1995

The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students’ Union Special Edition, April 1995

DIT Students' Union

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Recommended Citation
DIT Students' Union: 'The DIT Examiner, Special Issue, April, 1995. DIT, 1995

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T he new President of USI will be
Colman Byrne, currently Overall
President of DITSU. He will be joined
on the incoming executive of USI by
another DITSU officer, Helen Ryan,
who was elected Welfare Officer. Helen
is presently the Site President of DIT
Kevin Street’s Students’ Union.

In the end, after a vigorous campaign
by both candidates, Mr Byrne won the
election quite handsomely, by 100 votes
to Bob Jordan’s 55. Mr Jordan is the
Deputy President of USI. This is the
first time in five years that the mantle of
President has not been passed from one
USI candidate to another and will be
seen by many as a vote for change. Mr
Byrne believes that this was crucial to his
victory.

“I ran my campaign on that. It needs
change, needs energy, new blood, but I
wasn’t asking people to vote against
someone else, I was asking them to vote
for me.” He said that he did not
think he would win by such a margin
but professed himself ‘delighted’ with
such a result. Mr Jordan, of whom out-
going President Colm Keaveny spoke
very fondly in his speech on the final
day on Congress, said that he will now
be bowing out of Students’ Unions poli-
tics, as he had promised himself if he
failed in his attempt to become presi-
dent.

“I’m going to get a job,” he told the
deleagues at the Aridilaun Hotel in
Galway where Annual Congress was
held this year.

This election had been a tough one to
poli­

cations, which went on long into the
rent to students.”

Byrne. Most of the
DITSU delegation and
various others who had
supported the Byrne campaign, then repaired
to the hotel bar to continue the celebra-
tions, which went on long into the
night.

Minutes earlier, Helen Ryan, who is
presently Site President in DIT Kevin
Street’s Students’ Union was elected USI
Welfare Officer. She ran uncontested and
so was virtually assured of election
but still the moment her election was
officially announced, and the massive
cheer that went up, proved too much
and she too wept. The pressure was off
and she could relax for the weekend.

She said she was delighted with the
overwhelming ‘yes’ vote. Her priorities
for the year will include tackling the
housing difficulties which face students
each year. “The introduction of taxes
for landlords means that they are going
to reflect that in their rent increases so
their may be a housing crisis. We’ll be
for some sort of relief for people who
rent to students.

She says that USI will also be closely
monitoring the operation of the students
summer jobs scheme and will fight for
the retention of the £200 extra available
to students on the scheme whose parents
are unemployed.

In the other contests, Ms Noeleen
Hartigan, presently USI’s Welfare
Officer, was elected Deputy President;
Malcolm Byrne, UCD, was elected
Education Officer and Dermot Quaine,
Limerick RTC, was elected Union
Development Officer. Kelly O’Dowd
was elected Women’s Rights Officer at
Women’s Congress.

Mr Byrne’s priorities for the coming
year will be consolidation of current
membership of USI - there were plenty
of warnings at this year’s Congress that
some people are unhappy - improve-
ments to the grants system and the stu-
dent summer jobs scheme, the legitima-
cy and effectiveness of which most stu-
dents now seem to accept.

“We have to adopt what the students
have said. Now we have to make it bet-
ter, to improve it.”
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I found your recent front page articles concerning DIT Rag Week more related to a propaganda machine rather than the newspaper of the 25,000 students of the DIT.

As a sabbatical officer and President of a site college and one who was not in favour of a DIT Rag Week, I found that the views of students of DIT Aungier St. as indicated in a recent class representative meeting were not being catered for - not to mention the views of other officers in other colleges. For example, what did the local Entertainment Officers think of it all? Our local magazine, Link, had the opposite effect of the recent editions of the Examiner, however 'Link' is written primarily by the Student Union and the students of DIT Aungier St. and its readership is the students of Aungier St. and no one else as expressed in our recent Editorial.

What annoys me the most however is having had the foresight to see that the views expressed in the Examiners were all one sided, I actually requested an interview and/or comment from the students of DIT Aungier St. which although agreed, was not adhered to.

The front page article in the post rag week issue was concerned simply with the events that occurred on the night of the rag ball. I am at a loss to discover anything of a propagandist nature in the piece.

Once again, reference was made in the editorial to the reticence of the part of some people to the idea of a DIT rag week. It also expressed the view that the rag week was an overall success and that the idea was a sound one. The DIT Examiner believes that this is the case, nothing more. Mr. Wade is of course entitled to disagree with this opinion; that is what opinions are for.

Yours Sincerely,

Dan Wade
Site President,
DIT Aungier St
The Summer Job Scheme '96

The Students' Summer Jobs Scheme allows third level students (Not Final Year Students) to take up part-time work useful to their community during their Summer Holidays and to receive payment for this work.

The scheme operates from 1st June to 30th September 1996. The maximum number of hours a student is allowed work is 200 over a 6-17 week period. The maximum hours worked per week cannot exceed 35. The rate of pay for students is £3 per hour up to a maximum of £600. This payment is not subject to income tax or PRSI. Students may also get another job to supplement their income for the Summer months.

To qualify for work under the scheme you must be currently in full-time third level education, be aged 18 or over on 1st June 1996 and satisfy a means test. Eligible students must get written approval from the Department of Social Welfare before the work/project commences. A student will be given a Job Certificate. Working arrangements are a matter to be agreed between the student and the sponsor. Before starting work the student must give his/her job certificate to the sponsor.

Application forms are available from Student Union Offices or from the Department. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after the closing date on 31st May 1996. Allow for 21 days for processing of your application. The Completed Application Form should be sent to:

Department of Social Welfare, P.O. Box 3988, Dublin 1.

Final Year students can sign on the day after their last exam. They should do this because you will only get back-dated payment from the day you sign on. You need some form of ID, a birth certificate or a passport and a letter from the college to say you have finished your final year exams. You get this letter from the Administrations Office. You must continue to sign on each week. If you have signed on before, your payment will come through quickly. If this is your first time signing on, a Welfare Officer will come out to visit your house or flat. If you live at home, you will be means tested on your parents income and you will need your parents P60 and possibly other proof of income and expenditure. You can expect to receive payment 6 weeks from the day you sign on. Again you may be lucky and be paid quicker.

If you want to claim Rent Allowance you must get in contact with your Local Community Welfare Officer in Local Health Centre.

Information on working abroad is available from USIT in Aston Quay. Always research the country you are travelling to - it is wise to know how to work legally and the do's and don'ts. REMEMBER to take out insurance over the Summer months, in case of loss or theft of your belongings.

If you have any queries or problems on any of the above issues - drop into the Students' Union for more information.

Mountjoy Square Goes Medieval

Grog, wenches, lascivious, immoral clergymen, several drunken knights, fair maidens, vast amounts of food and more grog. Chaucer would have loved it.

Such was the scene in the canteen in DIT Mountjoy Square for the highlight of their art and design week. The place had been cleverly and diligently decorated in a medieval manner, as had anyone who wished to attend the dinner to mark the end of the week's activities. The DIT Examiner (modern garb plus infernal soul stealing image creating machine) dropped in to record the moment.

If you want your soul back, contact the paper.
The Exam Appeals Procedure

Each year, the DIT's Exam Appeals Board received on average, 10 appeals from students regarding exams results. They are usually concerned with an upgrading of a result but not always. Occasionally, there is a request to sit a supplemental exam if the usual supplemental options have been exhausted.

There is an appeal procedure that should be followed and it should be available from both the library and the exams office in each DIT site. This is not always the case and so we will here outline the procedure as clearly as is possible. This procedure is there to be used if you feel you have a genuine case.

Tom Duff, the DIT's Academic Registrar, has pointed out that the exam appeals board, which is independent of individual colleges, cannot change results but can pass onto the exams board information that may not have been available at the time of the exam. This may then result in the exam board reconvening to consider the student's case.

1. First step is to get an Examination Appeals Form (Form A1). This should be available from the Administrative Section of the relevant college.

2. This form must be completed in block letters or typescript and lodged with the relevant director within two weeks of the publication of the Provisional Examination Results and accompanied by the appropriate fee (£37). The relevant director must then sign and date the appeal and he will then forward it to the Academic Registrar (Tom Duff). It must be accompanied by:

   A. Information as to whether

      (i) the appellant (student making the appeal) has made efforts to resolve, through the relevant Head of School/Department the difficulty which has given rise to the appeal

      (ii) a recheck has been requested and, if so, state the outcome if processed

      (iii) the Examination Board has been made aware of any special circumstances, including medical, affecting the appellant's case prior to determination of results

   B. A written evaluation of the case from the relevant director, including comment on the allegations, if any, contained therein

   C. Medical certificates relevant to the case

   D. The appellant's academic record in previous years and a transcript of his/her current class group's examination results in respect of which the appeal is being sought

   E. The process by which the appellant may continue his/her studies if the appeal is unsuccessful

   F. Any other relevant information on the case.

   Be sure to include any information that may be relevant, and if including any medical certificates, ensure that you list their inclusion on the appeals form in the appropriate section of the form.

   Section 10 of the form asks the appellant to please specify the change you seek in your result as a consequence of this appeal. This section, according to Tom Duff, was introduced because there have been students who were requesting a further supplemental exam rather than an upgrading of a result. Don't be worried by the request. State honestly your feeling on the matter and why.

   There is space provided on the appeals form (section 8) in which you may present your case in your own words. If you feel there is insufficient space provided on the form, you can continue on separate sheets of paper but make sure you include them with your appeal and indicate clearly their inclusion.

   There is a facility for presenting your case to the board, either by yourself or with a willing lecturer/representative of the students' union. One of these could present the case for you or you can forego this option entirely. It will not prejudice your case.

   Hopefully, you will not need recourse to this facility, but if you do, don't be afraid to make your case.

DIT STUDENT SPECIALS

6" Ham & Cheese + Regular Beverage

6" Tuna + Regular Beverage

6" Subway Club + Regular Beverage

6" Irish Sausage + Regular Beverage

£2.20

Offer only applies on production of DIT Student card
Killing for Convenience

Dead Man Walking takes on a great deal and unfortunately the weight of trying to cover every conceivable moral angle in the ongoing debate on the death penalty finally renders it less effective as a criticism of that policy than it could have been.

By remaining as detached as he can be writer/director Tim Robbins has endeavoured to prove in a measured, driving argument that the death penalty is wrong, that it solves nothing, is the preserve of cynical war hunting politicians, and is finally, utterly inhuman. It's as if he sat down and decided that if he left anything out, those in favour of the death penalty would point an accusing finger and shout "ah ha, but you didn't show this, what about that?" And so Robbins packs in as much as possible but in doing so he robs the film of intensity and anger.

We are shown, for example, the brutal rape and murder of two teenagers by Matthew Poncelet (Sean Penn), the crimes for which he is on death row. This is suggested at throughout the film and only finally shown in detail towards the end, a la The Accused. As Poncelet's guilt is never in doubt and he left anything out, those in favour of the death penalty would point an accusing finger and shout "ah ha, but you didn't show this, what about that?" And so Robbins packs in as much as possible but in doing so he robs the film of intensity and anger.

Through reference to the unfairness of the death penalty. We are thrown facts about the lack of rich people on death row, the numbers of blacks on death row, the politics behind many of the decisions (Bill Clinton, who played the death penalty card during the campaign, can't run for re-election in 1992, for President), All very true and relevant but it makes the film seem like a lesson. In fact, it often feels like a documentary. Scenes with Prejean and the families of the victims, shot in their silent homes, are most reminiscent of this style. In some other scenes, particularly those showing Poncelet's lawyer (Robert Prosky), the dialogue sounds like narration. Only in the final scenes are we given any visceral, cinematic depiction of what it means to sanction the taking of a life.

The emotional response of the audience at this point is testament to the restraint of Robbins and a sensational performance by Sean Penn. Poncelet, who has befriended Prejean in his last weeks, wanders around the prison, how she can sit with them and then return to the prison to talk to the killer of their children. Prejean is more a symbol of liberalism than a character; she is asked all the questions and has to contend with all the apparent contradictions which trouble those who oppose the death penalty. It doesn't quite come off. Sarandon's performance, is admirably restrained, and, in a film that relies heavily on close up scenes between Prejean and Poncelet, almost always separated by a screen or wire, we can see her face, eyes flat and unblinking, small mouth in a nervous set, and get to it. His guilt is never in doubt and he remains an unpleasant individual throughout, though Robbins allows him occasional flashes of humanity to underline the fact that the State is about to take the life of a person. We are shown his family also (the director takes great pains to cover all bases) to emphasise the human dimension but the scenes are superfluous and are among the weakest in the film. The mother's wailing is overdone and may even cause titters in the audience. Not, I imagine, the desired effect.

The film's climax is inevitable and is handled in the simple, matter of a fact style of the movie as a whole. It is here that its effectiveness stands out; there was a palpable, audible emotional reaction in the darkness even though the final scenes are intercut with the horrifying murders in the terrifying loneliness of a Louisiana forest. This is Robbins only real cinematic trick, and a pretty standard one it is. For the rest of the film, he employs an unfussy and direct style, wisely letting the actors do the work and not distracting with clever angles or swooping camera work (the recent Murder in the First was a terrible offender in this regard).

Dead Man Walking is a heartfelt film, well acted and occasionally very moving but because it attempts to make the definitive argument against the death penalty, albeit in a reasoned fashion, its sense of drama and power as a cinematic work is dissipates.
Mountjoy Square Close the Clothes Shows

DIT Mountjoy Square brought this year's series of DIT fashion shows to a sparkling, shimmering end with their very own high tech, high style event recently in Jury's Hotel. The models, by time slinky, silly and downright outrageous in dress and manner, did their thing with consummate ease and professionalism while Tara (herself not to be outdone in the high fashion and higher hair department) emceed with confidence. The audience lapped it up but one question remains unanswered: What in Heaven's name did Mark Lee do to this hair? Beg pardon, two questions. Why?

One of these men is not like the others, one of these men is not the same.

Selected scenes (some a little scary) from DIT Mountjoy Square's Fashion Show, Jury's Hotel, March 25th, 1996.

"What do you think?"
"Dunno, they all look a bit crap to me."

Don't even try to explain yourself.
Sports Day
Disappoints in
Dreary Weather

Was it the weather - grey, drizzly, 
relentlessly cold and unwelcoming? Perhaps it was the furious pace of 
the surrounding weeks with rag week, 
elections and preparations for annual 
congress. Maybe it had something to 
do with the somewhat rushed nature 
of the plans. It was probably all three 
but no matter how you look at it, this 
year's DIT Sports Day was a grave dis-
appointment compared with the glowing 
success of its predecessor.

Swinging into the ALSAA grounds 
by the airport, it was immediately 
apparent that the numbers attending, 
whether taking part or simply observ-
ing, were significantly lower than last 
year's. The outdoor sports field were 
deserted save for one seven-a-side rugby 
match. On the all surface soccer and 
hockey pitches, blue legged and red 
eared sports men and women fought on 
bravely while their supporters kept 
moving to keep warm. The wind was 
merciless.

In the welcome warmth of the sports 
hall, basketball took centre stage - there 
always seemed to be a match taking 
place - while others played volleyball, 
badminton or took part in an aerobics. 
Upstairs, in the viewing area, those who 
had finished their games or who had 
simply had enough, supped on pints 
and looked down. Most who were there 
this year were participants and the 
whole event lacked the sense of fun that 
prevailed last year. It was all over by 
3.30pm and everyone simply slipped 
away, though the hardier element head 
for a pre-organised event in McGraths 
later on.

Kudos are due to all those who took 
part in unpleasant conditions but a long 
look will be needed at this year's event. 
DIT sports day should be a priority 
from the beginning of the year and not 
a mad dash in the weeks leading up to 
it.
Getting information from official sources in Ireland can be a nightmarish and protracted process and a source of growing frustration. For a long time, an ethos of downright unhelpfulness and secrecy has prevailed and the systems available have hardly offered easy access to personal information that citizens in many other countries take for granted. In a late 20th century democratic state, it is a visible situation.

In recent years, however, successive governments have been making noises about freedom of information as basic right, not privilege, of great changes that will be wrought upon society fairly soon, making Ireland a more fair and open country. The ball is now currently with Eithne Fitzgerald, Minister of State at the Office of the Tanaiste. It is she who has been steering a Freedom of Information Bill through our legislative loops and chicanes and the bill is due to be published in May. It will doubtless be heralded by the current Government as yet another shining example of the open and transparent manner in which the country is now being run. In the other corner, it will be derided as a toothless piece of fluff that doesn't go far enough.

The Minister puts the government's position succinctly, if predictably. "It's about openness and transparency and accountability in government." At least she has the good humour to smile when she says this as it has become a watchword of cabinet matters, and many of these have been saved vast amounts of money which then in turn provided further benefits. The Supreme Court decided that a Cabinet Minister could not be questioned on cabinet matters, and revealed likes of the Beef tribunal, wishy washy affairs. What this sort of information is non-controversial in its attitude to freedom of information, the Government would rather not talk about. When the process is functional and able to work, the public service will be fairly widely defined. We're not going to go this far or anything like it but even so its provisions are going to be very hard for some to swallow. It is based more closely on the legislation of other Westminster type systems.

In Sweden, which is not modelled on Westminster, there has been a freedom of the press act in place since 1766 and any citizen can demand to see the letters received by the Prime Minister on any given day. There are few exemptions to this rule. Not surprisingly, the proposed bill for Ireland does not go this far, or anything like it but even so its provisions are going to be very hard for some to swallow. It is based more closely on the legislation of other Westminster type systems.

We've looked at freedom of information in other jurisdictions around the world and we looked at the standard model, particularly honed in on the Westminster model. It's very similar to our own and a lot of lessons can be learned there. We looked closely at New Zealand and New Zealand not only have Federal but also State legislation, we looked at a lot of models and variations on a theme. We also looked at the American and Scandinavian models.

"Most freedom of information legislation has the same kind of basic structure; there is a right to information with exclusions, and these are fairly identical across the board - security, defence, international relations which could be jeopardised. Generally speaking, if something is in the course of being decided, most jurisdictions have rules governing that. Cabinet matters before government would be a subset of that. Information given in confidence, commercial secrets, a miscellaneous rag bag, research, habitats. These are the main standard exclusions. The Westminster system is where it differs. It's a key."" As in other countries with a similar system, if a request for information is refused, there will be an appeal procedure. An information commissioner will be appointed, the Ombudsman, who will have the power to call witnesses and papers. The ruling of the information commissioner will be binding on public bodies. The Commissioner will be appointed by the House of the Oireachtas.

The bill will pertain to public bodies and will apply immediately to the mainstream civil service and Government departments. It is envisaged that its remit will be extended when the process is operational and after many, there will be many, have been ironed out. When it is extended, it could prove very interesting for third level institutions which are notoriously, pathologically protective of students' records.

"It will apply to public bodies and they will be fairly widely defined. We're going to start with the mainstream civil service and the our plan is that there will be a kind of rolling application to the wider public service and our next targets are health boards and local authorities, people dealing with the public. Most countries, 90% of their requests are from people wishing to see their own files and then you have public interest groups, environmental groups, journalists, opposition politicians."

"We have a wide definition of public bodies: basically, when someone benefits from public funds, they can be deemed public bodies. Voluntary hospitals will come in, secondary schools which are privately owned but public funded will come in. Potentially the net can be cast very widely. " Third level institutions should come in, she says, being in receipt of public funds. One of the most interesting aspects of the Freedom of Information Bill relates to a provision for public servants who suspect wrongdoing. It also protects these public servants from disciplinary action when such disclosures are made. Disclosures may be made to the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Data Protection Commissioner, the Information Commissioner or the Garda Commissioner. The media are conspicuous by their absence from this selective list.

It should be borne in mind at this point that under Article 19 of the International Declaration on Human Rights (1948), to which Ireland is a party: "Everyone as the right to freedom of opinion and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of information." We are moving then, but the pace will be slow, particularly in this Whistle Blowers section.

"This is a section that I would be the first to say isn't terribly well developed. We wanted to run with something on this and we were getting mixed signals on whether it would be developed or not and the Taoiseach himself felt maybe it didn't sit very well. We stepped it in and we didn't do an enormous amount of homework on it.

"What we did have was the model of the Civil Service reform act of '76 in the States but we didn't do a huge amount of work because we weren't sure we were going to get it in. We spent our time dealing negotiating with government departments and the government itself, dealing with justice and other tricky issues, and as I say we were getting mixed signals about whether
this would be in or out of the final bill or whether we would be asked to do a separate piece of legislation but we got it in and were pleasantly surprised and we thought 'we'll do a bit more work on it before we go back to government on it'. But the basic principles is that if someone has suspected something there are three possibilities - they're right, wrong in genuine error or maliciously wrong. We have to allow for situations when you are dealing with the truth. There's no point if someone has a complaint and you give it to someone who can do nothing about it, so the list of people we have there are people who can actually do something about it. We may take out the Data Protection Commissioners.'

Ms Fitzgerald is anxious to point out that there have to be protections against allegations that are incorrect or deliberately malicious.

"So within those parameters we are going to develop this, again there are other countries that have done a lot more work."

She admits that there are cases where a vigilant press and 'genuinely independent media may actually be the best way of uncovering' but that they may also do damage to innocent people and so more work needs to be done in this area.

The new bill enshrines on territory currently guarded with rabid jealousy by the Official Secrets Act, introduced by Charles Haughey as Minister for Defence, in 1962. Note the following in relation to the passing on of information:

"You do need some protection because there are some few matters when the public interest in secrecy outweighs the public interest in disclosure, but our philosophical view is that public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in secrecy and we are trying to do at some length in our bill is to spell out and so limit those areas."

### John Woos with Broken Arrow

**John Travolta, Christian Slater, bomber planes, missing nuclear warheads.** what more could you possibly ask for? Directed by John Woo and written by Graham Yost ("Speed"), "Broken Arrow" is packed with more action and square jaws, nay testosterone, than any big-budget thriller of this year so far! The title refers to the code-name given by the US Government when a nuclear weapon goes missing, which is obviously what the plot is centred around.

Major Vic Deakins (Travolta) and Cap'n Riley Hale (Slater) are top US Navy pilots and best friends. They fly Stealth bombers, which, to those not raised on Tom Clancy novels, are planes which look like they have escaped from the set of a Batman movie; jet black shaped like Darth Vader's helmet and radar-resistant. On a test flight over Utah, the Stealth is loaded with two live nuclear warheads, in order to find out whether or not they can be traced by radar. While on this flight, we discover that Deakins is not the nice guy we thought he was. He wants to command the plane and use the warheads to hold a major US city to ransom. Hale is ejected from the bomber and is left for dead in the desert, while Deakins also ejects, crashes $2 billion worth of military hardware, and meets up with his fellow criminals. Needless to say, Hale is far from dead, and Deakins is not exactly home and dry. From here on in, the two friends are pitted against each other in a battle for the two missing warheads.

Deakins wants them in order to make a wall of cash and Hale wants them back with the Government (out of harm's way!).

"Okay, so 'Broken Arrow' sounds like the archetypal, no holds barred/no expense spared action thriller, but there's much more to it than this. Directed by Hong Kong turned Hollywood-filmmaker, John Woo, this script-writer as "Speed"; a young, heroic man, good at his job who is up against one of his own in order to save lives. Essentially, the villains in both "Speed" and "Broken Arrow" both use their knowledge of explosives to get their own back on the system which has mistreated them. Then again, considering that "Speed" was one of the biggest box-office draws of last year, Graham Yost, also gets some of the best lines. Example- one of Deakins' baddies is shooting at Hale who is hiding behind out of the warheads. Deakins, using the same tone of voice as a put-upon head­

Deakins is essentially a Boys With Toys movie. Woo cleverly avoids any love interest. There is only one female part in "Broken Arrow"; Samantha Mathis is the Park Ranger who finds Hale when he is ejected from his plane and who helps him against Deakins. Not once do they sing, What they do after the credits roll is left to the imagination, but this is essentially a Boys With Toys movie. Woo cleverly avoids any unnecessary love scenes, even when we really are expecting Hale and Terry to get it together on screen.

I must admit that I wasn't expecting much from "Broken Arrow", but I was pleasantly surprised. If it's depth, meaning and ground-breaking performances you're after, go to the latest Ken Loach offering. However, if it's Friday night and you can't face Gay Byrne or the Girly Show, then get the largest tub of popcorn, a couple of mates and head off to see "Broken Arrow". It is far from the best movie I've seen this year, but it is a pleasant change from the action movies-by-numbers approach that usually takes over anything that involves the US Navy, big guns and even bigger budgets.

By Siobhan Weekes
DITSU Elections '96 - The Results

Position: Overall President
Joyce, Colin
Yes: 2939
No: 831
Spoilt: 147

Joyce, Colin elected

Grogan, Rachel elected

Position: Entertainments Officer
Total Poll: 563
Spoilt Votes: 25
Total Valid Poll: 538
Quota: 270
Farrelly, Leigh 271
Manning, Paul 267
Farrelly, Leigh elected

Position: Part time Students' Officer
Total Poll: 562
Spoilt Votes: 18
Total Valid Poll: 544
Purtill, Gavin
Yes: 423
No: 123
Purtill, Gavin elected

DIT Aungier St

Position: Site President
Total Poll: 558
Spoilt Votes: 26
Total Valid Poll: 532
Quote: 267

Grogan, Des 207
Kavanagh, Susan 49
Pidgeon, Siobhan 276
Sinead Pidgeon elected

Position: Deputy Site President
Total Poll: 562
Spoilt Votes: 17
Total Valid Poll: 545
Quote: 273

Colman, Maebh 278
Weeke, Siobhán 267

Colman, Maebh elected

Position: Public Relations Officer
Total Poll: 558
Spoilt Votes: 14
Total Valid Poll: 544

Ni Lioghgó, Sorcha
Yes: 397
No: 147

Ni Lioghgh, Sorcha elected

Position: Irish Language Officer
Total Poll: 560
Spoilt Votes: 12
Total Valid Poll: 548

De Barra, Maureen
Yes: 449
No: 99

De Barra, Maureen elected

Position: Equality Officer
Total Poll: 553
Spoilt Votes: 16
Total Valid Poll: 537

Nevin, Gráinne
Yes: 398
No: 139

Nevin, Gráinne elected

Position: Clubs and Socs Officer
Total Poll: 557
Spoilt Votes: 13
Total Valid Poll: 544

Grogan, Rachel
Yes: 645
No: 99

Grogan, Rachel elected

Position: Students' Officer
Total Poll: 845
Spoilt Votes: 17
Total Valid Poll: 828
Quota: 415

Condon, Adrienne 57
Coughlan, Bob 202
McCarthy, Damian 147
Molloy, Mairead 79
O’Sullivan, Paula 198
Stapleton, Linda 145

Condon, Adrienne elected

Second Count
Coughlan, Bob 202 + 26 = 228
McCarthy, Damian 147 + 9 = 156
Molloy, Mairead 79 + 5 = 84
O’Sullivan, Paula 198 + 5 = 203
Stapleton, Linda 145 + 4 = 149

eight non-transferable votes

Molloy, Mairead eliminated

Third Count
Coughlan, Bob 228 + 24 = 252
McCarthy, Damian 156 + 18 = 174
O’Sullivan, Paula 203 + 22 = 225
Stapleton, Linda 149 + 14 = 163

six non-transferable votes

Stapleton, Linda eliminated

Fourth Count
Coughlan, Bob 252 + 41 = 293
McCarthy, Damian 174 + 26 = 200
O’Sullivan, Paula 225 + 74 = 299

22 non-transferable votes

McCarthy, Damian eliminated

Fifth Count
Coughlan, Bob 293 + 95 = 388
O’Sullivan, Paula 299 + 76 = 375

29 non-transferable votes

Coughlan, Bob elected without reaching the quota, after recounts

DIT Cathal Brugha Street

Position: Site President
Total Poll: 846
Spoilt Votes: 20
Total Valid Poll: 826
Quota: 414

McCartan, Shane 314
McCarthy, Tom 78
Moran, Patricia 328
Smith, Conor 106

McCarthy, Tom eliminated

Second Count
McCartan, Shane 314 + 23 = 337
Moran, Patricia 328 + 28 = 356
Smith, Conor 106 + 17 = 123

10 votes non-transferable

Smith, Conor eliminated

Third Count
McCartan, Shane 337 + 44 = 381
Moran, Patricia 356 + 60 = 416

19 non-transferable votes

Moran, Patricia elected after recount

Position: Site Deputy President
Total Poll: 845
Spoilt Votes: 17
Total Valid Poll: 828
Quota: 415

Condon, Adrienne 57
Coughlan, Bob 202
McCarthy, Damian 147
Molloy, Mairead 79
O’Sullivan, Paula 198
Stapleton, Linda 145

Condon, Adrienne eliminated

Second Count
Coughlan, Bob 202 + 26 = 228
McCarthy, Damian 147 + 9 = 156
Molloy, Mairead 79 + 5 = 84
O’Sullivan, Paula 198 + 5 = 203
Stapleton, Linda 145 + 4 = 149

hook George elected

Position: Equality Officer
Total Poll: 839
Spoilt Votes: 28
Total Valid Poll: 811
Quota: 406

Byrne, Conor 383
Jennequin, Niamh 252
McGrath, Niamh 176

McGrath, Niamh eliminated

Second Count
Byrne, Conor 383 + 49 = 432
Jennequin, Niamh 252 + 88 = 340

39 non-transferable votes

Byrne, Conor elected

DIT Bolton Street

Position: Site President
Total Poll: 1006
Spoilt Votes: 34
Total Valid Poll: 972
Quota: 487

Costello, Colin 610
Mythen, Eithne 362

Costello, Colin elected

Position: Site Deputy President
Total Poll: 1003
Spoilt Votes: 17
Total Valid Poll: 986
Quota: 494

Colgan, Eamonn 245
Liddy, Michael 293
McGuire, Deirdre 448

Colgan, Michael eliminated

Second Count
Liddy, Michael 293 + 38 = 331
McGuire, Deirdre 448 + 68 = 516

139 non-transferable votes

McGuire, Deirdre elected

Position: Irish Language Officer
Total Poll: 1005
Spoilt Votes: 28
Total Valid Poll: 977

O’Brian, Michael
Yes: 846
No: 131

O’Brian, Michael elected

Position: Public Relations Officer
Total Poll: 1002
Spoilt Votes: 40
Total Valid Poll: 962

McInerney, Mark
Yes: 809
No: 153

McInerney, Mark elected

Position: Entertainments Officer
Total Poll: 994
Spoilt Votes: 56
Total Valid Poll: 938
Quota: 470

Mitchell, Charles 513
Blair, Ruairí 425

Mitchell, Charles elected
DITSU Elections '96 - The Results

Position: Clubs and Societies Officer
Total Poll: 993
Spoilt Votes: 59
Total Valid Poll: 934
Quota: 468

Jordan, Bob: 55

Quota: 464
Byrne, George 280
Keane, Tom 317
Whelan, Robbie 329

Byrne George eliminated
Second Count
Keane, Tom 317 + 52 = 369
Whelan, Robbie 329 + 63 = 392
165 non-transferable votes

Whelan, Robbie elected without reaching quota after recount.

Position: Site Deputy President
Total Poll: 927
Spoilt Votes: 130
Total Valid Poll: 797
Quota: 399

Emmett, Róin 399
Kimella, Raymond 398

Emmett, Róin elected after recount

Position: Part-time Students Officer
Total Poll: 922
Spoilt Votes: 47
Total Valid Poll: 875
Quota: 438

Buckley, Trevor 270
Burke, Channelle 605

Burke, Channelle elected

Position: Clubs and Societies Officer
Total Poll: 885
Spoilt Votes: 22
Total Valid Poll: 863

Spence, Richard
Yes: 754
No: 129

Spence, Richard elected

Position: Public Relations Officer
Total Poll: 917
Spoilt Votes: 41
Total Valid Poll: 876

Shannon, Michael
Yes: 759
No: 117

Shannon, Michael elected

by-election - date to be fixed

By-election Results: DIT Kevin St

Position: Public Relations Officer
Total Poll: 400
Spoilt Votes: 5
Total Valid Poll: 395
Quota: 198

1st Count
Mark Flavin: 153
Justin Lawrence: 30
Ger McEvoy: 84
Sinead Redmond: 128

Justin Lawrence eliminated

2nd Count
Mark Flavin: 153 + 4 = 157
Ger McEvoy: 84 + 3 = 87
Sinead Redmond: 128 + 1 = 12
Non transferable: 22

Ger McEvoy eliminated

3rd Count
Mark Flavin: 157 + 15 = 172*
Sinead Redmond: 129 + 11 = 140
Non transferable: 61

Flavin, Mark elected without reaching the

Position: Entertainments Officer
Total Poll: 401 votes
Spoilt Votes: 03
Total Valid Poll: 398

Eimear Cummins
Yes: 317
No: 81

Cummins, Eimear elected

Position: Deputy President/Welfare Officer
Total Poll: 402
Spoilt Votes: 08
Total Valid Poll: 394

Lloyd, Rosin Shaun: 164
Maye, Derick: 230
Maye, Derick elected

USI Elections '96 - The Results

Position: President
Total Poll: 157
Spoilt Votes: 2
Total Valid Poll: 155
Quota: 78

Byrne, Malcolm elected

Position: UDO
Total Poll: 156
Spoilt Votes: 4
Total Valid Poll: 152
Quota: 78

O'Callaghan, Matthew: 0
R.O.N: 2

Byrne, Malcolm elected

Position: Deputy President
Total Poll: 157
Sinead Redmond: 128

O'Sullivan, Matthew: 0
R.O.N: 2

Byrne, Malcolm elected

Quinn, Dermot elected
Mark Garrett, UDO, accepted that this was an oversight. It was already very clear that the USI exec. was in for a rough time. As usual, lengthy debate and no small amount of shouting ensured that many motions were not discussed and the post-lunch session was further shortened by the announcement of the election results.

Opinions had been sharply divided in the weeks leading to this moment: for a long time no-one was really sure which way the election would go, which made the margin of victory for Mr. Byrne all the more surprising. He received 100 votes to Bob Jordan's 55 and the DITSU delegation won wild. They then retired to the bar and remained wild for much of the weekend. Mr. Byrne, a canny operator, had conducted a vigorous campaign and he seemed to simply want the position more than Mr. Jordan. There seems also to have been an element of protest voting, that someone from outside the USI exec. should be elected.

The heady tension broken, a break was needed. A quiet pint in Salthill was called for and so off I went, unwisely opting for the darkest bar in the world, the kind of place outside the world, the kind of place outside where one can get drunk and be too close for comfort when, on return of said soup, the plaintive cry went up: "my soup, they took my feckin' soup".

"Here you are sir." "Oh. Thanks." "And you are welcome." The food safely out of the way, the DITSU and UCD delegations then tried to outdo each other with loud singing. It was good natured enough but, as with the rest of the weekend, there was a darker undercurrent. Points were being made and muscles were being flexed.

Drinking commenced. And it continued for a long, long time. The bar did finally close around 4.30 and your correspondent naturally decided that there was nothing else for it but bed. I later learned that a most accommodat-
of the smaller delegations walked out of the room in protest. The session was finally declared in quorum and no one quite knew what to do. A flurry of standings followed and after lunch the Congress resumed, the tension high, the sense of expectation almost tangible at this point anything could have happened.

What did happen was amazing. An emergency motion on the failed peace process provided more speakers than any other of the weekend, people lined up for minutes at a time to offer their opinion and when steering committee, pointedly chaired by Damian O'Brien, attempted to close congress, the place erupted, some delegates rising and calling for a motion of no confidence in the chair. This was defeated but after some thought, it was decided "because of the extraordinary circumstances" to extend congress. Delegates had their say and returned to their seats.

Closing speeches followed, this session chaired by the incoming President. Of the outgoing USI executive, only Bob Dridge chose to breach the extremely thorony subject of the weekend's events: "this really hasn't been the best of Congresses". Colman Byrne then promised, in the final speech of Congress, to work to bring the various unions together. Some damage has been done, and the bad feeling will remain.

The incoming president of USI has his work cut out because there is a lot of work to be done within before attention can be effectively focused on the issues facing students in this country.

Each year, USI annual congress throws up a number of miniatures, gaffs and other unfortunate verbal accidents that provide much needed light relief from the seriousness of many debates. We gallantly collect them, and reproduce them, not in order to humiliate anyone who spoke but to highlight the fact that congress isn't all about raw thumping, heartfelt speech making, pointed scoring and policy making, that it has an element of enjoyment which it would be a shame to neglect.

Friday

"Will delegate leaders please get their delegations back to the hall...will I get a song?" Frank Steering Committee Committee may all but guaranteeing that the hall will remain empty.

"There's now a 10% costs in the unions...Yes, I know it's called aaron". Unnamed delegate amazingly managing to utter the dreaded "weed without outraging anyone".

"Your free fees will become insurmountable...they will become a nightmare". Collie McEwan who later walked all off with the award for introversion with the embarrassmance of one's own verbosity.

Saturday

"I'm going to sit down now because I've forgotten what I got up to say". Incoming WRO Kelly who had just spoken for the minute.

"No thanks, Mr Hartigan, before you even open your mouth". USI delegate saying Nickled a journey to the microphone for a point of information.

"I'll talk to them at equity". Male USI delegate referring to women, and seeing himself up for a five minute exercise in digging deeper.

"Just to finish on one small point...well, maybe not". Clara Humphreys, DCU, something something else.

"Speaker, what exactly are you doing now?" Steering Committee's Colman Murphy adopts the primary school teacher style, with USI's Garrett Tubridy.

Sunday

"I don't propose to talk for very long...cause I think I'm about to pass out," Quirky's delegate speaking for many.

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**THE IRISH TIMES**

**DITSU Simplex**

**CROSSWORD**

**Competition**

**PRIZE:** First 3 correct entries will each receive a 220 gift voucher for DITSU Students Union Shop.

**RULES:** Only open to members of the DIT colleges. Employees of DITSU and THE IRISH TIMES are not eligible to enter. No Photocopies - Entries close: Mon, 29th April.

**SEND TO:** THE IRISH TIMES / DITSU, Crossword Competition, The DIT Examiner, (to be dropped into local Union office)

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**THE IRISH TIMES**

**STUDENT PRICE 55p**

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**THE IRISH TIMES**

**FOR THE TIMES WE LIVE IN**

Last Issue's winners were:

- Donal Commere (DIT Bolton St.)
- Brian Hyland (DIT Mountjoy Sq.)
- Rory Rudden (DIT Bolton St.)

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**ACROSS**

8 Floor or overwhelm if I tune Dan out? (6)
9 Plum disease, especially of potatoes (6)
10 Grasping claw of a prince (6)
11 Preparing for performance by exercise etc (6)
12 Could Aun get a bird? (6)
13 Laugh at deride (6)
15 Look after or incline in some direction (6)
17 Type of armoured car named after opponents of the Crusaders (7)
19 Lower tidal part of a river (7)
22 Tall ornamental container (6)
24 Yet rolls around the American transit (8)
27 Hindu elephant river (6)
29 Originator one who designs something for the first time (8)
30 Ten are overturned but are tidier (6)
31 Regard with high respect (6)
32 Continuous showers of gunfire (8)

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**DOWN**

1 Disease of the heart marked by bouts of intense pain (6)
2 Gigantic South American snake (8)
3 Triangle by tightening a string around the throat (6)
4 Stand from which a book is read (7)
5 On a ship, train, etc (6)
6 Must shut out of doors (6)
7 Dealer in candles, oil, soap etc (8)
8 Beware of March (Shakespeare) (8)
16 Gudgeon feeling at the good fortune of others (7)
18 Planned or put in good order (8)
19 College for future priests (8)
20 Violent shaking, great disturbance or change (7)
21 Pest (8)
22 Look lustfully (6)
26 Course served at dinner or freedom of access (6)
28 Not flat, level or smooth (6)
Colman Byrne is a political animal. He will tell you this himself and indeed has gone on record as saying that he would one day like to represent his constituency (he is from Roscommon) at a national level. When he learned that he was to be the new President of USI, comfortably beating Bob Jordan, he burst into tears and went on a hugathon. He looked like a man who had been afraid to breathe for hours. The election means a great deal to him for it is an auspicious addition to his CV and he will doubtless go to great lengths to publicise USI in the coming year.

But before all that, the current president of DITSU will have to deal with the fallout from this year's Congress; an occasionally nasty affair where feelings ran high and too often bubbled over. There is talk of disaffiliation and many delegates were clearly unhappy with the tone of the weekend.

"I don't think it was the most rancorous or bad tempered. I think we've seen worse. I think some people were upset at the way the elections and I think that carried through and I think that perhaps people were more set behind particular candidates this year than has happened in previous years."

Notwithstanding, Byrne's optimistic interpretation of the weekend's events, he will still have to contend with and appease those who felt intimidated and with at least one disaffiliation campaign. A veritable baptism of fire could appease those who felt intimidated and in some sense would clear the air. It's the old 'better to be on the inside than out'.

"There were a number of things that weren't going our way and certainly, as far as I'm concerned, a very dangerous and perhaps ridiculous thing to do in that, 'things aren't going my way so I'm getting out' goes against everything we're talking about when we're inside. What we're trying to do is organise an organisation that suits everyone. If it turns into an organisation that suits a few people and people pull out then it will always be an organisation that suits a few people. If they say this when that's not true at all. Most people would find it distasteful if the moment and no doubt that extra glass of beer to go their heads. Mr Byrne agrees that man-
the right thing to do. I don't believe in speaking on something unless I am informed on it. In the end, he voted to accept the three seats but says USI will fight for a fourth.

At the beginning of the interview, Mr Byrne made mention of the unhappiness some people felt with the way the election had gone. Personal enmity aside, it's quite likely that his well publicised affiliations to Fianna Fáil will be a cause of some suspicion. Incoming Education Officer Malcolm Byrne (no relation) also has close FF connections. The incoming president denies flatly that USI is about to become the student wing of Fianna Fáil.

"It won't become party political despite the gossip columns of the Phoenix and Education and Living [The Irish Times' weekly educational supplement]. I am far less of a Fianna Fáil than everyone makes me out to be. At the start it was flattering, that I was made out to be this big person. In the end it was annoying because it was used against me wherever I went.

"I hold not proper position in Fianna Fáil. I was secretary of a youth branch back home but because I am so busy with the students' union I don't have time to do anything with it. It's dysfunctional, it meets maybe once a year. My priorities are with the students' union, I have shown that.

"Mr Byrne made mention of the fact that he has had more personal problems doing occupations, marches, campaigns, lobbying. You don't have to be left wing to represent someone's rights. I look at my job as a job I have been entrusted with, to represent students' rights. I am professional in my outlook and I will continue to do that."

He talks about this professional approach, about which he is clearly proud, when asked about the somewhat adversarial relationship he has had with his incoming deputy president, Noleen Hartigan. He expresses the hope that what's in the past remains there.

"I hope that people will forget things. I want to have a clean sweep, a new beginning and many other clichés if you like. I want to go in, sit down and say 'right, new team, no-one will be treated any different, better or worse, from anyone else. I would hope that we start to get on personally. If we don't it won't make any difference. I am professional in the way I follow my work and the way I do my job. I don't think my personal feelings have any role in a job I have been entrusted with, to be representative of 150,000 students. My personal feelings and others sort of pale into insignificance when you think about the job you have been entrusted with."

Colman Byrne is a mass of contradictions. He is canny and ambitious but along with the drive and aggression that go with this, and which will doubtless be frowned upon in some quarters, he likes to be liked. Sometimes he cannot understand why his style antagonises some people. His is not the style of recent students union presidents and it will be very interesting to see how he handles the reins of a national organisation. There is no doubt that he will make the most of the opportunity afforded him this year.

"No. It's the organisation for students, not for party politics. Left, right, centre, borey, as long as they do their job as professionally as they can and represent their students, their personal politics don't matter.

"I would supposedly be Fianna Fáil, supposedly right of centre. I have no problems doing occupations, marches, campaigns, lobbying. You don't have to be left wing to represent someone's rights. I look at my job as a job I have been entrusted with, to represent students' rights. I am professional in my outlook and I will continue to do that."

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Official DIT Leisure Merchandise Now Available

White tee shirts: £5.50
Navy tee shirts: £6.50

White/navy polo shirts: £8.00

Navy Sweat shirts: £9.00

Navy Zip Tops Also Available: £10.00

Available from your students' union shops
Fire Drill a Flaming Disaster

The fire alarm went off at the agreed time of 10.50am; this was to be a punctual little blaze. From labs and lecture rooms sleepy students emerged and sauntered in the orderly fashion so typical of people escaping an inferno outside to the assembly point of their choice. We opted for point B as that was where people seemed to be having the most fun.

Assembly point B is located toward the back entrance to DIT Kevin Street and we were ushered to these gates which had been thrown open especially for the fire; usually they are in a fixed position which allows only single file passage. Presumably these same gates will be equally accommodating on the case of future, actual fires. And so we ambled along, passing by the swimming pool, in which several happy people continued to paddle and frolic, safe in the knowledge that as they were in water, and wearing rubber hats, they were exempt from the evacuation.

Incidentally, also exempt was everyone in the old building, possibly on the very valid grounds that a full scale fire drill would be a logistical nightmare.

Meanwhile, Dermot Blake, incoming Site President of the students' union, led a band of evacuees to the emergency exit to Church Lane (until recently chained shut). Tragically, the gates beyond the door refused to open and so the students remained, bemused though happily not burned, until the gates were eventually unlocked from the outside by a helpful man.

Back at assembly point B, the evacuation was progressing smoothly, thanks largely to the conspicuous absence of the many cars usually parked on double yellow lines and other prohibited areas.

The whole affair was watched from third floor windows by a number of fire-proof people who had presumably decided that evacuation was not for them. Once safely outside the grounds of Kevin Street we hung around in the light drizzle, disrupting traffic and bothering passers by trying to make their way home.

After some very disorganised standing about, we were allowed back into the grounds of the now secure, safe and completely fire free building. The swimmers, protected by their pool, were unscathed and waving at us from the third floor were the fireproof students.

Within minutes the gates had been returned to their former position and the following morning, the cars were once again parked in all the wrong places. A routing success then, and a valuable learning experience.

A New HORIZON For DIT

The DIT has been selected to participate in the AHEAD Horizon project which is designed to address the needs of students with disabilities within the institution.

The European funded project, which is already up and running, consists of seminars and tutorials dealing with such issues as study skills, learning skills, reading techniques, essay writing, exam preparation and workshops. They also offer an opportunity for students with varying disabilities to come together to discuss their needs and to provide support if needed. A referral service is also available.

"It's for every student really, open to anyone who wants to come along," says Susan Lindsay, DIT's Senior Counsellor.

"I've been on to Patricia Callaghan [director of AHEAD] that the DIT needed to do something. We're under-resourced in that area. This has arisen because there hasn't been any structure available and she felt the timing was right to introduce the programme. This is just paving the way because we're hoping the DIT will take it up because the funding is only going to be for a short time."

The cost of setting up the project and running it for the year is about £90,000, with 90% of this coming from Horizon and the rest from the DIT itself.

If the project is a success, and finance permitting, the plan is to expand the service to include a career guidance element and possibly a disability officer.

"It's a pilot programme and we may have to go back to the drawing board, but it seems to be working well," says Ms Lindsay.

The seminars are currently being held in DIT Aungier Street (Mondays, 6pm) and DIT Mountjoy Square (Wednesdays, noon).

For further information contact Susan Lindsay in DIT Head Office.

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National Students Centre

"The basic principle of the Union of Students in Ireland is the defence and promotion of the fundamental educational, political, social, cultural and welfare interests of Irish students. The National Students Centre was established in 1993 with that in mind, so as to provide you with good quality, low cost entertainment facilities."

We read over our founding principle again recently and figured we needed to change some things.

So from Thursday the 16th of November our new price list will be-

**Draught Pints** £1.70
**Bottled Beer** £1.50
**Spirits** £1.65
**Liqueurs** £1.80
**Soft Drinks** 75p

It's your Club, use it!

Remember every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Music & Munchies till 1 • Beer till 12.30
MEMBERS FREE • GUESTS €2 AFTER 10.30

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Susan Lindsay in DIT Head Office.