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DIT:Students Union

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Union split on abortion referendum

By Aisling Casey

PLANS to hold an internal abortion referendum have been rejected by DITSU

Council to the dissatisfaction of some of its members. After a constitutional review of the abortion referendum, it was proposed at council last month that DITSU be legally obliged to give information on abortion. The proposal stated that the Union will have a neutral position and neutral policy provision for providing information on abortion.

DTSU Overall President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick informed Council that "With this neutral position, although not everyone would be totally happy it ensures that far more members will be less dissatisfied with the Union's abortion policy." After the motion was put to a vote, it was carried by a majority ruling, with the decision not to hold an internal referendum within DIT. Speaking at the meeting, DITSU Cllr Hugh O'Reilly said, "A Union is not a political party. This is like Siptu mandating the government. In my view if we have a referendum and it is carried, I do not believe that my view is being represented by the Union." He added, "If DITSU want to find out what the feeling is on the ground among their students, why not throw in a question in one of their surveys the Union conducts each year which would deal with the abortion issue." The internal referendum was to be held in an effort to establish a political consensus among DIT students. The call for a referendum on abortion was agreed to by DITSU Council at the end of the previous academic year. The decision was taken after the abortion issue was raised by delegates at USI National Congress last year; when DIT could not comment on its abortion policies without the consensus of its students. Continued on page 5

Protocol for dealing with suspect packages posted on DIT website

By Ailfe Stokes


The protocol includes a number of characteristics that could identify a suspicious package. These are features of packages or letters such as excessive postage, handwritten or poorly typed addresses, protruding wires or aluminium foil and oily stains or dirt. It has been suggested that the DIT Independent should be renamed the Independent in the light of the situation. As this paper is based on the website at www.it.ie/news/9201/security, a full text of the protocol is available at the website of the Department of Health and Children at www.irlgov.ie.

In terms of a possible evacuation in the case of any attacks biological or otherwise, the college has individual safety statements drawn up by the Senior Management in each faculty. Also as a government funded body, DIT would follow any recommended procedures outlined by the government in relation to issues of national safety and protection.

Editorial comment: This is your paper!

It has been suggested that the DIT Independent should be renamed the "Aungier Street Independent" in the light of our first issue and hearing about O'Brien's Middle East experiences: page 10

Recently graduated DIT student Carl O'Brien has won his second successive ESBI Young Journalist of the Year award. His second successive ESB Young Journalist of the Year award. He won his second successive ESB Young Journalist of the Year award. Recently graduated DIT student Carl O'Brien has won his second successive ESBI Young Journalist of the Year award. By one is happy to learn of such a development. As this paper is based in Aungier Street, it is inevitable that there is going to be more coverage of that site above the other DITs. It is the nature of any newspaper that it features several stories relating to the area in which it operates. Secondly, we're going around to all the sites with posters outlining contact details and the like, little or anything was received in the way of feedback thereafter.

Thirdly, if those officers who are so concerned by the situation want to air their grievances, then any letters to the editor will be published forthwith. All contributions to the DIT Independent are welcome.

This paper is for all the students of DIT and it is our collective responsibility to make this publication as representative and informed as possible.
Life tastes good

Coca-Cola
DIT report vital to Government child policies

MINISTER for Children, Mary Hanafin, T.D. recently launched the National Report of the IEA Preliminary Project, entitled Seven Years Old: School Experience in Ireland, in DIT Rathmines.

The percentage increase in income of families of children attending disadvantaged schools, between Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project was 9 per cent, whereas for families of children attending non-designated disadvantaged schools, it was 32 per cent. The study's findings directly support those recently reported by the ESRI, in terms of widening relative income gaps.

The project carried out by Neirin Hayes and Margaret Kernan of the CSER also found that boys in designated disadvantaged schools scored lowest on cognitive, language, and academic development. However, they did score slightly higher on social and emotional development.

The project was designed to assess the need for, and the utilisation of, early childhood care and education, along with the quality of childhood experiences in these settings.

The project focuses on the development status and the school experiences of a nation-wide sample of children, who have been tracked by the research team since they were 4 years old.

DIT maps the changing face of Dublin

The Department of Geomatics in Dublin Institute of Technology and Skerries Community College has commenced a joint venture involving the creation of an amnesty map of Skerries in North County Dublin up to date.

By using DIT equipment and facilities, and working closely with staff of the Department of Geomatics, selected lecturers from Skerries will develop and use basic cartographic skills necessary for modern map revision. The project proved successful and the consultancy involved in major developments has impacted on the currency of the initial map developed in 1997, namely the development of Skerries Rock, Kelly's Bay residential areas, and Skerries Town.

DIT is delighted to get involved in this project and is particularly pleased to have the original map of Skerries, fresh from the digitising pens with the support of DIT equipment and funding, will be brought up to date. Skerries Community College has been informed that its student will work on the ongoing consultancy/development project, that they will gain an appreciation of the DIT sidelines on the map will be introduced to a third media marketing team, and that they are halfway through their education.

DIT Constitutional Reform: What do you really want?

By Jarlath Molloy

AS Brendan Goldsmith looks ahead to the referendum to determine whether the current Senate should be continued, the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) is embarking on an exercise to find out what its 5,000 students think about their current Senate.

The move by DIT, which also has branches in Skerries and Tallaght, comes in response to concerns raised by the last set of students who took part in the exercise.

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Lecturers complete further training

By Ailsing Casey

A NUMBER of DIT lecturers have completed the first postgraduate Certificate in third level Learning and Teaching.

The course was delivered at the DIT Campus in Store Street and was designed to give the lecturer a flexible and valuable opportunity to further develop their teaching expertise.

It was designed to help lecturers to become more effective teachers and to develop their professional capabilities.

In particular, it is aimed at developing skills in the use of technology in teaching and learning, as well as providing an opportunity for lecturers to explore new approaches to teaching and learning.

The course was designed to provide lecturers with the opportunity to develop their own teaching skills and to enable them to share their knowledge and experience with others.

It was also aimed at helping lecturers to develop their professional capabilities, to improve their efficacy and to become more effective teachers.

The course was delivered in three parts, each of which covered a different aspect of teaching and learning.

The first part, which was delivered in the autumn, covered the use of technology in teaching and learning, and the development of effective teaching strategies.

The second part, which was delivered in the spring, covered the use of technology in assessing student learning and the development of effective assessment strategies.

The third part, which was delivered in the summer, covered the use of technology in the development of effective teaching and learning environments.

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Caterers deem salads unprofitable

By Clare Stronge

Students in DIT Mountjoy Square have found cutting the size of portions and due to inadequate refrigeration, the company were throwing away food at the end of each day. However, Mountjoy Square students are now the only DIT students with no salad option on their canteen menu.

Students in the college are concerned for their health: "It's really not fair, there's nowhere locally to get fresh salad. If you don't want stodgy food, other DIT's don't have this problem," one third year student said.

A spokesperson for DIT said that it had no direct control over the company and any of its canteens as the contract is leased to the caterers. However, the catering company does have a policy of meeting consumer health needs; for example there is always a vegetarian option and fresh fruit is available daily.

On the other hand, the company felt it was sufficient first place with the salad bars from Freshways.

An employee of the company however, did say in the college that the DIT Independent that a "Pay and Weigh" system where portions would be regulated could have saved the bar.

Alvey's proposal for the provision of tea and coffee facilities for students

called in favour of Kevin Street President Des Alvey's proposal for the provision of tea and coffee facilities for students. Councillors voted in favour of the constitution as "the last two elections cost £10,000 and we have been trying to secure an alternative new site and that is now being addressed." The report prepared by the Governing Body of DIT for submission to the Department of the Taoiseach in relation to the proposed northside campus in Grangegorman is currently being studied by Government Councillors, Council was informed.

A working committee which was established by DIT, which discussed the details of the submission, has "tried to come up with a situation which pleases everyone," according to Margaret Fitzpatrick. Consultants were appointed by DIT to compile a consultancy report for consideration by the Department of the Taoiseach, which has to reply to the Institute within the next three months.

One of the proposed campus has been provisionally given a 2007 launch date by the Governing Body. Councillors' independent chairman and former Overall President Ross O'Daly said that this was the "opportunity to run at the end of their first year. If you want to get involved in the workings of the union, there is always something to do." Molloy added that the holding of both elections on the same day would save £3,000 in costs. Despite some concerns expressed by councillors that the move would prove discriminatory to incoming students, the motion was carried.

Jarlath Molloy urged councillors to vote in favour of the amendment to the constitution as "the last two elections cost £10,000 and due to patient across the DITSU and Aungier Street, we will establish parity across the DITSU at a later date," said Alvey. "We already have these services in both Bolton Street and Mountjoy Square and they have been very successful, so we have no reason to believe that we will not be any different in Aungier Street."

Ross O'Daly informed Council that DIT is in the third year of its seven-year plan. "The phase of consideration by the International Review Committee, which is the ultimate decision maker in relation to the granting of a higher status to the Institute. Elections to be held on same date. Both the Overall DITSU and Part-time officer elections are to be held on the same day towards the end of the academic year following a debate held by DITSU councillors. Jarlath Molloy urged councillors to vote in favour of the amendment to the constitution as "the last two elections cost £10,000 between them and to bring parity across the campus." It would be a practical step forward." Bolton Street President Neal Cronin supported Molloy's position, stating, "this couldn't be needed more. It is extremely necessary. There has also been a drop in the numbers running for elections in the past few years. If we had the part-time officer elections at the start of the year, then full-time sectional officers would be assisted right at the start of the year, right from day one. It is discriminatory against first year students? I don't think it is because they would still have the opportunity to run at the end of their first year. If you want to get involved in the workings of the union, there is always something to do." Molloy added that the holding of both elections on the same date would save £3,000 in costs. Despite some concerns expressed by councillors that the move would prove discriminatory to incoming students, the motion was carried.

Students awarded bursary

By Aiding Casey

The Irish Road Haulage Association (IRHA) has awarded two DIT students a bursary fund to encourage two DIT students on their full-time back ing while they complete their third level education.

The bursary, which is solely awarded by the IRHA and Haz Chem Training Limited is awarded to degree students in the areas of Transport and Engineering and Transport and Logistics.

The recipients were Rosin O'Carloyw and Orla Leavy. "I was very pleased with her reason for choosing transport as a career study," he said, "that believing the Irish haulage association's contribution to the economy is under valued and important for the perception in the future." The aim of the IRHA is to encourage young people to take the role of the transport and haulage industry in Ireland and ultimately provide feedback at influential levels to consistently build and improve existing industry standards and levels.

Commenting on the awards, Sean Daly, President of the IRHA said: "This is a move towards what the IRHA see the future of the industry in Ireland. It is young educated people who will serve to build this industry and improve their chosen occupation and necessary changes needed to ensure an efficient and streamlined transport system in this country now and in the future."

Representing Haz Chem Training Limited, Seamus Clear said that the award was to benefit students contributing at third level is a vital contribution to the industry. I am delighted Haz Chem can contribute to the development of young people in the transport industry at this level. It is highly pleasing to see that a "This is a significant development for the future development of transport and haulage industry here."

IT student wins premier award

DIT student, Donna O'Malley has won the inaugural Premier DIT Student Award. Donna, a native of Westport, was presented with the award at a ceremony held in DIT Bolton Street on the 24th October. She achieved first place with the highest marks in her graduating class surveying class of 2001.

DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith commended Donna for her achievements and wished her every success in her endeavours in the future.

The award was presented to Donna by Malcolm McDonagh & Partners Ltd as part of their 50th jubilee year celebrations. The prize, valued at £1,500 is given each year to the best overall student graduating from DIT's Construction Management Degree course.

Mucleavy & McDonagh & Partners Ltd will also provide a set of challenging chartered quantity surveyors, presented the new award to celebrate Donna's achievement. Donna's involvement in the surveying profession and construction industry.

The award, which was inaugurated in March, motivates students studying in the field and helps to develop a communication platform with the industry.

DIT President Dr. Brendan Goldsmith said: "I would like to thank the opportunity to give someone a piece of my knowledge and thank Malcolm McDonagh & Partners for establishing the award, which gives the students an added incentive to excel in their studies.

He added, "It also has the added incentive of developing long lasting mutually beneficial relationships between the DIT and the practitioners in the field."

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Students must stand up and be heard

DITSU's decision to red light a proposed internal abortion referendum has been a correct and logical decision. With the State Referendum on this most divisive issue just months away, there is no time for procrastination. The opportunity to have their opinions known to the rest of the Irish electorate should not be left in the hands of the Uachtarán. Concerned students will have the opportunity to make their views known to the electorate. USB's aim is to have 100 per cent registered to vote. USI President Richard Hammond. "By ensuring that students are able to express their views, encouraging all students to vote, we hope to deliver the biggest turnout of the 18-25 vote ever," he said. "We have totally failed Ireland's students and a General Election is the best time for students to have their views heard."

USI seeks e-vote for students

The National Student Voter Registration Week was recently launched in colleges to maximise the student vote at the next general election.

The fundamental goal of the campaign is the promotion of democracy, according to USI President Richard Hammond. "By ensuring that students are able to express their views, encouraging all students to vote, we hope to deliver the biggest turnout of the 18-25 vote ever," he said. "We have totally failed Ireland's students and a General Election is the best time for students to have their views heard."

The USI believes a large turnout will have a significant impact.

To highlight the large amount of student support, Hammond hopes to organise a pledge campaign where students sign a card on what that politician's stance is on educational issues.

"A lot of times politicians ignore student issues because they believe not enough of them vote -we're going to make sure they can't ignore it next time," says USI President Richard Hammond.

DIT students scoop design award

Shakira Nels, with the Irish Design Award which she and Roey Coveney won.

The spirit of student protest is not what it once was. The French summer of 1968 demonstrated the influence that students have the potential to wield, to topple even the highest of office holders with. In a world today which is gripped by a fear it has not known for forty years, the Irish student populace remains largely unperturbed.

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by a comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Student Union.

The DIT Independent

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FOCUS ON ....

Portland Row in a row

By Debbie Flood and Aoife Stokes

DIT is carrying out a full report into the condition of the colleges Fine Art building in Portland Row following an inspection of the campus by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA).

The college was served with an improvement notice by the HSA after the authority noted a lack of a safety plan and a lack of maintenance in the Portland Row building.

The building, which is used by Fine Arts students, was closed for three weeks in September after toilets on the first floor of the building were found to be leaking through to the rooms below.

By Aoife Stokes

Speaking to the DIT Independent, Anita Groeber, Course Co-ordinator and health and safety representative of Portland Row, said that staff and students had been instructed by their perspective unions not to enter the building once this leakage had been discovered.

DIT Co-ordination and Services Officer, Michael Marnane, said that whilst there was a problem with water seeping into the section of the building which DIT leased, this was a problem with one of the other tenants and that the matter had been resolved by the landlord. "We've made good any damage done", he said.

Ms Groeber said that as health and safety representative in the building, she was not satisfied that the situation was adequate saying that previous problems with leaking sewage had been patched up but there was no guarantee that it wouldn't happen again.

She also described waste pipes and manholes in the building which are exuding a bad smell.

Mr Marnane said that officials from Enterprise Ireland had checked out any sewage problems and that it was now absolutely safe.

Describing the area in which the Portland Row building is situated as "less than desirable", Mr Marnane said that given the nature of the work they do, Fine Arts students need large open spaces to harness their creativity which is why the building was originally selected by DIT some eight years ago.

However Ms Groeber expressed concerns that a health and safety report had never been issued on the building.

"Were awaiting action from DIT but we haven't seen anything yet", she said.

Students at Portland Row feel badly effected by the three-week closure of the college last September, experiencing particular pressure in completing their project for their Christmas assessments.

Head of the school of Art and Design and Printing, John O'Connor said, "the report is a cause for grave concern and I am hopeful that the buildings office in consultation with the school is addressing the situation with urgency".

Another major problem facing the students is the notable absence of canteen facilities.

Portland Row, which is used by Fine Arts students, was closed for three weeks in September after toilets on the first floor of the building were found to be leaking through to the rooms below.

Over a hundred full time students go to Portland Row but their canteen is a small bare room with four tables and only ten chairs.

Up until last year Campbell's Catering supplied fresh sandwiches and pastries to the college but Mr Marnane said the situation had proved uneconomical for the college.

Instead management have installed a confectionery dispenser and drinks machine.

Ms Groeber described this lack of facilities as something that she is not happy with also highlighting inadequacies in relation to fire exits and stairs.

She feels that there are a lot of problems to be resolved that the "staff have put up with it for years for fear of jeopardising staff and students".

One factor that may have brought this issue to the fore is that Portland Rows local building manager, Mr Paul McMurphy, moved to Cathal Brugha Street in September leaving this position vacant in Portland Row.

The position is only now being interviewed for.

The improvement notice issued by the HSA to the buildings office of DIT runs out on December 16th.

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www.buseireann.ie

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Marked improvement for Clubs and Socs training

By Aisling Casey

DIT must end University 'Obsession'

By Aidan Casey

Dr Brendan Goldsmith said, "Dr O'Hare seems to believe that a common name implies a common nature; thus he speaks of MIT as if it were an institute of technology, in the Irish sense of that name."

"I do believe that DIT should stop its obsession with becoming another university and concentrate with becoming another university and become another university and concentrate with becoming another university - and by god did they do a good job of it!" he said.

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A UNIVERSITY in Singapore is pioneering an initiative which sends students their exam results via text messages to mobile phones - removing the need for crowd control at exam notice boards.

With 97 per cent of Temasek College's 13,000 full-time students having mobile phones, the new system will mean students can work out cheaper and more efficiently than traditional post. The system has cost $510,000 (UK£3,800) to install and was tested over three months, using 500 students. The college refused to comment on the margin of error, or annotation protocol, but students were sent the wrong grades, when contacted by the Straits Times newspaper.

Students will have to register online at the polytechnic's website to receive the service. Those who do not register will receive their results via conventional post, or by logging on to the college website.

The Nanyang Technological University introduced a mobile phone results service earlier this year, but it employed wireless application protocol (WAP) technology which proved much less popular, possibly because the students had to pay to access it.

For the first time in Ireland, DCU pioneered exam results on-line via web-enabled (WAP) mobile phones this year. WAP technology means new results users access to information on a variety of handheld wireless devices. (The primary test made by the DCU Computer Services Department for this initiative is the Siemens S35i). Students were able to log into the DCU website at http://wap.dcu.ie and then select "Exam Results".

They then had to key in their student ID number and password to view their results on screens.

Commentators believe that student access to exam information on various technologies is likely to develop rapidly in the next few years.

Further Ireland-France research encouraged

"Only medically fit can go to college", China

Canteen Boycott at Trinity

University of Technology Sligo
November 2001 News

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Pakistan Diary

By Carl O'Brien

Islamabad. September 18th

So where’s all the action? There are no street protests, no sign of violence. But some bored looking soldiers, all is a picture of serenity.

A look at the map shows Islamabad is around four hours drive from the border. Not that the news anchors from CNN, BBC or NBC broadcasting form the rooftop of the plush Marriot Hotel.

On TV it may look like they’re within shooting distance of the border, but the main reason seem to be staying within reaching distance of room service.

The hotel has been transformed into a three ringed media circus, as hacks rack loudly into mobile phones and technicians cram their hotel rooms full of satellite gear, and news anchors battle for space on the roof.

President Musharraf appears on TV in his combat gear and tells the nation he is throwing his support behind the US and calls for the nation to unite. Everyone gulps in fear, expecting that civil war could erupt within days.

Who built this place? The city is divided into a crazy grid system, intersected by long Stalinist avenues which lead up to the parliament. It’s a strange, sterile, vacuous kind of place. It’s definitely time to move on.

Rawalpindi. September 19th

I find a driver and a translator and we head for the sprawling city of Rawalpindi. I go native for dinner and eat with the locals. A dead cockerel spluttering on a US journalist.

In reality the protesters are a minority. The middle classes and shopkeepers say they have been hijacked by opportunistic political parties.

Peshawar. September 20th

The border is a dangerous, turbulent, unpredictable place. A bit like South Kerry, in a lot of ways. The closest city to the border is Peshawar and after a three hour journey I arrive into a maelstrom of street protests and police roadblocks.

An angry crowd of around 15,000 fundamentalists surge through the narrow city streets, like a raging river of anger. They stop to listen to one of the religious leaders, “Jihad is our way”, “Bush will die” and “Death to Americans!”

“A Pakistan friend rings up and tells his aide that I am from Ireland the country which is fighting Britain for independence and is sympathetic to the plight of the Taliban militia. Incredibly, he agrees to do the interview. High up in the white dusty mountains we meet. The firebrand leader says he had an army of potentially thousands who are willing to cross over the border. Most have already gone that’s why the madrassas, or religious schools, are empty.

The countdown to war is looming.

Peshawar. September 29th

The police don’t like reporters going to the border. It means the conditions refugees are forced to endure is highlighted. Still, there are ways and means of getting to the border. My guide tells me I’ll have to dress up in traditional Muslim gear so I won’t be spotted by the security forces as we try to cross the checkpoints.

The bagsy trousers and prayer cap fit well, but I can’t get the rope to fasten my trousers together, so I put on a belt discreetly. This all goes very well for a few minutes until I passer-by helpfully points out that my trousers have dropped to my ankles.

In order to try and bypass the checkpoints we drive off the main road, through fields and dry river beds. Once off the highway the border area is controlled by tribal militias. Fortunately my guide is known among the tribe we cross.

After a few judicious tributes, some Kalashnikov wielding soldier hop into a truck and give us an armed escort to the border. The landscape is almost like a 21st century, a white boundless with white boulders and vast dusty plains.

As we drive through the jagged ravines and steep gorges, the drivers are trickling through, carrying all their worldly possessions on the backs of a donkey.

They know borders are sealed and this is their only hope to avoid the impending war. One man says he has left son at home to guard the house. But here they have nothing here for his five young children with them. Here, in the first year of the 21st century, a man and his family escape the midday sun behind a mudthut wall with no food or water.

Peshawar October 4th

Sending copy back to the newspaper is tough enough at the best of times. It gets easier when I discover a basement internet facility run by some young Pakistanis.

Dressed in traditional dress and praying caps, they press their faces close to their screens. As I pass, I notice they are all looking at porn. Cover up your women in public, but we can look at them in private, seems to be the message.

The homepage on the computer is set at xxxhotgirls.com but no notice they are all looking at porn. Cover up your women in public, but we can look at them in private, seems to be the message.

The city of Peshawar Pakistan

North West Frontier, September 29th

The Taliban don’t like me much. So when they try to get an interview with Sufi Mohammed, the chief of the Pakistan Taliban in the lawless north west province, he doesn’t say yes. I have a plan, however.
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Running away with the Cirque

Last week when the DIT stairs became a little too exhaustive and the guilt feeling that comes from extending lunch breaks into the wee small hours, one DIT student, who shall remain nameless, decided to pack it all in and run away with the circus. Apparently it used to be quite common.

I woke to a torrential downpour. Why was I surprised it is Ireland and I was on my way to the circus. Day one of my new career. Undeterred by the lack of cooperation from the elements, I had my Ready Brek and left.

On arrival at the already mad snoaked field, I was greeted by Tracy, a 33-year-old English acrobat. Tracy does the cordless act. That’s the one where you climb up a rope to about 13 meters and then dangle by your big toe while you swing over and back. It looks amazing but I would probably be more suited to juggling or something a little less like flying free style.

The 23 circus performers at Gandy's Cirque Surreal in the RDS had dozens of reasons for their initial subscription to the world of acrobats and canvas. Tracy had joined for love. Counting the time she spent as a schoolgirl, Tracy had spent time with the circus. So the stunt man I worked for left and I stayed.

Phillip Gandey, the owner and director of the circus offered Tracy a job. She started by putting up the posters, but quickly progressed to helping out on stage. ‘I carry in snakes and that, I assisted in the knife throwing act with Phillip, where I would stand at the board and he would throw the knives at things like that.’

Tracy introduced me to Jamill, who is 18 and has been in the circus for 6 years already. He is the football juggler in the show, which didn’t sound too impressive to me until I saw his act. Jamill spent the next 2 hours trying to teach me to juggle just two footballs.

A far cry from the six he was using, but still an impossibility for my little fingers. Jamill followed in the footsteps of both his parents and grandparents when he joined the circus, and most of his friends were also involved in it. Meanwhile, I had failed to even balance a football on my hand let alone on my finger, so my thoughts turned to the trapeze. I used to love swings!

While awaiting my debut on the trapeze I was taking a look around the place. I hadn’t been struck by the waft of animal shit that I remember being predominant in the circuses of my childhood. I soon found out why.

There are no animals in this show. It was a more modern style of circus with no animals, no acts with fire and no ringmaster.

Damn, this wasn’t my idea of a circus, but I did still want to try the trapeze.

On my final evening after three days of the sweet sickening smell of popcorn and fairy floss, I decided that the trapeze is not as much fun as it looks. The idea of just a thin length of elastic as my only safety device at 15 meters from the ground was just too much to take.

So realising that there was only one thing left to do, I turned my back on the thrills and spills of the circus and headed for DIT with my tail tucked between my legs and my two feet firmly on the ground.

Dublin's finest pub lunches

The country-style pub experience

Devil's, Camden Street, 7/10

This one is one of the more traditional pubs, which is reflected in the menu. It consists generally of various toasted meats, and staples such as lasagne, chicken curry and snedges. Not a pauper in sight (although toasted sandwiches are available). On this occasion I tried the lasagne, which was more like savoye rice, but nonetheless quite satisfying. My co-reviewer had the burger, which was a ball of mince and onion, served on a bun with chips and cole slaw. The burger had the air of something which had been cooked for some time. Nonetheless, the plate was cleard. Most main courses are between £3.50 and £6.

Do say: A pot of Lyons tea please? Don’t say: Are these potatoes organic?

The curry experience.

On Ellis, Suffolk Street, 5/10

This one is one of the most popular lunch venues in the city centre, and most days has a huge queue of people along the counter. As well as the usual hot food, there also is a salad and sandwich counter. I find it very difficult to get excited about self-service curry, so in the interests of objectivity, I brought along a fan of this particular style of dining. He had lamb with an assortment of vegetables which he declared to be bloody good. I had chicken of some description, which was fine if unexceptional. If curry lunches are your thing, then this appears to be the place for it.

Do say: Can I have extra gravy with that please? Don’t say: Excuse me, can you take our order please?

The divinity experience.

Fallons, The Coombe 10/10

Make no mistake about it this is without doubt the best lunch in Dublin. The secret here is simplicity, because the menu consists of soup and toasted sandwiches. Not very exciting, I hear you say, but that’s where you’re wrong. Fallons was so good the first time that we went back for more, just to be sure it wasn’t a fluke. The soup is better than Granny used to make. The sandwiches have a number of qualities which set them apart from the average toastie - made on fresh bread, grilled rather than put in one of those useless machines, actually hot and crispy, properly melted cheese, and supplied with mustard and mayonnaise. And the coffee and tea come with an After Eight. Best of all, soup, a toasted special (ham, cheese, tomato and onion) and tea or coffee will set you back around a fiver, if not less, in one of the cosiest pubs in Dublin.

Do say: I’ll have soup and a special please. Don’t say: Do you take Visa?
A car pulls up near an abandoned house. A young man opens the car door, digital clock shows a day which has gone well. Only it hasn't been just that day. Jim had been living months and years of personal problems which had blighted his life and his family. Gambling has become the bane of Jim's life and there appears to be only one solution. (name changed)

"I tried to commit suicide," says Jim, sipping his mug of tea. "I had a bucket and a lead for a tape recorder and I saw a tree nearby, I felt that I could end the pain; I wasn't thinking of anything. I kicked the bucket from under myself. In that instant the pain disappeared but for some reason God was looking after me. I was actually on the tip of my toes and stayed that way for about 10 or 15 minutes. It was like an eternity but I eventually got down, got into my car and went off home. Life is now looking after me." Jim's bon­ ety changes to comfort talking to a complete stranger senses to have been honed from the hundreds of Gamblers Anonymous (GA) meetings and sessions at the Table Lodge, which also consists of recovering alcoholics. It has been over a year now but he still feels like he's just needed to continue my path forward. I began one day when I joined in a game of cards. I said, "I played poker all day and I began to miss days of like that."

Jim's gambling became a serious problem when he started university. "It began one day when I joined in a game of poker," he said. "I thought I was a drug addict and I got friends around, there's a wonderful closeness and it's understood by everyone." Gambling, in his view, "is a cancer" and GA "is my chemo and it keeps it at bay. I'll always be a compulsive gambler."

Jim was supported by his family throughout the worst of times and he has since returned to third level education. And now he feels he owes it to other gamblers to give his gift back to those who helped him through his illness. "Someone was there for me and now I have to be there for someone else. I hate what (gambling) does to me. Hopefully in 20 years time I'll be still in the rooms."

To those who have a prob­lem but have yet to tell any­one, Jim has a simple mes­ sage. "Get in contact with people. If you get on to most churches or doctors they will know how to get in touch with people, be it addiction centres or GA. Jim came close to giving up on life, but has seen the light thanks to his family, GA and the vari­ous support services designed to help those who need it.

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Your student days are supposed to be the best of your life. However, it doesn't work out like that for everyone. What starts out as fun can lead to a serious addiction, with the potential to wreck your academic career, and indeed, your life.

Dermot Keyes

The gambling took over completely," he said. "I used to bring a change of clothes with me in the car so I wouldn't be caught out at home."

Your student days are supposed to be the best of your life. However, it doesn't work out like that for everyone. What starts out as fun can lead to a serious addiction, with the potential to wreck your academic career, and indeed, your life. Just needed to continue my gambling."

After his failed suicide attempt, Jim admitted himself to hospital but had no interest in living as he reached rock bottom. It was recommended that he attend Table Lodge for assessment, something he found difficult to accept. "I stood on the cliffs down there and I felt like jumping off," he said. "I eventually went to (Table Lodge) and the doctor told me I couldn't come back the following day. I went home effing and blinding at the world and I had no intention of ever going back there."

The next morning he had calmed down and he returned to Table Lodge. He soon found his life changing for the better. I found who I am as a person down there," admitted Jim. "I discovered it's alright to be human and it helped me understand more about my illness. It intro­duced me back to the (GA) meetings, I came away from meetings feeling so good; it was a great life, it's like you're going to a psychoanalyst. People just go to as many meetings as you need.

Still attending Table Lodge once a week, Jim feels the sessions have given him back the life that gam­bling had taken from him. "I've found home, it's a fel­lowship. People put their hands out to you and you've got friends around, there's a wonderful closeness and it's understood by everyone."

Gambling, in his view, "is a cancer" and GA "is my chemo and it keeps it at bay. I'll always be a compulsive gambler."

Jim's gambling became a serious problem when he started university. "It began one day when I joined in a game of poker," he said. "I bought a tenner's worth of those scratch cards and I got four of the letters which made up the word 'victory.' If you got the whole word you won a hundred thousand pounds and I thought that I'd win the prize no problem; I thought that beating the system wasn't going to be a problem. I ended up spending a thou­sand pounds that day alone trying to get the other two letters. I thought the system couldn't beat me. Inevitably, it did and as Jim's addiction intensified, so too did the problems that accompany such an illness, one Jim himself described as "the silent illness."

Jim's secret addiction was finally revealed when the local branch bank manager contacted his mother in rela­tion to a number of forged cheques which had been issued in her name. At first, Jim denied it, but he eventually admitted his guilt, claiming he had tried to beat the system. Earlier that day, he had placed a substan­tial bet on a horse and when his distraught mother had left the sitting room, he switched on the teletext to see if he had won.

The meetings were to become an integral part of Jim's life and he attended over 90 meetings in the first 90 days of his recovery. For the next two years, he avoid­ed gambling. "When people go back gambling it's the people who fall the pro­gramme and not the other way round," he said. "For the 90 days of my recovery, I was as close to giving up on life as I could."

The gambling took over completely," he said. "I used to bring a change of clothes with me in the car so I wouldn't be caught out at home. I bought bottles of freebee and kept them in the car too. I was totally focused on how to get money." Making money was never an objective for Jim; it was merely what he required to feed his habit.

"I never bought anything for myself out of winnings, I just needed to continue my gambling."

To his great relief, his bet didn't end there. I was beginning to win and I didn't lose anything. I kicked the bucket from under myself. In that instant the pain disappeared but for some reason God was looking after me. I was actually on the tip of my toes and stayed that way for about 10 or 15 minutes. It was like an eternity but I eventually got down, got into my car and went off home. Life is now looking after me."

Winnings of hundreds were a big thing at the time," he said. "I bought a tenner's worth of those scratch cards and I got four of the letters which made up the word 'victory.' If you got the whole word you won a hundred thousand pounds and I thought that I'd win the prize no problem; I thought that beating the system wasn't going to be a problem. I ended up spending a thou­sand pounds that day alone trying to get the other two letters. I thought the system couldn't beat me. Inevitably, it did and as Jim's addiction intensified, so too did the problems that accompany such an illness, one Jim himself described as "the silent illness."

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under
Potter's
spell
by Darragh Clifford
IF BY NOW you do not know who Harry Potter is, you have probably spent the last six weeks hiding in a cave in Afghanistan. For the rest of us, the name Harry Potter brings to mind some of the most prominent merchandising around at the moment. The 12 year old boy with the John Lennon-style glasses and a flying broom (a Nimbus 2000 to be exact) has already conquered the world's hearts with four children's novels.

On November 16, Harry Potter could enter cinematic history as being one of the most successful movies of all time. Harry Potter was born in a small Edinburgh café five years ago to the then unknown author JK Rowling. Stories of how Rowling would sit over one cup of coffee for hours on end because she couldn't afford a second cup are now legend. Over 100 million copies in 46 languages later, Rowling is the United Kingdom's second richest woman in the world behind Madonna.

To date, she has written five Harry Potter novels; The Chamber of Secrets, The Prisoner of Azkaban and The Goblet of Fire. The 12 year old boy with the flying broom (a nimbus 2000) is not alone. There are over 50 million young and old readers alike. (Prince Charles is a known fan).

Quite simply, the Harry Potter stories mirror the fantasy world of tales like The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe and Alice in Wonderland. The result is a global phenomenon that is about to get much bigger. Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone tells the story of Harry, whose parents were murdered by the evil Voldemort when he was a baby. Forced to live with the awful Dursleys who keep him locked up under the stairs, (The Dursleys are Muggles. This is what wizards call normal adults), Harry has no knowledge of the wizarding world until his 12th birthday, when he receives a letter from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

"Legends it as that when Rowling viewed Daniel's screen test, she felt as if she had been reunited with a long lost son"

Professor Mcgonagall, Alan Rickman (Professor Snape) and Richard Harris (Dumbledore) head the cast, while Steven Spielberg helmed the project. But when Spielberg dropped out, Chris Columbus of Home Alone and Mrs Doubtfire fame stepped in. Columbus auditioned 60,000 children for the part of Harry, but not one left a mark on the young boy. On November 16 is the date that Potter fans around the world will finally see their hero. Harry Potter found his Harry in Daniel Radcliffe. Legends it as that when Rowling viewed Daniel’s screen test, she felt as if she had been reunited with a long lost son. (Harry Potter was born on July 31).

But when Spielberg dropped out, Chris Columbus of Home Alone and Mrs Doubtfire fame stepped in. Columbus auditioned 60,000 children for the part of Harry, but not one left a mark on the young boy. When Columbus stumbled upon a tape of child actor Daniel Radcliffe, Rowling viewed Daniel’s screen test, she felt as if she had been reunited with a long lost son. (Harry Potter was born on July 31). Columbus declared that this was the child for the part of Harry. The movie is due to be released on November 16.

"Harry Potter is an impression during the past few weeks of the movie. "Contrary to what some reviewers say, the movie is still magical," said Columbus. "I can see this film quite easily and I am very pleased with the result."

Almost everyone made an effort to go and dress up. Despite the disruption at the start of the night, the Halloween party received good reviews from the students. According to Aungier Street’s Clubs and Societies officer, Connor McDermott, “many students were so drunk they didn’t even remember the night”. The bar was chaotic with everyone trying toavail of the cheap vodka and red bull. It wasn’t long before the thirsty students had cleared the bar dry of vodka. The lack of cheap alcohol later on in the night didn’t seem to bother most students as everyone was in great form.

The male students were more innovative. D’Unbelievable, Tarzan and Bob Marley were some of the best. Many of the girls were original in their costumes dressing up as schoolgirls, French maids and bunnies. However their revealing costumes were a hit with the opposite sex.

The organisers were delighted at the number of people who showed up in fancy dress.

By Karen Creed
The organisers were delighted at the number of people who showed up in fancy dress.
Mogwai field a younger team

By Laurence Macklin

EARLIER this year Mogwai played what was the gig of the year and one of the most phenomenal shows I’ve ever seen in the Red Box.

The band themselves were keen to claim it was their best gig ever, and on the evidence of the two-hour set, I would definitely agree. So when I heard that they were going to play a second gig in the Olympia, I was more than happy to hand out a few tickets for the privilege.

However the gig in the Olympia was a different animal altogether and was a tale of the unexpected. The band that took the stage on Wednesday 9th was not the polished eight-piece with string section that, together with Dave Friedmann, carved a little gem of a song, and reduced it to a migraine inducing mess.

His on-stage antics were as entertaining and engaging as ever, and included Glen sharing a lollipop with the audience, as well as wearing a silly, oversized hat that made his head look like a giant pumpkin.

The Frames belted out Revelate effortlessly and performed a blissed out performance of Disappointed.

They slip easily between their rock-trad (or should that be trad-rock?) classics such as Fictioneer and Pavement Tune and the dreamy ballads of Giving Me Wings and Sanna Maria. The climax of the night was their shimmering, soft rendition of What Happens When The Heart Just Stops.

The only crime Glen committed was the slow torturing of Star, Star. The sampling of Glen’s screeching had spammed this little gem of a song, and reduced it to a migraine inducing mess. Only Colm’s violin playing could reassure the song to the elevated heights it deserved.

For the encore, the members of the Frames swapped instruments and played an impressive, up-tempo version of Headlong. For the second encore, Glen brought fellow musician, David Kitt on stage. Kitt, with his pint of Guinness and his own sold out shows, is bigger venues than Vicar St. Glen ended the night with his own refreshing version of Kitt’s Another Love Song, before they both sang a duet on Song From Hope Street.

Hearing Kitt’s rich and soothing voice makes you wonder how long will it be before The Frames are looking to support Kitt on his tours.

By Debbie Flood

MUCH was expected from home-grown act The Frames, in their recent sold out gig-fest at Vicar Street last week.

Would their show change or would only the supporting acts be different.

Mundy and upcoming band Turn did the honours, entertaining the impatient audience with their up-tempo beats until Glen and the gang walked on stage.

Their performance at Witness and their current album For The Birds, have clearly introduced The Frames’ music to a new and wider audience.

They opened the night on a high note with a beautiful, lush rendition of Lay Me Down.

This song sees Glen’s distinctive voice reach new heights as he is accompanied by Colm Mac Innes’s soaring violin playing.

The Frames trademark violin adds a layered, textured quality to all the songs it is featured on.

Throughout the two-hour gig, lead singer Glen treated the audience to a performance of twanging and jumping on stage which made him appear not unlike a crazed Duracell bunny.

His on-stage antics were as entertaining and engaging as ever, and included Glen sharing a lollipop with the audience, as well as wearing a silly, oversized hat that made his head look like a giant pumpkin.

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Star Wars trailer hits the web

The most famous sordid threat in cinematic history has made its return to screens big and pixelated as the countdown to Star Wars Episode II Attack of the Clones has well and truly begun.

The half-minute long teaser trailer entitled 'Breathing' is silent except for the iron lung of the soon-to-be Darth Vader, which is accompanied by a computer generated light saber levitator everywhere breathless and hitting the replay button on the official Star Wars website, where the trailer debuted earlier this month.

The trailer also appeared on the big screen in the United States ahead of the highly acclaimed Monsters Inc, which is the latest offering from Toy Story creators Pixar. Star Wars director George Lucas, who was in London recently to put together some of the final touches to the latest episode of the six-movie series, confirmed that the second trailer (two minutes long) would be attached to what looks like being the biggest film of the year.

"In about two weeks when Harry Potter comes our there'll be a bigger trailer," he told reporters at the premiere of Samuel L. Jackson's latest offering The 51st State. "Not the real one - that'll come out in April," he added.

So what does trailer number two for AOTC hold in store? "It's a bigger teaser trailer," said Lucas. "It's full in that it's two minutes rather than 30 seconds. The other one's got music and sound effects just like in a normal trailer, and dialogue - the whole thing."

The emotional undertones are set with Kevin struggling to 'just be friends' with his ex-girlfriend Vicky, who has returned with a new jock boyfriend.

The movie picks up where the last one left, with the main character Jim (Jason Biggs) searching for sex and trying to rid himself of the bad name gained in the last movie.

Of course there is a laundry list of embarrassing situations for Jim to get into, which believe it or not, are hilarious.

The gang of five, Kevin, Oz, Jim, Finch and of course the always entertaining Stifler, return home after a year in college and find out that home is too boring.

They decide to do what any self respecting college student does and move to the beach, painting houses for a crust. The beach is filled with gorgeous women and with the imminent return of Nadia (Shannon Elizabeth) things quickly heat up.

The most famous sore throat is coming to screens big and small on 30 seconds of manna from George Lucas.

There's no escaping the growing Star Wars fever in the DIT Independent editor's office (he'd love to have one!) as the Episode II teaser trailer hits the web.

Dermot Keyes gives the lowdown on 30 seconds of manna from George Lucas

If the first trailer is anything to go by, Lucas and co. have taken a big step back to the type of dark brooding mood of The Empire Strikes Back, the most critically acclaimed Episode to date. For such a short trailer, there is so much to see and so much to discuss about including:

* A computer generated Yoda looking scowful and together with Mace Windu

The trailer is silent except for the iron lung of the soon-to-be Darth Vader

* The back pack thrusters

* The Jedi sidekicks of Obi Wan (Ewan McGregor) and Anakin (Hayden Christensen) with lightsabers at the ready

The trailer also appeared on the big screen in the United States

* Kenobi again, this time hanging for dear life from a steel clad climes of Coruscant

* Anakin glancing into the eyes of Amidala (Natalie Portman) and in a later shot planting a kiss on her lips (at their wedding, perhaps?)

* A first glance of the clone troopers marching about a Republic Destroyer, eerily reminiscent of the Imperial Destroyers of Episodes IV, V and VI and

A glimpse of the lighter battle between Anakin and the evil Count Dooku (Christopher Lee) all this to a movie packed into a half-minute of incredible excitement has left years truly behind itself and counting the days to what appears to be an earlier than expected summer release on this side of the Atlantic. According to some online boths (sorry that's beffins) it looks increasingly likely that 'AOTC' will be released worldwide on the same day in May of next year. It has already been confirmed that Episode II will open simultaneously in the US and Britain, which presumably includes Ireland. The last Star Wars movie was released in staggered dates across the world which confused fans as to when the film would debut in their respective countries. This movie would save some Irish fans a small fortune in travelling to the US to see the movie as opposed to waiting the extra eight weeks, as was the case with Episode I.

So the countdown to the latest episode in sci-fi's greatest story is just seven months away. In the meantime, the new trailers should keep those seduced by the film force more than excited at what Attack of the Clones holds in store.
City Sounds

By Laurence Macklin

THINGS are not as entertain­ing as they used to be. Every month I weigh up the odds, look at the weather, consult my tarot cards and try and decide what is worth going to see and do this month. But it's getting harder and harder each month. So instead of going out to a band that like your mate hasn't seen but he saw the cover of the album in his brothers room and it like looks really cool, just step and have a think about what your doing.

Don't immediately go run­ning off to the bar with your money to burn, don't run up to the over priced posy night club with the huge window at the front so that they can see you coming. Just look at what's around you and appre­ciate it. Make yourself a nice meal. Seriously, if you can't cook then learn, it's really easy and it always impresses the girls. Cooking is simply the application of heat to food, that could be simpler than that.

Go and buy a decent cook­book, something by Nigel Slater for example. Instead of getting messy drunk and try­ing to push a crane into the Liffey, go out for dinner, and have a nice bottle of wine and some really nice food. It will probably cost you less money, go to a really nice resta­rant and have a bottle or two of wine, then it will to get drunk in a city bar. And always bring a friend. Trust me, you will be entertained.

And if food is not your thing, then call around to a mate's house and just chill out. Better still, get all your mates into the one house. Not only will you save money, but you will have a better time. I mean it.

That is not to say that everything is rubbish, because it's not. There are some genu­inely entertaining events and shows out there, but they are a dying breed. Take monkeys, for example. Most of us have doubt one of the most entertaining creatures it has ever been my pleasure to wit­ness. Monkeys make me laugh, hell, they make every­one laugh. Monkeys in people clothes, are even more hilari­ous.

And as for monkeys, in peoples clothes playing musi­cal instruments, well that's just the piece de resistance. Monkeys in peoples clothes playing musical instruments. Hilarious.

All of which brings me to a point of sorts, which is the Super Furry Animals and they're weekend of fun. This is a brilliant idea and should be supported and encouraged. The IFC is showing the DVD version of Rings Around the World, which is followed by an acoustic gig by the Fuzzy ones in Whelans, which is fol­lowed by a full gig in the Ambassador, which is then fol­lowed by a DJ set upstairs in No, 4 Dame Lane. Those of you lucky enough to get the all-encouraging ticket which gives you access to all of the events are in for a real treat, and all for only £30. This kind of event is too rare in Dublin. There are some really excellent and different events on in the city, the Temple Bar Festival that aforementioned, the Boxhead Ensemble screening and concert in the this years Doclands festival springs to mind), and its important to support them. £30 for four events or £22.50 for one night in any of the cities venues? There is no contest really.

And if any promoters are reading this then, please for the love of the entertainment gods, bring back the monkeys. Now that's entertainment.

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Entertainment
DIT GAA FOOTBALL CLUB

The Mountjoy Square men's first team played two fixtures in the Colleges Football Association Cup this month. After a bad 5-0 defeat to Sligo IT on Wednesday 31st October they redeemed themselves with an impressive 4-1 draw against the National College of Ireland last Wednesday. The second team meanwhile started their season well, dispatching Griffith College 3-1 after a penalty in the first minute. There is no good news from the Aungier Street team for October as they were defeated twice. In the first game they were heavily beaten 0-6 to 1-9 away to Carlow IT by 7 goals to 2. A tighter game at home to the Garda Training Team should contain a good number of DIT students. The Mountjoy Square meanwhile have been enjoying an equally good time. In the second competition, they were drawn against Cuala Brugh Street. The match, which took place at the 7 a-side blitz in Galway on the 26th November and it is also scheduled to compete in the Harpy Cup. The league season begins on the 5th November and the forthcoming fixtures are:

- Thursday 15th November: home V Carlow IT
- Thursday 22nd November: away V Enfield IT
- Thursday 29th November: home V Athlone IT

DIT KARATE CLUB

Preparations for the new season are underway and the club is currently organising future competitions. Two days of karate have taken place so far with each DIT student and some promising new drivers have been discovered. Training has gone well and the team is confident in maintaining their All-Ireland title. The DIT Championship is due to take place in the halcyon days of daytime TV at Montrose.

DIT SOCCER

The DIT club is affiliated to the Wudu-Ryu Karate-Do Academy of Ireland, the first time in four years there is a nun DIT team. Their debut game is against S. Pat's on the 22nd November while training takes place every Monday from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Belvedere astro-turf pitch. All new players are welcome.

DIT HOCKEY

A great month for the Aungier Street Hockey team as they qualified for the second round of the Irish Colleges Hockey Association's Mixed Hockey League. They defeated Inchicore 2-0 and followed this up with a 0-0 draw against Carlow. The month was completed with a convincing 9-0 win over Maynooth in which Lynne Bennett starred. Special mention also goes to new goalkeeper Jordan Morgan who has yet to concede a goal in competitive games. The club, which now has 32 members, also played a challenge match against Kevin Street which ended in a 3-2 draw.

Mountjoy Square meanwhile have been enjoying an equally good time. In the same competition, they were drawn against Cuala Brugh Street. The match, which took place at the Aungier Grounds in Crumlin, ended in a comfortable 3-0 win for the latter. This was followed up by a comprehensive victory over Athlone IT and the Mountjoy team are now scheduled to play Sligo IT and Tallaght IT in the second round. These matches will take place on Thursday 15th November at the same venue. Cuala Brugh Street were unfortunately knocked out of the competition as they could only manage a draw against Athlone.

Meanwhile on the 5th December the Irish Colleges Hockey Association men's and ladies' teams will play the Universities' sides at the Aungier Grounds. The Mountjoy team should contain a good number of DIT students.

DIT RUGBY

The Rugby Club kick off their season on Wednesday 14th November in the Irish Colleges Rugby Union league with a home game against Portobello. Plenty of action to be seen this season with the senior, fresher and inter-DIT teams all taking to the field of play. For further details contact Niamh O'Callaghan (Sports Officer) on 087-2985849.

DIT BADMINTON

The team played their first league fixture in the Dublin Badminton League against Dublin University Badminton Club and will also compete in the colleges badminton leagues this year. The club is always looking for new members so students can feel free to attend any one of the training times listed below:
- Monday 12:30 to 2pm in Y.M.C.A., Aungier Street
- Tuesday 7 to 9pm in Belvedere College Gymnasium

DIT ATHLETICS

The first outing of the season is the Maynooth Road Relays and is due to take place on Saturday 17th November; any potential runners for this or any other future events can contact Herbie McClelland at 0872245507.

DIT BASKETBALL

Both the men's and women's A and B Teams are competing in the Irish Colleges and Irish Student Sport Association Leagues and the Dublin Basketball Leagues respectively. If you don't feel up to playing basketball competitively there is a recreational hour allocated every Tuesday evening from 5:45 to 7pm in Kevin Street Sports Hall.

DIT Wudo-Ryu Karate

A team of DIT students competed in the All-Ireland Cup at DCU in October. They performed well, finishing in second place. The team is trained by Tyrone Purser, who himself won the individual tournament.

Wudo-Ryu is a traditional Japanese Martial Art, its roots are in Kendo, Ju-Jitsu and Karate. The DIT club is affiliated to the Wudo-Ryu Karate-Do Academy of Ireland, whose President and Chief Instructor Y. Iwasaki Seiichi 6th Dan, is the only Japanese instructor resident in Ireland.

No charge is levied on students for normal training undertaken within the college, however to grade students must attend a once a term grading. Grading is expected to grade students must attend a once a term grading. Grading is expected to take place on Saturday 17th November. Any potential students should contact Mike Lewis at 0872242689.

Students wishing to participate may attend their first class in tracksuit bottom and tee shirt. However it is necessary to purchase a proper karate suit for attendance at any subsequent class.

Classes take place at the sports hall in DIT Bolton Street. Michael O'Callaghan and Colin Geraghty, both members of DIT staff, are involved in the club and can be contacted at Bolton Street in rooms 791 and 201 respectively.

YOGA

Classes will now take place every Wednesday from 1 to 2pm in DIT Cathal Bruga Street Room M104. Keep an eye on the Sports Noticeboards, as a new yoga class will commence soon in DIT Mountjoy Square.

AQUA AEROBICS

Students can go along for sessions on Mondays from 6pm to 7pm in Belvedere Swimming Pool. A novel and enjoyable way to maintain a good level of fitness.

OLYMPIC HANDBALL

One of Ireland's fastest growing sports is Olympic Handball and any student wishing to get involved can go along on either Monday nights from 7-45 to 9-45pm in Belvedere College or Wednesday from 5 to 7pm in Belvedere College.

"Sexy" bowls has arrived

The BBC has lost much of its lustre in recent years but one programme has somehow managed to retain an audience at a sport that very few could be bothered watching.

Amongst its "what's on the other channel" offerings there is the quintessential Sunday evening bowlers, whose spectators would have traditionally filled the pubs in England during the halcyon days of daytime TV at Montrose.

But the recent BUPA International Open hasemonstrated moves made by its organisers to lure the "new host of fans to the only sport slower than snail sprinting."

In an attempt to entice new followers, preferably still in the throes of mid-life crisis, the programme has bought in a host of celebrity stars, some of whom are "sexy." Gone is the traditional green carpet, with its rather sultry hostess, that lines Monza or the lush greens. Instead there is now a host of red carpet, so glamorous, it comes deep a blue carpet, almost electric in its hue and guaranteed to keep some of its war-vegged ridden appetites awake a little longer. Gone is the usual fare, instead there is a host of "sexy" bowls, more experienced Belfield side. Nevertheless a good crowd attended the opening match, which will be distributed to all OIT colleges.

The DIT club is affiliated to the Wadu-Ryu Karate-Do Academy of Ireland. The September session is due to take place on Saturday 17th November. Any potential students should contact Mike Lewis at 0872242689.

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**Sport**

**DIT caving club - it's alive!**

By Bernadette Commins

Oh yeah baby! I am speakin' the truth! The DIT Caving Club has been revived. Its 'limp, frail shell has been filled with lively young bod­ies who break out in a cold sweat at the mention of get­ting deep down and dirty!!!! Mind deep down! Mind dirty?

On the 19th of October last, the club embarked upon its first weekend trip of the year to Doolin, Co. Clare, to do some quality caving, have some fun and sample the local pub culture at the same time (all of which were done to perfection!). We were fortunate to have been invited to travel down on the bus with University College Dublin Caving and Pot-holing Club (UCDCPC), and stay in the house with them also, which was mighty craic! Thanks UCDCPC! We love you!

We left UCD that Friday evening to begin the tortur­eous six-hour bus journey to our destination. If you can survive that, you are guaran­teed that trudging through a cave for three hours will be a piece of cake!

We made our usual 'tasty and tempting' food stop in Ballinasloe on the way, the visit to the off-license was to ensure that the rest of the journey would be less pain­ful and we eventually reached Doolin near mid­night.

There was a respectable rush to grab a bed for the night. We were pushed onto the floor, point­ed at and laughed at respect­ively.

Saturday arrived abruptly, when we were all told to get our 'asses out of bed' at 8am. But it didn’t matter because two hours later we were on the way to the underground, to the world beneath our feet.

Thankfully, Mr. Rain decided to stay away, so there was nothing left to worry about except getting to the cave, getting in and then getting back out safely. Getting to our cave, Poll Dubh, was a challenge to say the least. It was fun wrestling with the ground in an attempt to keep our wellies on our feet and trying to defy gravi­ty and stay vertical was lots of fun too!!!

Once we got into the cave, we were fine. It was a remarkable cave, which required a bit of crawling, climbing, and crouching, but it was visually striking, with lots of formations adorning the ceiling, sides and floor of the cave. The other group went into Poll Na Graidh, and from the feedback we got from the novices, they really enjoyed it.

The appeared to have been quite impressed with the whole 'cave thing'.

They enjoyed having the opportunity to see the beauti­fies that form in caves. Chal­lenges like getting through narrow pas­sages, stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, and curtains. They also liked the feel of the cold, wet mud on their bodies (so they said anyway).

After returning to the house for lunch, we had the opportunity to go caving again, and all DIT caves were more than willing to do it. This was a good sign, they've been bitten and had caught the bug (followed by exaggerated eeevil laugh).

The cavers on the list this time around were Cullaun 2 and Pollanogollum. I have never heard so much grunting, moaning, whimpering and panting as I heard in Cullaun 2 that evening. We decided to take a route not often taken through by cavers, and halfway from Cullaun 2, I forgot to ask them what they thought. The remainder of the night was spent washing ourselves, eating and of course, drink­ing!!! Mmm beer!!! We defi­nitely achieved our aims. We made it to Clare, we spent a whole day underground, we had lots of fun on Saturday night and we made it back safely on Sunday!!

The DIT Caving Club has been revived. Its' limp, frail shell has been filled with lively young bodies who break out in a cold sweat at the mention of getting deep down and dirty!

**Spectators - who needs em**

By Brian Healy

A true sports fan will always tell you that to really appreciate a sporting event you have to be there in the flesh, to see the sights, to hear the sounds and to smell the smells.

We have all heard the stories of the length people went to go to the World Cup to see Ireland play, some going so far as re-mortgaging their houses. No doubt the same type of loyalty is evi­dent in most sports.

But what is so good about being a spectator? Look at what a spectator has to endure.

He or she has to fork out for the tickets, travel miles only to get a parking spot in a differ­ent time-zone to the actual event, put up with all types of weather; and just when it can't get any worse, an abnormally tall man in the way anything exciting happens.

Meanwhile I'm sitting at home, with my can of beer and my 12-inch Hawaiian pizza, watching it all on TV. I might even throw on a copy of Henrys of Woods try or of Tigers put. Im watching post­match reaction from the managers and players and Im listening to the analysis of the studio guests. Television has changed sports.

Before the only way you could ever see a major sporting event was to actually go to it. But now television offers the sports fan a lot more and sport itself realises this.

How many large screens are there in football stadiums around the world that relay goals and chances to the spectators? And what about Formula 1? People pay exhorbitant amounts of money for a ticket and then spend most of the time keeping tabs on events on a giant screen.

And what thanks do spectators get? Going to a snooker or a tennis match is like taking part in an endurance test.

There have to sit down for hours and risk scorn from the referees and players if you so much as bat an eyelid. In your tummy you trundle up and down fairways, following your favourite golfer, dodging stray shots only to have a caddie shave a sog­ger in your face telling you in a nice way to shut the hell up.

But some sports people to acknowledge the spectators. Oh look its Eric Cantona, and hes just watched the latest Jackie Chan movie.

Calling all sportsfans!

It is fair to say that the sports depart­ment in DIT towers is in need of a lit­tle redressing. DIT is a college rich with sporting talent and after a collec­tive knocking of heads (it hurt) we've decided to relaunch the sports section starting from next month and we aim to make it as comprehensive and rep­resentative as possible. Be it hurling, soccer, badminton, we aim to get it covered as well as we can.

Getting around to matches and the like has so far proven impossible but we hope that this is all about to change. And it is in that respect that we hope we can look outside our Ivory towers in Aungier Street and get our feet dirty. That’s where you the sports lover come into play, if you so wish.

If you want to contribute to the sports pages of the DIT Independent, please leave a message at the Aungier Street Newsroom at 4023071 or by email at dite_editor@yahoo.com. We want to provide as extensive a service as possible and with the co-operation of DIT's sports clubs, we aim to make our pages as informative as the remainder of the year.

So if you would like to: * travel with a team on a day trip * compile a match report * take photos of the big action * offer your own views on DIT sport * write about the sport you love, we would love to hear from you.

Our sports department is the smallest within the newspaper and we need as much help as we can get. If we as staff and you as the sports loving DIT public can work together, then we can make a great success of our sports pages. We would also like to establish a results service each month to chart the progress of all our teams and indi­viduals and to achieve this we need your help. So let's get the ball (or sles­tar) rolling and make the December issue a bright new start for sports cov­erage in the DIT Independent.

Yours in sport, Dermot Keyes and Miguel Delaney.

Reports on sports events needed - contact the DIT Independent through your students union.
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