1995

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DIT: Students’ Union

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Chatham Row Strikes the Right Notes

The third level students in DIT Chatham Row, College of Music, last week finally threw down the gauntlet. In the fashion that has become all too familiar to DIT authorities, the students took to the streets in protest at the lack of decent facilities in their college.

These being students of music, the day-long strike had a festive feel to it and performance was the order of the day. The students entertained themselves, the representatives from other DIT students' unions and the many curious passers by with virtually non-stop music, including a medley of rock classics, lively classical pieces and even that infectious piece from the Streets.

These being students of music, the day-out; the point of the strike was to let the Government know that all is not exactly rosy.

"Basically, we decided to do it because we're trying for ages to get the college authorities to do something about the lack of facilities in the college," site convenor Sinead Collins told the DIT Examinr. "We felt that we'd been banging our heads off walls for so long and we realised that if we were producing the goods with these sort of facilities they would allow us to continue doing so and so we decided to get out there and do something."

She pointed out that music education is different than other types of third level education.

"Our requirements aren't necessarily more, just different, we do require more space or different types of space." By this Ms Collins means that big lecture halls are not needed, but more small rooms are, for practice and one to one teaching, which is an integral part of the work in the college of music. In terms of specific problems facing the music students, there are only five practice rooms for 120 students, the performance hall is not even big enough for the performers, far less the performers and an audience. More general student grievances include a tiny common room, the absence of a smoking area and the lack of an office, or even a phone for the Convenor in the Students' Union.

"There's also so general feeling in the college of being isolated from the DIT, and of not being a real third level institute. There's not a lot of buzz in the college."

The demonstration was the first real show of solidarity from the students in the college and Ms Collins points out that "if we achieved nothing else, we finally have a real spirit."

That spirit made itself perfectly evident not only through the exuberance of the performances during the demonstration but most notably through the determination of the students put a halt to the proceedings. When the rain came and the equipment had to be taken inside, the students remained outside, sheltered by umbrellas, and began to sing loud and strong. The rain, realising it had lost, passed and the equipment was again brought out. Even when the amps had been turned off, spirits were not dampened, as the woodwinds, brass and strings took centre stage.

During the quiet moments, and there were not many, DITSU President Colman Byrne took the mike and informed all present what were the grievances which had again brought DIT students onto the streets. He also took questions from interested gardai and one poor guy who couldn't sleep with the noise.

One immediate result of the demonstration is that the students will now be meeting Dr Ita Beausang, Acting Director of the college of music, on a weekly or fortnightly basis, to discuss problems, voice grievances and simply ensure that communication is improved. There are also plans to arrange a phone for the students' union convenor, Ms Collins and she said that "DIT Kevin Street will now have the joy of a choir every Tuesday evening in the Gleseson Hall."

"No-one thought they'd come down here with a prefabricated college and say 'here's your solution'. Our solution is ultimately a whole new building which is built specifically for music education and not another building which they half pretend to change into a music building - Rathmines for example."

Ms Collins said that students are slightly worried about accepting temporal solutions "because Adelaide Road was a temporary solution and Chatham Row was originally a temporary solution."

What is going to happen in the long term is impossible to guess. The President of DIT, Dr Brendan Goldsmith, informed The DIT Examinr that until the students made specific representations to him in light of the demonstration, he was not in a position to make a comment.
Will the DIT Take Note?

It is impossible to escape the irony: just as the DIT is gearing up to host the second phase of the high profile Music Education National Debate, with esteemed specialists arriving from all over the world to debate pressing issues relating to Music Education in Ireland, the students of the DIT Chatham Row, the College of Music, are out on the streets of Dublin, protesting about the utter lack of facilities available to them. Even more ironic is the fact that the College of Music’s concert band and choral society will be providing the entertainment in a musical showcase highlighting the debate which will take place on November 11th, at the end of the first day of the convention. Were it not such a serious matter, it would be hysterical.

The facilities in DIT Chatham Row are woefully inadequate. It is that simple and has been for a very long time. There are five practice rooms for 120 students, the performance room isn’t even big enough for the band, never mind an audience and the drama students have been shunted up to the former College of Commerce building in Rathmines which seems to be rapidly going to seed. Specific facilities for music education aside, the students have no canteen, a common room that is little more than a bad joke, no smoking area and the convener of the fledging students’ union does not even have a phone to carry out business or a room in which to meet people. Letters have been written by the students to the DIT but for some reason no response has been forthcoming to any of them. Why not?

Even had no letters been sent, and no representations been made, it is impossible not to be aware of the state of DIT Chatham Row and know that something should have been done a long time ago. The staff in that site and in Adelaide Road, and indeed in Rathmines, were surely aware that all was far from rosy, and that music students have specific needs, yet once again it was left to the students themselves to make the decisive move and once again those in one DIT site were supported by students and students’ union representatives from across the DIT. Now it seems that some improvements may be made, but why now? Is there a complete lack of communication within the DIT, and why was it only after direct action from unhappy and angry students that some conciliatory moves were made?

If the DIT has to be embarrassed into taking some action every time its students have a serious complaint then there is something seriously wrong with student-staff relations. Surely they know by now that DITSU is more than willing to take to the streets and make its point in the clearest manner possible.

The DIT is rightly proud of the achievements and talents of its students and happily puffs up its chest like a well pleased parent when they do succeed, but if it is prepared to shabbily treat those same students or ignore their reasonable demands for improvement, then it is guilty of a nasty hypocrisy.

If you can’t stand the heat, you’re normal

You breathe in short, useless gasps as you make your way along, the nausea coming in intermittent waves. Your vision blurs as the sweat rolls into your eyes, stinging horribly. You reel slightly, bumping into others equally afflicted. There isn’t enough air and what there is hot, fetid and has already been through too many lungs. Your hands are slick with sweat, your clothes wet through, clinging to your pallid skin. Around you, others slip to the floor, overcome by the stale, sickening atmosphere. Half mad with fever, they crawl away towards the sanctuary of the nurse station. There is nothing for it but to get out of Kevin Street’s “new building”.

Anyone who spends longer than 10 minutes in the building will surely vouch that the above is not that much of an exaggeration. People are suffering in the heat, people are sweating in the middle of October, the air is hot and unhealthy and despite a number of representations to the authorities in DIT Kevin Street, nothing has been done about the disgraceful situation. There have been some mutterings about thermostats and timers and things but if this cannot be remedied in college of TECHNOLOGY, then there is something seriously wrong. Everywhere you go in the building, you will hear, from those who have the energy, complaints about the unbelievable wall of dead and hot air that engulfs those who venture into its corridors and rooms. The contention that the situation cannot be remedied is unacceptable; it’s not as if the authorities do not know what’s been going on because it has been like this for years and simply appears to be getting worse. People cannot function properly in this stifling atmosphere and should not have to function in it at all. The invisble people who can fix things in this building should wake up and do something. There is no excuse for this.
Confusion Reigns
In Rathmines

Confusion has arisen in the DIT over whether or not angry students from DIT Cathal Brugha Street who are based in Rathmines are to be offered an extension to their minuscule common room and a very limited canteen facility in their existing room.

According to the students' union, a room directly across the corridor from the existing common room is to be allocated as a smoking room and fans are to be introduced to the current room. In addition, a small food facility is to be set up in the common room, probably serving sandwiches.

Patricia Moran, Deputy Convener in DIT Cathal Brugha St, told the DIT Examiner that she had the information on good authority and said that the improvements were welcome but that 'we're still not satisfied.'

'You don't see it as a suitable solution to the problem. It's not a very adequate deal for third level students.' She described the current situation as "absolutely crazy." The craziness seems to have been exacerbated by the fact that Mr Frank McMahon, acting director of DIT Cathal Brugha Street, said that as far as he was aware, there were no definite plans regarding improvements to the facilities in Rathmines House. The situation is being looked at to see what can be done." He said that the most obvious place for a canteen would be in the old building part of the former College of Commerce, as there is already a canteen set up. This has been closed since summer and with numbers as they stand in Rathmines, it is unlikely that it will reopen.

At present, there are almost 300 DIT students based in Rathmines House, consisting of the Environmental Resource Management students and those from the School of Social Sciences. Their common room, which could comfortably seat about 15, regularly plays host to 30 or 40, many of whom have to sit on the floor. They share the limited space with two video games, a soft drinks machine and a coffee machine. The room is small, smoky and clearly inadequate for the numbers of students who have to use it. The lack of canteen facilities in the building means that the students either bring a packed lunch or are forced to venture to one of the establishments in Rathmines for food, where the prices can be too steep.

In order to show just how poor the facilities are, as many students as were able packed themselves into the common room but as one said: "When the picture is taken, can we go because I don't want to stay here."

Audrey O'Connor, a second year social studies student, told the DIT Examiner that the room was "claustrophobic" and that being in such a small and smoke-filled room was "stressful." "We should at least have proper seating after being in a class all morning. It's disgusting. Look at the facilities in universities, some of them have nine hours of lectures a week; we have 36 hours a week and we have to come to this,"

Deirdre O'Brien, a student of Applied Social Studies, said that the lack of ventilation was a terrible problem. "It is absolutely disgusting that a third level institution should have to be in this condition."

Good News for Students!

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

How can I win?

Buy your Bus Éireann 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., Mountjoy Sq., Aungier St., and Cathal Brugha St.
A Sport For All
The Young Blades

Fencing - the word conjures up images of swashbuckling pirates slashing at each other with big sharp swords. But the reality is quite different. Fencing, the art of attack and defence with a sword, combines elements of brute strength, finesse, delicacy and using your brain. It also has similarities to the martial arts in that there are several regular attacks and defences which can be used. So where did Fencing come from?

Well, it developed from the Middle Ages when large swords were used to crack your enemy's armour and eventually his skull. As the centuries and man's military knowledge moved on, this mode of battle became obsolete and the art of fencing was born.

In the 16th-18th centuries duelling became a popular method of settling disputes and several fencing schools were set up to cater for the demand. After duelling was abolished fencing became a sport with regularised rules and in 1896 it took its place as one of the Olympic sports.

Today the modern sport of fencing uses three weapons - the foil, epee and sabre. Points or touches are scored by hitting your opponent's body. A bout is over when one fencer reaches fifteen points. It is played on a piste, which is 2 m wide and 12m long. If you step out of this you are penalised. To guard against injury fencers wear a protective jacket and helmet.

Today fencing is played in several clubs in Ireland including several colleges. DIT Kevin Street's fencing club was established five years ago and despite being mere babies in the world of fencing came second in last year's inter varsities, losing out by only one point. This year we are hoping to send a cross-DIT team to the inter varsities so we need as many fencers as possible.

So if you're looking for something different to try, a sport that will tax your brain as well as your body, give fencing a go. We train every Tuesday and Thursday from 6.30pm-8.00pm in Kevin Street's gym and all are welcome. Full training and equipment will be provided. Give it a go - I guarantee you'll enjoy it!!

Ciarán Crosbie

Engineering
A Great Success

Jennifer Maguire, a student in the Engineering Degree Course in DIT Bolton Street was recently named DIT/TSB Young Techno Science Scholar of the Year. She was one of 12 young Irish scientists from third-level colleges to go to the London International Youth Science Forum which was attended by some 200 students from 50 countries. The forum is an annual event during which young scholars and 'para' science students are immersed in a two week schedule of special lectures from eminent scientists, visit research establishments and industrial plants and mingle with each other in a scientific and social context. Pictured is Jennifer Maguire with her brother and mother on either side of her.
The Sublime, the Stupid and Stallone

Species is about as dumb as a film can get without the reel actually stopping half way through wondering what to do next. It hasn't got an original thought or idea in its wind tunnel of a head and often makes the cardinal sin in a horror/thriller of causing the audience to howl with laughter. BUT, if you can past these and other numerous faults, and accept it for what it is, a 50's type sci-fi B-movie with 90s effects - then it is at least passable entertainment.

Newcomer Natasha Henstridge, a former model who is required here to be no more than very pretty and vacant, plays a creature created from the DNA of an alien and a human, who escapes from the military lab where she has been kept since embryo. As human, she is a model looking citizen, if unconvincing in the ways of the world in LA, largely another world anyway. But as she determinedly hunts for a mate (and I do not mean someone to go shopping with), she tends to turn into a HR Giger designed creature and kill whatever is bothering her. Her scientist creator (Ben Kingsley) gets together a team of experts to track down and kill Sil, as she is known, before the world turns into a set of Aliens. This team includes a couple of scientists (Alfred Molina, Marg Helgenberger) a tough guy (Michael Madsen) and a guy with ESP. Forest Whitaker, whose pronouncements generate most of the laughs.

There's a lot of semi serious meddling with science babble spouted, a good deal of messy violence and director Roger Donaldson's heart really doesn't seem to be in it, but it's not the worst example of preposterous Hollywood rubbish to hit the screens. It would have to be an awful lot worse to warrant that subtitle.

Land and Freedom is a moving, and I think the set look suits you.
Delivering More Shocks to the System

On November 17 last year, International Students' Day, 10,000 students (or 15,000, depending on who you believe) took to the streets of Dublin in a demonstration of anger and solidarity that exceeded all expectations. It should have received massive publicity in the papers the following day but since the Government was busy imploding, the event, given its size, received scant mention. Coincidence? This year, since November 17th falls on a Friday and that in all likelihood this would be bad news for any proposed student event, the march will take place on November 15th, the previous Wednesday. The same day as Ireland take on Portugal in the most important match since the last one. Presuming that we make it through, take a guess as to what the national media will deem as the sexier topic. Two coincidences? Conspiracy? Bloody unfortunate!

Colin Keaveney, President of USI, is not perturbed by the fact that the dates seem to be conspiring again to deny the students of Ireland the front page of the national papers and the chance of good coverage on television.

"We are quite aware of the details of the football match. We can still celebrate the festivities and mark us qualifying, hopefully, for the European championships. We can tie in with the match and there's even talk of students travelling to the game with November 15th banners to highlight the issues of student hardship."

The march in November, organised by USI in conjunction with students' unions all over Ireland, will be the high point of a week of action beginning on Monday the 13th. Last year, the number of students surprised many and if the turnout did not silence the sceptics, it certainly made them pause before scoffing again. This year, the plan is more ambitious, with simultaneous marches being organised in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Belfast. USI is hoping for 40,000 students to be on the streets on the day. The logic is understandable: if students and their local unions do not have to spend money on a Friday and that in all likelihood there are a lot of people out there who are not happy with the system. It's not a lot of students in relation to the number so attending third level education. I am optimistic because a precedent has been set. The students want this.

With the abolition of fees for undergraduates, the single biggest, or at least the most obvious, source of anger for third level students, has been removed. This year the campaign is concentrated upon three issues: the ending of student hardship (through the improvement of maintenance grants and the restoration of social welfare rights for students), improving access to third level education and improving student representation.

Bob Jordan, Deputy President of USI, accepts that the issues, by virtue of numbers if nothing else, may seem "esoteric", less simple to grasp than a simple call for an end to fees, but he says that by concentrating on the emotive issue of student hardship, the rest will simply follow.

He reds off a list of facts that, taken together, add up to a fairly damning indictment of government (British and Irish) policy in relation to third level education. In the Republic, the maintenance grant has actually decreased in real terms by 20% in the last ten years; in Northern Ireland, it was actually cut by 8% and there are proposed further cuts. In relation to access to third level education, the figures are equally unflattering to the government: this year, 62,500 students applied for places under the CAO/CAS system. Initially, there were only 29,000 places available, and few more thousand were made available later. The arithmetic is not difficult.

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Keaveney believes that the most efficient way to send a clear message to the decision making agencies is to "rock the regional centres."

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Making a Fresh Start in the DIT

Freshers' weeks were held across the DIT recently. They were an opportunity for the student unions to make an early good impression on the new students, to show what they can do in the area of entertainments, and for the students themselves to have a mostly painless introduction to college life. Hypnotists were a novel event in every college site but perhaps the following offers a flavour of some of the things that went on over the course of a couple of pretty frantic weeks.

Hypnotist Edward White looked like he was playing to a room full of middle-aged women very likely to giggle into their sherry at the mention of the word 'willy'. With his black patent leather shoes, grey slacks, black blazer and open-necked shirt, he really didn't look like student entertainment material, but that didn't seem to phase the audience in DIT Bolton Street on the first day of Freshers' Week. The place was stuffed with hundreds of students eager to see their peers make abject fools of themselves. And let's be honest here, the willing participants did look silly, occasionally very very silly indeed. Edward White may have looked slightly out of place but he certainly came up with the goods in a polished show that included one poor guy leaping up and shouting "I'm the tooth fairy" whenever he heard a particular round; he had another convinced that the building was in imminent danger of collapse and therefore endeavoured to warn us all while holding up a perfectly sound wall. As a group, the eight or so victims believed they had changed sex, that they were obscenely drunk, could play piano and were finally sent away believing that they were missing the favourite part of their respective bodies. Take a guess as to where the male students looked.

Over in DIT Kevin Street, the Gleeson Hall was the location for equally bizarre behaviour as Zak Powers did his mesmerising stuff to a fine collection of men and women in an imaginative show that made clever use of lights and sound effects. A roving spotlight was used to particularly amusing effect to pick out one guy who had been led to believe he was Garth Brooks and had just won an Oscar for best music in a film. Kissing the people closest to him, he waved and made his way to the stage, pausing for a photo before thanking his "Mom" and launching into 'Friends in Low Places'. Later on, two characters went on a rampage through the audience believing themselves to be a couple of dangerous robbers. Their haul from the raid included some paper, some more paper and some bits of paper. It all made for good, reasonably clean fun, though one female student may want to consider why she found the chap next to her so damned attractive. Sure, there was hypnotic suggestion involved, but there appeared to be a little too much gusto.

DIT Aungier Street opened its Freshers' Week in debaucherous fashion with the much loved, usually body-strewn three-legged pub crawl. The route would have put the fear of God into Hannibal and his elephants, ranging from Aungier Street's common room to Club USI, four hundred miles away over rough terrain - vomit, bodies, bodies in vomit. Even at the earliest stage there were strong signs that faders were a foregone conclusion. It was not the most impressive sight that has ever been beheld by a former student of what used to be the College of Commerce, Rathmines. Nevertheless, on they went, as did the week, in similar drink sodden

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Dublin's Most Student Friendly Pub
Live Music D.J.s every Tues.
Toasted Sandwiches a Speciality
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Ph: 874 8491
Freshers' Week is a time when college life can be as it has been portrayed in any number of mindless films and that it is very possible to get wildly drunk one night and then go out and do it all over again the next. And the next. Oh, and friends, you should have made some friends during the week.

**CBS Does It In Typical Style**

In typical CBS style, Freshers' Week kicked off with free beer. This was followed by a Mad Bastard/Bitch competition which proved to be one of the highlights of the week, with people losing all inhibitions and gaining stardom status within the college.

Club Sarah proved to be a great success with many future DIT relationships being established ...

The mandatory colossal amount of free beer was distributed amongst the excited and thirsty crowd. The promotion was due to start at 8pm and by 8.45pm there were 600 bodies socialising with intent. At 9.30pm, the Blooz Brothah hit the stage and began to tell the foundations of the Big Tree for all they were worth. One and all did rock until 'the man' pulled the plug but even then a mass of people converged on the Border beckoned to all students souls present. So there it was, the start of Freshers' Week, finishing in Border country where the multitude sat and sipped beer.

However, the night belonged to Woody, who by this stage is now a household name within the college circle.

**A Personal View from Mountjoy Square**

A first a long day's screaming about the forthcoming frivolities of Freshers' week, the sabbatical entourage then marched on to the Big Tree on Dorset Street for what proved to be the biggest and undoubtedly the most popular opening night of any Freshers' week, ever, in the world!! (this article was written in a completely impartial fashion by the Convenor of DIT Mountjoy Students' Union - Ed)

The mandatory colossal amount of free beer was distributed amongst the excited and thirsty crowd. The promotion was due to start at 8pm and by 8.45pm there were 600 bodies socialising with intent. At 9.30pm, the Blooz Brothah hit the stage and began to tell the foundations of the Big Tree for all they were worth. One and all did rock until 'the man' pulled the plug but even then a mass of people converged on the Border beckoned to all students souls present. So there it was, the start of Freshers' Week, finishing in Border country where the multitude sat and sipped beer.

**Wednesday**

Garret Woods played solo in the canteen and brought the house down. But that was the highlight of the day as the entire student body unconsciously decided that this was the day off.

**Thursday**

A first in Mountjoy Square, we had a DJ in the canteen that went down surprisingly well, given all students the opportunity to "request" dirt that had been raked up over the three previous nights.

On then to the Shakespeare for 7pm and the last of the Guinness promotions, and also the pick up point for our buses to Greystones. In spite of the sceptics, this was one of the most successful Freshers' balls ever. The craic on the buses was fantastic and with a niteclub that cost £3 million to build, you really couldn't do any better. Well done to all involved in the week; it was fantastic.

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**Sandwiches & Rolls** MADE FRESH TO ORDER

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Lots of Vegetarian Food Too!
Suddenly need to have eight more pints in the next half hour and you are keen to protect us from the ravaging effects of too much drinking in the Autumn, there are now only two minutes left in which to order more beer and you suddenly find yourself able to slip unnoticed between people's fingers.

"EIGHT PINTS OF SOMETHING!!" you yell at anything moving behind the bar. "THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!!!" Yes indeed, early closing policy continues to work a treat.

As the bar staff persist in serving people who (a) do not shout incoherently (b) do not look as if they should be in a hospital and/or (c) are not weeping, you lose what small vestiges of dignity you had been holding onto. In short, you begin to beg, turning the word please into a mantra and giving undue emphasis to the vowels. "PLEEAAAASE" it goes. You are of course disgusted with yourself but desperate times - 11pm - call for desperate measures. Eventually you are served because everyone wants you to stop whining and a bearing is out of the question.

Carrying as many glasses as is possible (not practical as practicality left with dignity and got a taxi home), you slip and slide to a place permitted by the increasing panic. Once under the table you simply horse the beer into yourself, keeping acock eye on the wall clock, the hands of which are moving so fast they appear to be waving.

It is later, though, with the onset of blindness and the total absence of comprehension as to your surroundings, it is impossible to tell how much later, or where the later is located. You hadn't really wanted all those extra beers, or at least not all together, in one hour's drinking time has not been to reduce to amount taken but to increase both rate and number. It's hard to define, decide or even attempt anything at the moment. You are no longer vertical, your pants are on your head and Steve is not speaking to you.

THE END OF CIVILISATION

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drough the beery haze, the realisation oh so slowly dawns that not all is well with the world. You are still in a vertical position, your pants are not on your head and you have not yet felt compelled to tell Steve that he should take regular showers if he wants to keep his friends. And yet, something niggles. Brain cells are diving lemming-like into shallow pools of alcohol that have collected at the back of the head and there is no hope for those poor suicidal little fellows but those that are still functioning sense that something is up. Something bad.

As suddenly as it is permitted under the circumstances, a worrying notion begins to make its unwelcome presence. It is an interloper in your head and some of the lovely happy thoughts sloshing around get together, get belligerent and try to force it out but it is too late. The notion grows, puts on a pair of big boots and kicks the shit out of everything in its path. It now controls what you do and so you are forced finally to look up to the clock on the wall behind the bar. Your eyes follow along some time later and once the information they provide when the whole focusing issue has been resolved and is processed, they widen in terror. The clock says - and it is saying it, at an incredible volume - that it is 10.58pm. That would normally leave a perfectly acceptable amount of time to down some of the lovely happy thoughts sloshing around get crowded bar to the sad remains in your sweaty hand of what had once been a complete beer. With a speed that is shocking you fling the dregs down your gullet, wipe away that which missed the gaping maw completely and launch yourself at the bar, fervently wishing for the total absence of comprehension as to your surroundings, it is impossible to tell how much later, or where the later is located. You hadn't really wanted all those extra beers, or at least not all together, in one hour's drinking time has not been to reduce to amount taken but to increase both rate and number. It's hard to define, decide or even attempt anything at the moment. You are no longer vertical, your pants are on your head and Steve is not speaking to you.
DIT's Rugby Team Seeks the Winning Formula Stateside

This week, DIT's rugby team leaves for the USA for a short tour which it is hoped will set the mood for the coming season and the Bank of Ireland Ascent Cup campaign.

"It's about forming a team to win it, to offer a serious challenge to the likes of Limerick and Waterford," said Joe McGrath, chairperson of DIT Mountjoy Square's sports council.

The team, 21 players in all, will leave for America on October 28th and will return to Ireland on November 4th. Two matches will be played in Albany, New York, and these will include a game against the East Coast champions. After that the tour moves onto Boston where the opponents will be MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Mr McGrath says that he wants to ensure that the DIT team is not seen as elitist and in order to facilitate this, there are plans to upgrade the Gleeson Cup competition and attempts are being made to have a DIT Freshers' Team in the O'Boyle Cup.

"We could have two major pieces of silverware in the DIT cabinet at the end of the year," says McGrath.

Doreen Curran, a final year student on the B.Mus. Performance/Graduate Diploma in Music at DIT Chatham Row is the overall winner of the RTE 'Go For It' talent competition. She picked up a money prize of £2000 plus a week in a recording studio in RTE, and the Go For It trophy. In November, she will sing with the Opera Theatre Company's production of Monteverdi's Orpheus.

Doreen has previously won prizes in college, at Feiseanna Ceoil and Feiseanna Maitiú in Dublin as well as in her hometown of Derry.

Earlier this year, she was a prize winner in the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Competition for singers and sang the role of Dido in Henry Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" at the National Concert Hall, Dublin and at the West Waterford Festival of Early Music in Lismore.

Pictured (l to r) are Anne Marie O'Sullivan, Head of the Vocal, Operatic and Dramatic Studies in DIT Chatham Row, and Doreen Curran.

As the DIT sports day earlier this year
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Irish is trendy. That's the message circulating among third-level students for some time now. Just walk into any one of the pubs in Dublin where young people meet and the chances are that you will hear the last song from Kylie Minogue and New Order or, better Donaldson's latest science-fiction thriller, 'Species', or last night's FA Cup-final being discussed as Gaelic.

The expedition is the first to benefit from the Inchape Initiative, a £2.5m

Group Run Rig. Of special interest to third level students is a new venture at the Festival this year - the two day Oireachtas Film exhibition 'Fis '95 in the Irish Film Centre on the 6 and 7 November. Some of your parents may remember the news films produced by Gael-Linn in the fifties and shown weekly in cinemas throughout the country before the age of television. These and other films made in Irish during the 50's, 60's and 80's will be shown on the first day of the exhibition in an attempt to show how the film industry has evolved in Ireland. The second day will then concentrate on new film producers' works and the type of film we can expect to see on Teiflís na Gaeltacht. There will also be frequent opportunities for discussion which should prove very interesting since many of the people involved in the film-making industry will be present. Among the guest-speakers will be Eoghan Harris, Noel O'Brien, Fiona Keane and Cillian Fennel. If you have any opinions or ideas about Irish films and want to give them an airing come along to the IFIC on the 6 and 7 November.

Both on Wednesday and Thursday, there will be a rich programme of film screenings in the IFIC and the Shelbourne. They will provide the music for Slad agus Slánú. That same night you will have a unique opportunity to hear the Glasgow Hebridean Choir. These are the underseventeens in the Sports pool in Belvedere, and a dance workshop in DCU and Scoil Chaitfhorra where youngsters between the ages of fifteen and seventeen can become expert at the samba and damhsa na mbuchaili bò.

**Walking Tall**

Joseph Hayden needs £1,200 by November 10th. Of such dilemmas are snappy intros made. Joseph, a former DIT student, has been chosen to be part of a ten week expedition to Chile, under the Inchape Initiative. The expedition begins in January and involves a 36 hours period in the Chonos Archipelago. It will provide the music for Slad agus Slánú, a commemoration of the Famine, is an occasion not to be missed. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann's 32 member National Folk Orchestra will provide the music for Slad agus Slánú. That same night you will have a unique opportunity to hear the Glasgow Hebridean Choir who have just appeared recently on the latest album by the Scottish Gaelic Rock band, 'Walking Tall'.

The expedition is the first to benefit from The Inchape Initiative, a £2.5m partnership between youth development charity Raleigh International and Inchape, an international marketing and services group. Participants on the Inchape Initiative will be undertaking community work of benefit to the indigenous inhabitants of Chile - the Mapuche Indians - in a region of the country renowned for its wilderness, wild landscape and unpredictable climate. The temperature can drop to below zero. He and the other hopefuls who intended to make the trip to Chile were selected from a rigorous selection process which involved a 36 hours period in the Chonos Archipelago. Joseph is the only Irish person among them.

"I can't wait to go," he says.

He believes that he will be a completely different person when he returns from Chile, having seen and experienced things that most Irish people never do.

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**November 15th The Main Event**

**4 regions v 2 Governments**
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GET OUT YOUR GLAD RAGS!

Cathal Brugha Street's social event of the year, the annual Dress Dance takes place in The Country Club, Bernal Town, on November 10th. Tickets, costing a mere €20, are available from the Students' Union Office. Do not, repeat do not, miss out on this night of nights.

MEND
MOVES TO PHASE TWO

Phase Two of the Music Education National Debate, sponsored once again by the Dublin Institute of Technology, will take place in DIT Bolton Street on 11th and 12th of November. Phase One was held in April/May of this year and sought to focus on the most pressing current issues in relation to music education in Ireland. The main topics of discussion during Phase One will include Philosophies of Music Education; performance in Music Education; The Focus of Second Level Music Education; Third Level Music Education and The Influence of Music Education in Ireland. Experts in the relevant areas from as far afield as America, London, Canada and the Philippines will be attending the debate.

An analysis of the programme of papers will be completed and will be submitted to a distinguished international panel of experts in the field of music education for further interaction.

On November 11th, there will be a musical showcase to highlight the debate. The theme is 'Broadway Magic' and the evening of music will feature work by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber. DIT Chatham Row, College of Music concert band and choral society, conducted by William Hapjin will provide the bulk of the evening's entertainment, with special guests Na Casadaigh and the National Children's Choir and Orchestra conducted by Seán Creamer. Compete for the evening will be Peter Sweetey.

Ticket prices are £10 and £8 (£5 concession). The evening begins at 8pm. Tickets can be booked from the National Concert Hall booking office (ph. 6711535).

Get Out Your Glad Rags!