The referendum held by DITSU last December which abolished the position of Women's Rights Officer and provided for the extension of a sabbatical term of office from a maximum of two to three years has been overturned.

The outcome of the referendum has provoked major contention, especially in recent weeks, culminating in the serving of a high court writ on DITSU, which has turned his life story one of the most enjoyable films of the year.

It's been a remarkable year for the DIT and one of the most active ever for DITSU. We take a leisurely look back at the year's events.

The Minister for Education, Mr. Brugha, recently signed the contract giving the green light to the new extension for Cathal Brugha St.

Ed Wood was quite possibly the worst film director of all time. Tim Burton has turned his life story one of the most enjoyable films of the year.

The past few months have been very difficult for DITSU. Despite the notable successes during the year, division, anger, accusation and counter accusation have taken over and the end result is that the year is ending badly for everyone. For some, bridges may be built but in other cases the damage is probably irreparable; friendships have been destroyed. That is the human cost of the contentious goings-on of the past few months. Whatever the merits of the actions of individuals on both sides, the fact remains that damage has been done to DITSU and it will take time to repair that damage. No one will be under any illusions, it will not be easy. People will have to talk to each other, if for no other reason than they have to work together in the coming year. Personal animosity exists and it is prudent to give the new executive a clean slate.

The President of DITSU, Colman Byrne, having earlier consulted members of the executive in the other colleges, then requested the resignation of Helen Ryan, Deputy Convenor of DIT Kevin Street SU and Lar Moran, Convenor DIT Aungier St SU, claiming breaches of confidentiality of executive and board meetings and the leaking of information to the press which he claimed brought the union into disrepute. Both declined the request to resign.

Colman Byrne and Lar Moran, Convenor DITSU, were then requested the resignation of Helen Ryan for Lar Moran and there was one void vote.

The result was six for Colman Byrne, three for Lar Moran and there was one void vote.

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Testing Times

For those of you reading this, the exams are more than likely still the object of deepest attention, the cause of caffeine fuelled late nights and the source of more worry than seems possible. Keep a cool head. It is easy to offer such advice from the comfort of an office with only the choice of lunchtime sandwich taxing the brain. But it is still good advice. The exams are important, no-one should be under any illusions about that. But of greater and more lasting importance is your mental and physical well-being. Stress is a natural and, for some, a positive byproduct of the examinations period.

But there is nothing to be gained from crucifying yourself. Whether you spent the year with your head in a book or in a pint, there is only a certain amount that can be accomplished at this stage, and that is, whatever the circumstances, your best. Anything else is a logical impossibility. Of course, a little bit of luck never goes amiss. We wish such to all who are still sitting exams, hardy souls who would, if they could take the time, be violently jealous of their fellow students who have already banished the spectre of exams to who cares where, either for another year, or for good. To those returning for more in September, make the most of the summer months. The rest you, get out there and get on with it.

A Year of Shocks to the System

Hell of a year. New buildings, new faculties, the impending total removal of third level fees, a white paper on education, new problems and at the end of the academic year 1994/95 a student body more energised and active than it has been for a long long time. Let’s be honest, few would have credited the current student body with the desire or interest and look up from their studies and make some very loud statements of protest. This is not a reflection on the students, rather on the social and economic climate, which demands competition so fierce and intense that most have ‘get in, get out, get out’ ethos so firmly ingrained that little else is thought about, nights on the tear notwithstanding.

But this year, something happened and it can’t be entirely explained by the convulsive changes occurring throughout the DIT. One of the two major protests had nothing to do with such changes; rather, it was caused by a wilful lack of change or improvement. Also, it should be remembered that DIT students turned out in huge numbers for the November 17th March, which had nothing directly to do with them. Furthermore, during the Aungier Street demonstration, there were representations from non-DIT colleges. What it all seems to point to is a growing dissatisfaction and anger among third level students. Take your pick from an impressively long list of grievances: grant levels, facilities, the occasional bout of indolence, lecturing standards, overcrowding...it goes on.

They aren’t necessarily new problems but there has been such a high level of apathy in recent years which, combined with the aforementioned ethos, has rendered the student body impotent. Or so it seemed to think. This year, galvanised and brought together by some effective union organisation, locally and nationally, those same students made a stand and made it more than once. Within the DIT the effect was startling and in some instances, redress followed swiftly. No-one really expected everything to be sorted out satisfactorily but the pressure of direct action did work. DITSU must ensure that the momentum is kept up and that the summer months are used productively. The day to day work is always there, of course, but the new faculty structure and the new physical developments for the DIT must be watched very carefully and pressure must be put on the institute to come up with the goods regarding the training of lecturers, as per the White Paper.

Clariﬁcations

Should you encounter anything you feel is in need of clarification in this, or any other issue of the DIT Examiner, please contact the editor and any such matters shall then be clarified in the subsequent edition.
The Exam Appeal's Procedure

Each year, the DIT's Exam Appeals Board receives on average, 10 appeals from students regarding exam 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, points out that the exam appeals board, which is independent of individual colleges, cannot change results but can pass onto the exams office in each DIT site the difficulty which has given rise to the appeal.

A. the appellant has made efforts to resolve, through the relevant Head of School/Department the difficulty which has given rise to the appeal.

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.

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.

If you believe you have a genuine case then be prepared to use the procedure.

N O B O D Y O F F E R S D. I. T. S T U D E N T S

A B E T T E R C O A C H

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B U Y Y O U R T I C K E T
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Tickets available in the D.I.T. Student Union Shops at Kevin Street, Bolton Street, Cathal Brugha Street, Mountjoy Square, Aungier Street.

For group bookings and travel information call Busaras (01) 836 6111.

Remember, you need an LSIC Card with Travelsave Stamp to avail of Student Fares.

Ask about reductions on other services with LSIC Card.

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Of course, Ed Wood is portrayed as a hero, with untouchable self-belief. It may not be true but it convinces totally.

The film follows his quest to make as many films as he possibly can, always looking for his Citizen Kane. Welles was his idol, and in one scene he even meets the great man and is galvanised by sonorous words of encouragement.

That his films were celluloid disasters is not questioned, in fact, Burton takes great pains to recreate the shooting of some classic Wood moments from Plan 9, Glen or Glenda and Bride of the Atom. But mostly, it is concerned with the man and in particular his relationship with the sad, wasted Bela Lugosi. By the time Woods met him, Lugosi was very much a former star, still hanging onto his Citizen Kane. Welles was his idol, and in one scene when the sets wobbled and the look of the film that is very appropriate, Wood's world nothing less than surreal.

Jeffrey Jones as Criswell, useless psychic, Julie Landau as Loretta King, Dolores Fuller. Dolores was a truly atrocious actress and Parker manages to act very badly when its needed and yet remain a very real, frustrated person in her relationship with her infuriatingly optimistic boyfriend, whose cross dressing she never really accepted.

The rest of the cast is equally impressive, portraying a truly bizarre collection of people that makes Wood's world nothing less than surreal.

Martin Landau is quite brilliant as the deluded and denuded star; so easily have hammed it but instead gives Lugosi life that the man himself most probably did not have in those final years. There is dignity, humour and pathos and, in one brief, shocking scene, great sadness.

Lan dau deservedly won an Oscar for his performance, as did the make up which gives him an uncanny likeness to Lugosi.

The film takes huge liberties with the truth but at the same time is lovingly true to the era in which it is set. Director of Photography Stefan Czapsky has managed to recreate the frankly crap lighting that was part of a Wood film without making the whole film look bad; the black and white images are not hard and harsh, there is a softness about the look of the film that is very appropriate. The production design, by Tom Duffield, is spot on too, both for the 'real' film and the sets for Wood's movies.

Ed Wood did disastrous business in America and its not hard to see why; mercifully far form the mainstream, it has no obvious big-selling points and some knowledge of Wood's work is certainly a bonus but do not be put off if you've never heard of the man - Ed Wood is a delight.

About a boy/man, a bat/man, a malicious ghost and a boy/man with scissors for hands. He has an empathy for the outsider and perhaps saw this in the story of Ed Wood. Certainly Ed Wood is his most moving, human and complete film yet. And his best - a heartfelt and very very funny work that delights in the awfulness of Wood's films but never mocks the man.

Johnny Depp plays the eponymous hero - and make no mistake, Wood is portrayed as a hero, indomitable, courageous and filled with un touchable self belief. It may not be true but it convinces totally. Depp is marvellous, delivering his lines in the MORE DRAMATIC THAN IT SHOULD BE pitch beloved of cheap 50s films, and looking like a bad actor from the same decade.

After a stunning titles sequence, we are introduced to Wood's work in the (mis)shape of a play he has written. Reading the notices with his group of close but odd friends, he decides that they are positive because mention is made of the realistic uniforms. This was the way Woods looked at life, his self-belief spilling over into self-deception. Tfoned by this, he was able to ignore the notices, the funny looks when he refused to reshoot a scene when the sets wobbled and the fact that people were loathe to fund his ventures, unless, for example their nephew could play the lead.

The film holds his quest to make as many films as he possibly can, always looking for his Citizen Kane. Welles was his idol, and in one scene he even meets the great man and is galvanised by sonorous words of encouragement.

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He was rescued from complete obscurity and loneliness by Wood, who gave him parts in his films, however incongruous his appearance seemed.

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Johnny Depp as Ed Wood, a worse director than Michael Winner
Developing an Alternative Viewpoint

Recently I visited an exhibition of black and white photographs of images from what we comfortably call "the third world". The 60 photos, taken by Carol Lee, confronted and questioned the standard notions and stereotyping so regularly presented of the starving, the poor and the dispossessed.

She shows in her photographs of course the obscene realities of the world in which we live. There is one stunning image from Vietnam of massively deformed foetuses, caused by the use of US agent orange as a 'defoliant' during the Vietnam War.

Other photos showed workers in the Philippines, usually women, who earn £1 a day harvesting sugar products and other women who have to walk for five hours a day in order to fetch and carry clean water for their homes.

Carol Lee superbly juxtaposed these images of human degradation against the equally real, vibrant and valid image of what we should be calling the majority world. Her photos displayed the vibrancy of these cultures, not the black baby dependency culture so readily served up to us.

The photo of the deformed foetus was deliberately positioned beside an energising photo of kids playing football. There were many images of people using their natural talents to harvest/catch food. Of proud cultures, not opposing outside help but welcoming assistance that does not corrupt their way of life. Certainly, the western world has much to offer and of course it should do so.

Carol Lee's exhibition is touring the country. You should go see it.

dave carmody
A Year in the Life: the

There is a certain appropriateness to the fact that this final issue of The DIT Examiner for the academic year 1994-95 contains an item on the recently signed contract for the new development of the Marlborough Street annex to DIT Cathal Brugha Street. Back in September, the paper's first lead story of the year was partially concerned with the wholly unsatisfactory condition of DIT Marlborough St. The building is a mess and until the extension is complete, some students will take classes in Sackville Place, itself no picture postcard.

On that occasion, when there was much confusion as to where classes were to be held for the year, the students of the DIT did not feel the need to make known their concern and annoyance in any vociferous way but that was the merely the beginning of what has been a most interesting, lively and eventful year for the DIT. Laden with drama, suspicion and the odd high point.

At the same time that the Sackville Place/Durkin Building/Marlborough St story was unfolding, the much heralded opening of DIT Aungier Street was taking place with building still going on, particularly in the students' union, which lacked a shop for the first part of the year and doors for the first couple of weeks. Meanwhile, the students wandered around the new building, bumping into equally lost lecturers as they went. Teething troubles are one thing; wilfully neglected teething troubles are another source of annoyance entirely and the situation in Aungier Street was to spill over literally onto the streets the following month in the first of two major protests by DIT students this year.

Those who arrived early on that memorable day in November and saw the committed few who were sitting in the front hall of the building could have been forgiven for thinking that it would come to nought, that the protest was nothing more than a gesture, destined to peter out when boredom set in. This was more than likely what that college authorities were thinking. Big mistake. Huge.

This was a protest that spilled onto the streets, disrupted traffic and went on for two days, one of them being a Friday, traditionally the bunk off and go home early day. The students were simply and justifiably furious at the lack of facilities in the newest educational facility in the city. After some lively discussion with the college authorities and the intervention of the Gardaí, the protest, which had been as consistently good-natured as it had been determined, was called off and everyone went home.

Meanwhile, across the road in DIT Kevin Street, there was an ever growing concern about the reifications of the DIT's proposed new faculty structure. A petition of 600 signatures was gathered, requesting that the Food and Food Science Technology option of the Applied Science degree be part of the proposed Faculty of Science rather than, as was thought, the Faculty of Tourism based in Cathal Brugha Street. A full six months later, the faculty structure still seems a long way off, with even the faculty directors yet to be appointed. The DIT wanted these positions set up by January. The current situation suggests that the structure is behind schedule by a full year.

Change is very often resisted in knee-jerk manner but as Head Office attempts to implement a faculty structure, it will have to take notice of the concerns of both students and staff or it will undoubtedly have a huge fight on its hands.

December, predictably, was next, with the attendant low key thrill of the Christmas count down. A quiet time for the DIT? Nah. Another sit-in threatened, in the Durkin Building, temporary home (but for how long?) for Cathal Brugha Street's Environmental Resource Management course. More than two months into the academic year, the students were still without a library, a decent reading room and had for a common room the kind of semi-furnished, rather sad little room that you would have called your gang HQ when you were six. The rooms for the library had been allocated but remained unfurnished. The constructed shelving lay dormant in a room many yards down the same corridor. The Christmas break served to dissipate anger somewhat and the library was finally opened in the new year, three months into the academic year.

And so to January, time of semester exams, and therefore a crucial library period for students. So what happens? The library in DIT Kevin Street was threatened with early closure two days before the exams were to commence. The cause was apparently a combination of low staffing levels and training of new staff, an amazing and ridiculous situation since the DIT had been aware of the staffing problems for more than a year. The end result was that Kevin Street Director Frank Brennan and Ciarán Crosbie, site president in the Students' Union, were to find one fine Saturday morning operating a restricted service. The problem was supposed to be sorted out the following week but the next Saturday, the library was closed. No explanation was ever offered.

For a while, that incident looked like being the extent of the problems for that month. The students of DIT Cathal Brugha Street had other, noisier ideas. On January 26th, they occupied the front hall, stairs and side corridors of their building, in an effort to highlight some of their more pressing grievances: poor security, a leaky common room roof (old problem, that one), lack of laser printers, unavailability of hot food after three o'clock - this in a place formerly known as the College of Catering.

As good-natured as its predecessor in Aungier Street, the demonstration proved just as effective and, after a full day of singing, sitting and shouting, some demands were met and promises were made in relation to others, though there is still no sign of high tea. It was the second big demonstration in two months, both of which made the national press and had a positive outcome for the students and DITSU. It was clearly turning into a very troubled year for the DIT.
DIT Bolton Street had a reasonably quiet time this year but a caretaker survey conducted by the students' union showed that there was more than a little dissatisfaction with the quality and quantity of the food available.

Throughout February and March, the DIT was treated to the strange sight of students protectively clutching bags of flour to themselves. In some cases, the fondness with which the flour was treated aroused suspicions but overall the exercise was designed to highlight the lack of child care facilities across the DIT rather than some kind of morally dubious march making programme. So far, Head Office has remained quiet on the issue and it therefore seems highly unlikely that DITSU is finished. The students and students' union have shown this year that there is a new determination to get things done one way or the other and with a momentum developed over this most active year, they are unlikely to need much encouragement in the future.

Rag Week for the DIT is a challenging time indeed, spread as it is over a number of weeks in the various sites. This year was no disappointment, with a series of imaginatively odd, disgusting and downright worrying events organised for the enjoyment of the willing many and the willing few. Some drink was taken. However, it was as usual all undertaken so that money could be raised for a number of charities, quite possibly that only thought that could have compelled certain individuals to chew on deep eyebrows and other assorted inhibitions.

USI congress this year was a lively and contentious experience, difficult at times for delegates, such was the passion with which some issues were debated, and the occasional anger. As one delegate pointed out, at times it seemed as if it was DITSU versus the World.

For the students of the DIT, the year ended perfectly with the institute's first campus-wide sports day. Organised by DITSU in conjunction with the Central Sports Committee, it had been hoped that about one thousand students would descend upon the ALSAA sports complex near Dublin Airport to celebrate sport and also to show the powers that be just how important sport is for the institute. Sporting facilities for the institute are, frankly, abysmal and it was hoped that a successful day would put some pressure on the DIT to do something about the present situation. In the event, over 2,000 students came out to take part and offer support, more than anyone could have hoped for and the sun shone brightly for the entire day, as befitted the high spirits and sheer pleasantness of the event.

The day brought home to many the sheer size of the DIT and the need for proper facilities for a student body that is obviously more than willing to take part and wear the DIT colours. Many DIT teams and individuals have had sporting success this year, but the truth is that there should be more of it, given the size of the institute and the talent so obviously present. The Governing Body presence at ALSAA was poor but Dr Goldsmith, President of the institute did make an appearance. It is events such as Sports Day that can help put pressure on the institute to do something about the state of sport in the DIT.

It would have been a natural assumption that as exams approached, intrusions would have been kept to a minimum. Alas, but not surprisingly, it was not to be for some students in DIT Cathal Brugha Street. Less than a week before they were due to start exams, third year Environmental Health Studies students were informed that the professional practice section of their course was in jeopardy as a result of impending industrial action by Environmental Health Officers. Again, it seemed to have been a problem that the DIT was aware of for some time but nothing had been done. In the end, the strike was averted, with the students' union being praised for their part in bringing about a resolution in the dispute. The students will not now miss out on their professional practice, but the strike may still take place in September.

The year is now coming to a close, the corridors have emptied as students hustle in the library or the exam halls; many have already flown the coop. It has been a remarkable year in many ways for the DIT and DITSU, both pushing ahead with developments, not always in the same direction. Ever was it so, but the institute must still be wondering what the hell has gotten into the students.

Summer Travel Unplugged

If you're heading off this summer, head into Usit's first and check out some of the following reduced summer fares.

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Intending to travel on a working holiday over the coming weeks?

If so, make sure to pick up Usit's Globeplotter which features a wide range of topics from work abroad guidelines and tips to country information. A must for summer workers — don't leave home without it!

Usit, Aston Quay, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin 2
Tel: 01-679 8833
DIT Extension Gets Go Ahead

The Minister for Education, Niamh Breathnach, last week signed the contract with PJ Walls Ltd for the new extension to DIT Cathal Brugha Street.

All that now prevents work from commencing on the building of the new development is the tatty annex currently standing idle on Marlborough Street. It has to be first demolished before any construction can take place. For obvious reasons, this is unlikely to happen until end of year exams are completed.

Almost £4.6 million has been set aside for the new annex and it is expected that if everything runs to plan, the building will be ready for occupation by the start of the academic year, September 1996.

Speaking after the signing, Ms Breathnach paid tribute to the graduands of DIT Cathal Brugha Street. "I want to thank them, for their excellent contribution to the development of the tourism industry and also to thank the Chairman, President and staff of DIT for their support for the plan, the building will be ready for occupation by the start of the academic year, September 1996.

"Hopefully we won't have the same problems we had with Aungier Street and I'm sure we won't. Given that, there's no reason why it shouldn't be ready for September 12 months."

He accepted that the Cathal Brugha Street development had taken longer than expected, but was keen to point out that phase two of the Aungier Street project is progressing "reasonably" and hoped that work would commence "within the year". About £7 million of European Regional Development Fund money has been allocated for this project, but it may not be enough.

"The eventual cost might be quite high because I have quiet elaborate plans. Unfortunately, I don't have the same amount of money provided that coincides with the plans so we may have to do some sort of phasing."

In the light of the faculty structure planned for DIT, certain amount of replanning has taken place regarding phase two of the Aungier St development.

"The view was that we'd move Rathmines and then do the second part of it, whereas now it makes a great deal more sense, if you look at the faculty structure, to revamp the whole situation."

"Quite clearly, my objective is that the site on Aungier Street, taken with the existing site in Kevin Street will essentially become the south city campus, that's the type of development I'm trying to plan at the moment. I don't want it to continue to be two colleges. It's to be one campus. That is unambiguously our position in both our legislation and in the view of Governing Body."

It hasn't been made clear exactly what the revamping of the plans will mean for the Aungier Street development, or even what it will entail. The changes proposed in the governing body's faculty structure document, published last November, have already been the cause of concern among students in DIT Kevin Street.

Progress has been slow; the faculty directors were due to be appointed in January but there is no sign of a move in this area. Dr Goldsmith has pledged that the faculty structure will be high on his agenda for next year.

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THE IRISH TIMES

DITSU Simplex
CROSSWORD Competition

PRIZE:
First 3 correct entries drawn will each receive a £20 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: Monday, June 5th

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THE IRISH TIMES / DITSU,
CROSSWORD Competition,
The DIT Examiner.
(to be dropped into local Union office)

NAME

COLLEGE

YEAR

COURSE

STUDENT NO.

THE IRISH TIMES

STUDENT PRICE 55p

THE IRISH TIMES

STUDENT'S NEWSPAPER

Last Issue's winner's name:
Jeremy Smyth
(DIT Bolton St.)
Brian McDonald
(DIT Kevin St.)
Dermot Collins
(DIT Bolton St.)

ACROSS
8. US college term (8)
9. Son of Diodalus, who flew too close to the sun (6)
10. The Northern ones are called by their name (6)
11. Life, vigour (8)
12. Annoying, irritating (6)
13. Study of management of land and crops (6)
14. Sandy circle (4)
15. Halls ET for his secret behaviour (7)
16. Mount or wall for defence (7)
17. Water picker (4)
18. Of fine appearance (8)
19. Lover for moving boat's rudder (6)
20. Last star visible (6)
21. Bundles of sticks or ball of chopped liver (6)
22. Dealing successfully with a difficult situation (8)
23. Hamper, burden (8)

DOWN
1. Disapprove (6)
2. Some nail in the pudding (8)
3. Without any bends (6)
4. Of little consequence (7)
5. Unusually lot of baby animals? (6)
6. Eight plus (6)
7. One who buys regularly from the same place (6)
8. Fence with horns (4)
9. Charging the threat to attract attention (6)
10. Gripping power to permit movement (6)
11. Item made by hand, often found in excursions (6)
12. Curious of being married to several people at the same time (6)
13. Failed to pay a debt, in Wales? (7)
14. The naturalist was toward (6)
15. Do a favour or one's part (6)
16. Worried away by weather (6)

COMPETITION NO. 8
On Friday, the 24th of March, the DIT Athletics team left Dublin, destination Durham, to take part in a cross-country race and to take a look at the World Cross Country Championships. It was a long journey, travelling from Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead, and then taking a bus to Durham. An eleven hour trip. The race in which we too part was held early in the morning, around 10am. In perfect conditions and on a perfect course, the team performed very well indeed.

The DIT Athletes were not the only Irish present, as there were athletes from all over Dublin present. The race itself was over a six km course and was won by our very own Jonathan Diver from DIT Aungier St. He was helped out initially in the race by Herbie McClelland, the DIT Aungier St sports officer, who took the race on from the front. Jonathan was the only one who went with him and when Herbie had to pull out with a calf strain, he was left in front. He went on from there to win the race and was followed home by Bernard McLaughlin, from DIT Mountjoy Square, who had an excellent race. Dave Ryan, also of DIT Mountjoy Square, managed to breakaway from the group over the last lap and finished third. A tired looking Pat Conway, from DIT Bolton Street, was the next DIT runner, finishing sixth and next home was Stephen Kennan (Kevin St).

Much thanks must go to Herbie McClelland and Seamus Byrne from DIT Kevin Street, for their excellent organisation of the trip. Hopefully there can be a repeat if such expeditions in the future.

Earlier this year, DIT Cathal Brugha Street hosted an inter-DIT basketball league on Wednesday nights in Belvedere Gym. The response from each college was superb and the talent equally impressive. Some months earlier, at a meeting held in DIT Cathal Brugha Street, the possibility of a DIT Basketball Club seemed distinctly pie in the sky. Now things were beginning to seem more tangible. The League doubled as a trial for the inaugural DIT teams and after five weeks of slogging it out, two squads were formed.

Both teams had proven themselves, and with many of the players around again next year, they will be looking for a chance to show up the likes of bigger Irish colleges.

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A Simple Bow Would Have Been Enough

Final year design students in DIT Mountjoy Square recently put their talents to use in a competition to design a new logo for TREOIR, the new name for the Federation of Services of Unmarried Parents and their Children. Last week, the Minister for Social Welfare, Mr Prionsias da Rossa, TD, presented the winners with their prizes. First prize of £100 went to Gerard Fox. Second prize went to Anita Murphy and in third place was Mark Lynch. TREOIR, the Irish for direction and guidance, was chosen as catch-all title to represent the Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children, which is something of a mouthful. Pictured (left to right) are: Anita Murphy, Mark Lynch (upside down) and Gerard Fox.

Marketing Mag Gets A Lavish Launch

The eleventh edition of the highly regarded Marketing Communicator (the yearly magazine produced and designed by the students of DIT Mountjoy Square) was launched at a lavish reception in the exclusive environs of the Writers' Club, Parnell Square on May 8th. This year the position of editor was fulfilled with insouciant cool by Sarah Glennane (second year Marketing Degree) and the magazine explored the challenges posed by new developments in information technology, especially the challenge of the internet, as well as new developments in consumer response to marketing communications. The keynote speaker at the well attended launch reception was His Excellency Mr Per Jodahl, the Swedish Ambassador, who delivered an interesting dissertation on the history and current developments in marketing practice in his home country.

Pictured are Mr Paul O'Sullivan, Acting Director, DIT Mountjoy Square, His Excellency, Mr Per Jodahl, the Swedish Ambassador and Sarah Glennane.
The end of academic year is nigh. Most students are completely wrapped up about exams but you would have imagined that the rest of the institute is winding down before the summer. For the DIT, however, the reality is very different. With one thing and another, there has been no let up. Faculty Structures, the white paper on education, student demonstrations, new building projects, the lack of a new governing body. It seems that there has been a seemingly endless parade of high profile events or developments pertaining one way or another to the institute. All of them have landed on the desk of DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith. This morning, this very desk is slightly more disorganised than usual, papers and folders strewn about it, testament perhaps to the sheer amount of stuff that is going on as present. He looks tired.

This time last year, the DIT had no governing body due to a dispute about gender balancing. In November, amending legislation was introduced which should have sorted this out and yet no new governing body has been appointed. This wasn't supposed to happen. Why has it?

"I think it's because submissions have been made from the VEC to the minister. I believe that the problem is in finding the proper gender balance. But that's an issue for the VEC. It doesn't involve the VEC." Not in terms of what can be done about it, certainly, but surely it must be having an affect on the effective operation of the institute.

"Let's put it this way you can survive for a short time without a governing body and keep things going, but it's not a good idea. I suppose that it means that certain things build up, there are backlogs, and that's not the most desirable way for a governing body to have to start off, dealing with a whole lot of issues that happened before it was appointed, so the sooner its appointed, the better from our point of view."

As usual, Dr Goldsmith speaks in a low, emanently polite tone, but there is a sense that he is a lot more frustrated about this situation than he lets on. It would be no surprise - to have to wait for one governing body is unfortunate, to have to wait for another...

There is a copy of the White Paper on his desk. The section on third level education isn't very long, the section concerning the DIT starter still. What does he think of it?

"As regards DIT, its not very explicit, there aren't many references to DIT. The section that deals specifically with DIT is very short but the things that are very positive things from our viewpoint. While I am not totally happy with the continuation of the binary system, it does at least acknowledge that DIT is in a very special category and that's the most important thing from DIT's perspective in the White Paper."

The binary system is a continuing source of ire for technical colleges everywhere; in a perennial source of heated debate at UTS's annual congress. While Dr Goldsmith would like to see it ended, he is at the same desirous of the DIT developing into a 'traditional university'. He is not surprised that it is to remain for the time being.

"I think the signals were there. The convention indicated that it was still the way people were looking at the situation. It's just that I am not convinced myself that it hasn't run its course. The major problem with the binary system, and this is not unique to Ireland, this is the downside to the binary system everywhere. Once the systems are to be different, and let me be absolutely clear about that - I don't want the DIT to become another traditional university, but what worries me is that when you have this binary system put forward, I have yet to see a model where parity of esteem between the two sectors of the binary system has actually been possible to implement, always you seem to end up, no matter how hard you try otherwise, with one sector being regarded as better than the other."

He believes that when the DIT achieves degree-awarding status, the perception of the institute will change.

"I would think that once DIT is awarding its own degrees, people will regard it as a university. Hopefully, they will continue to regard it as being different from universities, after all, is MIT a university? Technically, it's not. Is that a problem? I don't think so." DIT will have this power by next year, he is convinced.

"The degree awarding status will be, he says, be one of two major issues upon which he will be concentrating his efforts in the year to come. The other is the complex faculty structure issues, which has already raised huddles in DIT very little movement on this particular section of DIT's development. Dr Goldsmith says that there is still an argument to be resolved over whether it is to be a full scale faculty or a 'centre'. It is not the most pressing argument at the moment, he adds.

What many students fervently hope is more pressing for the DIT is the development of training for lecturers. There are few enough students out there who cannot recall a lecturer who was either unable to communicate information, was useless, or both. This very matter is mentioned in the White Paper but it remains to be seen if action is taken. By rights, it should be, but it has being been down on the list of 'things to do' for third level institutions. Dr Goldsmith accepts that the issue is 'fairly critical'.

"But it is only one aspect of overall professional development and to be honest, professional development is something that was very sadly neglected in the past, largely I suppose because there was no money for it, but really the truth was that we took people in young, bright, eager people and in five years we had let them become out of touch with the discipline from which they had emerged, so there's already a substantial commitment to change that on our part."

"We do have a group drawing up detailed proposals at the moment on relation to professional development. The teaching aspect is a very important aspect but it is only one aspect of the overall development of staff. I would hasten to add that the professional development of staff is not only in the academic staff, it is equally critical for the admin, and the support staff as well."

He admits that where the much needed money will be found will be "another headache". Yet another headache for Dr Goldsmith and the DIT this year has been the number of protests and demonstrations organised by DITSU on foot of either specific complaints or as a result of long term unaddressed grievances. He believes that there has been a "cyclical upturn in militancy which is not unusual in student politics" which may in part account for the increase in activism. The changing situation within the DIT and some teething troubles, particularly with regard to Aungier Street, have also contributed to the dissatisfaction.

His immediate reactions when he hears of a demonstration are concerned with ensuring that no damage is caused, that no one gets hurt and that there is as little disruption as possible to the public.

"After that the next question is always 'why is this happening? Is there a problem, a deep seated one that I am not aware of that this is a manifestation of?" Later on: "the less these things reach my desk, the more they are being looked after at the level they should be looked after, but then there is demonstration or a sit in, one always wonders if there is some deeper problem behind it or is it simply students being students."

The end of the academic year is nigh. It has passed in a flash but it was one of the most important and memorable years for the DIT and all connected to it. There was a certain roller coaster element to it at times, and at other a sense of being in a great big, bloated stately liner, moving very very slowly.

The overall impression given by the president of the institute is that while things may be happening, they are not happening quickly enough.

"Sitting here looking at the big picture, there are a number of key things that I wanted to see happening and the department hasn't been as fast as I wanted but we are certainly moving on the right road."

This may be true, but it is the same road as last year's and that was a bumpy ride.

Kevin Street. In November, Dr Goldsmith expressed the hope that the faculty directors would be in appointed by January of this year. It is May and there is still no sign of the appointments.

"It just didn't happen, we didn't get the response from the Department that we wanted, so it is quite clear that we can't have the new faculty structures in September, the time scale is just too short. I am hoping we'll have these key positions filled fairly soon with a view to implementing the whole structure September 12 months, or at least implementing the start of it as best we can."

Last year's faculty structure document contained reference to a proposed faculty of continuing education. As with the whole of the document, nothing was set in stone but there seems to have been Dr Brendan Goldsmith, President of DIT
Section 14 of the Social Welfare Act removes students' basic civil entitlement of Unemployment Assistance, during the period they are deemed students by the Department of Social Welfare.

In March 1993, the then Minister for Social Welfare, Dr Michael Woods, announced that students were to be removed from all social welfare entitlements from the time of the completion of their Leaving Certificate (Senior Cert) examinations until their college graduation except in a very limited number of cases.

As a softener to this phenomenal blow, the Department introduced a non-statutory system, the Student Summer Jobs Scheme. This scheme has been in operation since the summer of 1993 and the current Minister for Social Welfare, Prionsias da Rossa, TD, has announced that the scheme will run again this year.

The scheme allowed third level students to undertake part-time work useful to the community during their summer holidays with sponsors such as Community and Voluntary Groups, and to receive payment for this work.

Amendments to the Scheme for 1995 are as follows:

- The maximum amount payable will be £600 (11% increase on 1994)
- The maximum number of hours that can be worked has been increased to 200, which can be worked over a 6-16 week period.
- The hourly rate of pay has been increased to £3.00 which is not subject to tax or PRSI

An extra payment will be made to students whose parents are dependent on Social Welfare Schemes.

In order to apply for this scheme, students must complete an application form (ST 1), available from local Social Welfare Offices or Students' Union Offices. Closing date for receipt of applications is June 30th, 1995.

Problems that some students are facing with the scheme are centred around qualification for participation in the scheme. Students are completing their forms, noting in their parents' income, even though they will be financially dependent of their parents over the summer months.

They are unsure whether to apply for the scheme from their home address or from their Dublin address and the Department has no official position on this. There also seem to be certain anomalies in the income threshold. Some applicants are being rejected from the scheme, even though their income is equivalent to some who have who have been accepted.

The desk assessment which is operating for the qualification for this scheme is not consistent and there appear to be different cut-off thresholds per case. There is no appeals procedure for students to question their application and we would encourage anyone experiencing difficulties to ring the complaints line.

USI and DITSU view this act as an infringement of students' basic entitlements as Irish citizens, and believe it sets a dangerous precedent for the future of social welfare assistance for other sectors of the Irish population.

We are constantly campaigning for the repeal of Section 14 of the Social Welfare Act and with students informing us of any problems they encounter, either in qualification for the scheme or during the scheme, we can hopefully succeed in our endeavours.

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