Nevin re-elected as DITSU President

BY AISLING O’SULLIVAN

Ciarán Nevin has been re-elected as president of DIT Student Union for the second year in a row.

Election fever hit DIT once again as campaigns, hustings and voting took place across all campuses in a bid to find the new DITSU representatives.

D-day arrived on 3 March and nerves were high when the count began at 11am in Bolton Street. It didn’t take long for the first announcement to be made that Gillian Byrne would be the new class representative convenor of Mountjoy Square.

The counting continued while all the candidates stood nervously beside the stage, watching as each coloured paper was processed. Anthony Handibode was deemed convenor of Cathal Brugha Street with 347 votes and Laura Fagan of Bolton Street was also elected.

When David Rice fell four votes short of the 409 quota on the first round, he waited nervously for another two counts until he was announced as convenor of Kevin Street. He told DITSU TV that he is “really looking forward to working with the students” and enthusiastically added “so let’s go for it!”

The Aungier Street count came next, with the most amount of candidates running for the position. However, in the first count Glenn Fitzpatrick was victorious with 454 votes and finally, Rathmine’s new convenor will be Ciara Smyth.

Vice President of Services and Trading followed with anticipation. Over three thousand students voted in the elections.

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News in brief

Dance Soc to create flashmob

As part of the Special Olympics National Collection Day on Friday 15 April 2011, DIT Dance Society will perform a flashmob to raise awareness.

Flashmobs became popular in recent times and have been used for advertising campaigns, most notably the T-moblie ad. A flash mob involves a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform an unusual and sometimes seemingly pointless act for a brief time and quickly disperse.

The Dance Society plan on getting as many students on board as possible to perform a simple dance routine to Zorba the Greek.

“We hope to get as many people involved as possible to make the flashmob look great for this well deserving cause” said Jennifer Whitehead of the Dance Society.

This year Ireland will send 126 athletes to the games which are taking place in Athens, Greece.

For more information on how to get involved in the flashmob contact jenniferwhitehead19@gmail.com

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By Edel Golden

Graduates of DIT were successful at this year’s Irish Film and Television Awards, walking away with six awards.

DIT graduates Juanita Wilson, Domhnall Gleeson, PJ Dillon and Philip Kampf all won the highest honours in Irish film and television, with Wilson and Gleeson acquiring two awards each.

Domhnall Gleeson, son of renowned Irish actor Brendan Gleeson, won both the Rising Star Award and also Best Actor in a Lead Role on Television for the part he played as Bob Geldof in When Harvey Met Bob. Fans of Harry Potter might also recognise him as Bill Weasley from the latest instalment of the magical saga.

Juanita Wilson won both Best Script and Best Director for her film As I'm Not There, which is based on a Slavenka Drakulic book set in 1990s war-torn Bosnia. She also won an IFTA in 2009 for her film The Door, which was also up for an Oscar in 2010.

PJ Dillon succeeded as Best Director of Photography in the film The Runway which recorded the incident where a South American pilot crash landed in County Cork.

Philip Kampf was awarded for Best Factual Programme for Operation Transformation.

The four DIT graduates were in star-studded company on the night with stars like Kim Cattrall and Pierce Brosnan in attendance at the awards.
Date change for RAG week

The annual raising and giving (RAG) week has been moved to another date due to scheduling conflicts with Mr Hudson.

The decision was made to change the dates on the Wednesday, 2 March, just days before RAG week kicked off.

Eric Fitzgerald, vice president for services and trading, commented: "I’m very confident that it will be bigger and better than ever before, just due to circumstances beyond our control, it had to be rescheduled" and reinforced that ‘it hasn’t been cancelled, it’s just been rescheduled’.

The week will now take place from 11 April with the DIT Ball planned to be on Thursday, 14.

The chosen charity for this year’s RAG week is Citywise.

BEAST to replace annual BAM Ball

For the first time in DIT history more than two societies will join together to host a black tie ball that will replace the annual BAM Ball.

The business and management society will still be involved and will come together with the Engineering, Event, Astronomy and Nutrition societies to bring you the BEAST Ball.

BEAST stands for business, engineering, astronomy science and technology. Head of societies Anita Conway said that there is a special event fund allocated to DIT societies and this year they wanted to ensure that the fund would benefit as many students as possible. Some society members came together and decided that it would be better for them to combine their resources and provide one huge event for DIT students. Conway stated that “because the event is coming from the students there is a real buzz about it, black tie balls aren’t traditional in DIT so they’ll have to work hard but because they have representatives in almost every building it has the potential to be hugely successful.”

Eric Fitzgerald, vice president for services and trading, commented: "I’m very confident that it will be bigger and better than ever before, just due to circumstances beyond our control, it had to be rescheduled” and reinforced that ‘it hasn’t been cancelled, it’s just been rescheduled’.

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DIT win Kazakhstan based IQ quiz show

DIT students have been named the winners of a Kazakhstan based quiz show called IQ. The programme, which is often compared to a University Challenge quiz show, pits teams, from various Institutes of Technology in European countries, against each other.

The programme goes on tour and films the show in different European based institutes. The event was first brought to the attention of DIT by Terry Battles of the DIT International Office and was embraced by DIT due to the number of students from Kazakhstan currently studying in DIT.

DIT was chosen as the featured college for Ireland and students volunteered to take part in teams of three. Brian Gormley, Campus Life Manager, acted as quiz master, challenging the students’ lateral thinking with various logic based questions. The TV crew were in Kazakhstan and went on to film the programme so that viewers saw a seamless version of the quiz programme taking place in several countries at once with DIT obtaining the overall victory.

Speaking to the DIT News, Brian Gormley said that he hopes the college will be participating in the unusual quiz again. "We filmed the show on Paddy’s weekend, and the whole event was quite strange. Especially as they had two Popstars from Kazakhstan who came up on the stage and sang and danced around us between the quiz rounds. But it was great fun, and as a result of doing so well in the Quiz, DIT is now more well known in Kazakhstan than Oxford or MIT.”

Get involved!

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visit: www.facebook.com/dlitcampansnyc or search on facebook

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Eric Fitzgerald, chairman of BAM soc said that the ball will be funded through a combination of ticket sales, society funding and sponsorship, "I think the BEAST Ball can develop into one of the, if not the biggest events on the DIT calendar:' he added.

Organisation of the event is still underway but it is expected to take place at the end of March.
Continued from the front page

for their favourite candidate with Eric Fitzgerald ultimately winning out with 2,416 votes. This will be Fitzgerald’s second term as vice president. “The margin by which I won was a complete and utter shock to me. Simon ran a great campaign and I was really expecting it to be a tight result, one way or the other. When the returning officer announced the result, I couldn’t believe it,” he told the DIT News.

The hotly contested role of vice president of student and academic affairs was announced next with David Keogan winning out with 1,866 votes, three times more than any other candidate received. The Bolton Street student described his surprise at the margin by which he got elected saying “I was over the moon when I heard my name announced. I was completely taken aback by the amount of votes I got.”

As tension reached fever pitch, the final count commenced and a large crowd began to form around the stage. Finally, it was announced that Ciarán Nevin will serve as the student’s president for another term. The former mechanical engineering student received over two thirds of the student vote.

He commented to DIT News “It’s not possible to describe, because you and your team have been working tirelessly for a month and in just a few short words you find out that it all paid off.”

Your 2011/2012 Student Union Representatives

Where did YOUR vote go?

Ciarán Nevin - 2,185
Eric Fitzgerald - 2,416
David Keogan - 1,866
David Rice - 444
Glenn Fitzpatrick - 454
Gillian Byrne - 195
Ciara Smyth - 110
Anthony Handibode - 347

Ciarán Nevin
President

Eric Fitzgerald
Vice President of Services and Trading

David Keogan
Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

David Rice
Kevin Street

Glenn Fitzpatrick
Aungier Street

Laura Fagan
Bolton Street

Gillian Byrne
Mountjoy Square

Ciara Smyth
Rathmines

Anthony Handibode
Cathal Brugha Street

Above: At the count in Bolton Street 3 March 2011. Left: The new DITSU representatives with their campaign team.
Twitterview: with your new DIT SU representatives

We know none of you want to read boring, long winded manifestos. So, we asked YOU the students to come up with some questions for your DIT SU candidates and made them answer in less than 140 characters. Some were random, some were serious... but to they were all questions that DIT students wanted the answers to. Read on to see what they had to say.

Ciarán Nevin, President

Who is your favourite Glee character? The serial killer, who will eventually kill off the rest of the cast, meaning the end of Glee.

What was the hardest part of the whole campaign? The close of the polls. You know that after that you can do no more and yet you will have to wait a day to see how the past month went.

What is your first number one goal if elected? To kick on from this year, hit the ground running from day one next year and to perform as a more effective, efficient officer.

What is your favourite quote of all time? "Kids, you tried your best and failed. The lesson is - never try" - Homer Simpson.

What way did you use social media for your campaign? Nothing too extensive. Just a Facebook page and a few tweets here and there - my campaign team and I did most of the work on the ground!

David Keogan, VP Student & Academic Affairs

Who is your favourite Glee character? Don’t really know any... Finn??

What way did you use social media for your campaign? Facebook Messages and Pages.

What is your favourite quote of all time? "Down with that sort of thing....Careful now!"

What was the hardest part of the whole campaign? Being everywhere at once.

What memory of DIT SU stands out to you? Accepting the Club of the Year Cup at the Sports Awards.

Who do you prefer, Oasis or Blur? Oasis eh noBlur, I mean Oasis... Ahhhh I dunno.

If you could have dinner with one person, dead or alive, who would it be? My Grandad.

Where do you see yourself in five years time? In a good job/ politics

Tell us what your manifesto is all about – in less than 140 characters!! My manifesto is all about building on the successes, and learning from the challenges we faced to create a stronger more informed student body.

Eric Fitzgerald, VP Services & Trading

Who is your favourite Glee character? Whichever one tells them to stop murdering The Rocky Horror Show!

What way did you use social media for your campaign? Nothing too extensive, just a Facebook page and a few tweets here and there - my campaign team and I did most of the work on the ground!

What is your favourite quote of all time? "Kids, you tried your best and failed. The lesson is – never try" – Homer Simpson.

What is your number one goal if elected? To kick on from this year, hit the ground running from day one next year and to perform as a more effective, efficient officer.

What is the theme tune to your life? Stand Up & Fight from the musical Carmen Jones, probably 'cos I'm a big Munster fan!

What has been your biggest achievement in DIT to date? The 2010 Freshers’ Ball - the biggest we’ve ever had with 2,200 students in The Wright Venue!

What was the hardest part of the whole campaign? The long hours - twelve hour days are not good for a body!

What memory of DIT SU stands out to you? Just the camaraderie between students – the small campuses mean that you’ll always bump into someone you know, and you’d often find yourself late for a lecture or a meeting ‘cos you’d be too busy chatting!

Who do you prefer, Oasis or Blur? Depends – is Father Damo asking? Blur...I mean Oasis!

If you could have dinner with one person, dead or alive, who would it be? Matt Groening, the creator of The Simpsons, so I could shake his hand for creating one of the funniest shows ever from Season 1-8, and smack him for keeping it going beyond that and killing what was once a beautiful thing.

Where do you see yourself in five years time? In a mirror, older, fatter and baldier.

Tell us what your manifesto is all about – in less than 140 characters!! Experience, continuity and professionalism. I want to use my experience from my first term to be a more effective and efficient representative for DIT students in 2011/12.
Final decision made on school restructure

By Eva Hall

A final decision has been made on the new school structure for DIT's new college of Arts and Tourism after months of heated deliberations between staff and lecturers.

The Executive of the College of Arts and Tourism concluded that the new structure will be made up of five Schools and three College offices. These new Schools will be implemented into the new College structure from September 2011. Among the key aims of the restructuring process was to make the transition to one single campus on Grangegorman grounds easier.

This move is likely to happen in the next five years.

The decision is welcomed by staff and lecturers, particularly those in the current School of Media who expressed indignation at the initial proposals. It is believed the Executive's final decision is partly due to the staff of the School of Media objecting to the original plans. Staff members requested the proposals be refined twice and put up for discussion again. A total of six staff from the School of Media objected to the original plans and submitted their own proposals as a result.

Brid Grant, Head of Arts and Tourism at DIT, acknowledged that a number of staff members opposed the early structure plan. During the negotiations, Ms. Grant assured DIT News that any decision likely to happen would be in the best interest of both staff and students.

Sources claimed the reshuffle was partly due to economic issues at DIT, such as administration support suffering a 25 percent reduction in the past year. According to documents obtained by DIT News the main aims of the Executive are to develop international positions for DIT and to improve the future development of 'key discipline areas'.

DIT Student Union President Ciaran Nevin admitted the student union was not aware of the core details of the initial proposals. He ensures that any input the SU has will put student needs first: "student needs are at the forefront of any input we have... we will continue to input into the restructuring process through focus groups and student consultation".

Read between the lines

DIT Sign Society has launched their first ever Sign Language music video in collaboration with DIT Guitar Society. They filmed the video of Snow Patrol's 'Hands Open' as part of their disability awareness week. Entitled 'Think Integration, Think Inclusion,' it ran from 28 February with various events taking place. The video now has nearly 2,000 views and can be watched on the sign society's official YouTube channel.
DIT students win trip to Caribbean

BY LYNNE SWAN

DIT has beaten off stiff competition to be named the winners of the 2010/2011 Newstalk Student Enterprise Competition. The DIT team battled against IT’s based in Tralee, Tipperary and Dundalk. Each of the teams were given a case study based on a real-life business scenario in which they had three hours to devise a detailed solution, with limited information on the case. The teams were then given 20 minutes to present their analysis and recommendations to a panel of judges consisting of Frank Cronin, CEO of Newstalk 106-108fm, Bobby Kerr, CEO of Insomnia and presenter of Newstalk’s ‘Down to Business’, David Bunworth, owner of David Bunworth & Associates, and Niall Mellon, founder of Niall Mellon Township Trust.

The team representing DIT was announced the winner by competition chairman, Mr. Denis O’Brien, at the prize-giving ceremony, which took place at Tipperary Institute on 7 February. Team members Matty Weldon (captain), Stephanie Lawless, Aishling Leonard and Ciara Quinn are all final year BSc Marketing students in DIT’s College of Business. Along with their mentor, Dr. Paul Donnelly, DIT School of Marketing, the team will travel to the Caribbean this summer on a study visit. During their stay, they will shadow senior executives in Digicel Group which is the fastest growing mobile operator in the Caribbean.

Commenting on their win, team captain, Matty Weldon, said “We are delighted to have won the 2010/2011 Newstalk Student Enterprise Competition. The team and I, and our mentor, Paul Donnelly, worked extremely hard in the run up to and during this competition. This is a fantastic opportunity for us and we look forward to travelling to Digicel this summer.”
Rubber Bandits launch new single in DIT Bolton Street

By Asling O'Sullivan

Hundreds of DIT students gathered in front of the Bolton Street stage and watched from balconies to see the bag wearing duo more commonly known as The Rubber Bandits perform their new song. With the exception of a couple avid fans who loudly sang along, most did not know the words to the new single but nevertheless, the crowd were not disappointed.

When the pair stopped for their photo opportunity, everyone expected them to do an encore. Alas, they were in for a letdown when Mr Chrome and Blind Boy Boat Club bounced off stage without performing the infamous "Horse Outside". Boos echoed around the college and everyone went away entertained, if not a little disappointed.

If "Horse Outside" was about how the good guy gets the girl then "I Wanna Fight Your Father" is about taking that love further to the point of being physically maimed to prove that love.

The video was shot using over 60 extras, 3 animal wranglers and 500 pounds of cod from Limerick's Donkey Ford's chipper mainly in Limerick with the final scene shot at South Studios in the Liberties in Dublin.

The video went live from www.youtube.com/rubberbandits that day and has already received nearly 400,000 hits. "I Wanna Fight Your Father" is available on iTunes and in Record Stores Nationwide on the Lovely Men Label.

The Rubber Bandits play The Olympia Theatre on Thursday 21 April. Tickets are €19.45 including booking fee and are on sale now.

Students take the lead and earn 5 extra credits

DIT is set to launch a pilot scheme which will see students earn five ECTS credits for their extracurricular activities. Entitled the LEAD module, it was first proposed by staff in April 2006 and has taken the past five years to gain approval.

Speaking to students at an information meeting, Anita Conway, head of DIT societies and one of the people supporting the program, said "it's been a long time coming" but stressed that the pilot "needs to be a success" in order to continue. Mary Scally, director of student and academic affairs of DITSU described the hard work that past SU representatives have done to get it this far. "We're very excited about this and I think with the commitment any student can apply for the pilot and shortly, 15 will be chosen to try out the new module. As part of the work required, they will have to write a reflective 2,000 word essay about their activities undertaken.

Students will choose three skills to focus on, such as leadership, communication and organisational. LEAD stands for Lead, Engage, Achieve and Develop. The idea was first introduced as a way of recognising the time and effort students put into clubs and societies outside of class work. People from all areas can apply, such as sports, clubs and student union activities.

The credits will be given on a pass or fail basis and will not replace other module credits that students would normal have to undertake. Therefore, if someone fails a class, they cannot substitute their credits to pass the semester.

Various members of DIT staff have agreed to act as mentors to the students who take this module on.
The Big Debate

Are men becoming too metro sexual?

It started with brothers, friends and our other male counterparts asking to use the hair straightener, then going out and buying one. Now there’s such thing as Guyliner? And then there’s the man Uggs. It’s an increasing phenomenon - the metrosexual. Stephanie Fennell talks about this growing trend and Kyle Cahill gives us a guy’s view on things.

Whether we’re going on a date, to college or work, or if we are simply just hitting the shops for a wonder, there’s one thing us girls all have in common - we just love to experiment with our look.

As quoted by Ms Katy Perry, ‘You, change your mind, like a girl, changes clothes’ as she compares her ‘hot and cold’ boyfriend with a girl getting dressed. Indeed, it has to be said that we do love to create a dilemma for ourselves when it comes to the wardrobe selection process. That’s expected of women - we like to look our best. As do our counterparts of the male species.

That’s expected of women - we like to look our best. As do our counterparts of the male species. It’s just the way it is. Men usually have a different motive when it comes to looking after their appearance these days. Some goes so far as to tag some guys metro sexual.

The majority of males like to look good. That’s acceptable, right? You might say that an interest in appearance comes with age. One female student (18) from DCU said that she has noticed a change in her male friends over the last couple of years, “With some of my guy friends, the hair has to be perfect, they only shop in all the nice shops like Topman, which are well known and nice shoes are a must have.”

Asking ten males between the ages of 18 and 27, over 75 per cent of them said it takes up to half an hour to get ready for college or work in the mornings, and longer again if going out clubbing. Ian (20), a student from Dublin said that when he goes shopping for clothes, he tries to “get stuff that nobody else has”.

Guys these days are definitely trying their best to impress more than ever when it comes to what the look like. Another male student (23), who studies here in DIT added “I drink herbal tea a bit more now because I heard it’s good for your skin.”

This attitude to style and appearance can be described as some-what normal amongst the guys of today, but where do we draw the line? When exactly does a guy cross it and enter metro sexual territory? Surely, taking pride in appearance approaches a red light somewhere along the road? “They can wear nice clothes, do their hair nicely, smell nice, but if I ever noticed make up on or tan...that’s taking it way too far” said Niamh (19), a DIT student. The term ‘Guyliner’ may or may not sound familiar to many people. Is this too much or can a man wear make-up without being branded gay? “This may be a turn off on first thoughts, but could it make the man attractive if he decides to wear it? Deep in a conversation over Facebook chat, a friend admitted to me that men absolutely have to smell nice. If I find out guys take longer than me to get ready and are all pretty boy-ish it’s a turn off yes”

It seems as though we can safely say that girls are turned off by the metro look. Some might wonder what has brought on this recent metro sexual trend in our male friends. One may say it is influenced by celebrities - as most of our lives are these days. Names which spring to mind while talking to people are Gavin Henson, David Beckham, Cristiano Ronaldo, Zac Efron and John James Parton (Big Brother 2010 contestant).

For guys celebrities such as these, fake tan seems to be becoming a growing trend. Could this be so for the guys we all know? Our family and friends? Andrew (19), a UCD student from Dublin explained how he noticed this to be true. “I wore fake tan for a Jersey Shore themed night at The Wright Venue in Swords last week. Walking through college that day I looked slightly orange and expected it to be the most embarrassing day of my life, but I didn’t look out of place at all! I think I actually fit in better that way.”

“Guyliner’ majorly may not sound familiar to many people. In an interview with DIT News, Ian (18) said that “I think it’s a bit much or too much and girls will be like ‘what replace the sister with the boyfriend in the ‘fight for the bathroom’ scene. Hair straighteners hand and face moisturiser, fake bake, eyeliner and foundation, they are becoming unisex items. But hey, girls look on the bright side, at least there will always be some knocking about the house somewhere…”

Hide your GHD ladies…!

What do YOU think?

“I don’t think men are becoming too metro sexual. It’s just the direction we’re taking as a society - we’re going to become more hypersexual… The West Included. I think most fashion is retrospective anyway”.

“Yes I think so [becoming too metro]. Man-bags are too much!”

A Guy’s View

Speaking as a man who is so far removed from being metro sexual, I’m practically a Neanderthal. I play rugby, wash my hair with shower gel (a sin apparently!) and if the jeans fit me - then they’re good enough to buy. However I am a little worried that metrosexual men are on the rise and it’s being pushed by fashion shops like H&M and Zara for men. Just last week I was out on my biannual shop and out of curiosity I stumbled into H&M. Now, I don’t have a fashionable bone in my body and sensing this, the guy working in the shop came over and asked me if I needed any help. “Sure” I said, I mean, what harm could be possibly be? One tight, torn pair of jeans, and a salmon pink t-shirt later he had me dressed like a transvestite on Leeson street. I don’t have a problem with men taking pride in their appearance but there has to be a line in the sand. People say that metro sexual is just heterosexual with a twist. Well it’s a twist too far for me! If these metro sexual buffoons keep going on the way they are soon there will be no need for Zara man and Zara women because what Metro sexual menswear will be indistinguishable from what women wear. First there was man Uggs then GHDs for guys and now I’m hearing about something called man tan? I mean really lads enough is enough. The madness has to stop!
Sorry, do you have a minute?

You can be guaranteed to hear these few words follow you wherever you go in Dublin. Katie Hennessey talks about the realities of being a 'chugger' and reveals some surprising facts about the multi-million euro industry.

The charity mugger or 'chugger' is a phenomenon found on the streets of every town in Ireland and if you frequent the streets of Dublin, the chances are you have dodged one in the last month at least. They have been around since 2002, their target being to sign you up to make a regular monthly donation. The interesting debate is if chuggers prove just as great a public hazard as beggars who now face harsh reprimands from the law.

With new laws in place since 2 February enabling Gardai to move people on who are found begging near ATMs, shops or night safes, with failure to do so resulting in a two year prison sentence, €200,000 or both. Since its implementation 160 people have been cautioned and 60 people convicted. Talking to students on the topic of chuggers, most held the same opinion. "They annoy me, I always brush them off," says one student. "I don't think people approaching you is going to do anything". Of course everybody has the ability to contact a charity they would like to help, but unless these people are approached and offered an easy way to donate, is the money going to make it to the charity? The average monthly donation given by those who have signed up to Concern is €11.80, while the direct debit system ensures the regularity of donations which enables the charity to plan projects whose future would otherwise be uncertain, were they to rely on the spontaneity of the public.

These street fundraisers are paid of course. Those receiving performance related pay are the ones that won't let you go, while those receiving a fixed pay apply less pressure. Concern workers are paid €13 an hour while those working for the animal charity Paws receive 30 per cent of what they receive from the public. Those working on the streets for charity are given strict protocols on how to deal with the public. Complaints from the public come often, however they are dealt with accordingly. Fundraisers are retrained on how better to deal with the public.

In the case of Concern, 88 per cent of income goes towards relief and development while 9 per cent is put back into fundraising. This fundraising created €44,946,000 for the charity in 2009, while other money comes in the form of grants from the government, donations and from other places. 70 per cent of what you put in the basket of a Paws worker makes it to the charity.

The number of chuggers however, will always be kept in check with the strict regulation of permits issued by the Gardai, according to the areas, streets and times fundraising will be taking place. It is a pity to see those less well off having to avoid the Gardai and putting themselves at risk to obtain some money, especially since homeless services have received a cut of €2.6 million in the latest budget. However when a registered charity creates jobs as well as raising a substantial amount of money to help worthy causes, maybe it is something to be grateful for.
Eavesdropping on the important people

BY ANDREW DONOVAN

There were 20,000 tweets cast about the election over the weekend. I don't know whether to be impressed or not by that figure. 20,000 out of four million is hardly a large number, even Fianna Fáil did better than that. How many tweets were cast for the 2007 general election? None! All we know is that Twitter have received the biggest swing between elections than any political party and even though analysis found that 40.1 per cent of tweets are about "pointless babble", you could argue that the politicians have spoken a far higher proportion than that.

The great thing about twitter is it gives everyone the same voice. A scroll down through the GE11 tag conjures up more contrasting views than any RTE or TV3 producer could ever assemble on a panel show. However, while the views of twitter users may be contrasting and conflicting they are often irrelevant and ill-informed.

That's the problem with twitter, it gives everyone the same voice. In the same stream of tweets you can come across one by RTE or Newstalk[aka a reputable source] who will break a story, but only two mouse movements later and someone is threatening Dick Roche and giving him a new nickname[what nickname? I will leave that up to the reader's imagination]. An awful lot of 'opinion' must be swam through before you get to any news on social media.

What twitter has given TDs, both hopeful and hopeless, is a plinth to talk to their public without their PR men. Senator Dan Boyle seemed to realise this more than most with his tweet "Taking time out. Obviously very disappointed. Making no decisions yet other than I will keep this account open." There you have it, his future in politics is up in the air but his twitter account simply has to stay. Pascal Donohoe broke his good news, leaving most of his 140 characters spare with "Home. Elected. Over the moon."

The TDs must love it, they get to appear sincere and trendy all at the same time; all while patting themselves on the back for managing to use the web site in the first place.

Twitter has the feel of a private chat-room, all be it a very public private chat-room, and former Deputy Paul Gogarty's tweets certainly had that feel to it.

What kind of events are coming up for your society?
In March we're hosting a concert series on Thursdays at 6pm in the Pepper canister Church near Merrion Square. The concerts will have a massive mix of music, everything from classical to jazz, hip hop and some even more bizarre stuff. We're doing another series in April which will be full of solos featuring more traditional classical music.
There's also a national LiveLiveMusic Day coming up on the 8 April where we're teaming up with the other music Socs to fill the halls of DIT with live music. We have a trip to London coming up too, where we'll be going to a few shows, getting into a bit of karaoke and generally having the craic.

Interested? Like what you hear? Email musicensembles@socs.dit.ie or check out their Facebook page for more information.
Dust off the placards, here we go again

BY BARRY LENNON

The count centres are closed. The candidates are chosen. DIT candidates told students what they would do for them as president, vice president and convener. The week before DIT’s election the nation went to the polls. Dáil hopefuls also told us what they would do for us, but the results of the General Election are the most telling fact.

Fianna Fáil’s desperation for seats was encapsulated in the Wicklow count. Outgoing TD, Dick Roche seemed like Libya’s Colonel Gaddafi in calling a recount there. He is deluded and unwilling to believe his people’s desire to oust him. At least, that is what the tweets said. It was a fruitless recount for the party. Though the annihilation of many Fianna Fáil seats was expected it still came as a shock to the party.

Despite Michael Martin’s clean cut and apologetic image, the public could not believe that he was representative of his party. They instead perhaps agreed with Enda Kenny’s words, “Martin, you are full of wind and spout!” The new leader could not rescue Fianna Fáil from its worst general election performance.

Paradoxically, Labour received its best general election result despite their over hyped campaign. The party relied on Eamon Gilmore’s popularity to gain support. What the party did not realise was that undecided voters do not vote for political messiahs (Enda Kenny is testament to this). And later on during their campaign Labour’s attacks on Fine Gael were not popular.

Like its leader, Fine Gael remained rigid to the opinion polls, sweeping up an approximate 40 per cent of the vote. They now make the largest party in Dáil Éireann after a successful election. Enda’s infamous five point plan prompts a new graduate tax for students. This tax aims to reduce the budget deficit.

In November thousands of students descended on the capital’s streets protesting against the increase in registration fees. The slogan “education not emigration” on banners highlighted the stark choices of many students. This graduate tax will constrict students finding work that may not exist in Ireland after college. These plans may force students out onto the streets in protest again.

Labour promised to reverse Fianna Fáil’s increased fees during their campaign. However in a coalition government with Fine Gael, promises will be broken in the brokering of a deal.

In that case the re-elected DITSU president Ciarán Nevin may need to prepare the placards for the second protest this academic year.

Student reaction to GE11

Eva Hall asks students if they were happy with the recent general election results

“Yes, I wanted Fine Gael in power”.
Alexandra Whelan

“Yes, Enda Kenny will do an honest job. He will have the same policies that have been done before but I think he’ll do it honestly”.
Dave Levis

“Yes, because Fianna Fáil weren’t contributing to education”.
Lisa Byrne

Louise, left: “I’m not that interested in politics but yes I was happy with it”
Tara, right: “Yes, I’m glad there’s a Mayo man as Taoiseach”

“No I’m not happy with it. The only reason is because celebrity candidates like Mick Wallace got voted in”.
Fergus O’Farrell

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The danger of ignorance

Sophie Cairns looks at the reality of accepting Ireland as a gay friendly nation.

Nowadays we think Ireland is homophobe free - as if two women could stride down their local main street hand in hand.

Chatting recently to friends and family about this phenomenon, I got the same reaction every time. 'Get over it! It's FINE to be gay these days.'

But is it? Four out of five gays experience hate crime. Over half of those have been physically assaulted. (The Institute of Conflict Research, NI)

In 2009 Ireland had a population of 4,450,446, according to Google population data. With six per cent of the population gay, according to research conducted by leading international specialist gay marketing agency Out Now Consulting.

This means that in 2009, 267,000 Irish gays experienced hate crime. And over 106,811 of those, were physically assaulted. 106,811 physically assaulted for being gay. Imagine how many others have been harmed, having been accused of fulfilling a stereotype.

If those statistics weren't shocking enough, over the past five years, five gay men have been murdered in the North.

Do these stats scream at young gays to come out of closet - as if everything is going to be ok? Do they scream at us to dress as stereotypically gay or not? Do they scream at gays that it's fine to walk hand in hand with your partner down the street - rural and urban streets alike?

No, and so surely its highly naïve to be spreading the view that it's safe to be 'out' on our streets. I'm not saying that our young gays should hide their sexuality and personality from all to see.

However, by declaring Ireland homophobe free we are endangering, not saving! If every gay thought they were safe on the streets, I'm sure the stats quoted above would be even starker. In a college environment, it's so easy to forget how close-minded the rest our country is.

Neil Jarman, of the Institute of Conflict Research, says homophobia knows no class boundaries but religion was a key factor.

Yes, let's be optimistic, but let's be realistic about where we are at now, too. Yes, we have achieved to pull through the Civil Partnership Bill to Act status, but as Senator David Norris said early on, "There is nothing visionary in the legislation, nor is there anything revolutionary about it. An historic opportunity has been missed."

Our country is still far behind in its prejudices, and we should be recognising that - not ignoring it. Unfortunately, it is only by recognising our downfalls that we can ever succeed.

HAVE YOUR SAY...

DIT NEWS is always looking for contributors. Whether you want to flex your writing muscles, you’re an aspiring paparazzo or just want to give out about the fact the toilets never have any loo roll... Get in contact! Email newssoed@gmail.com or go to our Facebook: www.facebook.com/ditnews. You can follow us on Twitter, if you’re cool enough to know how it works!

"The single greatest way you can become a journalist is through practice. Write, write and write some more. I regret not getting more involved in the student newspaper when I was in college and know now that it would have been a big help. Newspaper editors don’t just want story ideas - they want good copy. And you won’t improve your copy unless you practice. So contribute and you’ll be ready to take up a job when you leave" - Colette Fitzpatrick

"DIT wasn’t a college, it was more like a family of crazed personalities on acid...it was home. Writing and editing the paper gave me an opportunity to engage with the student body, express opinion and think outside the box. It was never a task, more so a privilege. Everyone should write whether it be a blog or a feature on the inside of a red balloon. Get involved and be part of something amazing...it only becomes your news and your voice...when you take ownership of it. So like NIKE...just do it!” - Fergal D'arcy
Laughter is the best medicine, lol

By Tessa Flemming

Laughing is something I don’t feel is justified by these new age, modern abbreviations and slang, mainly “LOL”, “ROFL”, “LMAO” and even “haha”. I don’t know any body who keeps strictly to the “haha” sound of virtual laughter. I hate virtual laughter. The unforeseen plague of virtual laughter by God when giving Moses the ten commandments was a truly unfortunate mistake which will probably lead to the destruction of laughter as we know it. Soon we will be flying hydro-electric cars “loling” in our silver space suits.

Something which is problematic for me, and has been for quite some time, is that I have lost the capability to laugh as much as I did when I was a child. I once read that adults laugh a mere 17 times a day while children laugh around 400 times. Sometimes I wonder if that is possible at all. Do they spend the entire day laughing? Needless to say that although I used to cringe and close my eyes to escape the absolute awkwardness of it all, I have got heart with a strange sense of happiness. I have become one of the regulars in two of the comedy clubs that line the lonely walk home each Tuesday and Wednesday night. I order my small whiskey and coke and the jokes seem funnier as the hours pass and the drunker I get. I have come to associate most of the strange laughter that is evoked form my lips with the comedians and comedy clubs who are responsible for it.

I have realized lately that I couple being merry and laughing heartily with being plump and some red-cheeked old man resembling Santa. I realize that this is the typical image people conjure when presented with the words “merry” and “heartily”. I wonder if this is a kind of discrimination against skinny people? Do they not laugh heartily? Or perhaps they are the very people of the “haha” and the “loling” variety. I do however think it’s fitting that I associate the word “glee”, with cheesy American high school students prancing about in short skirts. I am gaining perspective now, I think.

I have come to the conclusion that laughter is important to everyone, whether it be “loling”, roaring, or hiccupping with hearty belly bouncing. I love my trips to the comedy clubs where I’m always guaranteed a good abdominal exercise in laughing. Of course I’m forever haunted by the prospect that my frail body will be blanketed in wrinkles and laughter lines before the age of twenty-five, and I am forced to live the life of a poor spinster woman with only the small goldfish to reminisce her experiences of laughter and comedy clubs with. I may have to, presently, invest in a good anti-aging cream if I am to attain a husband at all.

But over-all, I agree with who ever induced the theory that laughter is the best medicine. Already my mother can tell that I don’t look half as morbid and death-like as I once did. I feel like the burden of bills and the worry of deadlines bounces of my shoulders with each bounding belly laugh. I believe I’ve turned into my mother when I say that (such as above), laughter is the best medicine, but why not embrace the fact that it actually is?

However, as the sinister presence of the IMF unfolds and sprawls, encompassing the entire mindset of the population, I fear that the sound of real laughter will disappear forever. I fear comedians will be forced out of the hallowed comedy clubs and only the dim echo of a forgotten laughter will serve the next generation proof that the Irish laughed at all.

Something which is problematic for me, and has been for quite some time, is that I have lost the capability to laugh as much as I did when I was a child.

Laughing is also associated with low blood pressure, low stress levels and is known for boosting the body’s immune system to help fight infections. Perhaps this is why, particularly coming into the considerably cold winter season, I find myself constantly under the weather.

In my desperate search for a good hearty, healthy laugh for a good, hearty, healthy body, I have been forced into the comedy clubs lining the darkened winter streets of Ireland’s “big apple”. Although for some so-called “comedians”, I have cried and closed my eyes to escape the absolute awkwardness of it all, I have got my fair share of laughs. Even to hear the roars of real, unimagined laughter from other actual people, instead of the “haha” and the “lol” I am subjected to on the internet, fill my grouch and irritable life of a poor spinster woman with only the small goldfish to reminisce her experiences of laughter and comedy clubs with. I may have to, presently, invest in a good anti-aging cream if I am to attain a husband at all.

Something which is problematic for me, and has been for quite some time, is that I have lost the capability to laugh as much as I did when I was a child.
Styling by Stephanie Costello
Photography by Artur Scheunert
Model: Vitalina Shevnyuk from
DIT Fashion Show 2011
Shot on Location at Cake Cafe
Mint blouse £50, Topshop
Cream petticoat £76, American Apparel
Hat £15, Weddell Originals
Boots, Carvela at Brown Thomas, £120
Accessories, Sabaoda over
Front page: Flower Mesh Jumper £88, American Apparel Silk collar shirt, £39, American Apparel Floral Shorts, £52, Topshop Scarf as headband and broach stylists own.

Right: Dress £44, American Apparel Jacket £70, Acvedo at Om Diva DocMartins £90, Schuh Scarf, stylists own.

Inset: Corduroy skirt, £39, American Apparel Shirt, £58 Acvedo at Om Diva Boots, £25, Wildchild Originals.
Spandex Body suit €26,
American Apparel
Floral Skirt €25, Wildchild Originals
Hairband €6 Aine Kilbride at Om Diva
Belt, stylists own.
DIT goes to ISDA

First ever eDIT festival
Review: Tutankhamun Exhibition

BY BERNARD O’ROURKE

You probably wouldn’t go to see a display of fake Picasso or Salvador Dali paintings, but people have been flocking to the RDS since Saturday 19 February to see a collection of (totally fake) treasures of Tutankhamun’s tomb. All reproductions, nothing real. Why? The exhibition promises to supply visitors with an accurate picture of how Tutankhamun’s tomb appeared when it was first unearthed by Egyptologist Howard Carter in the 1920s, as well as painstaking reproductions of the contents of the tomb, including the sarcophagus and death mask of the pharaoh, which are already some of the most well known images of ancient Egypt.

These treasures can now be seen almost exact replicas of the real thing – in a far more intimate and interactive setting than the real thing. This is the whole point. You can literally get close enough to touch – there is no glass screen or even a velvet rope separating the viewer from the display. The direct experience is what people have come to see, and in terms of providing this, the Tutankhamun exhibit doesn’t disappoint. According to Egyptologist Dr. Jaromir Malek from the Griffith Institute/University of Oxford: “This exhibition can do things which no other – perhaps with the exception of future virtual reality shows – is able to”.

The first thing that greets visitors is a short, snappy documentary about the pharaoh. Tutankhamun’s life was real Hollywood blockbuster stuff – a boy king, a fascinating setting, real epic stuff – and the five minute documentary pretty much give this all the weight it deserved. But this isn’t a history lesson, what I really wanted to see was the (reproduced) goods. And here is what makes this exhibition special. Visitors first get to see the treasure of Tutankhamun, not behind a foot of pressurised glass in a temperature controlled room, but laid out in a reproduction of the tomb itself. As part of the tour a display of the tomb has been recreated exactly as it was found by Howard Carter. According to promoter Noel McHale “this is now the only way people can experience this moment of discovery” as “all the artefacts originally found have been moved to various Museums”. Given that “a lot of the originals are now too fragile to go on public display” this exhibit is even better than the real thing.

This is a mighty claim, but it’s mostly true. Following the reconstruction of the tomb as it was first discovered, various pieces of treasures are presented individually. These include the four sarcophagi of the King, placed one inside the other; and the instantly recognisable death mask of the pharaoh. McHale calls it “one of the most recognisable images on the planet, on a par with the Mona Lisa” and he isn’t far wrong. The mask is the single most recognisable image of ancient Egypt (except maybe the Pyramids, but they won’t be coming to Dublin any time soon). Visitors can get within a few inches of the mast, and there isn’t even any glass or security guard to stop you touching it. It isn’t even behind a velvet rope.

The artefacts may not be real but they look amazing, and they are far more accessible than the real things. This exhibition has already toured Europe successfully, selling more than 1.8 million tickets. Expectations are high that Dublin sales will help push that figure over the 2 million mark. When asked the secret of its success McHale said that “no photograph can do justice to the displays compared with seeing them up close and being able to walk around them and view from all angles. It’s a very entertaining exhibition, and a great place to spend an afternoon, with 1000 stunningly beautiful artefacts to view”.

SO, Jedward are going to the Eurovision?

Just two years ago Ireland were represented by Dustin the Turkey in the Eurovision song contest with his awful rap song Irelands Douze Pointe which failed to even qualify. This year, the wacky twins Jedward will be taking the honour of representing Ireland, and one has to question will the same fate be repeated!?! Yes, the Eurovision has never been a highly esteemed competition that celebrates the most talented and graceful acts in Europe, but is seen as more of a slapstick joke, with acts being noted for singing “bubblegum pop”. Surely Jedward are a perfect act?! I took to the halls of DIT to ask the students what they think.
ASK ANYONE INVOLVED IN DIT SOCIETIES OR THE Student's Union and I think they would have to admit that DIT punches above it's weight organising events for students. Whoever you are and whatever you're into, there's something for you to do and something to get involved in. There's a problem though, we're missing something, something that everybody wants to go to, and when I say everybody, I mean every one of the 22,000 students studying in DIT. Personally I'm sick and tired of hearing about students selling their right arm to go to Trinity Ball or having to hitchhike their way across the country for the craic of Rag Week in Galway. Studying in the center of the city, you'd think we'd be setting a standard for other colleges to live up to.

This was the sort of rant that started a group of students from societies thinking about doing something big, something that will change the way we talk about college events. The 1st annual eDIT festival is coming, 25th March – 1st of April. Be ready.

Our idea is simple; pack one week of the college year with more than anyone could possibly hope to get to. Why? Well, because we can.

DIT students and alumni churn out an astonishing amount of work annually, and we want to give them the chance to display it. Festival goers will have the opportunity to witness the best and brightest artistic works created by students from architecture, fine art, product design and more, and all within some of the city center's best galleries.

When the evening rolls around and the galleries shut, it's time to make the most of the short couple years we've got in college. Everything from the DIT Music Ensemble Society to the finalists from the DIT Battle of the Bands, our aim is to satisfy your party related needs. On Monday and Thursday we'll be throwing two of biggest nights out of the year. Start and end the week in style, go hard and/or go home.

If you've gotten this far and are still thinking “Sounds a bit like all those other things, just at the same time”, then think again because this isn't where the festival stops. We've got all sorts of everything happening during the week in Temple Bar, giving you guys a reason to step out and hang out. It's time to take the city back from the hordes of drunken tourists and people with cameras. We'll be hosting a cycle mounted treasure hunt and street theatre among other things throughout the week and all we need are you guys, the students, to get on board.

"The City is our Campus" has lost it's meaning. It's time to make the City our Venue! DIT Festival is the definitive student event of the year. So all that's left to ask is, when are you getting your wristband? Wristbands will be on sale from SU shops from 9th March and the eDIT Roadshow will be calling to your campus and there will only be a limited number available.

Celeb Treats by Eleanore Hutch

Britney Spear's new song Hold It against Me is brilliant. It's fast, edgy, and aggressive. Sadly the same cannot be said for the video. It's rubbish. Really rubbish. It's a total and utter letdown from the queen of pop who once gave us classics such as Hit Me Baby One More Time and I'm a Slave for You. Why Britney why?!

They were going so well for her lately - she was commemorated and guest starred in Glee, her new album is rumoured to be fantastic, so why did she have to begin 2011 with the worst music video ever?! Putting such a good song with such a bad video is a crime.

Hold It against Me has many problems, as not only is it tacky and cheap looking; Britney has done it all before! It's highly reminiscent of her video for Piece of Me and the whole production is just so over done. Plus, her dancing is not at all as good as it should be. It feels like Britney is relying on her super stardom to make this video a success, instead of filming a quality production. You certainly wouldn't see Lady Gaga of Katy Perry releasing something so poor! Without question the most tragic part of Hold It against Me is the shameless advertising. Products such as Makeup Forever and Sony are given plenty of screen time and once again I ask why Britney why?! You're better than this! What a pity that a girl who took over the world in a red cat suit has fallen so sadly from grace...

Britney has gotten her comeuppance. The 1970's band The Bellamy Brothers are suing Britney Spears for plagiarising their 1979 ballad If I Said You Had A Beautiful Body Would You Hold It Against Me? as they claim she is ripping them off. Karma I say.
The DIT conservatory of Music and Drama will bring you on an enchanting journey through The Arabian Nights. Directed by Susie Kennedy who is a M.A. lecturer in Drama, the DIT graduate production will be an Irish premier of the exceptional play. The cast is made up of 22 young actors, trained in movement, dance, singing and acting to present an energetic and imaginative interpretation of the text.

The stories of the Arabian Nights are as old as storytelling itself. These stories within stories have endured over centuries and have been adapted by many cultures. They explore the timeless universal themes of love, betrayal, family, society and culture. They present a kaleidoscope of human existence, with all its joy and humour, pain and suffering. The collection of stories is framed by the plight of Scheherezade, the bride who is compelled to weave a spell of stories to save her own life. Sumptuous costumes are designed by Marie Tierney and seductive lighting by Kevin Smyth. Original music composed by Dermot McDermott and Glen Austin will accompany the songs.

Dublin Institute of Technology, Conservatory of Music and Drama, Bachelor of Arts in Drama (performance) Honours Degree programme, is a Three year full time level 8 degree. Students engage in acting, singing, movement, and dance as well as drama facilitation and academic theatre studies. The Graduate Production provides an opportunity for students to integrate the skills acquired in the many stands of the programme into practice in the context of a full scale public performance. In recent years, we have presented The Crucible, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Caucasian Chalk Circle and Antigone.

The show takes place in the Project Arts Centre from 29 March - 2 April and tickets are priced at €15. Admission for students, DIT staff and OAPs is €10. For booking call 01-8819613 or go to www.projectartscentre.ie.

DIT Drama Society are going to represent DIT at the Irish Student Drama Association (ISDA) festival which runs from 5-12 March.

They’re sending down an original piece called Wasters - a one man play that is written and starring a Kevin Street student, Colin Campbell. The play was first put on stage in the Black box last semester, where it was very well received by audiences.

The play is directed by John May and Orla Kinsella, both Cathal Brugha students. It is about a man who is in love with a woman he can’t have, and who tries to do the right thing even though it is not what he wants.

It’s on as part of the festival this Saturday 5th March in Nun’s Island theatre, Galway at 4.00pm.

“The DIT Drama Society is delighted to be sending “Wasters” to the ISDA festival. It’s been a few years since we’ve sent down an original piece by one of our members, and we’re thrilled for the cast and crew. Colin is one of the most talented actors and writers I’ve ever had the privilege to work with and I can’t wait to see his performance again,” said President of DIT Drama Society, Ian Fox.
St Patrick's Day. A time to celebrate what it truly means to be Irish in all its spiritual, intellectual and historical glory... Yeah. It's actually mainly a time to celebrate our ability to drink with greater enthusiasm than any other country. And since changing to a St Patrick's Day festival it's not just a day of over-doing it but half a week, more if you have the money. So with that in mind, Kevin Donnellan takes a look at some of the best events happening in and around the big day, and how much each event will allow you to live up/down to our reputation.

St. Patrick's Festival Ceili
WHERE: Stephens Green
WHEN: Wednesday 16 March, 4.30pm – 7.30pm
HOW MUCH: Free

Ceol: Republic of Loose, Delorentos, Heathers, Fiach & lots more
WHERE: Vicar Street
WHEN: Wednesday 16 March, 8pm – late
HOW MUCH: €20 a ticket

St. Patrick's Festival Parade
WHERE: Starting at Parnell Square
WHEN: Thursday 17 March, 12pm onwards
HOW MUCH: Free

All-Ireland Club Finals
WHERE: St. Stephens Green
WHEN: Thursday 17 March, 2pm onwards
HOW MUCH: €25 a ticket

Literary Treasure Hunt
WHERE: City Hall
WHEN: Saturday 19 March, 10am - 1pm
HOW MUCH: Free
No Strings Attached

No Strings attached is another one of those movies. Directed by Ivan Reitman, the film sees Adam Kutcher star as the aloof yet lovable Adam, a young, infectiously happy, writer with severe father issues. One of those types. His ‘best friend’ is career-driven Emma, played by the charismatic Natalie Portman.

Fitting with the recent Hollywood trend, our heroine is a commitment-phobe, too busy with her career or something to even contemplate the prospect of falling in love. The film is a typical story of boy meets girl, neither boy or girl want a relationship, boy and girl have casual (but protected) intimate relations, and, despite their obviously overwhelming chemistry, boy and girl maintain that they are not in love.

So this film is highly predictable. I knew from the get go exactly what was going to happen, when it was going to happen and how everyone in the film would react. No Strings Attached is not going to go down in history as one of the greatest love stories of all time but still, I love it. Why? Firstly, I am a woman, and I am predisposed to like any movie that features Ashton Kutcher's torso. Secondly, it contains a scene that features Greta Gerwig and Mindy Kaling playing a part one of a two part album, so keep an eye on Britain's most versatile band.

But this film didn’t have a clue what it was. It was hard to tell whether it was supposed to be a gross out comedy, a feel good tale of bromance, a dark comedy or a depressing psychological portrait of two idiots.

It's a road trip film which sees Rob playing Peter, an expectant dad trying to get back to LA for the birth of his first child who ends up stuck with Ethan on the drive home played by the Z-Man. Road trip flicks have been done to death so if you're going to churn out another one at least make it decent. Bringing out a substandard one is laying you wide open to unfavourable comparisons to other classics such as Planes, Trains and Automobiles and Dumb and Dumber. Downey Jr. is generally excellent even though his characters are very similar as he seems to subscribe to the 'Hugh Grant if it's not Broke don't Fix it' school of thought but in this film he was a complete prat you can't help but dislike. We can only assume/hope he wants a new beach house in the Hamptons or something because why else would he be pick this dodgy yoke to 'star in'. The dialogue was crap and although the two leads had a fractious relationship at the start you just don’t care when they resolve their issues. Galifianakis in fairness to him raised a few laughs but you feel a bit uncomfortable with his character as you can't decide if he's funny or a complete psycho who is a danger to society. To wrap this up don't bother wasting your dosh, it contained a scene where they get stoned, a scrap with a hillbilly, a fracas at the Mexican border and a crash and I think that's all you need to know. The producers must have had a road trip cliché checklist and if they did they managed to tick every single box. The only high point for me was the scenery which swiftly brought me to another low point as I couldn't afford a road trip in a billion years. Avoid.

Cassie Delaney

Declan Morran

Cynthia Bifolchi
DIT Poker society took part in the first ever all Ireland poker intervarsity in Trinity on Saturday the 12th February.

Seven colleges turned up to the event including DCU, UCD, NUIG, NUIM, Trinity and UCD and a total of 93 students participated in the tournament. DIT had 13 students representing the college, including Paul Conroy, Yusef Khan, Ger Mulcair, Nicolas Boyle, Michael Hanrahan, Michael Ludlow, Patrick Eagers, Martin Murphy, Daniel Gebremichael, Sean Mac an Ri, Paddy Kerley, Cormac Smith and Niall Gaffney. It was a great day for DIT poker as all of the society’s members made the cut and finished in the top 40 players. Paul Conroy came third of the DIT members finishing 15th overall, Michael Hanrahan was second, placing sixth and Nicolas Boyle had a fantastic game finishing in second place. Cormac Cassidy and Trinity College hosted the highly successful event.

DIT Poker society are finalising their plans to have a Casino night which will be held on 30th March. Full casino equipment will be there on the night with “The Riptide Movement” playing after the casino has finished. Check out facebook.com/pokersoc.dit for further information on all events planned by the DIT Poker Society. They also hold weekly tournaments and many charity and special events throughout the year.

Karting club race ahead in CUSAI championship

By Colin Higgins

DIT raced ahead of the rest of the competition in the latest round of the CUSAI Karting Championships by leapfrogging CIT ‘A’ at the summit of the table. It was the third of four rounds in this year’s competition and it was hosted by DIT, taking place in Newry on 9 February.

DIT took to the track with a very formidable line-up which included last year’s Champion driver Aron Smith accompanied by Graham Higginbotham, who had also performed strongly so far this season.

DIT put in a great overall team performance in this round as three of the team placed in the final to take round three with a 63 point total.

DCU ‘A’ came in second place with an outstanding performance from individual leader, Shane McGrath, and now stand second in the overall standings just behind DIT on 144 points, 13 clear of CIT ‘A’.

DIT ‘C’ and CIT ‘B’ performed above expectation for a 3rd place finish in Round 3, fighting off stiff competition from their teammates on both the B and A teams respectively.

Aron Smith who collected 92 out of the possible 100 points in last year’s championship has been on top form right from the get go this season, taking first place in the season opening race in Longford. He didn’t have it all his own way however as his teammate Higginbotham ran him close, finishing just behind in second position. The one-two finish by the drivers, allied by a strong semi-final performance of Scott Colley meant that DIT stood atop of the table after the opening race, six points ahead of fierce rivals Cork IT.

The second round of the championships that took place in Watergrasshill, Co. Cork in late November did not see DIT fare as well as the previous round. Cork IT were the big winners outperforming the rest of the teams by securing number one and three on the winner’s podium. The strong performance by Cork IT saw them sit atop of the table after two races on 103 points, with DIT in third position just behind DCU in second.

This made victory in the third round a must for DIT if they hoped to keep alive their dreams of individual team victory in this year’s championship.

Eleven teams competed from five individual colleges in round 3, with the attention now turning to round 4, scheduled for March 25th at the new White River track in Drogheda.

Everything hangs in the balance with both the individual and team championship still to race for.

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leads at the break.

However, a combination of Tohebe's blistering pace and the bigger pitch were causing the Colaiste Stiofain Naofa defence all sorts of problems, and he struck again mid-way through the second half.

Colaiste Stiofain showed good determination in levelling soon after, but DIT hit back through Eoin Murray. A wonderful piece of individual play saw a Murray shot from the edge of the box trickle underneath the legs of the hapless opposition goalkeeper, to restore a two goal lead.

A lack of concentration by the DIT back four led to a penalty which was converted and DIT defended bravely during the last 10 minutes to see the game out.

In other positive news, DIT’s third team have reached the Bob Eustace Cup Final which will also be held in Castlebar on the 9th of March.

This is the first time this team have reached a final after convincing wins over Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, IT Carlow and Athlone IT.

The squad are waiting nervously as their opponents in the final will not be decided until later this week. It will either be Drogheda IT or Tallaght IT.

The DIT second team almost reached the finals also but were beaten by CIT in the semi final at the Oscar Trainer Centre.
McDonald pockets victory for DIT

By David Caulfield

DIT came away with some early success in 2011 after James McDonald triumphed in the singles event of the Pool Intervarsities in Dundalk.

McDonald, one of the stars of the DIT Pool and Snooker club, held his nerve to overcome NCI's Damien Farelly 4-1 in the final.

The group practice on a regular basis - hosting a weekly session on Tuesdays where members can attend to improve their game - and the dedication certainly paid off after a memorable weekend in February.

Four DIT teams consisting of five players each contested the team championship as the quartet secured a safe passage into the last 16 following a gruelling round robin stage.

Further glory appeared likely when the C Team battled their way to the semi-finals only to fall heartbreakingly short, succumbing to eventual champions Queens University in a tense deciding frame thriller.

It will be McDonald, though, that will be remembered after emerging victorious over an impressive field of 204 players.

The final year Civil Engineering student secured a succession of 3-1 scorelines in the rounds leading up to the final before sweeping aside his last opponent to lift the trophy.

Chairperson on the club, Gary McLean said “winning the Singles event was a great achievement by James as both the team and individual competitions are very tightly fought each year with strong teams coming from colleges all around the country.”

The DIT team already enjoyed early celebrations on the Friday before the main tournament when they were quick enough to claim the charity Speed Pool competition - raising money for the national college team who will hope to do battle with the continent later this year.

Action from the Speed Pool can be viewed on the DIT Snooker and Pool Facebook page and is not to be missed.

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luckily it went right for us.”

The win is extra special for the pair who had played with DIT in the surprise first round loss to UL in the Sigerson Cup just the week before.

“We were very disappointed after the defeat to UL. Neither of us wanted to experience the same feeling again so this made us extra determined to get to the final” adds Mchugh.

Both have experience of playing in Croke Park having been members of the Roscommon Minor team who beat Kerry in the All-Ireland final in 2006. More recently Domican captained the Senior team who lost to Cork in the quarter-final stages at the same venue in 2010.

“We're looking forward to playing in Croke Park again. It's even more special this time because we'll be playing alongside our clubmates whom we've grown up with" says Domican.

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The DIT women's basketball team suffered a crushing defeat in the semi finals of the Irish College League on February 16. The final score saw the girls come away with a disappointing 114-39 defeat.

The Division One team put in a strong team effort in the away game and praise has to go to all of the girls, Aisling Power, Jodie Black, Katie Elliot, Danielle Murray, Emma Dooley, Claire Rochford, Ciara Flaherty. They played well as a team in the first half but UL were simply in a league of their own, with a lot of Super League players on their team, and the team from Munster and ran away with the match in the second half.

Ciara Flaherty played particularly well inside and both Katie Elliot and Jodie Black produced noteworthy performances.

It's been an eventful time for DIT Basketball recently with numerous games and social occasions taking place.

The basketball club is known as not only one of the most organised team on the court but also as one of the most organised off court as well, regularly organising basketball club nights out, a way of building team spirit within the club.

Both the men's and women's teams will be competing in the Irish Colleges Intervarsity's Tournament at the beginning of April, which they look forward to.

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DIT students Cathal McHugh and Peter Domican have made history for their club, by reaching the final of the All-Ireland Club Football Senior Championship. St Brigids who are based in Roscommon will meet Crossmaglen Rangers of Armagh on St Patrick’s Day in Croke Park.

It’s a pairing that few would have predicted at the start of the competition and is the second time in four years that the two clubs will meet. Crossmaglen took the spoils on the last occasion, beating Brigids in a close encounter at the semi-final stage of the same competition in 2007. Both Crossmaglen and St Brigids overcame stiff competition in the semi-finals beating current champions Kilmacud Crokes and Nemo Rangers respectively. Peter and Cathal who are studying for a Masters in Business and Entrepreneurship were thrilled with the victory.

“We were absolutely delighted with the win over Nemo” says centre-back Peter. “I couldn’t believe it when the ref blew for full-time. It was an unbelievable feeling. The match could have gone either way and...”

OIT TO SEND TWO TEAMS TO UMBRO CUP FINALS

The DIT men’s premier soccer team have reached the tournament finals of the prestigious CFAI Umbro Cup, which are being held in Castlebar on the 9 and 10 March.

DIT is due to play a Letterkenny IT in the quarter-final, the side that beat last year’s winners Carlow IT. This will be a stern test for DIT but if successful they will go on to play the winners of GMIT and Dundalk IT.

DIT have not reached this stage of the tournament since 2008, a feat made even more impressive due to the fact they lost more than half of their starting 11 from the previous season.

It was a tough run-in for the DIT squad who faced a strong CIT team in the last 16. DIT eventually came out 1-0 victors thanks to a Gareth Matthews penalty.

DIT again faced Munster opposition in the quarter-final stage in the shape of Colaiste Stiofain from Cork. DIT were drawn away from home and had to make the long journey south in the early morning.

There proved to be no sign of fatigue on the pitch as it was to be an extremely open and thrilling match. The pitch was larger then what the DIT players were accustomed to in Grangegorman and this could have accounted for the large number of chances by both sides.

DIT struck twice in the opening 20 minutes with 2 excellent Toheeb Adigun goals, but Colaiste-Stiofain pulled one back before half time, leaving DIT with the narrowest of...