. This lecture was highly important to DIT because Dr Fox is currently developing a four-year degree in Forensic and Environmental Analysis, which should be a reality in 2003. Dr Patricia Ennis of the DIT School of Chemistry DIT, said, “we had over 200 school kids who wanted to attend these events.” She added, “I maintain that chemistry is a life skill. This is true of science in general. The idea behind this was to promote a positive image of chemistry and that the important role it plays in our lives.

Several events took place throughout colleges in Ireland. In Waterford, Dr Rob Jones entertained his audience with Hot Air while in Cork, an audience treated to a colourful Chemical Magic show. (More details on Science Week Ireland can be found on page 8) Science Week Ireland is described by its organisers as “one of the biggest science experiments and invention and their way to a better understanding of our environment and relevance to Ireland’s economic prosperity through lectures and events that are held nation-wide. Speaking at the launch of this year’s Science Week organised by the Irish Technology and Commerce, Mr Noel Treacy TD said, “One such Plan for an Investment of almost €2 billion in Science and Technology, including infrastructure, research and education.

‘However, while Science and Technology play key roles in today’s economy, our young people are turning away from science studies in schools and colleges. We therefore need to continue to build up our educational infrastructure in science and technology. It is often the case that too often science is seen as dull and boring, with no realisation of the skill and excitement of discovery of it. I believe Science Week Ireland is changing people’s perception of science, through the many wonderful challenging and fun events that take place throughout this country’, he said.

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With an expected growth of more than 100 per cent this year it is a surefire winner. Given the current economic downturn, e-learning is a great advantage, as it is cost-effective and provides education at a cheaper rate than traditional classroom training.

It is the impressive turnover on investment that users of the strategy that is fuelling its phenomenal growth. These savings arise mainly from hidden cost of time off the job, travel and subsistence that can amount to three times the price of classroom training.

Commenting on the e-learning strategy and its role in today’s economy, Dr Frank McMahon, Director of Academic Affairs said, “DIT has the potential for dual benefits, keeping the Institute at the forefront of technology and at the same time providing a powerful motivator for staff.”

In conjunction with academic staff, a Learning Technology Team, based in Upper Mount Street, will develop the strategy. The e-learning industry continues to develop and expand into new markets, it has proven so far to be reliable and a good investment in a recession. Grassroots members in the institute attended the seminar to look at interested parties. This included Dr Michael J Murphy of Rycerson University, Toronto and Richard Francis, Head of the Media Workshop at Oxford Brooks University.

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By Aisling Casey

LONE parents continue to risk exclusion from the education sphere as the system continues to fail them, according to the Union of Students in Ireland (USI).

In an effort to tackle the existing problems for student parents, USI has called on the Government to end the discrimination against lone parents in third level education, which student parents face, in which they must be allowed to participate in third level education.

The USI is also calling for a change in the current allowance policy designed to act as an incentive for such students to work as much as possible, despite their full time parental responsibilities and full time studies. If student parents are to fully participate in third level education, the current policy must be changed to facilitate their needs.

To level the playing field for third level, USI has proposed a Lone Parent in Education Allowance for student parents. Speaking on the discriminatory policy of lone parent students, USI Deputy President Ross O'Donoghue said, "lone parenting is a full-time job in itself.

At the moment student parents are in receipt of Child Benefit, while most parents in education receive 'One Parent Family Allowance'. However, only 40% of student parents are in receipt.

When in receipt of OPFA, a student parent can earn up to £115 per week and still qualify for full payment. However, if one earns between £115 to £230, they are only entitled to a reduced payment. The Government saw this as an incentive for student parents to work as much as is possible while in college. However the policy as it stands fails student parents because they can not be expected to work while in full time study and with full time parental responsibilities.

USI Welfare Officer JP Swaine said that the request has been designed to facilitate the social issues which student parents face daily. "At present it is a wonder how student parents can reasonably be expected to work while in full time study and with full time parental responsibilities."

USI Deputy President Ross O'Donoghue said, "lone parenting is a full-time job in itself. When full-time study is added to the equation, the workload is even greater. Adding paid employment to these is more often than not a bridge too far for parents suffering due to work commitments."

USI is keen to highlight that the new allowance will not be handout, but rather a gesture to those who are brave enough to pursue academic courses while raising children themselves. USI has recommended that a new means tested 'Parents in education allowance' be introduced for parents in education. This allowance would be set at £80 per week over the 36-week academic year. O'Donoghue added, "USI sees it as imperative that lone parents be given the same opportunities as other students.

At the moment student parents are in receipt of Child Benefit, while most parents in education receive 'One Parent Family Allowance'. However, only 40% of student parents are in receipt, far, with studies suffering as a result.

The committee would like to thank all its members and fellow DIT students participating in the recent Chernobyl 10 kilometre walk.

Several of the students are members of the Social Care Society, which was launched in conjunction with the walk, on Thursday October 15. Some members raised over £100. The Society also held a raffle on its launch night, which was held in the Madison Bar, Rathmines and raised over £150. All students in attendance agreed that it was a very enjoyable evening and a worthwhile cause and were more than happy to see their faces pictured in the national press. "This is just the first of a number of charitable events that the society plans to be involved in during the forthcoming year," said Alan Bailey and Katie Savage of the Social Care Society.

The committee would like to thank all its members and fellow DIT students for getting involved. Next month's issue will carry the final total raised by DIT's students for the Chernobyl Walk.
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Third level tales
Campus.ie takes the DIT Independent on a trip around Ireland's colleges for a look at what's making inter-varsity news
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Search for loudest child a roaring success
SLIGOS Science Week was a roaring success - and that's official! As part of the popular Science Fair of lectures and demonstrations, Dr. Margaret Savage, lecturer in environmental science and acoustic consultant, conducted a test to see who was the loudest child in Sligo. The loudest child tested at the top of his voice, clocked up 106 decibels.

"That's like a truck passing in front," Dr. Savage said. The 10-year-old boy winner remains anonymous but many parents will have their suspicions. Reports were to be just as loud as boys and 10 per cent of children tested scored over 100 decibels. A number of children reached 105, one set of twins each scored 103, and the loudest of all was 106.

"That is only a momentary peak, at the highest level of their voices," said Dr. Savage.

"They would not be as loud as all that the time. The sound level meter can go up to 140 but to go from 100 to 140 would be a huge jump."

"They were very competitive and each one wanted to be the loudest. The kids really enjoyed it. They were shouting at the top of their voices. Some of them would bring a sister or a brother and say 'he or she is the loudest in the family' and the mother would be surprised when they didn't score the highest. It was great fun."

Science Week was a huge success according to Margaret O'Dwyer, a member of the Institute committee that organised the week. "We had our biggest lecture theatre full to capacity twice each night for lectures, over 200 secondary students attended master classes in chemistry, physics and biology and kids loved exploring the Ferrari Formula 1 car."

Over 2,000 attended the Starlab Planetarium in the Rockwood Centre, the Explorium Aquarium staff said that it was their best attendance anywhere and over 150 people made electronic gadgets at the MadLab. It was great, people really enjoyed it," she said.

Science Week Ireland took place from November 11 to 18, and saw college lecturers letting their hair down, getting up to all sorts of wacky tricks and experiments to entertain and educate the public on science concepts. Five years since its inception, Science Week continues to play an important role in, fostering the enjoyment and promotion of science and technology in Ireland.

People of all ages are given the opportunity to explore, experiment and invent their way to a better understanding of Irish innovation.

Activities around the colleges varied from tinkering with robots, staring at tarantulas, preventing sports injuries to curing hangovers. (Ah, useful advice - Ed)

Trinity sets up centre for Deaf Studies

IF the memories of crazy college nights out have become mere blurs in your mind, then maybe its time to meet up with old school and college friends, and rekindle the memories.

Registrants at a pioneering UK website can sign up at www.friendscollegenights.out have classmates who have registered. Almost every school and college in the UK can be found in the register, as well as some Irish ones. It's ideal for those of us trying to organise a school reunion but not sure how to contact old pals, or even if you're just curious as to what old mates are doing.

The "success stories" section of the site tells of those who mainly live abroad, and who have since exchanged photographs and rekindled childhood memories on line. The "memory board" section sees former students discuss issues as far ranging as school during the war, to ghosts in the bell tower, to apologies for dating boyfriends behind each other's backs. The database lists over 49,000 UK Secondary and Primary Schools, Colleges and Universities. More than 2.5 Million people have registered and this is growing at over 20,000 a day.

There will be a 300 per cent increase in the number of homegrown sign language interpreters in the next five years, thanks to the establishment of the Centre for Deaf Studies in Trinity College Dublin.

There are currently fewer than 20 professional interpreters who serve deaf communities of about 4,500 in Ireland.

The fact that Sweden has a similar deaf population in number and yet has 550 professional interpreters highlights the severity of the problem here.

Deaf students are the most under-represented group of disadvantaged students accessing third level education in Ireland. A HEA commissioned survey found that there were only 34 deaf students attending any form of third level education in this country in 1998/99.

"The new centre will offer deaf students an opportunity to confidently experience third level education using ISL as their primary language of communication in the classroom," Lorraine Leeson, Director of the Centre for Deaf Studies said.

Funding has now been provided to the Centre for Deaf Studies through the Higher Education Authority for a five-year period.

Trinity College has had a long history of co-operation with the Irish Deaf Society. In 1995, the College participated in the EU funded HORIZON programme and made professional sign language interpreter and tutor training available in this country for the first time.

The Centre runs two full-time undergraduate Diploma programmes: a Diploma in ISL Teaching and a Diploma in ISL/English Interpreting. Next year it will launch a third undergraduate Diploma programme in general Deaf Studies. ISL is the primary language of communication at the Centre with English as the second language.

Students can attend school from hospital beds
CORK University Hospital operates a virtual school where sick children who spend time in hospital can 'attend' their normal classroom - using a computer link between the hospital and the real school.

The students can interact with their teachers and classmates via the use of an ISDN line or web conferencing.

About 10 patients participate daily on the virtual classroom.

The two-way live link between the child's class and the hospital gives full access to the school routine and keeps students up to date. They attend school for the whole day, and the hospital trip to accommodate a fixed programme.

"It's good for children in hospital schools, as it ensures they are not socially deprived if they are in hospital for a very long time," said scheme co-ordinator Gobnait Curran.

Using the Roam About system, a Cork City secondary school within the Cork city area can link to Cork University Hospital - the only base of the virtual classroom.

Although Cork University Hospital is the sole operator of the scheme in Ireland, Tallaght Hospital is trying to implement a similar model.

"The Cork project is about to reach a key stage in the partnership with the Spanish Interactive Schools Project, who will be visiting for Christmas, when a real classroom will be established between the two," added Ms Curran.

The initiative will also allow them to test out and develop links with other schools and clinicians.

Future plans include expanding the system to include links to other hospital schools around the world.

The virtual classroom is the brainchild of a joint effort between public and private sectors: the Southern Health Board and Microsoft have combined to provide state-of-the-art facilities for young patients, including software, video-conferencing, PCs, laptops, scanners and printers.
“Travel broadens the mind”

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It's hard to imagine a more harrowing and terrifying introduction to one's first visit to Ireland than Bloody Sunday in Derry on January 30 1972. Peter Taylor, a young English reporter, who had never previously visited Ireland and did not even know what day it was prior to his assignment, began work for the BBC in Northern Ireland on that tragic day.

"I was a typically ignorant Brit," he told journalism students at the Anne Maguire Journalism Conference, which was held at Dublin Castle on November 22. "To be honest, like most people in Britain, I didn't really care too much about it. I walked through the streets of Derry with the pools of blood still fresh on the ground. I began knocking on doors in the Bospide to try and find out what exactly had gone on that day. And that's when I met a retired soldier called Jack Chapman, who provided me with a vivid eyewitness account of what had happened." Chapman told Taylor that British paratroopers appeared to have shot dead innocent civilians and was adamant that there had been no shots fired from within the crowd that day. "The Saville Inquiry is all part of conflict resolution," Taylor added.

"Tony Blair embarked on a process through that that may help bring about a final solution to the conflict. That day has always stuck in my mind and really happened that day has always being something that I have tried to establish both in my own mind and as a journalist." His work has provided some of the most stunning and fascinating accounts of the conflict in the region, including a documentary that marked the 20th anniversary of the tragedy in Derry. "I interviewed Derek Wilford, who had been in service in Derry that day and he has been haunted by the memory of Bloody Sunday to this day. I also interviewed a sergeant major, who made an equally remarkable admission, saying he was sorry for what had happened.

This was the first time that a soldier had admitted any such remorse publicly. The reaction in Derry was remarkable and I received many letters which I passed onto the soldier from residents who were so grateful to hear those words been said by a member of the British Army.

The Inquiry asked Taylor to hand over his notebook relating to Bloody Sunday in an effort to further their investigation. "They demanded that I hand over all my notebooks, which included the whole range of names, be they soldiers, provisionalists, etc, several of whom I had been interviewing. I was forced to make out an oath to interview the strictest of confidences. So I photocopied all my notes, but took out all the names and addresses of those that I had spoken to in confidence. Had I not done so I would have been undermining the fundamentals of the job; people simply will not trust you if you did otherwise.

Taylor, now exposed to the brutal realities of the Northern problem, one which he called both "the Irish question and the British question," set about making programmes that would provide a greater understanding of the conflict for a British audience.

"The stereotyping of figures during this conflict was always prevalent and what I have tried to do over the years is to show that this simply wasn't the case." One such interviewee was then IRA member Tony Miller, who had planted a bomb in the middle of Derry in the mid-70's, which caused massive damage to the city's economic heartland. As he spoke, it was clear that this was a man who rarely switches off from his vocation, which is perhaps the biggest drawback of deciding upon a career in the media. During a seminar after his main speech, he spoke of the new challenges that face journalists in the new Northern Ireland. These included an addressing of the major social issues such as the state of the health service and the housing issue, stories that have formed the staple of so many news pages in the Republic while violence and sectarianism have occupied the pages of the Northern dailies. While reporting on the Troubles profoundly altered the course of Peter Taylor's life, a humourous moment in the sale of locations remains a standout moment in his journalistic career.

"Now here was a man from Creggan, who came from a poor, respectable, hard working family, who had joined the IRA because of Bloody Sunday," he said. "It legitimised the IRA's violence and that was the real significance of Bloody Sunday." The documentary, 'Provos' and 'Loyalists' are remarkable stories told by the men who had behind balacavas and had engaged in their war against each other. His interview with John White, now a member of the Progressive Unionist Party, who was imprisoned for the murders of Senator Paddy Wilson and Irene Andrews, remains a vivid memory for Taylor.

"I remember as I sat there interviewing him thinking this was the man who had stabbed Paddy Wilson 30 times. The truth is that you should never forget what they did and that's always in the back of my mind. All interviews contain a certain confrontational attitude and we were shown by the Loyalists series we were doing three interviews a day and it was absolutely exhausting. As journalists we should never sympathise with those we are interviewing but we can empathise.

The Maze prison of all places wore their own clothes, it was the most stunning and fascinating accounts of the conflict in the North. He recalled "All interviews contain a certain confrontational attitude and we were shown by the Loyalists series we were doing three interviews a day and it was absolutely exhausting. As journalists we should never sympathise with those we are interviewing but we can empathise."

The Maze prison of all places provided Taylor with one of the lighter moments in his career. "In 1990 we were given astonishing facilities to shoot a documentary about life in the Maze and myself and the rest of the crew lived in the prison for about three, four weeks. This for me helped play a part in conflict resolution. The inmates were very ordinary people and the prison was not a hellhole; the prisoners ran the wings and wore their own clothes, it was remarkable.

"We were there during the three hundredth anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne and the loyalist inmates told me that they had their band ready for the 12th of July. We just couldn't believe this.

"The Governor of the prison was gobsmacked, he had no idea that the band existed and it was a wonderful piece to film, the band with its paper uniforms and drum, marching up a prison corridor. The loyalists loved it and the republican thought that it was hysterically funny."

Even in the darkest days, a little light managed to peek through and for journalists such as Peter Taylor, life would have been near impossible to bear without them. One such dark moment, the recent murder of Sunday World reporter Martin O'Hagan, left Taylor "feeling sick in the stomach. He was the bravest of the brave and he was incredibly skilled and he had the courage to do what I couldn't do. He put his own neck on the line and lost his life because of his work. A journalists you should bear that in mind in the work that you'll be doing in the future." Peter Taylor said while it is not the job of journalists to resolve conflict, "that is the job of politicians," he did state, "our job is to report. It is our obligation and duty to see that we report what we see, what we learn and what we find out." Arguably the best piece of advice that he offered the next generation of journalists that day was, "you must make your story fit the facts and not make the facts fit the story...if the facts don't fit the story, change it.

Taylor is a prime example of a professional who has never taken his eye off the ball. In the midst of the Troubles, he has gone from being a self-confessed ignorant Brit to one of the greatest sources of information on the conflict in the North. He recalled a question that the venerable Richard Dimbleby once put to Basil Brooke in an interview and I quote "who exactly is the IRA." Thanks to Peter Taylor and several other journalists, the British public and indeed many south of the border, such questions have become redundant. We can only hope that the bomb and the bullet will become as equally irrelevant to life in Northern Ireland as that famous Dimbleby question.
Life tastes good

Coca-Cola
**Features**

**Presents of milk**

I t's that time of year again, and you're all looking forward to sitting beside a glaring tree, with a glass of something in one hand and a pile of presents in front of you. Until, of course, you remember that in order to reach this Zen-like state, you must first pass through tortuous tests of endurance to prove your worthiness. These tests have sapped the will to live of some of the bravest and strongest people. We refer to the ordeal that is Christmas shopping, and in order to help you reach the nirvana of December 25th unscathed, we've been looking out for presents which involve the least possible effort for the maximum possible effect. Some of these gifts can be purchased from the comfort of your own home, and most of them will allow you to avoid the worst of the city's shopping centres. And that has to be a good thing.

If your circle of family and friends includes the tree hugger, then a year's subscription to National Geographic might be the thing. Twelve issues of the magazine costs £29.90, and falls into the category of things which allow total avoidance of the shops. It might seem a wee bit scholarly, but it's full of amazing photographs and makes for essential on-the-spot reading. Keep it close to the dinner table.

If you don't have a credit card, then a bonsai tree might start from around £18, be it anything. And returning to the plan to avoid the shops altogether, you could always buy Elvis Presley's 50 Greatest Love Songs album. See the commercial breaks during Judge Judy for details.

**Does the thought of trawling through Grafton Street or Henry Street in the run-up to Christmas sound as appealing as the Billie Barrie Kids Yuletide Extravaganza? If so, you've come to the right place. Janice Gaffey takes the hassle-free option in present shopping.**

**“Between battling through the aisles and queuing for half an hour to pay, it's enough to drive you to drink.”**

Claudio's Wine in George's Street Arcade: wine is an obvious choice.

If you've had a credit card, then a bonsai tree might be a viable alternative. Although buying one involves entering a shop, it's not too traumatic, because The Bonsai Shop in the Powerscourt Townhouse Centre is quiet and peaceful. Just be careful not to knock a tree over - the older varieties can cost upwards of a hundred quid. The youngest ones start from around £18 and the staff will tell you how to look after it. But make sure to follow the instructions carefully, because the little critters are none too resilient.

**TEKKIE PREZZIES!**

Everyone has at least one musically gifted friend, therefore there may have to be one excursion into a hellish such as HMV, Tower or Virgin. It's not that these places are awful all year round, but from the first of December onwards, they seem to take on the form of Dante's Inferno. Between battling through the aisles and queuing for half an hour to pay, it's enough to drive you to drink. So the best strategy is to decide in advance what you want to buy, put your head down and incorporating eight episodes of the TV series which is also available on video for around £30. But the winner has to be Marvin Gaye Live on DVD. Boys and girls alike could learn a thing or to from this one, and as DVDs go, it's not the most extravagant, at probably get twice as much for the same money. And returning to the plan to avoid the shops altogether, you could always buy Elvis Presley's 50 Greatest Love Songs album. See the commercial breaks during Judge Judy for details.

**CHRISTMAS YUM YUMS**

We all know the true meaning of Christmas, and that's plenty of food and drink, which conveniently make good presents. We're not talking about the usual tactics of buying a McDonald's gift voucher here, but nice presentation baskets of good food. Try George's Street Arcade. and for anyone who has ever worked in a restaurant. Anthony Bourdain's Kitchen Confidential will confirm all the worst things you ever thought about chefs. It's also worth checking out the bargain sections of the larger bookshops, for impressive-looking hardbacks.

If you're buying a couple of books, do so in Hodges Figgis, where you get a stamp for every tenner you spend. Collect eight and get a tanker off your next purchase, valid until April (which is conveniently about the time exam panic will begin to take root, and expensive volumes will be bought to ease your conscience).

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Christmas is the time of year is the Blue Planet boxed set, for around £35, around £22. And if you buy it (or anything) in Tower, you get a 10% discount with your student card. It's also worth having a look at the films available for £11.99 or DVD in HMV.

On to the CD's, and for the little sister there's the usual selection of attractions year-end compilations, greatest (in the least possible sense of the word) hits and so on. Compilations from Madonna and The Smashing Pumpkins will take your friends back to the school disco, and your mother might be impressed with Robbie Williams' album of Rat Pack covers.

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Drink sessions with your mates have no real novelty value - you have to do it once a week. But Christmas is a bit different.

For some reason, people start thinking that during the month of December, there should be at least one civilised gathering involving a sit-down meal as well as the usual quantities of alcohol, and so, eating a doner kebab on a park bench doesn't count.

It's a strange animal, the Christmas dinner - it always seems like a good idea at the time, but after you've accounted for (your former) best friend 'looking at' your boy/girlfriend and been sick on your shoes, you wonder why you bothered.

Still, trying to disseminate dull groupings from having the Christmas 'do' is like trying to persuade an 18-year-old college student that sitting in the sun all day by the zoo is not a recipe for a good time.

By this time, you've had a look around to see where parties are catered for without the bill requiring you to persuade an 18-year-old student to get plastered, then you've come to the right place.

The Bangkok Café, Parnell Street.

Although finding the restaurant may involve a little effort, it's well worth it once you get there. It looks quite dingy from the outside, but don't be fooled - the food is great and reasonably priced. The menu is a mixture of the usual Thai dishes but all are well executed, and vegetarians are catered for. The wine list is limited to say the least, and we recommend that you stick to beer in this particular establishment. Desserts are also limited, so after main courses, it's probably a good idea to vacate the table and head for the Wellcome Inn.

Bondo, Beresford Place (Beside Busaras)

The set-up in Bond is a wee bit unusual because there's no wine list. Instead there's a wine cellar, with around 190 wines available, and the procedure is that you wander around and pick out a wine, which you then pay off-licence prices for, plus £5 corkage. They also serve beer. The food is a little bit pricier, but if you stick to the less expensive dishes, it should be quite reasonable. The interior of the restaurant is stylish and modern, and the staff are lovely. The only problem is that there's a bit of a shortage of pubs for a post-restaurant pint.

Il Baccaro, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar

To be brutally honest, the food and service here are inconsistent, but if your main objective is to get plastered, then you've come to the right place.

The staff are predominantly Italian, and are suitably grumpy, and you can wait about an hour for your food. Speaking of which, the food is sort of rustic Italian, and can be either good or a mess of tomato sauce, depending on the night. Wine is sold by the litre for about £12 a throw. You could do worse.

Yamamori, George's Street: This is probably the best option for a reasonable group dinner of good quality

Yamamori, George's St

This is probably the best option for a reasonable group dinner of good quality, and if you stick to the food and wine, it should be at least a whole day. Speaking of which, the food is sort of rustic Italian, and can be either good or a mess of tomato sauce, depending on the night. Wine is sold by the litre for about £12 a throw. You could do worse.

Camp Counselors USA - open to anyone aged 18-30 interested in spending 9 weeks in a US summer camp. Flights, insurance, orientation, J-1 visa, travel to camp, guaranteed placement, room + board all included. Just £460 a week.

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Luca Macken, you'd think with Christmas veritable baby's arm length away, I'd take a look at all those nice seasonal events taking place. Let me see... no, none of them. That's right, Christmas is practically over. Sorry to rain on anyone's parade, but it seems we're already in the after Christmas sales. This year's Christmas sales have started even earlier, as stores are desperate to sell off their leftover stock. Some stores are offering discounts of up to 70% off, making it the perfect time to shop for gifts and clothing. However, it's important to keep in mind that many stores do not accept returns during this time, so make sure you choose the right size and style before making a purchase.

By Fiachra Rocco-Govaney

Oh its that time of year again! No longer will I feel guilty about going out on my shopping streets, because it is all in the name of giving and charity. When it comes to buying, you can't beat the festive spirit, and Christmas provides me with the opportunity to shine a little bit more. Because my V8 list comes in volume format, unfortunately I have had to restrict my browsing of gifts to nearest and dearest. Strictly family only, and I'm afraid you won't find it in this list.

Firstly for my best bro, a three minute rechargeable electric champagne cutter. I can't believe everyone doesn't have one, it's way more festive than your usual corkscrew. The next gift is for your skinny partner, the St Ives body scrub, it's gentle on the skin but leaves it feeling smooth and fresh.

Secondly, the season of love and joy doesn't just include people, I always like to treat my lifelong companion, Miley and this year present all out to spoil my favourite canine. Firstly a Diamond Tiara, for when she's at the various social functions she attends. I can't get this item anywhere in Harrods, Dublin just doesn't have it. The level of choice you need when buying for others, and it was only £99.95. Of course, on my way to the shop, I couldn't but pick up a divine Burberry extra-large pillow for her to catch her beauty sleep on. Made with Woolworths at £9.99, it matches her coat.

With pen and paper the various departments I came across something perfect for Patér. It's quite the DIY buff, so I bought him a pencil for when he's rolling up his sleeves in the converted workshop/house. It's made of cedar wood and has three diamonds set into the top. It took me nearly a week's full credit card to purchase, but there's plenty more where they came from. For Finally, it was an indulgent weekend at the Top to Toe Indulgence weekend at the Temple Spa, just the thing to get her looking her best before the holidays. For this, she will have to attend. Two nights at £470. At these prices it's a wonder anyone is homeless.

Thankfully, in order to make things easier this year Brown Thomas came up with the wonderful idea of having an invited guests only shopping day on Monday 3rd December. Although they have a very strict time period in the year, all year round as there are still plenty of other shopping days in the year which are hardly fitting of the decor. I only wish this was a weekly occurrence, rather than a solitary event.

Well enough divulging already, I can't give you all my ideas, and besides some of these ideas could possibly not be quite so generous. So until next time, have a wonderful Christmas and a fabulous New Year.

By Malachy Laurence

You'd think with Christmas veritable baby's arm length away, I'd take a look at all those nice seasonal events taking place. Let me see... no, none of them. That's right, Christmas is practically over. Sorry to rain on anyone's parade, but it seems we're already in the after Christmas sales. This year's Christmas sales have started even earlier, as stores are desperate to sell off their leftover stock. Some stores are offering discounts of up to 70% off, making it the perfect time to shop for gifts and clothing. However, it's important to keep in mind that many stores do not accept returns during this time, so make sure you choose the right size and style before making a purchase.

By Malachy Laurence

With Jamie McCormick

SSX Tricky Format: PlayStation 2 Publisher: Sony Europe The king of all rally simulations has arrived on PS2. Officially licenced by the World Rally Championship, WRC features 14 perfectly recreated tracks from around the globe. Players can try their hand at winning a real World Rally Championship race by the World Rally Championship, WRC features 14 perfectly recreated tracks from around the globe. Players can try their hand at winning a real Rally car. The game is a must for all rally fans. For the previously untested, there is a detailed training mode to help you get to grips with the controls and how to perform basic stunts. Players can also face off against each other in the multiplayer mode, racing on any of the available tracks. If you have played the original or like rally simulation, Tricky is a massive improvement over an already excellent game.

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The movie which may blow both Harry Potter and Star Wars out of the water is just around the corner. Eoin Murphy looks ahead to 'The Fellowship of the Ring', the first instalment of the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

"One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness find them." (in bold and italicised)

Arguably the greatest fantasy novel (non-sexual) ever written, J.R.R. Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' has finally made its way to the big screen and is due for release on December 19th 2001. The film is the first of this potentially breathtaking trilogy. The Fellowship of the Ring is directed by Peter Jackson and boasts an all-star cast including Liv Tyler (The Lord of the Rings), Sean Bean and the always mercurial Ian McKellen.

There have been circulating e-mail accounts, cinemas and many a pirate site giving the impression that Harry Potter is going to be 'Dwarfed' by a little Hobbit and his quest.

The Fellowship of the Ring is the starting point of the journey of a young hobbit called Frodo who inherits a ring from his Uncle Bilbo and in turn inherits the mantle of the Ring. Big deal you might say, it's just a ring. But this is no ordinary Ring (hence the capital r); this is the most powerful ring in the world. When time began, rings were forged for the leaders of Middle Earth. There were nine rings for mortal men, seven rings for Dwarves and three rings for the Elven Kings.

Frodo Baggins (Elijah Woods), the Hobbit who inherits the One Ring from his cousin Bilbo in 'The Fellowship of the Ring'.

The dark Lord Sauron (basically the Osama Bin Laden of middle earth) learned how to forge and made one ring of ultimate power, the 20th Ring, the Ring to bind and rule them all.

He proceeded to acquire all the rings and take over middle earth until one man, the father of Aragorn cut the Ring from Sauron's finger and the Ring was lost to him. He was defeated and pushed back to Moros to wait until both his power and ring returned to him. He changed the nine mortal men who carried the nine rings into Ratha riders and sent them out to search Middle Earth for the Ring.

So how did the ring end up in Frodo's possession? THE HOBBIT

Tolkien also wrote an equally famous book called 'The Hobbit', the prequel to the trilogy. Hobbits are small hairy creatures who live in a part of Middle Earth called the Shire. They are a peaceful and almost lazy race that enjoys drinking mead, telling stories and smoking pipes. They are the most unlikely individuals to take on the garg of hero but then this is a fantasy novel and anything is possible. They live in comfortable dry holes in the ground and love warming their hairy toes in front of a roaring fire.

It explains how a Hobbit named Bilbo Baggins embarked on a journey as a burglar with a band of Dwarves to slay a dragon and to retrieve long lost treasure. At one point Bilbo gets separated from the group and finds a Ring deep in the darkness of the goblin caves. He is lost and only when he tricks a nasty creature called Gollum, the previous owner of the Ring, into showing him the way out does he realise that it will make him invisible. Only then does Bilbo come to understand the extent of the Ring's power. One of the members of the travelling party is the wizard Gandalf (McKellen) and is suspicious of the Ring. In 'The Fellowship' he realises exactly what the Ring is and informs Frodo of the magnitude of his inheritance. Beyond doubt, Gandalf is the most glamorous character in the story.

He commands respect from all, good and evil and has a relationship with all living creatures. His courage is unrivalled. Throughout the books and the much awaited three films he will become one of the most revered characters since Alec Guinness donned the robes of Obi Wan Kenobi in another rather exciting trilogy.

If the Ring is so powerful then why don't they use it against Sauron, you might ponder. THE EVIL OF THE RING

Well the Ring is inherently evil and all contact with it will eventually turn bad. None of the Fellowship wants to be corrupted and that is why no one of power will touch. Only someone whose spirit is pure may carry it and try to destroy it for that is the only true way to defeat Sauron. For his protection Frodo is issued with a fellowship consisting of elves, Dwarves, Men, Wizards and friends from his home in the Shire.

The journey is an arduous one, full of many deadly obstacles. Travelling orcs and goblins and even the great of apparent friends can be potentially fatal but all are small perks compared to the prospect of Sauron uniting the rings. Private battles hinder the group further: Gandalf is forced to barbe his master and teacher Saruman, who desires the power of the Ring for himself. Boromir, who wants the Ring to protect his town of Minas Tirith challenges Frodo.

To say the least this film is an epic and yet it will only open the door to one of the greatest and complete stories ever. The book contains every element necessary for success. Whether the film will be able to convey this, time will tell but I'm banking on something special.

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**Bandits, better than any Harry Potter**

By Eoin Murphy

**DIRECTOR:** Barry Levinson (Good Morning Vietnam) has acquired an all-star cast and an incredibly witty script and put together a must see movie.

One two would be bandits, played by Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton hatch an idea concluding that the best way to rob a bank is to stay with the bank manager and rob the bank when he opens it in the morning. No staff, no police and no problems.

Bruce Willis' character is the strong, womanising type while Thornton is the timid, clever and hypocritical diokles, a combination that works really well.

Life is going quite well for the pair until they meet Cate Blanchette, an unappreciated, almost unwanted housewife who invites herself to join the pair. But as sure as two is company, three very quickly becomes a crowd as both men fall in love with her and she can't decide whom she would rather be with.

To make matters worse the bandits become mini celebs and bank managers to longer live in fear of them.

The film concludes in true Levinson tradition, which keeps the audience entertained until the last credit has rolled by.

The three leads are in top form with Thornton putting in a performance worthy of an Oscar nomination as the neurotic partner to the always tough Willis. This film is better than any Harry Potter so go out and see it. Just remember to save some sponducloks for the Lord of the Rings... O God don't get me started.

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Not a pretty state

By Jon Lee and Cian O'Sullivan

The 51st State

If anybody is wondering what to do as opposed to checking out the openings of the Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings franchises. The 51st State, has been labelled as the season's action-film offering.

The story, for what it's worth, deals with Elmo McElroy (L. Jackson), chemist supreme, whose future falls apart because of a drug conviction in the seventies. Skip forward to the present day where McElroy has spent the previous thirty years making illegal drugs, and being involved in master criminal the Lizard, played with much shouting, by Meatloaf. To correct his... lack of self-determination McElroy plants a bomb for his employer and then heads for Liverpool, where he plans to sell the formula for his drugs. But 51st 51st, crime-boss Leopold Durant, played by the Royale Family's Ricky Tomlinson...

When transferred to the Merseyside setting, traditional scouser Felix De Souza (Carlly) accompanies McElroy to his meeting with Durant, for his first, and last, big sale. This film has all the hilarity of a buddy movie where the two characters have no chemistry, and hate each other.

According to the press notes, "one's all talk - the other's all action" so we're treated to witty remarks such as De Souza welcoming the American to Britain, saying "you're about as welcome as a dose of the clap." Action sequences are what films like this get judged on, but even here the examples are poor.

Where the action occurs it staggers onward without energy, surprising given director Ronny Yu's background as a Hong Kong action director.

This lack of energy runs through every part of the film, with too many characters and not enough characteristics, leaving no time for a back-story, or proper plot development.

The 51st State chases its own tale (full?) with the flawed belief that it's plot will keep you interested. After five minutes it's unlikely that you'll care greatly why Jackson spends the majority of the film wearing a kilt, and carrying golf clubs. After an hour and a half you still may not know.

The plot twists and turns involve drug dealers and corrupt police officers, football fans and skinhead neo-Nazis. All while our hero is an international drug-dealing chemist (or is he?), aided by a stupid foul-mouthed thug who wants his old, gun-totingly lethal girlfriend back. At times it seems like the script was written in the same way. Radiodread have taken to writing their songs, by random words drawn from a hat. Not even Samuel L. Jackson, here also as an executive producer, can put a sheen on this film. With no quotable lines of dialogue, no chemistry, and hate each other, this film has all the hilarity of a buddy movie where the two characters have no chemistry, and hate each other.

Pearl Harbour, we all know the gist of this movie

This film is all about the majority of the film wearing a kilt, and carrying golf clubs. After an hour and a half you still may not know.

The plot twists and turns involve drug dealers and corrupt police officers, football fans and skinhead neo-Nazis. All while our hero is an international drug-dealing chemist (or is he?), aided by a stupid foul-mouthed thug who wants his old, gun-totingly lethal girlfriend back. At times it seems like the script was written in the same way. Radiodread have taken to writing their songs, by random words drawn from a hat. Not even Samuel L. Jackson, here also as an executive producer, can put a sheen on this film. With no quotable lines of dialogue, no chemistry, and hate each other, this film has all the hilarity of a buddy movie where the two characters have no chemistry, and hate each other.

Shrek (left) one of the year's biggest hits and (right) Pearl Harbour. we all know the gist of this movie

Featuring the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy and John Lithgow, Shrek offers a twist on the Beauty and the Beast story as the eponymous ogre and the beautiful Princess Fiona (eventually) fall in love.

Shrek befriends Donkey, voiced brilliantly by Eddie Murphy and together their heroes set off on an adventure to rescue Princess Fiona (Diaz) from the clutches of a fire breathing dragon and the chilliness of the dimwitted villain, Lord Farquaad (Lithgow). Also, such stories are never so straightforward as Shrek overcomes his Stag

Marinarians to befri...
Club round up

By Miguel Delaney

DIT Hurling

The Senior Team got revenge for last season's Fitzgibbon Cup defeat this month as they beat NUI Maynooth in the League. After leading by two points at half-time, two early second half goals from Coen and Short put DIT into a commanding position. The defence then managed to hold out against intense NUD pressure to win 3-7 to 1-12. NUD beat DIT 0-18 to 1-6 in the Cup last season. Despite the boost to morale the result gave the team, they were unable to repeat the performance against DCU and lost disappointingly to the Glasnevin-based side. The side must now overcome such complacency in their preparation for the coming Fitzgibbon Cup games that begin after Christmas.

The Freshers' team had a good win over Carlow at St. Claire's and were to host a strong Waterford IT side on Monday December 3, but the result was unknown at the time of going to press.

Football

The men's senior team completed its programme of league fixtures this month, with performances against DCU, Maynooth and UCD demonstrating that Joe Moran's side is coming together. John Brogan, John Kenny, Mark Gahan and Shane McGuigan have all looked particularly impressive and with the Sigerson Cup campaign beginning just before Christmas they are coming into form at just the right time. A favourable draw in the Cup could yet see them qualify for the play-offs. The Inter Team just failed to qualify for the semi-finals of their Leinster Higher Education Colleges Blitz going down narrowly to Trinity in Santry Avenue.

The Freshers' team had similar luck this month as a defeat to Queens means they now need a win against Jordanstown to make the play-offs. After a promising victory away to Dundalk, the side went to Belfast full of confidence and was leading going into the final stages of the second half. A spell of pressure from Queens however put the Belfast team ahead. Needing a goal to win, DIT's Declan O'Mahony broke through in the final minute only to put his shot over the bar and give Queens a 1-0 to 0-11 victory. The team will now play Jordanstown on December 10th. The Ladies Football team meanwhile, having lost several key players from the previous year's team, and having dropped down a division, are working hard under new coach Kieran O'Reilly and Chairperson Suzanne Ledwith to improve their performances. The team performed well in the All Ireland Seven-a-side but ultimately failed to make it into the finals. In the League, the side lost to Carlow while the final game against Athlone was called off due to an unplayable pitch at Whitehall.

Anybody interested in DIT GAA can contact DIT's GAA Development Officer at 0862245508.

Aungier Street Hockey

A great month for the side as their successful run continued with victory in the plate (and the pub quiz later on) at the Frensh Grounds in Crumlin. After defeating neighbouring Kevin Street in the semi-finals they beat Carlow IT in the final. The team would like to thank Simon Clarke for his hard work on their behalf.

DIT Soccer

Trials for the Collingwood Cup are due to take place on 12th December at the Royal College of Surgeons and anyone interested should contact their Sports Officer. The competition is due to start after Christmas. Meanwhile the Aungier Street side had a bad month, losing 2-3 to the Gonda College and 4-0 to Tallaght IT (see match report).

Shotokan Karate

Anybody interested should e-mail club captain Andrew Farrell at dit.shtokan@yahoo.co.uk, while the club's website address is http://clubsoc.dit.ie/karate. The club trains at Kevin Street Gym three times a week: Monday 6:30 to 8:00, Wednesday 2:00 to 3:00, Thursday 5:00 to 6:30.

Ireland's largest college club is back albeit under a new alias. This is due to Bob Coggins, Brian Sinnott, and Ken Gallagher are at the helm of DIT Karting. The club is trying to bring karting to as many students as possible as well as bringing together a team capable of winning the All-Ireland Intervarsity for a record fourth time in a row.

The following day saw the Karting Club get into gear at the sports day when 125 brave souls came out in the deteriorating weather to get the experience of karting at first hand at kartcity in Santry.

A range of people showed up from the semi-professionals to those who couldn't figure out which pedal made you go and which pedal made you stop! Over the following weeks everyone did get their chance to pretend to be Michael Schumacher as 260 karters took part in nine Grands Prix in Ireland in March.

From these races, drivers were selected to compete in the DIT Championship that will be run from each of the campuses. Each of these will be used to help pick the overall DIT teams that will compete in the All-Irelands in March.

Karting Club back in action

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**Handball Club's success continues**

**DIT Handball Club pictured celebrating their successes at the DIT Awards Night last April.**

The year drawing to its end was one of the most successful years yet for DIT Handball Club. An amazing haul of awards at the DIT sports night was only surpassed by a victorious trip to America along with wins in the Dublin League and Intervarsity competitions. Indeed, no one would deny that DIT currently boasts the strongest college handball club in Ireland.

The scene for the new campaign were good signs for the year ahead, beginning with victories in the Dublin League. Coaching nights in UCD paid dividends as a large number of beginners put in superb performances at the Intervarsity Championships in Galway and the World College League Championships in Minnesota. New talent, coupled with the knowledge of more experienced players in the club helped the club to finish an excellent sixth overall in the world. Claiming the overall Intervarsity title was further proof of the club's high standards.

The sports night rewarded the year's triumphs with almost half a dozen awards to the club or its members. Padraig Gaffney picked up a well-deserved award for Club President of the Year, while Dessie Keegan won an award as one of the most promising young players in the country. There was also the minor presentation for the Club of the Year, which went to the already holding trophy cabinet. This year the club has started on a similarly successful vein with Mark McGowan winning the first tournament of the year in the UCD Blitz. Fellow club members also finished highly with the doubles winners, doubles runners-up and the singles runners up all from DIT.

A hugely successful race night was held on Monday November 19th by the club in Bodkins Pub on Bolton Street. The auctioned face was interesting to say the least when the final horse sold reached a staggering €40, with the €30 'lucky ladies' prize won by the ravishing Flavia Healy. Further fundraising will be taking place throughout the year with a quiz night and a sponsored cycle just two of the proposed events for the coming months.

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**Tallaght laugh in the face of Aungier**

**DIT Aungier Street 0**

**ITT Tallaght 4**

By Andrew Rea and Kieran Dlane

DIT Aungier Street was comprehensively beaten by IT Tallaght in their recent meeting on a blustery day in Terenure in late November. The inclement conditions hindered the quality of play on both sides but didn't prevent the opposition running out as deserved winners.

IT Tallaght took an early lead after a cross from the left by nippy winger Bernard Bernmgbrngham was emphatically headed home by striker Mark Duffy. This set the tone for the rest of the match with Tallaght enjoying a majority of the goal scoring opportunities. Darragh Kilhe came close with a 20-yard volley early on and Wallace should have scored after being put clean through by Tom Kenny. Aungier St's best opportunity fell to Ciaran Redmond, who forced the keeper to parry the ball out, after the Italian 'Boosman' signing Roberto, unhinged the Tallaght defence with a superb pass. Redmond, Aungier Street's captain, led by example with a towering header followed by a strike from the edge of the box that Kremer was helpless to parry. For Aungier St efforts were in vain. Aungier St threatened again but the ball was blasted wide by the fired-up Redmond.

After Aungier St's purple patch the rest of the half belonged to Tallaght's win. Darragh Walsh had a commanding second half performance and, along with Bernmgbrngham, proved instrumental in Tallaght's win. Aungier St's best opportunities of the second half came via two Anto Doyle free kicks. While the Tallaght defence proved up to the task on each occasion, Roberto again showed off his continental flair and skilly with a sublime backheel on the touchline but it failed to spark a revival. Glenn Dalton should have scored for Aungier St when left one on one with goalkeeper Ben Mongey, but he lost all his composure and ballooned the ball into Terenure Village. Dalton's aerial presence, brilliant touch and physical appearance was enough to bespeak of a young Niall Quinn. IT Tallaght killed off an already dejected side when substitute Ian Kennedy scored a well-worked goal in the closing stages.

Tallaght joint manager Mark Kenny said after the match that it was "a good win under difficult conditions" and that despite the score line said that Aungier St had a useful side. Aungier St's Johnny O'Connell felt the DIT side had been unlucky on the day and was confident that they would bounce back in their next match.


ITT Tallaght: Mark Mongey, Paul Reilly, J. Kelly, Tom Kenny, Paul Rens, Neven Kilrea, Kieran Craig, Darragh Kilhe, Conor O'Sullivan, Mark Duffy, Ian Wallace, Bernard Bernmgbrngham, Subs: Ian Kennedy, Dave Kelly, Mark Redmond, Ciaran Redmond, Ian McCrea, Andrew Rea and Kieran Dlane.

Man of the match: Bernard Bernmgbrngham - a fine display from the pacy Tallaght winger.

December has arrived and yes, its time for another review of the sporting year. But for once, we can look back and be proud of Irish sporting performances.

Starting with boxing, GSA, 2001 saw Galway mining out on the senior All-Ireland double. Nicky English's Tipperary saw off Noel Lane's charges by three points in the opening final while the footballers, under the tenure of John O'Mahony, put clean through by a former later with a comprehensive nine point victory. Overall the year was unfortunately ended by the dropping 32-10 reversal to the Australians. The year was ultimately overshadowed by Warren Gatland's controversial resignation due to the collapse of contract negotiations, with Eddie O'Sullivan taking over from the New Zealander.

Back in July, the British and Irish Lions lost their first two matches of the 2001 Lions Tour with the first being a narrow defeat for England at Twickenham. Ireland's World Cup Final defeat to Argentina was in no way a surprise with the quality of players on both sides. The year was ended by the Lions victory over the Kiwis and the Lions' World Champions League Qualification, Roddy Collins's side managed to qualify for the finals by the double while Martin O'Neill led Celtic to the Scottish Cup, Ireland's greatest sporting years in a long time. Let's hope 2002 is a year of more of the same as well as exhilarating, emotional and edge of the seat worthy performances.

Miguel Delaney
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas

Paula McIntyre
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AIB Campus Bank
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Bolton Street
1 pm – 4 pm
Tue/Thur
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