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DIT: Students Union

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DIT loses arts academy to DCU

By Malachy Clerkin

A PROPOSED Academy for the Performing Arts is to be based in DCU, despite the fact DIT is widely regarded as more appropriate, given its international credibility in this field.

The decision to award the academy to DCU was taken by the Minister for Arts, Culture, Heritage, Gaeltacht and The Islands, Ms Síle de Valera TD. Her decision was based on a report compiled by Dr Peter Reinhaw of The London Guildhall School of Music. The report suggested the academy should be housed in three separate locations, one of which should be Dublin-based.

Dr Ellen Hazelkorn, Director of the Faculty of Applied Arts, believes the decision not to award the academy to DIT files in the face of common sense.

"DIT is the largest institute in the country that caters for the performing arts. It has the highest number of students and the widest selection of courses." According to Dr Hazelkorn, efforts to secure the award have been ongoing since 1998. "We submitted a very formal application two years ago. We are disappointed but we are looking to the future."

With this in mind, Dr Hazelkorn points out that "since music and drama are such diverse industries, DIT is providing the most exciting range of courses in the country. We have just set up a BMus course in music which will consist of four strands - performance, composition, teaching and traditional music. Indeed, this is the only course in the country which gives traditional music such a high profile."

DIT's Head of Drama, Mr Victor Merriman, shares Dr Hazelkorn's disappointment, pointing out that DIT was not the only institute to be overlooked.

"DIT and Trinity College are both major providers in this area, with long track records and international credibility in the field and yet both institutions are excluded from the proposed Academy." Mr Merriman suggests that the fact that DIT was overlooked may be something of a back-handed compliment. "This may not be a bad thing in itself, as it may simply amount to endorsement by omission of the specific qualities of both institutions. In the case of DIT, the location of performers within the Faculty of Applied Arts underpins the institute's commitment to understanding and positioning cultural workers across arts, humanities, social and human sciences in relation to each other."

Continued on page 8

£17m for new campus

By Lisa Deeney

DIT has received £17 million from the Government to purchase a 65-acre site in Grangegorman. Sport facilities and on-campus accommodation will be provided for in the new campus. This is the initial phase of the £150 million development plan for the DIT which is expected to be completed in 8-9 years.

DIT aims to provide sports facilities, to build on-campus accommodation, to move DIT buildings out of rented accommodation and to restructure and centralise the Faculty system.

The Government announced the funding of the Grangegorman site in late December. The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern is a graduate of the College of Commerce in Raheny and is known to favour the move to Grangegorman.

Overall DITSU President Sarah McGovern expressed delight at the news, while also noting it has taken a long time. "We have been campaigning for a couple of years for better facilities for the students of DIT," she said. According to Mr Merriman, the sky is the limit where facilities for students are concerned.

A bar, a creche, a laundrette and a hairdressing salon are all reportedly on the agenda. Individual developments for Grangegorman have not yet been decided, however, and will involve consultation with the DIT, the Department of Education and DITSU.

It is hoped the sports facilities will be in operation from March and that construction will begin on the on-campus accommodation during the summer. The first students to transfer to the new campus will be the apprentices. According to DIT Independent sources, the apprentices could move as early as Easter.

At the moment, DIT has 14,000 full-time students, which makes it the most overcrowded of all third level institutions in the country. DIT has, on average, less than half the space available to students in other colleges. The Grangegorman plan hopes to help combat this problem. As present DIT has virtually no sport facilities and no on-campus accommodation compared to UCD and other third level colleges.

The development plan is at an early stage and details about on-campus accommodation have not been finalised. "We have no student accommodation. This is bad when you compare it to UCD, a college of approximately the same size, which has 1,000 beds," McGovern said.

It is believed, however, that funding for on-campus accommodation will come from private sources.

DIT is hoping that the number of students accommodated for will reach 800. There is a definite desire to move out of rented accommodation as soon as possible.

The Mountjoy Square site and DIT's administration office on Upper Pembroke Street, are both housed in rented accommodation.

Continued on page 8
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DIT Aungier Street students can contact us at e-mail: boiaungierst@tinet.ie
DIT Kevin Street students can contact us at e-mail: boikevinst@tinet.ie

Bank of Ireland 34 College Green, Tel: 6793777 Fax: 6793833
DIT Bolton Street students can contact us at e-mail: mbrownedit@eircom.net
**The Overall View**

**Report on central authority for grants**

By Lisa Deeney and Eve Irvine

THE Department of Education and Science will publish a report regarding the proposal for a Central Grants Authority this year in conjunction with the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs, according to Ian Russell of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI).

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Canteen flicks to help students mix?

By Brian Healy

AUNGIER Street site presi­
dent Colm Jordan is propos­
ing the installation of a cine­ma in the non-smoking sec­
tion of the campus canteen.

The college has a film library of over 2,000 films and Jordan would like to see a large projection unit, similar to the ones used set up in the canteen to show films on Mondays and Wednesdays. Jordan would also be beneficial to the film and broadcasting students who could use it to watch films that are relevant to their course.

Although Aungier St has a film society, it is ineffective due to the lack of space in the college. Jordan would like to see a similar set up similar to that in UCD where films are shown on a regular basis and therefore create a good atmosphere for students to meet and watch a movie. It would also be especially helpful for first year students who may be finding it difficult to make new friends.

"There are only 1,456 students in Aungier St, so it's a close knit community and a cinema would create a better buzz in the college." With an estimated cost of £8,000, however, Jordan is finding it difficult to raise the money to finance the project. "The students' union doesn't have much money but I'm trying to get funds from societies, from different faculties and indeed from the RTE and broadcasting department."

The college will also include the installment of a jukebox in the smoking section of the canteen. This two pronged approach is rather ambitious but Jordan is adamant that the cinema and the jukebox would be valuable assets to the college.

He feels that it is not enough to set it up, but that he should make sure that future presidents maintain the cinema and jukebox so that they become permanent fixtures in the college.

"I feel that it is not enough to just get it in but that I have to create a history of it. For example, two years ago, the students' union president started a Wednesday night out. Since then all the presidents have organised these nights out, including myself. So I want other presidents to continue this project."

By Jenni Duggan

"EFFICIS! What's That?" was the title of a media forum held in DIT from January 26 to 28. The talks were set up as a series of five debates on the rather shady topic of ethics in Irish journalism.

Chaired by five senior DIT lecturers and researchers, it featured a number of well known figures from the industry. It opened with an address by the attorney general, Michael McDowell, introduced by Dr Ellen Hazelkorn, director of DIT Faculty of Arts.

One of the debates was entitled "Ethics in Irish Journalism," and was chaired by Michael Foley, senior lecturer in the journalism course in Aungier St. The guests included Hazelkorn, and Dr. Brian Jordan, professor in the Irish Department.

The debate featured well known figures from Irish journalism: Sam Smyth, columnist for the Irish Independent and president of Today FM's "Sunday Supplement"; Damien Kilfeather, editor of the Sunday Business Post; Gerry O'Regan, editor of the Evening Herald (for­
mely the Star), Catherine Cleary, security correspon­dent for the Sunday Tribune and Katie Hennion, political correspondent for the Irish Independent.

Many important ethical issues were discussed, including the censorship of the press, which was commented on by a number of the guests. The debate also touched on the possible future of the media in Ireland.
focus on... students and politics

Shane Doran on the lack of political parties operating in the various DIT colleges

THIS article originally intended to profile all the political parties operating in the various DIT Colleges. Until, of course, I discovered there were no political parties in DIT.

At present, the Young Fine Gael Cumann in Kevin St is the only active political branch of any political party in DIT. Fianna Fail, Labour, the Progressive Democrats, Sinn Fein and the Green Party are not represented in any of the colleges, and play no active role in DIT Student politics.

The Socialist Workers recently attempted to set up a branch in Aungier St, but it is no longer operating in any active sense of the word.

The absence of partisan politics is extremely surprising, considering that the DIT colleges combined account for the highest student population (25,000) of all the third level institutions in the country.

Political parties play a pivotal role in student politics (both UCD and Trinity) (the Kevin Barry Cumann in UCD is the largest Fianna Fail Cumann in the country). However, with the exception of Young Fine Gael, political parties are non-existent in DIT.

Some of the Student Union Officers contacted by the DIT Independent spoke of the increasing apathy of students vis-a-vis politics. Aungier St SU President Colm Jordan, points to the growing indifference of students coming into college, and the "increasingly anal" attitude of first and second year students in DIT towards extra-curricular activities.

NON STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Explaining non-student participation in terms of apathy, however, has become something of a tired cliche. A recent survey by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYC1) into declining youth participation in politics found that, "contrary to popular belief, cynicism or disinterest is not the greatest reason for young people not voting.

The primary reason for young people not voting is that they do not have the opportunity to..." Likewise, it seems rather silly to explain the lack of student interest in party politics in DIT in terms of apathy, when they have no opportunity to get involved in the first place.

Funding proved the major obstacle preventing students in Mountjoy Square from setting up a Fianna Fail Cumann in the college.

The Mountjoy Cumann is no longer active and "will not be doing anything for the rest of the college year.

Former Chairperson, Patrick Ryan, said that the Cumann "got a good response initially, when we started with fifty members, which is quite high in comparison with UCD and Trinity".

They were refused funding on a level of parity with other college clubs and societies, however, and in their own words "couldn't do anything without the necessary money.

Political parties in UCD and Trinity are given the same status as other clubs and societies in the Universities, facilitating the various parties to meet on a regular basis complete with coffee and biscuits, a far cry from the existing situation in DIT.

ANTIPOLITICAL SENTIMENT

The Kevin St Young Fine Gael Cumann are the only active political party in DIT. On 22 October, newly appointed Chairperson, David Jenkins, formally set up DIT Young Fine Gael (YFG). Jenkins claims he "encountered a lot of anti-political sentiment in DIT", and had considerable difficulty in gaining recognition for DIT YFG. This recognition was conditional on an agreement not to receive funds for a year, and according to Jenkins, "I got the impression they would prefer we weren't here, or else set up another society with nothing to do with politics, which is really quite a sad thing. The Student Union would like to be the only voice for the students."

Jenkins feels that the Student Union should invite all the political parties to set up in DIT, to give direct access to the Government and political parties.

Walshe stresses the importance of working and cooperating with the various Student Union's within DIT, and looks forward to meeting DIT students in the near future.

He may, however, find the reality a little more difficult as the DITSU has tended to display an unhealthy degree of hostility towards political parties in the past.

HOSTILITY

This hostility was disturbingly illustrated earlier this year when an Aungier St student attempted to set up a branch of the Socialist Workers Party in the college. Ronan Tiernan, a first year Communications student, set up a stall in Aungier St during freshers week and had managed to assemble "fifteen or sixteen" people who had expressed an interest in forming a student branch of the Socialist Workers in DIT.

According to Tiernan, he spent three to four hours talking to students in the college, before leaving a colleague (not a member of the college) to look after the stall while he attended a lecture.

He returned to discover that members of the Student Union had removed the stall. Aungier St, SU President, Colm Jordan, subsequently informed him that students in DIT were only interested in having a good time, and were not interested in politics.

Tiernan is "dissatisfied" at the treatment he has received at the hands of the SU, which he describes as "a fucking joke."

However, he also feels that it is "impossible to organise a political party in DIT given the present attitude of the Student Union."

Jordon told the DIT Independent that he is "afraid of setting a precedent for outside organisations coming into the college."

He points to a "turf" which apparently forbids political parties to set up stalls or even discuss the possibility of organising a college branch in DIT unless the initiative comes from a DIT student in the first instance.

In other words, if you happen to be interested in joining one of the political parties as a student, you will have to go along and organise the whole operation yourself with no help or funding from the Student Union.

As you will have gathered by now, political parties are not welcome in DIT. Our own Union has decided that for us already. According to Bolston St, SU President, Graham O'Sullivan, "the way it works is, any student who wants to set up a society is more than welcome to, but for political parties it has to be a student in the college that asks them to set up."

However, according to overall SU President, Sarah McGovern, "it is not written anywhere that political parties cannot come in to DIT. It depends on the President of the time."

McGovern agreed that there was a need for cross campus co-ordination of Union policy on the issue of political parties in DIT, and promised that she would "sit down with our [DIT] Union Managers and Sabbatical Officers and get a policy together very soon."

The DIT Student Union was democratically chosen to represent the wishes of the students who elected them in the first place.

It is not unreasonable to expect SU representatives to behave in the manner in which they were elected.

If members of this college want to set up or belong to a political party of their own choice, they can do so, without saying that they should be able to do so with the support, not the opposition of their Student Union. Additional reporting by Lisa Denney.
... students and politics

No new capitation fees please

As student union elections draw closer, Thomas Felle looks at the possible candidates for overall DITSU President

Kevin Street Site President Vincent Dooley said he would love to be Overall President

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Politics suffers from apathy among DIT students

Opinion by Thomas Felle

When UCD first moved to their now infamous campus in Belfield, a great debate in the Senate went on as to why a campus that was student proof should be designed.

After the riots in Paris in the late 60s, and the student liberation movement here in the early 70s, when conscripts were still illegal at UDI was first finding its feet, it was felt that a campus where no student body of any mass could congregate would be most beneficial.

No such requests are being fought on by Grangegorman.

Quite simply, there is no need for such a request, as DIT students wouldn't even bother turning up to a meeting such important minds.

Political parties have never thrived in the Institute.

Far from the student political epicentre of the world that is UCD, a few hardly attended meetings of a Ogra Fianna Fail and young Fine Gael once a year are all that any one ever seems to manage to do.

To be fair, the FFers have in the past managed a few more than badly attended meetings, however this year they haven't even managed that.

There is no radical socialist party, there is no radical right wing party, there is no Monster Raving Looney party.

Quite simply there is no thriving student democracy.

Student elections are not fought on policies or on a political basis, rather they are fought on personalities, and resemble popularity contests more than political debates.

Electing to national student government (as the term unwittingly), while it is large, still illegal and the student representative voting system that this part of the school has to offer the students, howev­er is just to pay for expenses, and over crowded city cen­tres student accommodation will do well. Of course that sounds a lot easier than it actually will be in practice.

More realistic vote grabbing soundbites will include moves to take the quality assessment of lecturers one step further and admit that there are bad lecturers in DIT.

A move to harmonise the faculties’ nights out instead of college nights out may also bring in votes, as would real commitments on sports facilities, including deadlock lines for completion of moves to Grangegorman facilities within the lifetime of the office.

Democratic, is fundamentally flawed.

There is another element, which has perhaps inadvertently led to a lack of interest in student politics. Student Unions do now represent a political party out of Social and Cultural budgets.

Politics is part of democracy, it is not the only part. Statesman like solilo­quies of “flawed pedagogues” will never be heard echo around the corridors of DIT student power.

There is also a different, which may have inadvertently led to a lack of interest in student politics. Student Unions do not represent political parties out of Social and Cultural budgets.

Politics is part of democracy, it is not the only part. While consensus is part of democracy, it is not the only part. Statesman like solilo­quies of “flawed pedagogues” will never be heard echo around the corridors of DIT student power.

There is another element, which has perhaps inadvertently led to a lack of interest in student politics. Student Unions do now represent a political party out of Social and Cultural budgets.

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Michelle McCauley ruled out she would be running

But what are the real issues facing any would be candidate this year? The burning issue is accommodation. Any candidate that can answer the though questions with original yet high­ly practical solutions and alternatives to over priced and over crowded city cen­tres student accommodation will do well. Of course that sounds a lot easier than it actually will be in practice.

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Book examines survival of companies

By Samantha Rowntree

JANUARY saw the launch of two new books that are of survival to large faculties in the college. The first is particularly relevant to the business faculty. The Tanaiste, Mr. McKinnon, praised the work by Anto Kerins and the newly appointed DIT Societies organiser, Anita Conway.

The book examines a medium sized European company in the footwear manufacturing sector which has been under pressure in recent years but one success factor in this company is that the book is Dubarry Ireland.

President Goldsmith welcomed the Tanaiste, Mr. McKinnon, who praised the book. The Tanaiste reiterated this praise saying, "I am delighted to launch this book that will be a valuable resource for invaluable insights into the experiences of a representative group of European companies operating in an extremely competitive manufacturing sector and how with the right approach, each has survived."

Ms. Hanvey acknowledged the changes that the Irish business environment has undergone. Companies have moved from job shortages to people shortages, where efficiency and competitiveness are fundamental to business survival; where competitors are as likely to be foreign as local. Therefore, I feel that the publication of this book is very timely."

Dr. Matt Hussey, Director of the Science faculty at Kevin Street had his book launch on 13th January at the Elliot Building in the city at present.

"The purpose of this position is to promote and develop societies within the DIT. Anita Conway is 23 and is the newly appointed DIT Societies Organiser.

Anita is from Dublin a graduate of Leisure Management Celbridge Brugh Street 1997. She has been working in areas administration, sales and has returned from a year in Australia, where she worked as a functions co-ordinator in the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Anita has been employed to develop, promote and assist societies and to work with the College in order to organise inter-campus events. She is looking to develop a DIT drama society, debating society, music society, etc.

The recommendations of the DIT development plan are that Kevin Street will become home to the Faculty of Science, Aungier Street to the Faculty of Business, Celbridge Brugh Street to the Faculty of Tourism and Food Science and that Bolton Street will become home to the Faculty of Engineering.

There have been rumours that the site at Chatham Row may be moved to Dublin. However, when contacted by The DIT Independent, Robert O'Sullivan, the Secretary of DIT said, "there are no plans to dispose of any DIT property at this point". Also, according to DITSU in consultation with DIT Social Students, there are no plans to displace any social or cultural events should be happening but do the students want it?

Anita will be working closely with the DIT student union and will have regular visits to each individual campus.

Anita is based in DITSU head office and her mobile number is 087-5113744. Any ideas that you may have or just to let her know how you think society is doing.

£17m for new campus

From page 1: "It has not been officially decided where they will relocate but the move is expected within the next three years."

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MARCH 2000

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JON PLEASED WIMMIN - Mono, Dublin - 9th

DANNY HOWELLS - Sir Henry's, Cork - 14th

STEVE THOMAS - Dolan's Warehouse, Limerick - 22nd

STEVEN M'CREERY & COLIN TEVENDALE [THE TUNNEL] - Cuba, Galway - 28th

GONZALO - UCD, Dublin - 30th
With DIT’s Rag Week fast approaching, The Independent gives you the lowdown on all the madness and mayhem. All proceeds will go to Sight Savers International and the National Council for the Blind.

### Aungier Street

**Monday, February 21st**
- **11.00am**: Indoor Football Tournament in the YMCA on Aungier Street.
- **1.00pm**: Canteen Madness including live music and a Tequila and Taco competition.
- **3.00pm**: ‘Who wants to be a drunken Bastard’ in Mono Lounge. Similar in style and content to Chris Tarrent’s popular quiz show but this way you get drunk for free and you don’t get to be a millionaire.
- **8.00pm**: Celebrations kick off in the Garda Club on Harrington Street with free pint extravaganza sponsored by Guinness.
- **9.00pm**: Table quiz with top prizes including a TV.
- **10.00pm**: Hypnotist show which offers you the opportunity to humiliate yourself.
- **11.00pm**: Thank God 4 Guinness Ball in the Garda club.

**Tuesday, February 22nd**
- Chill out in the common area all day with all the coolest video releases. Refreshments provided. Pool and Table soccer competitions.
- **9.00pm**: Crazy Nite in Mono Club including the infamous ‘Sticky Bum’ contest followed by the Romeo and Juliet Ball. All pints £2.00, all shots £2.00 and Aftershock £1.50 plus nightly promotions.

**Wednesday, February 23rd**
- Rag Trip to exotic far-flung destination. Bus times to be confirmed.

**Thursday, February 24th**
- Rag Ball - the Point Theatre-Cross campus fertilisation project.

### Bolton Street

**Monday**
- **11.00am**: Live DJ in the common room
- Launch of Rag Mag/Iron stomach competition in the social area
- **1.00pm**: Juniper live in the social area
- **2.00pm**: Three-legged pub crawl starting in Bodkins on Dorset St
- **5.00pm**: Drinks promotions in Bodkins and Four Seasons
- **8.00pm**: Traffic Light Ball in Frazers

**Tuesday**
- **10.00am**: Pre Rag Trip drinks in Bodkins
- **11.00am**: Buses leave for Scooby Doo Rag Trip which will be taking in 3 night clubs. For those who aren’t brave enough for the Rag Trip there will be a Live DJ in the common room
- Live band in the Social area.
- **1.00pm**: Comedian in the social area
- **5.00pm**: Drinks promotions in Bodkins

**Wednesday**
- **10.00am**: Breakfast drinks promotion for Rag Trip survivors
- **11.00am**: Live DJ in common room
- Live Jazz band in common area
- **1.00pm**: Guinness Pulsation in Common Room
- **8.00pm**: Missing In Action in Temple Theatre. Admission free with Bolton Street Student card

**Thursday**
- **11.00am**: Live DJ in common room
- Slave Auction of Staff and Lecturers in social area. Also head shaving and waxing
- **1.00pm**: Hypnotist in Social Area
- **3.00pm**: Pre-Ball promotions in Bodkins and Four Seasons pub.
- **7.30pm**: Buses leave from Frazers on O’Connell St for The Point

**Friday**
- **11.00am**: Videos in Common area
- **2.00pm**: Beer promotions in the Goalpost
Kevin Street

Monday
1.00pm: Live DJ in the Snackery
3.00pm: Videos in the Snackery
6.00pm: Planet Murphy's night with Guinness promotions and party games.
8.00pm: Karaoke with 1 TV and a stereo to give away
10.00pm: Woodsie
12.00pm: DJ

Tuesday
11.00am: Rag Trip
1.00pm: DJ - the Snackery

Wednesday
12.00pm: Live band Rising in the Snackery
1.30pm: Comedians
6.00pm: Poker Classic in The Palace
10.00pm: The Pod with Al Gibbs

Thursday
1.00pm: Live DJ in the Snackery.
2.00pm: Gunge Tank
3.00pm: Finals of Pool Competition
4.30pm: Zak Powers,

Hypnotist, in The Palace
7.30pm: Buses to the Point

Cathal Brugha St

Monday
12.00pm: Rag week launch in common room with live DJ, games and Who wants to be a Millionaire?
3.00pm: Kegs and Comedians in the Sidewalk.
8.00pm: Romeo and Juliet Ball in the Sidewalk with Guinness promotion

Tuesday
10.00am: Alan Gogarty in the Sidewalk.
1.00pm: Scooby Doo Mystery Tour

Wednesday
12.00pm: Austin Powers video - the Common room
2.00pm: Ice Skating in Phibsborough £2.50
8.00pm: Planet Murphys

Thursday
12.00pm: Fuusball Tournament - common room
2.00pm: £1 a pint in Brannigans

6.00pm: Pre-ball Promotions in the Sidewalk.
8.00pm: The Rag Ball in The Point

Friday
Videos in the common room all day

Mountjoy Sq

Monday
12.00pm: Pulsation in the canteen (Guinness promo)
2.00pm: DJ Djonny Boyle
5.00pm: Mystery Keg (Guinness promo)
8.00pm: Crazy night in The Big Tree (free kegs of Guinness)
Evening: Traffic Light ball in Frazers - free (Guinness promo)

Tuesday
Rag Trip

Wednesday
12.00pm: Djonny Boyle
2.00pm: Sink the Black Pool Competition
5.00pm: College DJs local pub
8.00pm: Planet Murphy's night with Guinness promotions and party games.

Thursday
12.00pm: Seamus Fogarty
2.00pm: Playstation Challenge in Shakespeare (Pints & Bottle of Guinness - £2)
5.00pm: Pre-ball madness in Shakespeare
8.00pm: The Rag Ball

By Malachy Clerkin

"People don't go blind by the million. Each of them, as a human being, goes blind as a personal tragedy." Sir John Wilson, Founder of Sight Savers International, who was blinded as a child.

Sight Savers International is the UK's leading charity working to prevent and cure blindness in developing countries and bring hope to people who will never see again.

Founded in 1950, Sight Savers has restored sight to four million people and treated 45 million others for potentially blinding conditions. Sight Savers currently operates in over 20 developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Sight Savers' programmes are developed in collaboration with local partners with the aim of establishing sustainable services, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

It has helped to pioneer many innovations such as:
- The introduction of integrated education in the developing world, allowing blind children to flourish in mainstream schools;
- The comprehensive eye care model, providing entire districts with a complete range of eye care services, including eye tests, diagnosis, treatment and education and training for the incurably blind;
- Setting up the developing world's first production line for low-cost stitches and lenses used in cataract surgery, bringing down the global price of cataract surgery.

Sight Savers have also built their reputation on cost-effectiveness.

For just 50p, Sight Savers can prevent a person from going blind from River Blindness in West Africa and £15 will pay for a cataract operation to restore someone's sight.
AIB on Campus

For all your financial needs, please contact your local student officers.

Julie Martin - DIT Kevin Street and Aungier Street
Ciara Toomey - DIT Mountjoy Square, Cathal Brugha Street and Bolton Street

Opening Hours

DIT Kevin Street: 10am - 12.30am daily
DIT Aungier Street: 1.30pm - 3.30pm daily
DIT Mountjoy Square: 3.00pm - 4.00pm (Monday)
10.30am - 11.30 am (Tuesday)

DIT Cathal Brugha Street: 2.15pm - 3.30pm (Thursday)

DIT Bolton Street: 9.30am - 11.45am and 1-2pm
(Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
10.30am - 11.30am and 1-1.30 (Tuesday)
9.30am - 12.45pm (Tuesday)
By Rachel Collins

The internet has become an integral part of our everyday lives. From work and study to leisure and entertainment, the internet has endless possibilities - if you know what you're looking for.

Here at the DIT Independent, we know how frustrating it can be, looking for that perfect website to while away the hours, so we've found a few of the weirder and more wonderful websites to keep you amused during those boring computer classes!

Firstly, there is the wonderfully weird (and somewhat Portacabin-like) site at http://www.toradamodolls.com

A Wacky Web World Winner, this site is totally devoted to the world of the toilet. The site contains more information than you would imagine possible to have about toilets. Books about toilets, websites looking into tourist toilets, cartoons of toilets which are available for you to buy and enjoy in the comfort of your own bathroom, no doubt! They have movies about toilets, creative uses for toilets, games and contests, a notice board for your thoughts on toilets and lots more! The site is bright, accessible, and very user friendly (including the survey on whether the toilet seat should be left up or down!) Worth a look if you have a spare half hour of free internet access!

Next is the completely absurd "The page that turns you into a cabbage" at http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/2 144.html

This is the type of website that makes you worry about the sanity of a lot of internet surfers! This site offers you the unique opportunity to, you've guessed it, turn yourself into a cabbage at the push of a button or a brussel sprout, or a cauliflower at that. The site contains pictures of cabbages for your pleasure. In the comfort of your own bathroom, no.Maskudden you have the pleasure of your business - Usit or Sayit? Usit may be the most pointless Porcelain Palace at http://www.fartfarm.com/crapagram.html

A site for those of you who find these sights too juvenille, there is the ultra-classy "Crap-A-gram" site on http://www.fartfarm.com/crapagram.html

This site gives you the pleasure of selecting a crap-a-gram for a loved one and sending it to them by email. Choices include the regular Crappy Birthday, the seasonal Crappy Christmas and of course, the essential EAST shit and Die-a-gram! With these loving messages, every crap-a-gram comes with a picture of a little pile of crap to show the special people in your life just how much you care! While we're on the subject of emails, another weird site worth a look is an offering from those thoughtful people at Virtual Designs.

VOODOO DOLL

Voodoo Doll at http://www.virtual-designs.com/2/onlinedemos/voodoo/doll/ voodoo.htm gives you the opportunity of creating a voodoo doll, mutilating it with pins, a blade and a candle and then emailing it to one of your less favourite people. When the person opens the email, the doll appears on screen and is subjected to a reamactment of your torture. We did a test run at the DIT Independent and were a bit spooked by how creepy the end result is.

On a lighter note, the ridiculous offering from "The Really Big Button that doesn't do anything" is sure to cheer you up at http://www.gizela.scaps.com/ebay/button.htm This site is devoted to a big red button that does absolutely nothing when you push it - confused? Me too, though obviously not thousands of other internet users who leave messages about this button on the site. Originally launched as a "Mystery Site", it has now become a novelty address and contains hundreds of reviews, articles and other pointless, barmy stuff! Voted one of the top 5% of all websites by point.com (why, I don't know) it's worth a look, if only to prove to yourself that there are sadder people out there!

For those of you who prefer nothing more than a day spent slacking off, there is "I Should Be Working" at http://www.ishouldbe working.com

Created for those who have a dozen better things to be doing with their time, this site has heaps of useless information, games, jokes and links, but its star feature is the Panic Button. This button is located at the top of every page and once pressed, quickly transports you to a new website, should you feel like a lecturer make a surprise appearance - genius!

One of the funniest sites on the internet has to be Joe Cartoon at http://www.joejcar­ eaton.com This is a disgustingly humorous an­ imated site offering you the chance to put a frog in a blender, then watch the results as you turn up the power. The Fish in a Bowl is another classic, as you can freeze it, electrify it, pour acid on it, all the while watching it shout abuse at you. You can send lemmings plummeting off cliff tops, then give them marks out of ten for their triple backflip or somersault. The site has loads of great cartoons that you can save as screen­ savers and also a few brilliant animated emails to give your friends a giggle too.

Finally, we couldn't end a list of weird websites without including rotten dot com at http://www.rotten.com This site is pretty self explanatory and should probably be avoided for at least an hour after eating. It describes itself as an archive of disturbing illustration and it isn't lying. It includes a link to its Celebrity Morgue which contains photos (generally from autopsies and police reports) of dead celebrities. Marilyn Monroe, Kurt Cobain, Che Guevara and John F.Kennedy are all included (Watch out for the F.K.K. photos, they're especially gruesome). There are also links to rotten columns, one of the main ones being This day in rotten history. A feature which changes daily, giving an account of rotten things occurring on the particular date throughout history. Definitely only for the bloody minded among you.

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WEBSITES

By Ciara O'Brien

WE'VE all considered jetting off to a foreign country to work for a few months, and what better time to do it than in your college years? Every year, more than 8,000 students take the chance and go to the United States on a Work and Travel Programme. New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco - take your pick. As long as you have the money and the initiative, what's stopping you?

But first, you have to decide which travel company is going to have the pleasure of your business - Usit or Sayit? Usit may be the most well known student travel company, but Sayit can also offer a pretty good deal when it comes to J1 visas. The basic package is very competitive: Sayit's programme fee is cheaper at £176 than Usit's charge of £199. The US Embassy fee doesn't differ between the two, although Usit list the fee in dollars, $45 to be exact, and Sayit charge £35.

Both programmes offer insurance packages, including up to £600 on the cost of a return ticket, should the unthinkable happen, and you have to return home to repeat an exam? Sayit offer their basic insurance for £80, while Usit charge £99. But the maximum value that Usit will pay out is considerably more than Sayit's.

Naturally, flights are separate. A return flight to Boston or New York with Sayit would cost £320 plus £42 flight tax, bringing the total cost of the programme to £659. For a flight with Usit, the cheapest published prices would work out at £285 for the flight and £42 tax, making the total cost to £650, marginally cheaper than Sayit. But these prices could increase to £710 for the same flight. For both companies, flights further west are more expensive.

Perhaps one of the advantages that Sayit has over its rival is the ways in which the visas can be booked. Finally, student travel companies are starting to take advantage of the abundance of technology that the 20th century gave us. Sayit now offer an online booking form, useful if you really don't feel like queuing for hours in the consul. Unfortunately, Usit have yet to adopt this system, as students may have already discovered!

But a major improvement Usit have made, is the introduction of telephone registration for second time applicants.

At least those who spent a night sleeping outside Usit offices to get their first visa will now be able to register from the comfort of their home. This has been implemented because of the huge demand for second visas.

Calls will be taken from February until all the places have been filled. After this, a short waiting list will be taken in case of cancellations. Successful applicants will get their registration form through the post, which must be filled out and returned to Usit.

One small point: only one registration will be taken per call, so there's no point in five people cramming themselves into a phone box to register on the one call.

Sayit also offers second J1 visas to those who have previously travelled on their J1 Visa programme. Anyone else is considered a first-time applicant, so if you've already held a Visa with Usit.

Like all things in life, there are some rules for applicants. Usit requires that you are eighteen before June 1 of this year, and Sayit will not take applications from those over the age of 28.

Both companies state that applicants must be in studying a full-time course in a college, university or third level institution for a minimum of two years. In other words, part timers need not apply. Usit also stipulates that the programme is only open to those studying for a higher degree or a professional diploma in an academic field.

But if you meet the criteria, and you feel like a change for the summer, in the words of the great Nike giants, "Just Do It!"
Not just for kids

Jamie Hannigan looks at the latest film releases

AMERICAN BEAUTY
Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey) is a 42-year-old suburban loser. He hates his job and his wife and daughter despise him - not that Lester likes himself all that much.

When introduced at a party to a man he's already knows, he says - without a trace of irony - "it's okay. I wouldn't remember me either." But as we find out in the opening minutes, "It's never too late to change."

Fresh from nabbing the top three awards at the Golden Globes (Best Screenplay, Best Director and Best Film), American Beauty arrives on this side of the Atlantic amidst a wave of critical accolades. But you know all this. You probably heard the same thing before: the white-collar version of the "shagadelic" sequel to Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me.

It's not that Lester is the same bumbling loser as before: the white-collar version of The Sixth Sense and was at what you got.

Ignore comparisons to the first film. American Beauty isn't as good as they say. It's fractionally better.

****

TOY STORY 2
It seems bizarre to think that Toy Story 2 was originally destined to be a straight-to-video release, the same as every other Disney sequel. Apart from the fact that this is (The Iron Giant aside) probably the best children's film of the year, but it's in the running for the best film of the year, period.

Ignore comparisons to the original - this is better. It's funnier, darker and more spectacular.

While I really like the recent Star Wars film, I can't help but feel that Lucas could have taken a leaf out of Pixar's book - as it is, Toy Story 2 has more thrills, spills and that that is The Phantom Menace ever had.

The story has toy cowboy Woody (voiced by Tom Hanks) stolen away from the sanctuary of Andy's house by an obsessive toy collector. Woody, it transpires, is a valuable antique toy, and is worth a lot of money to a museum in Japan.

A team of the other toys, headed by Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen) form a rescue mission which takes them out of the suburbs and into the big city.

Trie as it may sound, this is a "family" movie that can actually be watched by the whole family.

Don't be put off by the fact that Disney also marketed Inspector Gadget for the same audience - Toy Story 2 aims to change.

****1/2

HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL
There's something about truly, truly dumb movies that appeal to everyone.

The sort of movie where a person will wander off by themselves to explore the basement of a haunted house. The sort of movie where the haunted house in question was a former mental institute.

When introduced at a party to a man he's already knows, he says - without a trace of irony - "it's okay. I wouldn't remember me either." But as we find out in the opening minutes, "It's never too late to change."

Trie as it may sound, this is a "family" movie that can actually be watched by the whole family.

Don't be put off by the fact that Disney also marketed Inspector Gadget for the same audience - Toy Story 2 aims to change.

****1/2

Toy Story 2 - probably the best children's film of this year

Video releases

by Jenni Duggan

Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me

Austin Powers is back! Yeah Baby Yeah! The Spy Who Shagged Me is the "shagadelic" sequel to Austin Powers. International Man of Mystery.

And has just been released on video.

Once again Mike Myers is back as Austin, his archenemy Dr Evil and this time also the evil secret agent Fat Bastard. Heather Graham is Austin's latest love interest, aptly named Felicity Shagwell.

Dr Evil also has a new accomplice his pint size double, Mini Me. He gets back to his old tricks, once again planning world domination.

To keep Austin from getting in the way, he travels back in time to 1969 to capture Austin's mojo, threatening to leave the psycodelic hero shagadelic forever.

Uncharacteristically of sequels, The Spy Who Shagged Me is actually better and much more polished than the first. It may be juvenile toilet humour but I dare anyone to watch this and not to laugh uncontrollably.

****

Cruel Intentions

Cruel Intentions stars Ryan Phillippe and Sarah Michelle Geller (Buffy: The Vampire Slayer) as Sebastian and Kathryn, evil-minded stepbrother and sister in this tale of seduction and betrayal.

Sebastian is a callous and calculating bored rich kid who passes his time seducing unsuspecting girls. Bored of preying on what he describes as "insipid Manhattan debutantes", he wants a challenge.

His equally malicious stepsister has just the challenge, dedicated virgin and general goody two shoes, Annette (Reese Witherspoon), the headmaster's daughter.

The pair embark on a diabolical sexual wager, if Sebastian fails in this conquest, Kathryn gets his Jaguar Roadster and if he succeeds he gets Kathryn.

The film sets out to shock the audience with its innuendoes and erotic dialogue. However while doing this, at times it tries too hard almost forgetting the plot.

At times this film is slightly tedious but is on the whole enjoyable.

***1/2
A YEAR and a half into my course in Aungier St and by now I know the route to college so well that I think I could get there safely blindfolded. I travel to college in more or less the same way as everyone else. The only difference is that instead of hopping on the bus or the train, I hop on my wheelchair.

It takes me approximately twenty minutes to get to college, and although I may be exposed to the elements, at least I don’t have to contend with the dreadful traffic jam. My journey is usually unproblematic.

The paths around Dublin city have got a lot better over the past few years, and travelling as it is, it is getting harder and harder to complain about them.

The only problem I do face sometimes is construction work on the roads and paths, but I never have much difficulty finding alternative routes.

It wasn’t always like that, however. My old wheelchair used to shiver with fear when faced with a curb, and travelling long distances was out of the question considering it moved as fast as an obese slug.

Fortunately I acquired a new wheelchair, the Storm XS (they always give them fancy names), two years ago. It travels longer and faster than most wheelchairs, and has an ingenious device called the curb climber, which helps tackle high paths. This wheelchair has enabled me to travel freely throughout the city and has undoubtedly made my life a lot easier.

That’s not to say that my path is always obstacle-free, of course. Although the streets and lanes of the city are fairly easily negotiated, I still have buildings to contend with.

Most old buildings are inaccessible, but what is even more frustrating is seeing new buildings being built without adequate facilities to cater for the disabled despite it being required by law.

It reminds me of a comedian I saw on television who couldn’t understand why the fireman had to slide down long poles when called to an emergency. “Just build bloody bungalows,” he shouted.

Aungier St is a welcome exception. It greets me every morning with a twisting ramp and two electronic doors at the front entrance.

The doors throughout the building are not too narrow, so I can’t use that excuse when I crash into them and every floor is accessible with the use of the elevator.

The lift can only be operated with a key, which is only given to people who need it and lecturers who are allergic to climbing stairs.

Therefore I find myself sharing the lift with different lecturers everyday, and they all ask the same set of questions.

How fast does that wheelchair go? Do you have to recharge the battery often? And, how long does it take the battery to recharge? I’m seriously considering printing out the answers and blue-tacking them to the door of the lift.

But it is easy to be cynical. Any step to make disabled students’ lives a bit easier is of course welcomed, and it should be remembered that not every disability involves the use of a wheelchair.

It was encouraging to see that all disabilities from visual to mental, to the often more hidden disabilities such as dyslexia and epilepsy, were included in this belated policy.
Cork cruise to victory in the second round of the Sigerson Cup

UCC footballers proved too strong for the DIT as they eventually cruised to a 0-12 to 0-6 victory in the second round of the Sigerson Cup in Belfield on Wednesday 9th February.

However things mightn’t have been so easy for the Leesiders had the DIT managed to convert one of their many goal opportunities.

Both Ollie Murphy and Finbar Kelly could have left the game with a goal a piece for the DIT while a few goal mouth scrambles would have resulted in a DIT goal on another day.

But that said, it was clear that UCC were going to be a daunting task right from the off. They played like a team who know each other well and found men with comparative ease throughout the match.

Clearly their fantastic victories in the Cork and Munster Club Championships has stood to them, and will do throughout the Sigerson Cup competition.

The news of the fall of their near neighbours and reigning Sigerson champions, Tralee IT, will have widened their victory smiles.

But they will have to up their game for the Finals weekend in Galway if they are to progress beyond the quarter or semi-final.

While they played some crisp, and direct attacking football, and took some great scores, they were exposed at the fullback line on a number of occasions and were fortunate not to concede a few goals.

On the other hand with players of the calibre of Liam Murphy and Keith Morun in their forward line they will be in with a fighting chance.

From the throw-in Murphy lead the way and scored four of his teams six points in the first half showing great accuracy from distance with either foot.

Despite playing with the wind DIT found themselves a point down at half time, 0-6 to 0-5, but were by no means out of the game.

Ronan Fitzsimmons kept DIT in the game with a virtuoso display.

Ollie Murphy (No 13) in action at the Sigerson Cup

Finbar Kelly (No 14)

He put himself about the field getting in vital hits and kicked three of the points of the game for the DIT.

The second half saw the DIT put some extended periods of pressure on UCC but their lesser experience and understanding of each other as a team let them down.

Had they taken their points instead of going for goals at such an early stage they may well have pegged back UCC.

But UCC played the game perfectly, absorbing the pressure and hitting DIT on the break, kicking some fine points in the process.

In the end the core may have been somewhat flatter but UCC undoubtedly deserved their place in the quarterfinals.

DIT - J O’Hara; R Brady, D Cahill, I Kearney; J Rafter, P Giles, N Cleere; J Cullinane, J Mooney; E Crennan (0-1), A O’Brien, R Fitzsimmons (0-3), O Murphy (0-1, free), F Keely, S Canning (0-1, free), Subs: J Brogan for Brady, G Kilarmacy for Crennan, P Kelly for Cullinane.

UCC - P Morris; P Hanley, D Wiseman, S Mac An tSaoi; P Galvin, A Lynch, D Reidy; E Havranek, M O’Shea, K Morun (0-4), B Sheehan, B O’Sullivan; M Cahill, L Murphy (0-5, 2 frees), I Twiss (0-2).
**Karting championship a great spectacle**

The final round of the DIT Karting Championship took place on 15 December. At the end of round one, there were 50 drivers (ten from each college) within three seconds of each other, all looking for their place on the DIT team.

The chairman of the consecutive colleges were also laying side bets on their college to take the coveted DIT Constructors Trophy.

The Bolton St committee were extremely confident after winning the Inter-varsity championship earlier in the year.

There were four quarter final races with twelve drivers in each and the top 6 drivers advanced to the semi finals.

It was at this stage the spectators witnessed the biggest crash of the day, with Karl Bonner on the outside of three karts going into the second corner getting it all wrong and spinning.

With eight karts right behind at 45 mph a pile up ensued. Karl limped away from the accident with extensive bruising, the main blow coming to his ego.

The semi-finals were just as intriguing. Race leader, Gerald Walsh span out with a blown tire two laps from the chequered flag. It was this killer blow that gave Bolton St 2nd place in the DIT standings behind Aungier St.

The final was a great spectacle for the 70-odd spectators. Simon Clarke was on pole position with a time of 1 minute 55.8 seconds, with amateur driver Mark Muckintyre in second place.

Aungier St already had the constructors championship tied up with 6 of the 12 finals and so the real battle was for 2nd place. That was between Cathal Brugha St and Bolton St.

The final was over 18 kilometres and saw Simon Clarke winning well.

He also came close to recording Kart City's fastest lap ever, failing by just 0.09 seconds.

The drivers that made the DIT Team are Simon Clarke, Peter Kiely, Paul Taylor, Ray Nangle (all Aungier St) Mark Muckintyre and Gerald Walsh (both Cathal Brugha St). Gerald Walsh made the team on the fastest lap rule.

There is no Bolton St driver on the team because they are Inter-varsity champions and are obliged to enter their own team.

The Inter-varsities are on the 12th of March, and the DIT Independent will bring you the results along with analysis of them in our March issue.

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**Athletes take gold**

By Malachy Clerkin

The DIT sports teams recently took gold in the National HESF cross-country championships which were held on the grounds of Athlone IT.

On a windswept, rain-soaked afternoon in Westmeath, conditions were atrocious. The ankle-high muck combined with a series of steep hills to make the tough task of beating quality opposition tougher still.

In the main race, DIT's Eugene O'Neill kept himself at the head of the field in order to avoid the worst of the underfoot muck.

With two laps left in the race, he shared the lead with Colin Coyne on Waterford IT. It was left to these two to battle it out for glory.

Coyne was wary of Eugene's finishing speed and attempted to make a break for home with one lap remaining. Eugene reacted quickly and overcame the Waterford man to take his first title of the season.

DIT easily captured the team prize by finishing first, fourth, fifth and eighth. Paul Campbell, Brian Byrne and Aidan Doyle were the valiant heroes who filled those places.

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**TaeKwon-Do attracts large numbers**

By Malachy Clerkin

The Taekwon-Do club in Kevin St is one of the longest running clubs in the DIT. It has been run by numerous instructors over the years and is one of the strongest and most popular clubs in the college.

Down through the years, it has attracted large numbers of students and continues to do so. Last year it were voted Club of the Year and are "currently trying to build from that platform", according to club chairman, Owen O'Connor. The current instructors are Kevin Hannigan (4th degree black belt) and Cormac Laelien (2nd degree black belt). Cormac is actually a past student who started his training in Kevin St.

Kevin St are running an inter-varsity competition on Saturday February 17. Entrants will include students from UCD, Trinity, Cork IT, Dundalk IT and Carlow IT. It is expected that the number of participants will be just over sixty.

The competition will consist of three parts:

1. Patterns: This is where the student performs set movements against imaginary opponents. It is a process which teaches the student to focus his/her defences and attacks in a coordinated manner.

2. Sparring: As the name suggests, this is where competitors get to put their training into practice and enter into a ring against a fellow competitor.

This part of the competition is broken down into weight divisions and groups of belt colours (ie. to avoid a yellow belt vs a black belt etc.).

3. Destruction: The final part of the tournament consists of competitors using a combination of strength and technique to break wood.

The thickness of the wood is increased until only one individual remains who can break it.
All right, go if you must, but don't come back here pissed.

The one with the atmosphere
High failure rates a worry for engineers

By Jennifer Duggan
One in three engineering students in the institute fail sessional exams.

According to a confidential report, 8.76 per cent of students who entered within the Faculty of Engineering has one of the highest failure rates out of all the faculties within DIT.

The DIT Independent has seen a copy of the draft report, which has been prepared by the Examinations and Assessments Committee of the Academic Council.

It breaks down the exam results of all courses in all faculties over the past four years, giving the percentage of students who passed exams each year.

According to the report, the overall pass rate for the entire faculty of Engineering for the 1998/99 college year was 68.73 per cent, which is almost 15 per cent lower than any of the other faculties.

Overall pass rates for the past academic year are between 85 and 90 per cent. In part time engineering, the figure was even lower, at only 34 per cent of students passing exams.

While the high failure rates do not affect every course within the Engineering faculty, there are a number of both single and diplomas courses which have above average failure rates.

Among the degree courses, one of the highest failure rates are the Mechanical Engineering degree, with only 56.25 per cent of second year students passing their exams last year. Also in there is the Mechanical Engineering Degree, with only 28.57 per cent of second year students passing their exams last year and only half of students in their final year of the course passing.

The Building Services Engineering Diploma also has a high failure rate with only 58.33 per cent of third year students passing and it also has the highest rate of failure among final year students with only 9.19 per cent passing last year.

There are also high failure rates within some of the engineering diploma courses. The Technician Certificate/Diploma in Civil Engineering course has only a 48.15 per cent pass rate in last year's first year exams. The Certificate/Diploma in Building Services Engineering also had a low pass rate with less than half of first year students passing their exams last year and only half of the first year students studying the Certificate/Diploma in Transport Engineering/ Motor Industry Management passed their exams last year.

However Don Byrne, the acting Head of the Department of Engineering, denies that these figures are accurate and says that they had not yet been checked by the individual departments.

He believes that the pass rate for Engineering "could not be that low, they look very wrong and their validity must be questioned". A spokesperson for DIT also added the results were not binding and as they were not final, and could be "easily taken out of context" added the spokesperson.

Other courses to suffer badly from high failure rates are the languages and business studies courses in Kevin Street, where last year only 37 per cent of second year students passed sessional exams.

In an article in this week's Campus Times / The Irish Times, a spokesperson for DIT was quoted as saying that the report was a work in progress. A spokesperson for DIT said the results were not drastically different to those of other courses. "The regulations are student friendly, there are reasonable explanations for each of the cases," added the spokesperson.

College and SU may face action over funding rule

Exclusive - By Thomas Felle
The Students' Union and DIT could face legal action if they fail to change their so called "no funding of political parties' societies" stance.

A motion by the DIT Young Fine Gael Society at the party's young AGM has condemned the "anti-political examination standards and structures created and maintained by the communist one-party state of DIT's unions throughout DIT".

The motion also called on its national executive to seek legal advice regarding the status and funding of branches and if a case is viable, pursue the matter through the courts.

David Jenkins, Vice Chairperson of DIT Young Fine Gael, the branch that proposed the motion, said he was appalled at the treatment he has received from the Students' Union in trying to set up a political society.

"The union want to be the only voice to represent students. They are trying to discourage people to participate in politics, which is in direct conflict with the right to free speech."

He made the point that he could set up a coffee and biscuits society and happily be funded, however, should they talk about politics the money would be withdrawn.

"This attitude is discriminatory, it is completely untenable. We want all political parties to be funded appropriately," added the spokesperson.

Joanne Harmon is National Youth Officer with the party. She says it is not just a problem with DIT, it is a problem amongst all ITs.

"Institutes of Technology have a very poor record of freedom of speech, yet their student representatives expect to be accommodated when they want to meet to discuss policies with TDs and Ministers."

"Students Unions like DIT must allow students to have freedom of speech," she added.

"The Youth Officer said that she has tried to help students set up societies when requested, but found a real problem coming into DIT to set up stands on clubs and societies."

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Results of survey on SU satisfaction: page 13

Correction

In our edition of January 2000 we published a front-page article on the take-up of offers of diploma and certificate courses from DIT last year.

The DIT Independent now accepts the statements attributed to Ms Margaret Nicholl (who was incorrectly described as working in the DIT Admissions Office) were never made by her.

We unreservedly apologise to DIT and its employees (and in particular to Ms Margaret Nicholl) for the distress, embarrassment and inconvenience caused by the article.
All right, go if you must, but don't come back here pissed.

The one with the atmosphere

THE PALACE NIGHTCLUB