1995

The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students’ Union
December, 1995

DIT: Students’ Union

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Every motion in last week's referendum in the DIT was passed by an overwhelming majority. All 12 motions were passed by a majority of at least three to one, including the contentious and controversial motion dealing with the abolition of the position of women's rights officer in the students' union executive.

This was the second time that this motion had been before the students of the DIT and the second time it had been passed but last year's referendum was overturned following complaints and because a high court case seemed likely.

Almost 2,400 students voted in the referendum on Monday, traditionally a bad day for elections and referenda.

Colman Byrne, President of DIT Students' Union, professed delight at the result, the turnout and the fact that it was all over.

"It took up to much time for what it was worth but it showed the sceptics, inside and out, that this was something the students wanted. Hopefully it will make us a more efficient and better union."

The controversy over the referendum continued until voting day when anonymous posters and pamphlets appeared in at least two DIT sites, Kevin Street and Bolton Street. They variously advised no vote, a don't vote stance and make us a more efficient and better union.

"USI officer are working for us, not the other way around. We don't pay them £30,000 a year so they can go bad mouthing an organisation they know nothing about. The results of the referendum show that."

Ms Mc Cauley told the DIT Examiner that she was obliged to come onto campus to campaign against the removal of WRO.

"This is a policy issue in USI. Annual congress motions are debated and either passed or rejected. The WRO in USI is mandated to take part in any campaign to remove the WRO from any executive. I was obliged to come onto campus to campaign."

Speaking about the overwhelming nature of the referendum's outcome, Byrne said that he was particularly delighted, "especially for the officers."

They [the students] came out and gave a vote of confidence to the union, they are listening to their officers and not the national officers. We were elected and they backed us up."

Despite the efforts of Ms Mc Cauley on the day, the motion to remove the position of WRO was passed by a significant margin, 72% to 28%, with 1,687 voting for the motion and 659 voting against.

Motion Nine, which proposed the removal of the position of anti-discrimination officer was passed by 1762 votes to 627 (74% to 26%) and the new position of Equality Officer will be created as a result of the referendum. The motion to create this position was carried by 1930 votes to 474 (80% to 20%).

Of the other motions, the most significant was motion four which proposed that DITSU sabbatical officers be permitted to run for a third term of office, provided that the maximum number of years in any one office shall be permitted to run for a third term of office, provided that the maximum number of years in any one office shall be two and that the three in total be retrospective. This too was carried with ease (1,797 votes to 649). What should effectively mean is that a person can move from Deputy Site President to Site President and then to Overall President.
Changes Within

Well, the referendum was passed. The safe money was on such an outcome for all 12 motions but the overwhelmingly high Yes must have raised an eyebrow or two. With so many proposed changes before the students of DIT, some were bound to be more contentious than others and naturally there was only one candidate for most contentious of all, that relating to the abolition of the position of Women’s Rights Officer.

So the large yes vote for many of the motions was to be expected but the high percentage of students who voted in favour of the removal of that position and the creation in its place of an Equality Officer does seem to be a vindication of the position adopted by the DIT at Congress and repeated since. Like it or not, and many understandably do not, the students of the DIT went out last week and voted in not inconsiderable numbers for the removal of WRO. There are slightly more female than male students so it was not simply an atavistic knee jerk male reaction to the issue. There is more to it than that and USI, along with those who supported their brief no campaign on voting day, will have to take that on board and ask themselves why this situation maintains in the DIT. At the same time, DITSU and USI will really have to sit down and talk to each other; they have to work together and the kind of mutual distrust and more that has been in evidence lately will do no-one any good. For those who proposed the changes, it is a significant victory; that cannot be ignored or denied. For those who opposed some of them, it is a fairly bitter pill but that’s just the way it is; the figures speak for themselves.

It would be nice to think that the result of the referendum marks the end to this passionate and angry debate but let’s not kid ourselves. The very core of the debate is such that neither side is currently prepared to give any ground and that looks like the way it will continue for some time.

Get the Balance Right

Many of you will be studying over the Christmas period. This is the singularly most distasteful aspect of the semesterised system; it may not be the most important but it is a dreadful prospect. Naturally; the work has to be done but do not let it be at the expense of the festive season. Take some time, step back and relax every now and then. For some of you, this will require a serious effort. Make that effort because it will be worth it. However you view it, Christmas is a very special time for most people. Enjoy it. And good luck in the exams.

Changes Without

It has certainly been a busy few months for the DIT. Dr Goldsmith says that the next few months are going to be very hectic indeed, with all manner of developments coming to fruition. Some of these developments will affect you others are more long term and will have little or no effect for most of you, in particular the physical development plan. Negotiations over the site on the northside are ongoing, though the DIT is optimistic, but development would take years and even the guaranteed development in Aungier street will not be completed until, at the earliest, 1999. Most of you will be gone for good. But don’t bury your head because these changes will affect your younger brothers and sisters and maybe even your children. The more immediate changes will of course affect you directly so be aware of what is going on. The DIT has learned in the past couple of years that its students have a voice and are prepared to make it heard. Student activism is vibrant at the moment and that is when it can be most effective. Don’t ignore what is going on around you; if you don’t like it, say something.

The DIT Examiner wishes all its readers a peaceful and happy Christmas and an equally happy new year

Editor John Carroll
Associate Editor Colman Byrne
Referendum breakdown work Eanna O Bradaigh
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Working to the Rules

According the USI's recently published report on the living conditions of third level students in Ireland, an alarmingly high number of students seem to have little idea of their rights as part-time workers. Only 15% of respondents are members of a trade union, more than three quarters have no written contract of employment and a little under two thirds did not have the terms and conditions of their employment explained to them by their employers.

In light of this worryingly low figure, we present here an overview of the legislative rights and protections afforded to part-time workers.

The Worker Protection (Regular Part-time Employees) Act, 1991 extends the benefits of a range of protective legislation to regular part-time employees. Regular part-time employees are classed as those who are in continuous employment of the employer for not less than 13 weeks, are normally expected to work not less than 8 hours per week and who (with certain exceptions) have had at least a minimum of 30 working hours per week and who, but for the above acts, would be excluded from benefits under the legislation which this Act amends.


The Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 1993

These acts provide protection for employees from being unfairly dismissed from their jobs by laying down criteria by which dismissals are judged to be unfair and by providing an adjudication system for an employee whose dismissal has been found to be unjustified.

The Acts apply to employees who are normally expected to work eight hours or more per week and who (with certain exceptions) have had at least a year's continuous service with the same employer. The Acts do not cover employees on fixed term or fixed purpose contracts who are let go when the contract expires or the purpose ceases, provided the contract, signed by both parties, specifies that Unfair Dismissals Acts do not apply.

The Acts provide that every dismissal of an employee will be presumed to have been unfair unless the employer can show substantial grounds justifying the dismissal. In order to justify a dismissal, an employer must show that it either resulted from one or more of the following causes:

(i) the capability, competence or qualifications of the employee
(ii) the employee's conduct
(iii) the redundancy of the employee
(iv) the fact that continuation of the employment would contravene another statutory requirement.

or that there were other substantial grounds for dismissal

The redress for unfair dismissal is:

(i) reinstatement in the old job, or
(ii) re-engagement in the old job or
(iii) financial compensation within a maximum of two years pay (the precise amount of compensation can depend on such matters as where the responsibility for the dismissal lay, the measures taken to reduce financial loss or the extent to which negotiated dismissal procedures were followed, if these existed).

The Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Act, 1972, as amended by the Worker Protection (Regular Part-time Employees) Act, 1991 provides that employees in continuous service with the same employer for at least 13 weeks and who are normally expected to work at least eight hours a week are entitled to a minimum period of notice before the employer may dismiss them. This period varies according to the length of service as follows:

Length of Service
Minimum Notice
Thirteen weeks to two years-One week
Two years to five years-Two weeks
Five years to ten years -Four weeks
Ten years to 15 years -Six weeks
More than 15 years -Eight weeks

The Act also provides that employees are entitled to at least one week's notice from employees who have been employed by them for 13 weeks or more.

The Act does not affect the right of the employer or employee to terminate a contract of employment without notice due to the misconduct of the other party.

The Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Acts, 1977 to 1993, provide for employee participation at board and sub-board level in certain state enterprises.

Elections for worker directors, which are by secret ballot, are held every four years. Employees (including regular part-time employees) of at least 18 years of age, who have one year's continuous service with the enterprise, are eligible to vote at worker director elections.

The Terms of Employment (Information) Act requires employers to provide employees with a written statement of certain particulars of the employee's term of employment. The Act, in general, applies to any person:

- working under a contract of employment or apprenticeship,
- employed through an employment agency.

- in the service of the state (including members of the Garda Siochana and the Defence Forces, civil servants and employees of any local authority, health board, harbour authority or vocational educational committee)

Dr. Peter Kennanough, from the DIT gave a paper at a recent conference on Israeli/Irish co-operation opportunities in Research and Development. Pictured (I to r) are Dr. Yehoshua J. Gleitman, Chief Scientist of Israel, H E Mr. Zvi Eyal, Israeli Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Sean Donnelly, Director Business Development, Forbaids, Dr. Peter Kennanough, DIT

Good News for Students!

*Special competition to win £350 worth of USIT Travel Vouchers.

How can I win?

Buy your Bus Eireann ticket from the S.U. Shop on in the College. Keep your used ticket to attach to an entry form (available from your S.U. Shop) and hand back to the seller.

What do I need?

You need a valid ISIC and Travelsave Stamp (available from USIT) to avail of student fares.

Sample Student Return Fares

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Information and tickets available at S.U. Shops in Bolton St., Kevin St., Mounjoy Sq., Aungier St., and Cathal Brugha St.

(01) 836 6111
Interesting Times Ahead For DIT

The next six months are going to be very important for the DIT, but most people don't know it. So says Dr Brendan Goldsmith, President of the Institute.

There will be say be significant progress in relation to a number of developments in the DIT but they will be "bubbling under the surface", and in that sense it'll be a frustrating time because you won't see much of the outcome of the activity.

Specifically, Dr Goldsmith is referring to the institute's physical development plan, the movement to a faculty based structure and thirdly, the vital conferal on the institute of degree-awarding powers, a long sought for goal which, like it or not, will add prestige to the institute in the eyes of others.

On this last issue, the news is good. Dr Goldsmith and others recently met with the group set up by the Higher Education Authority to check on progress.

"The process is now underway, the group has terms of reference and they will be giving us parameters under which the self-evaluation will be carried out by the end of the week. The whole process is in train for reporting by the end of May so I'd be optimistic that we'd have degree-awarding powers by the end of this academic year."

There is also, in fact, movement on the faculty director issue. The DIT can't really make serious moves towards a faculty structure for the institute without having faculty directors but there has been hold up after hold up. Dr Goldsmith says that the wait was due in large part to the Department of Education as departmental approval was required before anything could happen. This has now been given. Bob Lawlor has been appointed secretary, a director of finance is about to be appointed and Frank Brennan, currently Director of DIT Kevin Street has been appointed Director of the Faculty of Engineering. There will also be an announcement soon regarding Jim Hickey, formerly director of DIT Aungier Street.

"I deliberately didn't want them all out at the same time, for various reasons, not the least of which is the pragmatism. We'll be putting them out in ones and twos and would to have them all on board by the end of March."

Presumably then, there will be concerted work on the move to a faculty based structure which of course will throw up a whole new set of questions and problems.

"It's quite clear that we can't do a faculty structure in the middle of an academic year so really it has to be September, or the next one, but to think of changing to a faculty structure in the middle of an academic year is potentially chaos. We're still hoping to be on board by September '96."

Meanwhile, at the great leap forward for the DIT seems to be finally underway, the day to day hassles continue. In DIT Kevin Street, there has been a hold up on the setting of some semester exams. Dr Goldsmith believes these have been now sorted out. "Let me put it this way, there's no-one banging on my door saying there's a major problem. We knew there was a problem but I think it has been solved."

The problems arose because of semesterisation but the move to a greater semesterisation will continue in DIT.

"We're at a stage where people are asking what they have learned from the semesterised process and it'd be interesting to hear what some of the students say, having gone through it for a while, would they be happy to go back to the old system.

Semesterisation is not a panacea to solve all the problems of being student, it certainly has some very positive aspects and some others that are not so good. Perhaps the biggest problems of all is that to do it really properly requires a rearrangement of the full academic year and that's not possible for us at the moment."

Another of the ongoing problems facing the institution and the effects it has on the students was made clear by the students of Chatham Row in November when they held a demonstration outside the decidedly sad looking building where they study. They simply do not have the space they need and there are similar problems for the students in the Darkin Building in Rathmines.

Dr Goldsmith accepts that these problems need to be tackled.

"I know the problems in music are there and they are tied into the physical development problem. Without physical space there's not an awful lot we can do."

He says that if DIT does acquire the site it is looking at, sports facilities would be the first thing to come on stream. What is definitely going ahead is phase two of the Aungier Street development.

"We have been guaranteed the money for that and it should be ready for 1999. That'll make a huge development because it essentially brings the business faculty to Aungier Street as the marketing people in Mountjoy Square will move. So the wheels continue to grind, slowly and it seems infinitely, but at least they are moving."

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The Perfect Time to Rewind

It’s the middle of Christmas, the films on TV have turned out to be a grim mixture of everything you saw in the cinema and ancient festive flicks that you first saw aged six (unless they are on at 2.30am on BBC2 in which case they are likely to be true gems). There is no way a visit will be paid to the city centre as the sales have just commenced so the Dublin looks like a fight scene in a Cecil B. De Mille epic. What is left but the video.

And there is plenty around worth renting for 1995 was a pretty good year for video releases. It was of course the year of Tarantino who, for reasons best known to the wise people in various censor’s offices, had two films out at almost the same time. His only two films actually, but what films. Reservoir Dogs is a preposterously confident debut, clever, near and fitter lean. If you haven’t seen it, do so and if you have, so what? I get the funny feeling that it was the brilliantly sustained crossing of disparate stories, playing tension as much as the violence that Ralph Fiennes and Robert Redford discuss a scene from Quiz Show

Johnny Depp, who keeps getting better and better, but the performance of the film, and the source of the great aforementioned dignity is that of Martin Landau who plays the ageing, dying Bela Lugosi whom Wood befriended. It is a beautiful performance in Tim Burton’s best film to date.

Equally impressive is Paul Newman in a little seen film called Nobody’s Fool. He plays Sully, acerbic, weary but ultimately thoroughly decent, the single most important person in his small New Jersey town. It’s a small film in which not much happens but with a sparkling script and a clutch of lovely, understated performances, it is one to look out for.

Tarantino wasn’t the only film maker with two excellent films out this year. The prolific Ken Loach gave us Raining Stones and Ladybird Ladybird. The first, his warmest and most accessible film to date told the story of a couple trying to raise the money for the daughter’s communion dress while the latter, angrier film dealt with the horrific experiences of a mother at the hands of the social services in England. Chrissy Rock gives and was a toss up between the massive excesses of James Cameron’s True Lies and the lean, daustrophobia of Speed. The first had spectacular action sequences, a knowing feel and great comedic performance from Jamie Lee Curtis during the sagging middle bit but the second was so concentrated and so simple that the viewer was enthralled from the opening. What the hell, rent it!

When the dream went sour. This stylish, elegant film told the story of a game show in which certain contestants were given the answers in advance and the theatre world in general. The them - both and see for yourself. By the way, the star of Speed is not Keanu Reeves. It is the bus.
## DITSU REFERENDUM, DEC. 1995: THE BREAKDOWN

### Motion 1

| Total Poll | 2474 | 100.00% |
| Spoiled Votes | 48 | 1.94% |
| Total Valid Poll | 2426 | 100.00% |

- **Yes**: 2041 (84.13%)
- **No**: 385 (15.87%)
- **Motion Carried**: Yes

### Motion 2

| Total Poll | 2465 | 100.00% |
| Spoiled Votes | 30 | 1.22% |
| Total Valid Poll | 2435 | 100.00% |

- **Yes**: 2102 (86.32%)
- **No**: 333 (13.68%)
- **Motion Carried**: Yes

### Motion 3

| Total Poll | 2415 | 100.00% |
| Spoiled Votes | 108 | 4.47% |
| Total Valid Poll | 2307 | 100.00% |

- **Yes**: 1467 (63.59%)
- **No**: 840 (36.41%)
- **Motion Carried**: Yes

### Motion 4

| Total Poll | 2460 | 100.00% |
| Spoiled Votes | 54 | 2.20% |
| Total Valid Poll | 2406 | 100.00% |

- **Yes**: 1757 (73.03%)
- **No**: 649 (26.97%)
- **Motion Carried**: Yes

### Motion 5

| Total Poll | 2477 | 100.00% |
| Spoiled Votes | 68 | 2.75% |
| Total Valid Poll | 2409 | 100.00% |

- **Yes**: 1785 (74.10%)
- **No**: 624 (25.90%)
- **Motion Carried**: Yes

### Motion 6

| Total Poll | 2472 | 100.00% |
| Spoiled Votes | 53 | 2.14% |
| Total Valid Poll | 2419 | 100.00% |

- **Yes**: 1843 (76.19%)
- **No**: 576 (23.81%)
- **Motion Carried**: Yes

### Motion 7

| Total Poll | 2474 | 100.00% |
| Spoiled Votes | 59 | 2.39% |
| Total Valid Poll | 2415 | 100.00% |

- **Yes**: 2068 (85.63%)
- **No**: 347 (14.37%)
- **Motion Carried**: Yes

### Motion 8

| Total Poll | 2471 | 100.00% |
| Spoiled Votes | 77 | 3.12% |
| Total Valid Poll | 2394 | 100.00% |

- **Yes**: 1835 (76.65%)
- **No**: 559 (23.35%)
- **Motion Carried**: Yes
Winning Ways

The Association of Physics Technicians was formed in the mid 80s by a group of enthusiastic graduates who had completed the Technician Diploma in Applied Science (Physics Option).

The aim of the APT was mainly social, academic and was designed to promote issues which the members felt were important.

Every year the APT awards a prize to the student who submits the best project in the Science (Physics Option). The prize has helped to promote the course and helped graduates to get that first job.

This year, the APT prize was renamed as the Joe Guy Award in honour of the association’s founder member and lecturer in the physics department of DIT Kevin Street for 30 years, Joe Guy.

This year’s winner of the award, Kevin Fennell, is now working with AvT.

Pictures at the recent presentation ceremony in DIT Kevin Street were (l to r): Sandy Campbell, Technician, Dr Matt Hussey, Molly Guy, Kevin Fennell, Dr Brendan Goldsmith and Brendan Holmes, Technician.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, some of the sponsors for the DIT Rugby Team’s recent tour in America were left out of an article on the tour in the last issue of the DIT Examiner. We are more than happy to correct this omission.

DITSU and the DIT Rugby Team would like to thank the following for their sponsorship: Montague’s Sandwich Bar, Marlborough St and Middle Abbey Street, Riverside Fitness, The New Powers Hotel and Byrne’s Cash and Carry.
A Christmas Affirmation

Christmas. Ah. A time of reflection, of reconciliation, of playing football in no man's land while singing a Paul McCartney song; a time to be with family and friends; a time to celebrate in the most hedonistic way possible the birth of Jesus Christ. The Phantoms would be proud of that one. Yes, all told, Christmas is a pretty darn good time of the year, but there is one ugly blot on this otherwise pristine snow carpeted landscape, one valley of despair into which all must venture over the festive season. The relatives.

Call me uncharitable if you must (I could care less), but be honest, how many of us do not consider most of our relatives to be a pack of dangerous and stupid throwbacks for whom the notion of the wheel is still enough to send them into raptures of delight? And is it not with such delight is normally manifested by running around in wide circles and hooting? Face it people, incest of us see our relatives once a year, Christmas, and that is one time too many.

The fiendish thing about this is that because we meet them at Christmas, they must be endured with tight lips and white knuckles, their monstrous behaviour must be forgiven and their crassly dull accounts of how they are getting on must be acknowledged with interested nods and a concerted effort to remain conscious. Be it in their house or yours, the visit is always the same. The moon worship ceremony. He will at some stage invariable frighten some of the relatives because she at least has the dignity of age and can be gotten rid of by the simple expedient of being informed that DaValera is having a sandwich in the kitchen.

Finally, after what seems like years, you can leave without seeming rude. Tripping up little Billy as he yet again through the house was natty, not rude, and watching him slide across the floor as the Mad Hatter does in Alice in Wonderland. You pull on your coat and try to leave, but something prevents you from exiting without a word or two. There is perhaps the tug of family loyalty, a sense of warmth in the face of such horrify circumstances. When the singing has died away the room is heavy with the scent of fake snow and everywhere there are new Christmas lights twinkling on the tree, the air is heavy with constant. Reassuring. The song murderer can be anyone who thinks that shouting loudly makes them a fine singer indeed. He (it is almost always a he for only men have this consistently high opinion of themselves even in the face of all contrary evidence) will take up a position of prominence in the room with the most people and without warning begin to bellow below the first line of "Carrickfergus", blowing off party hats and causing the children to cry. Having beaten this somber ball into craven submission in 15 seconds, it is normally deemed time for an upbeat number, one that the gang can sing along to. You will be no doubt as to where to join in for the maniac will wave an arm around the room and shout "all together now" at the appropriate point, if there is such a thing in these horrifying circumstances.

The guy whom you only knew as the "guy with the mad looks" (to whom I would like to extend my apologies) and place your twenties on your chosen table then you are almost assured of a wait. You must use that wait wisely. Prepare for battle, observe the inadequacies and shortcomings of your cue-wielding warrior foe so, when the eight pots like Darina Allen and tracks like "screw back" like a lager potting machine. You will be in no doubt as to where to join in for the maniac will wave an arm around the room and shout "all together now" at the appropriate point, if there is such a thing in these horrifying circumstances.

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The End of An Era for CBS

Brendan Keyes, Secretary Registrar of DIT Cathal Brugha Street will retire at the beginning of the next term.

On behalf of the students in Cathal Brugha Street, I would like to wish him the best of luck in his retirement. Brendan has been working in VEC/DIT for 40 years. He has been in Cathal Brugha Street for the last 18 years. During that time he has always had an open door policy and has been accessible to all students who have passed through Cathal Brugha Street.

He has given his heart and soul to DIT but in particular he has given 18 years to the students of DIT Cathal Brugha Street.

So for this place, his retirement marks the end of an era. We hope that Brendan and his family enjoy his retirement. I am confident that the great family atmosphere he has created will live on.

I wish to thank him personally for all he has done to help the Students' Union and on behalf of the students I would like to pay tribute to one of the greatest people in the history of Cathal Brugha Street.

Colin Joyce, Site President, DIT Cathal Brugha Street Students’ Union.

Sports Results in Cathal Brugha Street

Men's Soccer Div 1
21/11/95
CBS v ABC Walkover for CBS

6-12-95
Dundalk RTC 1 CBS 2

Mens Soccer Div. 2
14-11-95
DIT Bolton St 3 CBS 0

Mixed Hockey
23-11-95
Waterford RTC 5 CBS 0

5-12-95
AUngier St v CBS Walkover for CBS

Basketball HESF
Women's
16-11-95
Letterkenny RTC v CBS Walkover for CBS

Men's
16-11-95
Letterkenny RTC 30 CBS 35

The Yoga Club is up and running in the old DIT building in Rathmines in the drama room on Thursday evenings between 6-7.30pm

"Book News is Good News"

Especially for all students and lecturers.
We have now opened our new collegebookshop in 3 Kevin St.

Please Please let us know the titles you require or may be recommending and we will have them on our shelves posthaste / forthwith / immediately or even sooner!

For all text book requirements, look no further or farther than "Alan Hanna's"

New College Bookshop
3 Kevin Street Lower
Phone: 4751828
Open 'Til 7pm Mon - Fri
Mixed Fortunes for DIT Sport

Women's GAA

The DIT women's team took on Colaiste Ide of Finglas last week in a very entertaining match on a cold and windy afternoon. DIT proved the stronger and a disappointed Ide team left the VEC grounds in Terenure under a bit of a cloud. The final score was DIT 4-03 Colaiste Ide 3-01.

Hurling

University College Dublin 3-6 DIT 2-6

The early dominance of DIT was negated by UCD in this Higher Education Hurling League Intermediate game played in Belfield. A goal in the final minute of the first half saw UCD draw level at 2-2 to DIT's 1-5. In the second half, the home team scored two points before the DIT responded with a point. UCD then put over another point which was answered by a goal for DIT. It was looking good but this was to be the last score for the visitors. UCD hammered home another goal and point to emerge victorious in this hard fought match.

UCD 5-9 DIT 2-5

Both teams in this Higher Education Hurling League Senior clash at Belfield had two points going into the match. The visitors had defeated Queens while the hosts had comprehensively beaten University of Ulster, Jordanstown and then suffered a goal defeat at the hands of UCC. UCD put two points on the board before DIT opened their account with a well taken point. This was followed by a second point for the visitors but after that DIT were out of contention as two UCD goals and a point were answered in first half by a single DIT point.

In the second half, UCD stuck in three more goals before DIT could respond with a couple of their own but UCD finished off the game with a brace of points giving them a comprehensive victory.

Senior Football

Tuesday, 5th December

DIT (1-11) v Thomas Davis (1-5) by Jospehine Rogers

DIT now go on to play Trinity and Dundalk, having won all their games to date.

UCD 5-9 DCU (0-7)

Both teams in this Higher Education Hurling League Senior clash at Belfield had two points going into the match. The visitors had defeated Queens while the hosts had comprehensively beaten University of Ulster, Jordanstown and then suffered a goal defeat at the hands of UCC. UCD put two points on the board before DIT opened their account with a well taken point. This was followed by a second point for the visitors but after that DIT were out of contention as two UCD goals and a point were answered in first half by a single DIT point.

In the second half, UCD stuck in three more goals before DIT could respond with a couple of their own but UCD finished off the game with a brace of points giving them a comprehensive victory.

Sleasian youth enterprises is an alternative educational programme for young teenagers who are marginalised by the educational system.

It runs a number of programmes including drama, pottery, enterprise, employment skills, literacy, computers, personal and social development. The project engages with 10 young people and aims to bridge the gap between employment and unemployment. The core principles of its methodology include participative centres learning, development of self esteem, learning to stand on your own two feet, finding the creative spark within. The programmes are certified by the National Council for Vocational Awards.

The project is promoted by the Salesians who provide the basic resources but the EU and the state are being targeted for funding, to no avail so far.

Therefore we are extremely grateful to the Students' Union of DIT Cathal Brugha Street for their generous fund raising efforts. The money will be used to develop a business plan and feasibility study which should help to secure more ongoing funding.
Aftter the high profile protests of 1994, few would have been at all surprised if the first term of the new academic year was a quiet little affair, a time to settle down, take stock of what had been achieved and get on with the business of graduating. Alas, for the DIT, this was not to be; within weeks of the beginning of term students from DIT Cathal Brugha Street based in Rathmines were threatening strike action unless something, anything, was done about the truly appalling conditions in their common room (the term is used loosely and with tongue in cheek). A quick look at the room was enough to understand their grievances - one small room, with half a dozen small tables, two video machines, a soft drinks machine and a coffee machine, it was sufficient for about 15 people, and not the 300 who attend Rathmines. The room was smoky, uncomfortable and clearly inadequate. The situation was made worse by the fact that DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith was seemingly unaware of the problem, It is true that such situations should have been tackled at a local level but this one had not been. Following representations from the Students' Union in Cathal Brugha Street, promises of some improvements were made, though to look at the common room today, not a great deal seems to have been done. There are still far too many people packed in the room and it seems likely that we have not heard the last of this one.

In November, the usually unobtrusive and long suffering students in DIT Chatham Row finally decided that enough was enough. Utterly fed up with the completely inadequate facilities in Chatham Row, as grim looking a building as you are likely to see in the city, they took their talent and their instruments onto the streets and protested in the noisiest, most entertaining way possible. Not even the rain dampened their spirits: when the equipment had to be taken inside, they remained outside, singing beneath the protection of umbrellas. It was a memorable day, not least for the fact that students and student union representatives from other DIT sites came along to support the demonstration, hopefully dispelling the notion that the students of Chatham Row are out of sight and out of mind. Again, some improvements have been promised but what DIT's musical wing needs is a purpose built facility and we are a few years away from that yet.

On November 15th, the students of the DIT joined with students from other third level institutes throughout the city - Trinity College a notable exception - for a march through Dublin to highlight student hardship, the continuing failure of the Government to tackle the problem of access to third level education and to demand an increase in student representation. The sceptics were well and truly silenced as thousands of extremely well behaved students made their noisy way to Moteleworth Street where speeches were made and music was played. The march, and their were others in Belfast, Cork and Galway, was the high point of a week of action which included soup kitchens across the DIT and the occupation by members of the DITSU executive of Democratic Left's headquarters in Abbey Street. This was undertaken to highlight students' dissatisfaction with the party's performance in relation to education issues, about which it was so vociferous while in opposition. It resulted in a meeting with the Minister for Social Welfare and Democratic Left leader, Fianna Fáil's Sean Ross.

This month, there was a referendum to change sections of DITSU's constitution. It was the source of great interest in colleges throughout the country and raised hackles in some areas. All motions were passed by a large majority.

A strike, a demonstration, an occupation and a referendum and it's only December. There are six months left in the academic year. Judging from what's happened so far, anything could happen.
Presents of Mind

What with the season that's in it, and bearing in mind the fact that DITSU's exec firmly believes in Santy, we decided to ask the individual members what exactly it was they most wanted for Christmas. The only stipulation given was that they had to keep financial practicalities and the law in mind when making their choices.

Colin Joyce, Site President in DIT Cathal Brugha Street's SU expressed salivating desire for a blow-up Niamh Bhreatnach (or was it a salivating desire to blow up Niamh Bhreatnach?). He also wants an office at the top of the new extension to Cathal Brugha Street so that he can pick her off with the aid of high-powered rifle because "she has spoiled Christmas for everyone". Finally, he wants a big green field for DIT.

Santy replies: You are a sick puppy, Colin, and an uncharitable one at that. And as for your request for a big green field, I can only think that it has something to do with the fact that you are of the land.

Colin's deputy site president, Patricia Moran would like to be a princess, to have a trip round the world in a hot air balloon with a stop off in Lapland to see Santa.

Santy replies: Hello. Earth calling Patricia, I'll be working when you make your little trip to Lapland. You know, Santy! Christmas! Presents!

Over in Aungier Street, Sinéad Pidgeon wants free line dancing lessons for all first years and to wake up on Christmas morning with Steve Gately wrapped around her.

Santy replies: On count one: No. Under no circumstances whatsoever and on count two, this would require the acquiescence of Mr Gately, a member of the well-known singing combo, Boyzone, I am told. I have spoken to Steve and I'm afraid the news is not good. Would Steve Davis do?

Dan Wade, President in Aungier Street's SU definitely does not want Boyzone and he wants Santa to come along and take away Sinéad and her line dancing.

Santy replies: No fear.

Helen Ryan, Site President in DIT Kevin Street's SU wants a car, a mobile phone, a trip to America and a job for next year.

Santy replies: I'm not sure what you're getting at Helen but that is a bit of a tall order. Can you drive?

Dermot Blake, Deputy Site President in Kevin Street would like nothing more than the restoration of his sanity which he claims he lost on the first day of working with the students' union, way back on November 15th.

Santy replies: Do I look like a shaggin' miracle worker? Eh! Eh?

Colin Costello, Deputy Site President in Bolton Street wants to be Taoiseach, to be stranded on a desert island with Claudia Schiffer and two blow-up Niamh Bhreathnachs. Oh, and a surprise. And not to have to organise marches on rainy afternoons so that students don't have to live in poverty.

Santy replies: Colin, bit confused here. Do you want to be stranded on the island with Ms. Schiffer while being Taoiseach? I think you might have a tough time justifying your absence from the Dáil. As for the blow-up dolls, I am passing on to Colin Joyce the number of a really good therapist. Why don't you give him a call and you can go together? Just a suggestion.

Overall DITSU President Colman Byrne has one wish for Christmas and that is simply to be President of USI.

Santy replies: Colman, I think someone already has that job but you can always have a go at getting it yourself in March.

Mark Lee and Padraig Staunton from Mountjoy Square and Alison Piggott from Bolton Street have sent no letters to the great bearded present giver and have not phoned him either and will therefore be getting bugger all this Christmas.

"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