1996

The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students’ Union January/February 1996

DIT: Students' Union

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DIT's first ever institute-wide rag week will begin on February 19th.

An ambitious series of events are planned which will culminate on Thursday, February 21st with a massive rag ball to be held in The Point Theatre. It is hoped that this event alone will attract up to 6,000 students.

The idea for a DIT wide rag week was first discussed by DITSU's executive last September but very nearly didn't get off the ground at all because at the time the owners of The Point said that there was no acceptable date free in February. However, in January the Executive was informed that a date was in fact available and so a frenzied period of work commenced in order to set up what will be the biggest, most ambitious rag week this country has ever seen.

"The exec dropped everything for a week and worked on it and since then they've been giving it half their time and doing their usual work as well," said DITSU President Colman Byrne.

"I can't say people have enjoyed it because it's been logistically massive but it's all come together now."

He admits that there were some concerns about the size of the undertaking.

"I'd say that everyone is for the idea but some were saying, 'but let's not do it yet, not this year.'"

However, the combined rag week is going ahead, with the enormous institute-wide events being run along with local events.

It will kick off on Monday with local events being run in each site and in the evening two institute-wide gigs are planned, the locations of which have yet to be confirmed.

On Tuesday, a mass exodus to Galway is planned, with Mr Byrne expecting as many as 30-40 buses head for the west.

"We'll be stopping in Kinnebrog, Athlone and Ballinasloe for discos and the onto the city. Arrangements are to be made with nightclubs in Galway and the buses should be back in Dublin for 6am on Wednesday morning.

The single biggest event of the week will kick off on Monday with local rag week events running as usual.

It'll be like this, but on a much grander scale. Get ready

On Thursday, the local events will finish early and then it's on to the Point. We want everyone there for 10pm. There will be a tribute band and then a disco, followed by a headline band. The maximum cost for tickets to the ball will be 16 and there will be buses arranged to ferry people to the venue.

There has been concern in some quarters about the scale of such an operation and fears that some students will not be prepared to make the journey to The Point on the evening, preferring to stay local. Mr Byrne remains confident, firmly believing that because the location is new and different that people will be prepared to travel.

"Some people are saying that for example the southside colleges won't want to move from their local haunts in Camden Street but some of these people are living in Drumcondra or maybe even places like Inchicore so they're moving anyway. This is different, innovative."

There is of course some financial risk involved in such a venture but Mr Byrne said that because of the sponsorship and underwriting DITSU had arranged, this risk would be minimal.

"Sure it's a risk but everything is a risk. I mean if everyone decides not to go out on the night then we have a problem. But we're promoting it city-wide so we should be OK. We usually get five or six thousand at the various rag balls should if we can get that well be fine."

It will, he says, be the "biggest rag ball in the biggest institute in the country."

Friday the 22nd will be a "sort of a chill out day". Two cinemas in the Virgin complex will be booked showing a cult film and a more mainstream offering.

It cannot have escaped Mr Byrne that this ambitious undertaking comes very close to the USI elections, in which he is running for President. He does not think that the success of the event will have any bearing on the elections but that it "might confirm my organisational abilities."

"It will look good for me and it will look good for DITSU because we've worked very hard at this."

He expressed the hope that the event will set a precedent that will be followed in the coming years.

Final and definite arrangements are still being made for this first of its kind Rag Week and announcements will be made in the coming weeks.
The DIT Rag Week

In less than two weeks, the first ever DIT wide rag week gets under way. It is an audacious and ambitious undertaking that will test the patience and nerves of DITSU's executive and will be watched with some interest by detractors who want to see it fail apart and interested observers keen to see just what is capable of being achieved if the will is there. More than anything else, though, the DIT wide rag week will be a test of the level of integration in which the DIT as a whole and DITSU have invested much time and effort. There are a number of institute wide events organised but the one that will surely be the vindication of the decision to opt for a concentrated week of events for all DIT sites will be the rag ball in The Point Depot. If the numbers reach the combined figures for individual rag balls through out the DIT then it should be a success but there can be no guarantee of this and that is the single most serious threat posed to this venture. DIT Rag Weeks tend to be spaced out over a couple of weeks at least with each students' union attempting to ensure that the dates chosen are suitable for the greatest number of people. Since the event is institute-wide this time, more than the usual numbers will, sadly feel left out. It is the simple by-product of trying to cater for some 20,000 students rather than two or three thousand. Inevitably, some students' union Sabbatical will buttonholed and berated in the coming weeks but what should be remembered is that the decision to hold this combined rag week was not reached lightly. Sabbatical tend to know when feelings are running high on their own turf and they all know that rag weeks are very important for students; they are equally important for students' unions as perhaps more than any other single event or matter, their success is an indication of how hard the students' union is operating. Rag Week is often used as a measure of the success of a sabbatical term and none of the current crop wishes to leave in May under a cloud. The Point Depot is an excellent venue and probably the only city venue that can cater for the numbers expected on Thursday, 22 February. It's location is not ideal and this may deter some people but of the bus service being organised runs smoothly and students are prepared to make their way from local hostilities into town and then spend five or ten minutes travelling then the DIT rag ball 1996 could indeed be a spectacle to behold and a night to remember.

Some have said that it has been organised too hastily and that the feelings in individuals sites are not being considered. There may be something in this but here's hoping that any difficulties can be ironed out and that rag week is a success. A great deal of work has been put into it by DITSU exec., both locally and on an institute-wide level. It deserves a chance.

DIT Finally Gets Security Conscious

The men have been busy this week in DIT Kevin Street, installing security cameras throughout the building. The same happened recently in DIT Aungier Street. This week also sees the beginning of campus watch in Kevin Street, a scheme that will involve, amongst other initiatives, uniformed community Gardai patrolling through the grounds on a regular basis. It is unfortunate that such measures are needed at all but needed they are because the level of theft and break ins in Kevin Street has become ridiculously high over the last couple of years and practically nothing has been done about the situation. Until now. Why it has taken so long for the authorities to get moving in this problem is difficult to understand but now that something has been done, it should be welcomed and accepted. There will of course be some students who resent the presence of the Gardai in their college whether from an encroaching sense of Big Brother scrutiny or because they are students and simply aren't supposed to like authority figures or perhaps because they have been involved in some way with the crimes that have been committed here -certainly miscreants from the surrounding area have little need for lecture notes. Well, the situation is this: they are here and people may as well get used to them. If their presence prevents bike thefts, break ins or muggings then campus watch will be a success and people will feel safer in college. The scheme is already operating successfully in UCD, UCC and DCU. It does not seem to have adversely affected college life in those places.

So apart from being the largest students' union in the country, what has Ditsu ever done for me?

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DITSU's exec., both locally and on an institute-wide level. It deserves a chance.

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IT'S YOUR STUDENTS' UNION.

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Printed by Datascope, Enniscorthy Co. Wexford

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.
Baldy Going Where Few have Gone Before

"Heh heh heh. I think I've changed my mind."

The tone was one of nervous jollity, the person speaking the hopeful words was Padraig Staunton. Padraig, known to all as Stan - until last Monday, that is, when Baldy, Slaphead and Cueball suddenly became popular - shifted uncomfortably in his seat and gazed out at the sea of expectant faces in the cant­ee in DIT Mountjoy Square. He couldn't turn back at this point. If he ran away now shouting "leave me alone, I like it the way it is", he would surely lose face. As things stood, all he was about to lose was his hair. Not since Samson woke up thinking it was awfully chilly had a man faced such a dilemma.

Would the loss of Stan's boyish good looks or, heaven forbid, his virility?

As things stood, all he was about to lose was his hair rob him of his strength, which must surely rank up as a Reservoir Dogs-like incident.

He couldn't turn back and answer, with the sincerity of a priest in the can­tee, "Is this short?" he asked at one point, a question which must surely rank up there with "Is it yourself?" in the great pantheon of rhetorical poses.

Nonetheless, Mark Lee looked up at his colleague and answered, with the sincerity of a priest "no, no not really. Sure it's grand. Not a bother. Actually you're bald."

Stan's hair continued to fall gently to the floor and, more worryingly, down the back of his t-shirt. It didn't take long and when the final little quiff was shorn, a cry went up from the crowd. A far different kind of cry came from Stan.

Still, it was all for charity. The event was organised by Club 100, that hugely industrious group of peo­ple who have the incredible knack of raising enor­mous amounts of money for various causes. Over £1,000 was raised within DIT Mountjoy Square for the even and the previous week on the streets of Dublin, £5,000 was collected. The money will go to St Luke's hospital and the Rape Crisis Centre. All involved are to be congratulated, including Stan, to whom we also extend our deepest sympathies and just a little giggle. Sure, before you know it, Stan, you'll be bringing down temples like a good thing.

DIT Musicians to Tour US

The DIT Concert Band will be touring the United States for the first time in September of this year.

Four concerts are planned, the first taking place on September 4th in Boston College. On the 7th the band will play in Yale, and on the 9th the venue will be Rutgers University, New Jersey. The final concert will take place on the 11th, in Barnstable High School, Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Two fund raising concerts for the tour will take place in the coming months. The first, A Festival of Bands, takes place on March 6th in the RDS Concert Hall. Tickets, priced at a very reasonable £6 and £4 are available in the library and offices of the College of Music (Chatham Row and Adelaide Road) and at the door. The four bands from the college will take part: the Junior band conducted by Ciaran O'Connell, the Intermediate Band, conducted by Tim Hanafin and the Concert Band, conducted by William Halpin.

There is no date set for the second event, a 10 hour music marathon, but it will most likely take place in May.

The concert band, which has been in existence for 15 years, consists of more than 50 young musicians, ranging in age from 16-23 years of age. It was formed by William Halpin in 1980 as a junior band and has since grown into one of Ireland's largest bands.

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.
GAA Clubs Reward Their Own in Quiet Ceremony

It was backslapping time in The Thornbush last week when the various GAA clubs in DIT's northside sites presented trophies to the best players during the season's league, which has just finished. The award winners were chosen by the players themselves and the event was sponsored by Heineken. A similar event will be held for DIT's southside sites later this month and an overall award ceremony at the end of the year.

At the event, the DIT's GAA officer, Josephine Rogers, was presented with a bouquet of flowers for her work during the year.

The winners were: Cathal Brugha Street, Ladies Football - Anita Conway, Camogie - Martina Haverly, Men's Football - Mark Leddy, Hurling - Phil Duffy, Club Person - Damian McCarthy, Mountjoy Square, Ladies' Football - Noreen Walsh, Men's Football - Ronan Mooney, Hurling - Anthony Brehan, Club Person - Joe Fortune, Bolton Street, Ladies Football - Mary Keogh, Football - Damien Diven, Hurling - Darren Caulfield, Sportsperson - Greta English.

Some of the winners being presented with trophies by Heineken Rep. Daragh Heraghty and Josephine Rogers, GAA Officer.

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Reel Life

Turning Up the Heat

Heat is nowhere near as thought-ful as it thinks it is, nor as epic as it wants to be. That’s not to say that it the film falls on its face - it’s an exciting, gripping and intelligent thriller that takes its time getting to where it wants to go, and it succeeds in heights that it can never hope to reach - because at its heart Heat is a simple, clear conflict between two men, a dedicated cop and a dedicated robber.

This is not a new plot line but the scope is that in such films and indeed episodes of many TV detective series, the protagonists have never been played by Robert de Niro and Al Pacino. Fans of the under-the-skin bordering on the obsessive school of acting will be queuing up for this one.

De Niro, in his first high profile leading role for years, plays Neil McCauley, a sharp dressing, goatee sporting master criminal who, with his team of trusted co-criminals, has been carrying out a series of brilliantly planned and executed heists in Los Angeles. One step behind is Vincent Hanna (Pacino), a cop whose reality is determined by his quarry. In the urban jungle of the city - and two leads do stalk each other like big, wary cats - he has been relying on such stock too much in recent years. Next to de Niro’s poise and economy he is a definite runner up.

However it is a testament to both actors and to Michael Mann that the view each of the characters in the film, she is present primarily to reflect an aspect of the male with whom she is associated.

That the film borrows at all with such efforts to develop character is good, it is that fact that the respective teams working with the leads are not merely there to be shot and act as a focus for vengeance, though this is also present. With three hours a lot of background can be filled in so we see McCauley’s friend and accomplice Chris Shiherlis (Val Kilmer, quietly effective) arguing with his wife (Ashley Judd) about his gambling habit, we referring to his opponent as ‘Neil’, as if he were a friend. When they finally meet, in a coffee shop, it is a low key and tense affair with each setting out the parameters within which their next meeting will take place: only one man will remain standing.

“You do what you do, I do what I gotta do,” Hanna tells McCauley. It’s a terrific scene that wryly does not climax with some hissed threat or promise, merely fades to black. Both men need to be in complete control and so the movement at minimal, the acting is with the eyes and in Pacino’s case, it is one of the few times when he underplays. Hanna is expressive and confident - his jewellery is gaudy - and so Pacino’s restlessness and SUDDEN SHOUTING are forgivable but he’s been relying on such stock too much in recent years. Next to de Niro’s poise and economy he is a definite runner up.

However it is a testament to both actors and to Michael Mann that the view each of the constituencies are never firmly in one camp. This is not necessarily laudable, as we are early on shown McCauley sanctioning a brutal murder, but it is skilfully contrived. A prime example is the bank heist which goes wrong. As the robbers make their escape, a shoot out, the noisiest in film history, begins and continues up main streets with police cordons being set up everywhere and McCauley and his gang making progress to safety with military precision. The expertly staged set piece is heavily reminiscent of a fire fight in which these men operate, an antiseptic, reflective and cold environment.

And Heat is finally, unashamedly, about men, and how they should act in a specific environment at a specific time - 1990s America. It may be too long, it may lack the epic sweep it strives for - almost 70 speaking parts - and the central domestic relationships may all be similarly fractured, but as cops and robbers films go, they don’t come any more gripping, stylish and smart as this one.
In the 21st Century, information is the ultimate commodity. In a world where cyberspace is more than a Hollywood plot device, specialist couriers like Johnny (Keanu Reeves) offer a special service - by dumping a large portion of his long-term memory, he is able to increase his memory with the aid of a chip-enhanced data storage capacity in order to smuggle vast programmes for shadowy corporate clients. This is the general spiel included in the 20th Century Fox press pack. What they failed to include is that 'Johnny Mnemonic' is one of the worst films ever made.

Based on a short story by William Gibson, 'Johnny Mnemonic' stars 'our' Keanu (who do you think you are, Cilla Black? - Ed), Dolph Lundgren, Ice-T, Udo Kier, Henry Rollins and Dina Meyer. The actual story (in 25 words or slightly more), revolves around the aforementioned data smuggling, a dodgy multi-national corporation and a new illness (Nerve Attenuation Syndrome), carrying data belonging to Pharmakom, the AIDS of the 21st Century. Johnny is carrying data belonging to Pharmakom, a corporation which, strangely enough, is only interested in profits. The info rattling around in Johnny's head will ensure that their profit margin remains on the up. The baddies in this case are the Yakuza (seeing as how the PLO and IRA have thoughtlessly called respective cease fires) who want Johnny's head removed and cryogenically frozen in order to gain access. The ultimate irony of Johnny Mnemonic is that while the main character is trying to remember his past, those is who actually sat through the whole film are desperately trying to forget it. The truth, which in this case will hurt a lot, is that while this may have seemed like a good idea at the time, the finished product is not worth the celluloid it is printed on. To start with, it is difficult to keep up with the number of characters involved in the film's body count almost equals that of Rambo II, with goodies and baddies being as expendable as the screenwriter saw fit. As we are dealing with the cyberpunk genre, expect every form of poetic licence that science fiction will allow, and enough high tech gadgetry to make James Bond weep and wish that he had been in a different century. These include a code breaking dolphin (I jest not), an input-unit in Johnny's brain used to download data and a space saving computer screen encased in wrap around sunglasses.

In an attempt to place deeper meaning in the script, those who rebel against the New World Order live in a district suspension bridge called Heaven, which the Yakuza (representing evil, I suppose) try to destroy.

Another useful thing about press packs is that reviewers are supplied with details about the cast and crew. I, however, have but one question: if Dolph Lundgren got a scholarship for a Ph.D. to MIT, why didn't he see that this film would be as bland as it is?

Siobhán Weekes

**Film Extra: Johnny Moronic**

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**DIT Storming Ahead in Sport**

**DIT Senior Hurling (7-7) Jordanstown (0-3)**

This game, played in the snow on a Saturday, was difficult due to the elements and not the opposition. The DIT team have been preparing hard for the championships which start this month and this was our last league game. The training showed on the day with the DIT being in full control of the game.

The DIT opened the scoring with a fine point from Shane Cooke. Jordanstown responded with a point of their own but did not score again until the end of the half. In the meantime, the DIT maintained full control at the half back line and there was strong and consistent attacking from the half forward line who played the midfield equally strong, well supported by the half back and full back lines. Corner back Art Flannery, who had a very impressive game, had to come off during the second half due to an injury. He, Cayle and Mullins left their keeper with a line.

DIT came back with fine points from Wade and Whelan to put them ahead. However, Dara Finney from Jordanstown scored once in the second half from a free. DIT then stretched that lead considerably and the final score was 7-7 to 0-3.

**Game Results**

**Hurling**

DIT Freshers 3-4 St Pat's, Drumcondra 1-7 (Inter League)
DIT 2-11 Gada 6-6 (Senior Challenge)
DIT 1-12 St Enda's 0-6 (Challenge match)
DIT 5-9 St Bridget's 2-3 (Challenge match)

**DIT 0-11 UCD 1-7**

DIT took on UCD on Tuesday, 30th in Terenure in an exciting game in which scores were matched throughout. At half time UCD led by a single point and the DIT came back with fine points from Wade and Whelan to put them ahead. However, Dara Finney from UCD brought his team level with a goal. DIT fought hard and drew ahead by one point in the final minute.

The hurling club would like to thank St Pat's and St Bridget's for accommodating us with games in our preparations for the Fitzgibbon Cup.

The senior hurling team will enter the first round of the Fitzgibbon Cup on February 10th with an away match in Cork.
MOUNTJOY SQUARE'S BABES GEAR UP FOR '96 CAMPAIGN

A cool Monday in mid-November, both the DIT Mountjoy Square men's and women's soccer teams were presented with two new spanking sets of gear, courtesy of the ICBA, John Conroy and Pat O'Sullivan, with the drinking being supplied by Harp. The night was a great success and for once the team looked clean and respectable. Also that night, four players were honoured for their services to DIT Mountjoy Square over the past five years. To be honoured, the players must have played over 20 games (full caps count only). These distinguished few were given a football jersey in the colours of their country of choice. The few were Robbie Whelan (26 caps), Robbie Lowry (27 caps), Daragh Brady (21 caps) and Aengus King (20 caps). That day, the DIT Mountjoy Square soccer roadshow arrived in RTÉ Carlow for our second league game of the season. Well, the less said about that day, the better. Due to legal reasons we can't actually give full details of what actually happened, so in short we lost 4-0, had one man sent off and they had two booked, the crowd started to riot, Pat's won (only messing, we didn't deserve to win but the rest is true). Following this rout, our ladies team then went one better by losing 5-0 to Pat's in Drumcondra. Things weren't looking good.

Anyway, onto December, when we had to play a bottom of the table clash to decide who would qualify for the All Ireland shield. On December 5th, we took on Griffith College on the Astro turf under the floodlights in the AUL complex. A four-two victory finally put some points on the board.

Mountjoy Square got off to a flying start, with a third minute goal from the boot of John Conroy, following good work by Aidan King and Rob Whelan. Minutes later we could have stretched our lead but couldn't capitalise on the lead. However, through the diplomatic negotiations of Mark Lee, Robbie Whelan, Johnny Cahill and Paul Molloy (four of the five leaders), Stoney allowed the party to continue.

The journey to Belfast was only half by a stop in Dundalk for the Call of Nature as the Jacks on the bus was finding the endless floor too much to handle. On the bus the atmosphere was great, with the exception of a small few people at the back of the bus who refused to get with the programme. Watching the video of Ireland V Italy game was boring after Houghton's goal so Robbie Whelan decided to subject the bus to a Ticker Tape video, which had the effect of inciting the people at the back of the bus, one of whom had already regurgitated his breakfast into a Black Bag. So after much persuasion, the vid was changed to an Oasis tape, which had most of the best singers showing off their musical talents. So then the real sing song began with Terry Daly doing a great job as conductor. Then enter Mick Dee from the back of the bus (two little lies), he began to shout out a song, at least we presume it was a song. Seven Drunken Nights, it was later disclosed, was its apt title. After this, he committed the ultimate error; he slagged of Robbie Whelan (not to be attempted if you are wise).

In Belfast we needed the boat in good form. By this time it had become clear which people had been on this sort of trip in the past - Darragh Brady, Robbie Whelan, Robbie Lowry and Aidan Peoples were the only survivors of all three trips. On the boat we made straight for the bar where Aidan Peoples insulted the harbour master.

We arrived at last in Stranrar and on boarding the bus a vicious rumour circulated that David Looney was missing (he wasn't of course, merely semi-conscious behind one of the seats and unable to respond to his own name). His presumed disappearance resulted in Paul Molloy and Aidan Peoples searching the boat, including all the toilets. No David of course but they did find Robbie Lowry wandering in one of the corridors. They rejoined the bus to a chorus of laughs.

The journey to Glasgow was marked with singing, drinking and joking and once at the hostel rooms were allocated, with Orla O'Keefe and Karen Traynor moving promptly from the rooms, with all the couples when they saw one such two-some showering together. Their luck didn't improve as they wound up sharing a bed.

A change of clothes for the revellers and then it was off to Ginty McGinty's, where a packed reception greeted the thirsty troopers. Day Two: Hangovers all round, though some managed to struggle out of bed. Paul Molloy led a group of nine to see Parkhead which looked impressive even if it was only half built. Later the group met up in Frank McAvennie's Street. Where a packed reception greeted the thirsty troopers.

On to the match, a very forgettable affair which the Bhoys won against a very poor Motherwell side. After the game, those with lots of money went out to the pub and on to Arkass the rest just went back to the pub before going back to the hostel for a good chat with the other foreigners, one of whom was an Angel from Canada. The Irish lads got a sing song going, belting out numbers from Oasis, Blur and even the Beatles; the other foreigners countered with Del Boy. If you see him, bay it to him. Also receiving funny looks was Robbie Whelan for sporting a Ticker That badge.

The dance troop returned from Arkass and were no sooner in the hostel than Terry Daly decided to run through the halls in just his boxer shorts and jacket, or bed sheet, or whatever he could find, just for the buzz. It is worth noting that a meal not to be missed in Glasgow is the Burger and Bunt. By the second night, John Conroy was the leading scorer with five. On its foundation five years ago, The Cauldrons, had as their original aim to bring together for this young team, affectionately known as the COMAD Babes - a reference to their age, not their looks.

The future in 1996 looks bright, with a friendly to come and then a crack at the group leaders and current All Ireland Champions, DIT Bolton Street. Recently, five of the squad had trials for the DIT team: Robbie Whelan, Keith McCormack, Ronan Quinn, Brian Nevin and Paul Molloy.

Robbie Whelan

Cavalier Attitudes

The DIT Mountjoy Square basketball club, founded in 1991 and known as The Cavaliers, have strove to be the best at their chosen profession namely the art of playing basketball. Competing in both friendly and competitive games with 100% commitment to winning outright every accolade the game has to offer.

Since its foundation five years ago, The Cavaliers men's and women's teams have made considerable progress. The women's team came close to victory with the ultimate goal of humilitating any team that dared to stand it. The '96 campaign is no different. In that year, Paul Neill and Ken Costes have a highly trained and hungry basketball machine, eager to prove themselves in the ICBA, HESF and DIT competitions.

The likes of Galway RTC, St Pat's, Waterford RTC, Maynourth and the Gardai have already dared to take a stand in the path of the prime specimens of the well-toned Cavaliers. Both the men's and women's teams look well on their way to ultimate victory and with results like 94-46 against the Gardai who would dare cross them? And for tension and excitement what about the recent down to the buzzer match which the DIT Cavaliers won from Galway RTC by an invisible three-pointer in the final seconds? Nowhere else could you experience such tangible"
A engineering graduate from DIT Kevin Street has won this year's Project Development Centre Enterprise Award Competition.

Mr Paul O'Hare was presented with a cheque for £1,000 by Mr Richard Bruton, T.D., Minister for Enterprise and Employment, at a reception held recently in the Royal College of Surgeons.

The Project Development Centre was initiated by the DIT in 1983. It is primarily involved in running practical support programmes for entrepreneurs offering training workshops, mentor systems and office facilities. In the past four years, more than 90 new businesses and 360 jobs have been created through the centre. It is funded by the Department of Education and the European Social Fund.

In this year's competition, four people were selected from the most promising group of entrepreneurs who had participated in the programme. The selection was

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...
Reaching an Accommodation

Birth. First Kiss. First Sexual Experience. RTE comedy. Death. Traumatic experiences all and only the last does not leave a lasting impression and a branded memory, unless of course you are Shirley McClaine in which case death is a frequent but minor inconvenience. But none of these comes within a country mile of the trauma, physical pain and certain development of a variety of nervous tics that come with the dreaded, consummative act of moving into a new flat. It is the sort of upheaval that can reduce the heartiest of souls to gibbering wrecks and drive perfectly normal individuals onto the soothing couch of an analyst, providing of course that they have not already decided that a rampage around the nearest McDonalds would be a better, and more therapeutic, course of action.

I am about to move into a flat. This, as has already been outlined, will cause much anguish and will for sure render me as stable as a box of sweating dynamite being driven across rough roads to an oil fire in the wilds of Cavang. But there is worse, much worse, than the actual move, which somewhat unfairly requires the availability of a vacant, reasonably priced flat, one that is at least marginally less damp as, say, the sea. draughty than then peak of the Eiger and not quite as adage, places so musty that there must surely have been a bag of grannies hidden somewhere and places so bitterly taking care of: in such abodes, the landlord or landlady will, space for two people in the one room permitting, point out the spaciousness, cleanliness and all round bargain status of the place and with a steely eye of suspicion and wary orientation, if any, for staying up after bedtime and playing Leonard Cohen CDs. And if a rat the size of a well fed two-year-old child happens to saunter across the floor at an inopportune moment, a thoroughly ineffective trap attached to its ships rope of a tail, that is invariably laughed off as a minor problem which is being taken care of: "Anyway, it's just Billy. He's harmless."

And be warned, when you do finally locate a flat or apartment that does not require the assiduous and swift removal of a well fed two-year-old child happens to saunter across the floor at an inopportune moment, a thoroughly ineffective trap attached to its ships rope of a tail, that is invariably laughed off as a minor problem which is being taken care of: "Anyway, it's just Billy. He's harmless."

...no added fee one's parents and the multifarious tortures that they unwittingly inflict on their offspring. And the deeply unfair reality is that it is only the criminally lucky and the criminally inclined who find suitable apartments or flats without enduring even one evening standing in Arctic conditions with 72 other greedy-eyed hopefuls on the steps of a house in Rathmines or in Arctic conditions with 72 other greedy-eyed hopefuls or flats without enduring even one evening standing in Arctic conditions with 72 other greedy-eyed hopefuls and the criminally ineffective trap attached to its ship's rope of a tail this is wrenching enough, the initial search for a place to hang lucky and the criminally ineffective trap attached to its ship's rope of a tail, this is wrenching enough, the initial search for a place to hang.

I have in the past looked at places so poky that you could not even bring in a cat to test the veracity of the old adage, places so musty that there must surely have been a bag of grannies hidden somewhere and places so bitterly cold that the fridge was wearing a bagging jacket and a heavy football scarf. In such abodes, the landlord or landlady will, space for two people in the one room permitting, point out the spaciousness, cleanliness and all round bargain status of the place and with a steely eye of suspicion and wary orientation, if any, for staying up after bedtime and playing Leonard Cohen CDs. And if a rat the size of a well fed two-year-old child happens to saunter across the floor at an inopportune moment, a thoroughly ineffective trap attached to its ships rope of a tail, that is invariably laughed off as a minor problem which is being taken care of: "Anyway, it's just Billy. He's harmless."

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Ireland's laws regarding homosexuality have caught up with the 20th century in recent years, and education campaigns continue to debunk the myth that AIDS is some sort of punishment from God meted out to homosexuals and other 'deviants' but away from well-intentioned legislation, liberal talk and a sense of greater tolerance there remains widespread anarchy to homosexuality in society. And it's closer than you might think.

Nothing but the same old story

Remember, remember the 4th of December. This was the day when the students of the DIT voted in the DITSU referendum on many different issues. Those ranged from the contentious three-year rule to the even more contentious deletion of the positions of Women's Rights Officer and Anti-Discrimination Officer from the DIT Constitution and the creation of the position of Equality Officer. While I am satisfied that the referendum was carried out in a democratic and professional manner, I feel that the abolition of the position of WRO was a huge mistake, and the fact that the students voted for this does not mean that sexual discrimination does not exist in the DIT.

At the time of the referendum, arguments flew back and forth regarding the fact that the referendum was carried out in a democratic and professional manner, I feel that the abolition of the position of WRO was a huge mistake, and the fact that the students voted for this does not mean that sexual discrimination does not exist in the DIT.

The hostility concerns notwithstanding, there are obviously young men and women in the DIT who would like to express their true sexual identity, such an integral aspect of overall identity as sexuality is. Robson realised the difficulties involved for many people.

There's no doubt that it is extremely difficult to talk to someone on either the Lesbian Line or the Gay Switchboard because it's very easy to build up fears and apprehension inside your own head, and being able to talk to someone else who has gone through the same problems is invariably helpful. It's a rather simple piece of advice but still extremely valuable to actually thrust out these things properly.

He advises that a person wait until he or she is calm and confident before coming out because if any uncertainty is transmitted, the wrong message will be sent out to parents and friends and will act as a let in for bullying behaviour from those who think in terms of homosexuality as crime against humanity.

"There's always some cost to coming out, there's always some problem. You tend to get defined, you'll never be the same way again but on balance the advantages are so considerable that I would always advise people that, if they are sure of their sexuality and have thought it through reasonably, the advantages of being seen as who you really are and in creating a space for other people and allowing one more prejudice to die, these outweigh the disadvantages.

The Presence of Women's Rights Officer was as follows:

- When dealing with issues such as outlined above, most women prefer to talk to another
- Combining the briefs of WRO and ADO to create the position of Equality Officer is too much of a workload to expect a part-time officer to cover
- The role of WRO is not to transform the female population of the college into stereotypical "man hating, militant, bra burning, raving" women. It is to provide a role model for women who want to get involved in college politics, but who might feel intimidated
- By allowing only female students to run for WRO, this ensures that there will be always a female voice on the college Executive

However, why dwell on defeat? The referendum was carried out in a democratic and professional manner, I feel that the abolition of the position of WRO was a huge mistake, and the fact that the students voted for this does not mean that sexual discrimination does not exist in the DIT.

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siobhán wekke
The winner of the Bord Traidhcheal Young Journalists of the Year was Ms Orla O'Donnell, a 21-year-old second year Journalism Student in DIT Aungier Street. Highly commended in the competition were Gabrielle Monaghan and Francis de Rosa.

The theme of this year's entries was "The Environment: Threat or Opportunity for Tourism?" Ms O'Donnell's article examined the impact of tourism on the environment.

Pictured (L-R) are Mr John Corrigan, Director, An Bord Traidhcheal, Ms Gabrielle Monaghan, Mr Francis de Rosa and Ms Orla O'Donnell.

Living Colour

Co-ordination

Rapidly advancing technology has prompted Heineken to widen the number of categories for the 1996 Colour in Your Life Awards.

Student entries are invited in a new multi-media category, which includes Web pages for the internet, video diaries and promotional items as well as the fashion category, comprised of promotional clothing, merchandise and promotional items for promotionable tie-ins. Entries can be in one or more categories.

The web page must by on hard copy, the video diary must run no longer than 10 minutes and the sound bites can last no longer than five minutes.

The judges will be making their decision based on overall creativity, initiative, presentation, originality, fun and suitability for commercial production in quantity.

All themes should reflect Heineken's involvement in music, sport and social activity.

The overall winner will receive the "Colour in Your Life" award and a cash prize of £1,800. The winning entry may be manufactured for commercial use. The winner of each category will receive £300.

The Heineken Colour in Your Life Awards, aimed at third level students in Ireland, were launched last year. The overall winner was Eve Meusberger, a Student of the Grafton Academy who created designs from can tops, ring pulls and moulded Heineken cans. She also came first in the fashion category.

The closing date for the submission of entries is 4pm, Friday, 15th March, 1996.

In Vino Invariably

Marcus Kelly, intrepid drinker and seeker of truth, undertook the onerous task of foreaking the joy and sense of community associated with the recently departed festive season and instead went on the piss. Here is his story. And his poem.

Ode to a Lamp Post

O thou of steel complexion, whose reality is my creed, I gaze at you with passion With Fire with greed, Thou of amber incandescence, Unburdening us of the dark, Why do you make me say, "O Fuckit I'll climb you for the craze?" Why dost thine atic form beckon Me to the summit, When with Godly nectaras within, The tendency is to plummet! O thou of utmost elegance, Enchanting and divine, With Guiness through my innards, I cannot you but climb.

from the S.P.W.C.L.E.A.F.F.J. (Society for People Who Climb Lamp-posts For Fun After a Few Jars)

Marcus Kelly

photo by Marcus Kelly

A t I stepped onto the Clonliffe Road, I was awash with the scent of after-shave and other such eau de toilettes streaming towards me on the breeze from Quinn's. In the distance, the dimly lit doorway seemed like a vortex into which all but an unlucky few were sucked. The cold breeze that whipped against me smelled like a pseudo-blonde Calvin Kline rep. from Clery's. There were three loquacious females in front of me dressed in party regalia clod-hopping their way towards Quinn's from whom this peculiar odour seemed to ebb. I slipped out of the potent concoction and crossed the road almost somersaulting Laurel and Hardy style on the slushy remains of sycamore foliage, dogs yelped and the last remaining green leaves wilted in the wake of the odorous trio.

I reached the traffic lights outside Clonliffe Road, that is I reached the traffic lights outside Clonliffe Road. It was just as wonderful as it had been the day before.

When I made my way back to where my pint lay, it had mutated a pair of slippers out of the Clonliffe hurly-burly. I spied a number of my classmates and I decided to refrain from going clubbing. Chances are that I would have been caught in some other disaster falling into the wash hand basin having missed the last minute call. When I got there (10 minutes later) I was greeted by a couple of lads who I had come to call 'twinkle toes' and 'make hips' who shall remain otherwise nameless for the purpose of retaining some ember of their dignity - suffice it to say that they each have an irresistible urge to perform rather suggestive dances when under the finger of alcohol. No sooner had the greetings concluded when it suddenly became apparent that a trip to the counter wouldn't go altogether wasted. And so, after upending the remnants of my pint I asked one of my compatriots if he'd like a drink. "Does Daily Pardon sleep on her back?" came the reply which I took as a certain "yes". And so I joined the melee.

In the mad towards the counter, I had the misfortune of being in too close proximity to someone who had obviously indulged in some Indian delicacy that day. Such was the venomous nature of this fart that it singed the eyebrows of everyone within a 10 foot radius. If I had been on my way back from the bar, my pint would have surely turned sour in such a putrid atmosphere. I eventually made it to my colleagues who were about to send out search parties just in time for an in depth chat about eastern philosophy. Shortly I was receiving messages informing me that an excursion to the urinal was on the cards. Woe of woes.

The gents was not a pretty sight for those who held firm on the theory that man has evolved to a higher plane than the animal. One guy, wearing a very subtile pair of what must have been 110 hole doc martens and a pair of combat pants balanced against the wall with his head as he passed his past five rounds into the wash hand basin having missed it for the urinal. From the cubicle came the most base of sounds in the human repertoire.

When I made my way back to where my pint lay, it had mutated a pair of legs for itself and walked as all around protested their innocence. The stout came for last orders and the bar was a good 10 minutes away. Bummer.

As things seemed to be going against me, I decided to refrain from going 'clubbing'. Chances are that I would have been mugged at the 'drinklink' or had some other disaster befall me. I passed between the scylla and charybdis of the bouncers and set off for the most humble of abodes through the blinding wind of an early Dublin morning.

by Marcus Kelly

11
Rathmines Canteen Opens At Last

The canteen in Rathmines is finally up and serving food to the hitherto greatly neglected DIT students studying in the Durkin Building.

The canteen itself has been operating for a couple of weeks now but the furniture, which was ordered before Christmas of last year, only arrived last week, adding that final, crucial touch.

Until recently, the students in the Durkin Building, from DIT Catholic Brugha Street had at their disposal a small, stuffy, room which was clearly inadequate for their needs. A second room has been made available for them and the canteen facility is located across the top of one room. Serving coffee, tea, sandwiches and snacks, in relatively comfortable surroundings, the canteen is a marked improvement on what they have had to endure. A 100% improvement, in fact.

"It's long over due and far too late in the year," said Patricia Moran, Deputy Site President of Catholic Brugha Street's Students' Union. "But it is welcome nevertheless."

The remaining problem in the canteen is one of smoke. Fans have been promised to help the situation but they have yet to arrive. A familiar story.

National Students Centre

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

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

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

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

It's your Club, use it!

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

Campus Watch for DIT Kevin Street

This week sees the beginning of Campus Watch in DIT Kevin Street.

The Students' Union, Kevin Street staff and Gardai in Kevin Street station have come together in order to make Kevin Street a safer environment to study and work in.

In the recent months many students have had their bicycles stolen from the grounds and break ins have become a regular feature in the DIT Kevin Street. More worrying for students leaving late at night is the possibility of being mugged, and towards the end of the year, of having notes stolen. The latter may sound somewhat trivial but can have adverse effects on a student's performance in exams.

As part of the scheme uniformed Gardai will make regular patrols through the grounds of DIT Kevin Street and it is proposed that they will be present at night when students are leaving the buildings. The Gardai are Tom Daly and Bob Kavanagh. They will form part of a campus watch committee along with Students' Union Site President Helen Ryan and Staff Representative John Cassidy.

It is also hoped that once the scheme has been established one of the Gardai will spend an hour each week on the campus answering queries, signing passport forms and assisting in whatever way he can. It has been suggested that a room close to the Gleeson Hall be given over for this purpose though nothing has been finalised.

"It's about time this scheme got going," said Helen Ryan. "We need it due to ongoing thefts, muggings. It'll help make the college a safer place."

The campus watch scheme has been in operation for some time in UCD, UCC and DCU and has proved successful.